



HOSPITALITY



DR MWINYI LAUDS INVESTORS PAGE 2

GOVERNANCE



DC IMPOUNDS HAUL OF FAKE SEEDS PAGE 3

EDIBLES



TANZANIA TO START EXPORTING EDIBLE OILS PAGE 4

FUEL



IRINGA FUEL PRICES GO DOWN PAGE 6



Beleaguered Kongwa constituency (Dodoma Region) legislator Job Yustino Ndugai, Speaker of Tanzania's National Assembly (Parliament) until his resignation yesterday. File Photo

Defiant Ndugai bows to pressure

By Guardian Reporter

Assembly (Parliament) is officially vacant following the resignation of long-serving

THE position of Speaker of Tanzania National

TURN TO PAGE 2

'Ocean products part of Z'bar economic vision'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FARMING of ocean products is part of strategies for the 2050 Development Vision that aims to improve the economic wellbeing of farmers in the blue economy sector, the government has declared.

Said Omar Shaaban, the Zanzibar Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, made this observation when launching the sea cucumber farming project at Fungurefu, in Unguja North Region, noting that the government was focusing on sea products like sea cucumbers, seaweeds and crabs to improve incomes from the sector.

President Hussein Ali Mwinyi has set this priority in developing the people of Zanzibar

in the blue economy and deep sea fishing, he elaborated, affirming that through Covid-19 response funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government has finalised plans for the construction of 100 ponds.

The sea cucumber farming facilities will be used by people in Unguja and Pemba districts, installed with modern infrastructures and sea cucumber fingerlings, he said, urging farmers of sea products to grab these opportunities as sea cucumbers earn substantial incomes from their high prices in international markets.

Dr Abood Suleiman Jumbe, the Fisheries and Blue Economy permanent secretary,

TURN TO PAGE 2

By Guardian Reporters

THOUSANDS of would-be passengers were yesterday still stranded at the main bus terminals in Moshi and Arusha as travellers for the Christmas festival connecting with the New Year were in frantic pushing for bus seats to return to Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and other locations.

The main affected groups are employees many of whose holidays are knocking off already and aren't yet on their work stations, while those going to school in various towns and cities are a big group as well.

An unsuccessful rush for tickets comes ahead of scheduled opening of schools and a range of public offices from Monday this week, compelled the regional authorities to allow private minibuses and regular buses plying other routes to serve high-demand destinations like Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Mbeya.

Travellers streaming into Kilimanjaro

Xmas travellers in rough return effort

●Thousands stranded in Moshi, Arusha, buses overwhelmed



Some of the agents are trying to make us pay twice the fare for a bus that is not there yet

and Arusha regions for their near-ritual annual retreat to their villages often face similar problems in coming for the festivals as buses are overwhelmed, and private vehicles don't suffice.

Now they are hopping into fully-packed private vehicles and PSVs for the back to work trip or reporting to school, putting operators of public service vehicles (PSVs) on harvest season, where plenty of intrepid passenger haulage enthusiasts

TURN TO PAGE 2

Africa CDC says severe lockdowns no longer best in curbing Covid-19

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA'S top public health official has said that severe lockdowns were no longer the best way to contain Covid-19, praising South Africa for adopting that approach when responding to its latest infection wave driven by the Omicron variant.

"We are very encouraged with what we saw in South Africa during this period where they look at the data in terms of severity of infections," John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), told a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

"The period where we are using severe

lockdowns as a tool is over. We should actually be looking at how we use public health and social measures more carefully and in a balanced way as the vaccination increases," he said.

South Africa experienced a steep rise in Covid-19 infections from late November, around the time it alerted the world to Omicron, with new infections peaking in mid-December at an all-time record.

New cases have however since fallen back, and the government did not resort to strict restrictions as it did during previous infection waves given early signs that the bulk of Omicron infections had been mild. It even loosened rules before New Year's Eve.

Nkengasong noted that he feared that Covid-19 could become endemic in Africa given the slow pace of vaccination - a prospect many global scientists already talk of as a given.

"Unless ... by the end of this year the continent actually scales up its vaccination to above 70 per cent or 80 per cent, my worry is that we might ... be into a scenario where

TURN TO PAGE 2



Ally Ngingite (in blue T-shirt), NMB Bank Plc's senior manager for personal lending, makes remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday before running the bank's first 'Mastabata Kivyako Vyako' promotion campaign. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



9 770856 542009 >

Mwinyi lauds investors in Z'bar various projects

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has commended investors with various projects across the country insisting them to ensure good relationship with surrounding communities.

He said that good relationship can be made possible through implementation of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy by supporting development projects in the health, education and clean water services.

Mwinyi gave the remarks yesterday when opening the five star tourist hotel—Marijani Resort & SPA at Pwani Mchangani in North Unguja. The hotel investment is worth US\$10.5 million.

According to him, the best way investors can enhance their relationship with the community is through good CSR policies whereas part of their profits should be directed to support implementation of development projects in specific areas.

He said at some places, investors have been reported to be in bad terms with the surrounding communities especially fishermen, noting it is important to have good relations with all the groups.

The President commended the investor at the Marijani Resort & SPA for supporting seaweed farmers in Pwani Mchangani.

He said that Zanzibar is likely to receive a good number of investors following government efforts in improving business and investment environment as well as ensuring peace and tranquillity.

He assured the investors—Avenes Limited, Harwood Limited and Amcorp Investment Limited from Mauritius of protecting their investments.

He said the government will continue to improve its infrastructures to attract more investors in the tourism sector. He said efforts to improve ports as well as air transport are meant to attract more investors.

Mwinyi said plans to renovate the Pemba airport are meant to

make the Island a strategic special investment area.

Dr Mwinyi also talked on tourists' security saying that it is one of the government's priorities and called on regional and district's commissioners to always work closely with investors so as to identify and address various challenges facing them.

He called on the regions to have solid plans to combat all acts that could hold back efforts to promote tourism; culture as well as well as marketing well the country internationally.

He further urged workers providing services to investors and guests to serve them with patriotism and integrity, considering that existing achievements are key to facilitating GDP growth and job creation.

He also called on the entrepreneurship institutions to accelerate the development of programs that can be used effectively in the tourism sector which include strengthening domestic market of locally produced products.

"We haven't coordinated and linked well our entrepreneurs in the tourism sector, so we should do more on this as it has a lot of opportunities m," he said.

President Mwinyi commended the owners of the hotel for their willingness to source products from within the country, reminding investors to fulfill their obligations under the terms of the agreements, including complying with the country's laws on the payment of taxes and duties, employment and employees benefits.

Minister of State, President's Office (Labour, Economy, and Investment) Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga commended efforts by President Mwinyi in attracting investors saying that the project has a number of benefits to the Isles and its people.

He said the ministry continues to make efforts to facilitate more conducive environment for investment, especially making quick decisions on a wide range of issues concerning investors.



Investor Rahim Balu (L, foreground) briefs Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi and his wife, Mariam Mwinyi, listens to shortly after the launch of Marijani Resort & Spa at Pwani Mchangani in North Unguja yesterday as part of the countdown to the 58th anniversary of the January 12 Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: State House

FROM PAGE 1

legislator Job Yustino Ndugai yesterday.

A letter announcing Ndugai's resignation was released to media outlets in the afternoon amid piling pressure for him to do go from a range of fellow parliamentarians, signaling that he would face a vote of no confidence were he to cling to his office.

The matter germinated from remarks in a closed meeting whose video clip went viral last week, in which the Kongwa MP criticised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the government's borrowing spree, of late securing 1.3trn/- from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He raised fears that if the spate of borrowing is maintained for long, "the country could one day be auctioned," drawing mixed reactions on his views, and prompting the Head of State to convene a high level public event at the State House to lay the accent on the debt, its sustainability and usefulness for development and welfare generally.

He also hinted at political machinations ahead of the 2025 polls and declared that she would shelve those with evident aspirations in that regard so that they prepare to meet her and those who support her at a future date.

MPs quickly swung on the president's side and leveled clear intimations to the Speaker to

Defiant Ndugai bows to pressure

ease himself from that position, as his moral authority after his controversial remarks, his contrite apology and public rebuke from the president made his position untenable, as he had lost the confidence needed for the task.

In strident remarks on Tuesday, President Samia said the criticism on debts "had nothing to do with caring about the country but 2025 general election fever."

The president went ahead to hint that a reshuffle was on the way to enable her put up a team that can bring development to Tanzanians, saying the current one was being hampered by groupings with machinations ahead of 2025 polls.

Calls then inundated the media scene for the Speaker to step down, arguing that his criticism did not sit well with national development efforts, insisting that through the budget committee the Speaker was well aware of the IMF loan uses, just like others.

As of yesterday afternoon, social media was awash with calls for resignation from chairs of the CCM youth wing in Dar es Salaam, Njombe, Mbeya, Coast and other regions.

CCM lawmakers including embattled Kawe MP Josephat Gwajima, Special Seats (Dodoma)

Mariam Ditopile and other members of the party's electoral congress demanded that Ndugai steps down.

Omega Thobias, a member of CCM Youth Wing national governing council said that the Speaker's apology does not erase his ill intentions. "The apology came to appease people who were offended by his utterances. He should take responsibility by resigning because he has lost legitimacy to continue serving as Speaker of the National Assembly," he said.

In his resignation letter, Ndugai said the decision was personal and voluntary "in consideration of the wider interests of the nation, the government and my party, CCM."

The letter was addressed to the Secretary General of CCM and copied to the Clerk of the National Assembly for further procedures of getting another Speaker.

"I take this opportunity to extend gratitude to my fellow MPs, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the government as a whole, my constituents in Kongwa and all Tanzanians for the cooperation extended to me during my tenure as Speaker of the National Assembly," the letter concluded.

A range of observers saw in this humbling finale to his tenure in the post as sharply contrasting with the

persona he has projected since he took the powerful position in 2015: a no-nonsense Speaker who was on record for telling some outspoken MPs to shut up or be denied an opportunity to speak in the House for the entire parliamentary session at issue.

"I can stop you from saying anything in this House for your entire remaining period and you have nowhere to go; no asking questions, no additions, no saying anything. What can you do to me?" he is on record to have sermonised an opposition MP.

"Play with something else, not Ndugai," he scoffed as things went out of control in the hemicycle.

Ndugai was similarly on record supporting CCM agitation for removal of term limits for the benefit of fifth phase President John Magufuli, as the issue came up repeatedly during the final year of the legislature before the 2020 general election, and then took prominence after the polls.

"Keep that point and bring it back after the elections; I believe we will all come back...we'll add him (Magufuli) more time whether he likes it or not," he told then Nkasi MP Ally Kessy, a proponent of term extension who did not make it back to the House.

Africa CDC says severe lockdowns no longer best in curbing Covid-19

FROM PAGE 1

Covid-19 becomes endemic," he said. Experts believe that Covid-19 cannot be eliminated and will likely become endemic, meaning that it will always be present in the population to some degree, much like the flu or chickenpox.

Less than 10 per cent of Africa's population has been fully

vaccinated against Covid-19, the latest Africa CDC figures show, with many countries initially struggling to access sufficient shots and later battling to get them into arms.

There has been a 36 per cent average increase in new cases reported in Africa over the last four weeks, with an 8 per cent average increase in new deaths.

Xmas travellers in rough return effort

FROM PAGE 1

shall have work on their hands until the end of the week.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Zauda Mohammed, the Kilimanjaro regional traffic officer, said that PSVs at the Moshi bus terminal were overwhelmed, prompting law enforcers to liaise with the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) to address the situation by issuing temporary transport licences (permits) to minibuses and PSVs to change routes.

The traffic commander said that some bus operators were tempted to hike fares and make a killing during this high-demand period, as every problem is an opportunity for some other person.

"We are constantly making public announcements at the Moshi bus terminal advising passengers to inform the traffic unit or LATRA in case of overcharging for bus fares or flaunting traffic rules by drivers," she said.

Paul Michael, the LATRA zonal officer, said that they had provided 15 'temporary transport licenses' to some bus owners to operate or

change their routes to transport passengers of high-demand destinations.

Emmanuel Msagati, a transport agent in Arusha said that on Wednesday morning no bus booking was left for Dar es Salaam, thus leaving hundreds of passengers stranded. Some clung to hope by waiting at the bus terminal and others opted to go back home, he said.

Happiness Laban, a passenger headed to Dar es Salaam who was stranded in Arusha, said she arrived at the bus stand at 6:30am and was shocked to learn that all buses heading to Dar es Salaam were full.

Febronia Tesha, stranded in Moshi, had no choice but to cancel her planned travel and go back home.

"As you can see, I am with my two children who are in class two and four. They are supposed to go to school on Monday but there is no means of travelling today to Dar es Salaam as all buses are full," she said.

"Some of the agents are trying to make us pay twice the fare for a bus that is not there yet," the passenger added.



Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. She warned schools countrywide against demanding money from children seeking to enrol for classes. Left is deputy permanent secretary Gerald Mwele. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

FROM PAGE 1

said the sea cucumber trade is of long date but in Zanzibar it was introduced in the 1960s. It was more traditionally practiced with buyers being the Chinese community in the country, he told the gathering.

With expansion of the sea cucumber trade in markets like

'Ocean products part of Z'bar economic vision'

Singapore and China, activist organisations for environmental preservation came up with new strategies of sustainable sea cucumber farming, he stated.

Sea cucumber farming began in recent decades in 2011 at Fukuchani in Unguja North Region where

people in the area noticed its benefits, he pointed out, alluding to sea cucumber farming as paying over 100,000/- for one kilogram in foreign markets.

He praised farmers of sea cucumbers in Uzi, Unguja Ukuu, Bungi and Mungoni islands for

Unguja along with Makombeni and Mtambwe in Pemba for displaying ability in this activity.

Some farmers mentioned challenges they face as lack of education on the work, start-up capital, usable roads, farm security and appropriate farming equipment.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (2nd-L) pictured yesterday being taken around Iringa-based ASAS Dairies Ltd, a private dairy processing firm established in 2000 to provide high-quality milk products to the Tanzanian market. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

Authorities impound big haul of fake seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

AUTHORITIES in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region have impounded more than 30 bags of counterfeit seeds in an impromptu inspection of shops selling farm inputs.

Rungwe District Commissioner, Dr Vincent Anney told this paper yesterday that a task force led by himself conducted impromptu inspections at farm inputs shops and seized the fake seeds.

He stressed that the operation was going on in various other areas in the district and those arrested will be dealt with according to the laws. A

He also warned all farm inputs dealers to abide by the country's laws and regulations reminding them that it was an offence to sell goods whose shelf life had expired as they pose health hazards to the users.

"The operation to seize fake farm inputs still

continues and I advise dealers thereof to abide by the laws as once we arrest them, they will be dealt with in according to the country's laws, and you farmers, stop concealing information of those you know to be selling fake seeds," Dr Anney added.

He also advised farmers during the current farming season to make sure they plant quality seeds that withstand climate change.

He said farmers are required to plant that can be harvested in a short time due to shortage of rains as predicted by weather forecasts.

Dr Anney also stressed upon extension officers to continue visiting farmers in their areas to make sure they engage in profitable farming practices instead of traditional farming practices. He also called on investors in farm inputs, especially manufacturers of fertilisers to continue producing the same in large quantities to satisfy farmers' demand.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma.

Include NCDs in education syllabus, researcher advises

THE government has been called to include education on non-communicable diseases in the education syllabus at all levels of education in the country in effort to intensify awareness about the diseases.

A researcher, Dr Emmanuel Makundi from the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) made the remarks here yesterday, adding that the diseases now affect even school going pupils, thus the need for more awareness.

He said there is need to consider new measures to reduce the increasing rates of non-communicable diseases in the county, saying the current efforts are on treatment and not prevention.

Dr Makundi said this while presenting a paper on research findings on the diseases at a one-day seminar for directors of policy and planning from the ministries of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Livestock and Fisheries, Finance and Planning and Natural Resources and Tourism.

The meeting was organized by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) in effort to sharing selected evidence

various sectors in the ministries.

He argued that if more focus is on prevention, it can help reduce the big budget on treatment, citing the Tanzania NCDI Poverty Commission, 2020 report which showed that Tanzania spent \$700 million in treatment of the diseases last year.

Dr Makundi, noted that according to World Health Organization (WHO) the diseases contribute to 41 percent of deaths in the county, adding that that a lot more effort should be directed to prevention of the NCDs.

He said in Tanzania, it is also estimated that deaths due to the diseases and other respiratory complication cases is 16 percent higher among people aged between 30 and 70 years.

"There is need for new approaches on dealing with NCDs with more focus on prevention than treatment" he said, adding that evidence shows that the diseases affect both young and the elderly.

Dr Makundi noted that there is misconception that the diseases only attack rich people who live luxurious life and the old in the

developing countries but there are evidences that even the poor living in rural areas are affected.

He observed that while the government has put in place measures to help manage increase of the diseases in the country by establishing department within the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, efforts aimed at prevention are fragmented and duplicated.

The researcher also observed that health services in relation to the diseases are very minimal, especially in the rural areas where health facilities are not easily accessible.

On the other hand, he said there is low budget allocation in the fight against NCDs, being 7.8 percent of health sector budget compared to the magnitude, that is 41 percent of deaths in the county.

Prof Emmanuel Kigadye from the Open University of Tanzania, who also took part in the research suggested the need to constitute a committee comprising of experts from key sectors to coordinate campaign on prevention and control of the disease.

By Guardian Reporter

Private sector a sure foundation for livestock sector development - Ndaki

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister, Mashimba Ndaki has said the private sector is the foundation for development in the livestock sector because its involvement has been a great contribution in its development in the country.

Ndaki made the remarks on Wednesday this week during his inspection visit of ASAS Dairies Limited, the Iringa based milk processing plant.

He said it would be a good thing for the country's economic development if we have many investors in the livestock sector like ASAS Dairies because their production contributes to the growth of the national income and improving people's health. "The government is proud to have milk processors like you and we, as government assure you that we will work together in pursuing national economic growth.

He added that the government understands challenges facing investors and was working on them to reduce their severity.

In regard to small level of milk drinking in the country, Ndaki said the government, in collaboration with the private sector has embarked in the implementation of various strategies to mobilise milk drinking

among Tanzanians.

For his part, ASAS Dairies Managing Director, Fuad Jaffer hailed the government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for imposing import duties on milk products, the decision that has given local investors the urge to continue investing in the livestock sector.

He also appealed to the government, through the Livestock and Fisheries Ministry to incorporate colleges producing agricultural extension officers, as well as other research institutes to be partners in milk processing ventures in the country in order to understand the challenges facing livestock keepers.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE COVER.

VSO CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY

VSO is a global voluntary organisation whose mission has been to bring people together to fight poverty through the lasting power of volunteering.

We will be running a tender process with the intention of awarding a contract for the provision of Medical Insurance Cover for VSO staff and their dependents and we are seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced health insurance companies licensed by the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority and eligible to provide medical insurance cover services in Tanzania.

VSO's requirements:

- Suppliers must be registered by Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority.

All expressions of interest must be received by VSO by **January 27, 2022, at 10:00hrs** and must be submitted electronically to the following email address: Tender.Tanzania@vsoint.org. The EOI must include a contact name, company name, company address, phone, and email address.

Tender documents will be sent to those who expressed an interest, following the close of the EOI period.

Anticipated contract/ agreement start date: April 1, 2022



CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION (CSSC)

PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023.

Background

Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical body established in 1992 by the Christian Council of Tanzania and the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of social services (health and education) by the member churches in Tanzania. In addition, CSSC coordinates a network of more than 1,000 church owned health facilities, the majority of which are based in rural areas covering nearly 14% of all health facilities in Tanzania. These include 105 hospitals (38 council designated hospitals, 54 voluntary agency hospitals, 10 regional referral hospitals and 3 zonal referral hospitals) and 695 lower level health facilities. With respect to education, CSSC coordinates the services of more than 1000 Church based education institutions, including 22 Universities/constituent colleges, 9 teacher training colleges, 96 vocational training centres, 373 secondary schools, 50 seminaries, 268 primary schools and 404 registered pre-primary schools.

Together, they provide 10% of all education services offered in Tanzania. CSSC decentralized its set up by establishing five zones as follows:

Eastern Zone (Dar es Salaam, Coast, Tanga, Morogoro and Dodoma), **Western Zone** (Singida, Tabora and Kigoma), **Northern Zone** (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara), **Southern Zone** (Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Katavi, Mtwara and Lindi), **Lake Zone** (Mwanza, Geita, Mara, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Kagera)

Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) invites application from eligible, competent and qualified vendors/suppliers and service providers to apply for Prequalification for provision of goods and services as listed below;

Lot No.	Description of the Service
Lot 1	Supply and delivery of IT related supplies (Computers, software and hardware)
Lot 2	Supply and delivery of Printing and promotional materials
Lot 3	Supply and delivery of laboratory, medical supplies and pharmaceutical equipment
Lot 4	Supply and delivery of stationery and office consumable supplies
Lot 5	Provision of carbon dioxide gas and cylinder
Lot 6	Supply and delivery of office furniture
Lot 7	Supply of office stationeries (Cartridges, Ream papers and other related stationery items)
Lot 8	Supply, delivery, fixing, balancing and alignment of vehicle and motor cycles tyres and tubes
Lot 9	Provision of Motor Vehicles repair and maintenance services.
Lot 10	Provision of generators services and maintenance
Lot 11	Provision of Cargo transportation
Lot 12	Provision of clearing and forwarding services
Lot 13	Provision of fleet management & fuel sensor system devices
Lot 14	Provision of office cleaning services (Internal and External)
Lot 15	Provision of sample transportation
Lot 16	Provision of courier service – Local & International
Lot 17	Provision of Internet services
Lot 18	Provision of booking ticketing service/Air agency services – Domestic and International
Lot 19	Provision of Car hire and Rental services (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya, Mwanza, Arusha, Dodoma)
Lot 20	Provision of catering services to all zones
Lot 21	Repair and maintenance of Air Conditioners
Lot 22	Provision of Legal services
Lot 23	Provision of Vehicle Insurance services
Lot 24	Provision of Laptop and desktop Insurance services
Lot 25	Provision of Internet/Data Services
Lot 26	Provision of Maintenance for computers, UPS and servers
Lot 27	Provision of maintenance for office copiers, printers and scanners
Lot 28	Provision of Hotel/Venue/Hall services/Venue package in all regions
Lot 29	Contractors for minor repair, office upgrade & renovation
Lot 30	Provision of Insurance Services to such as (CSSC) buildings and houses, Fidelity Guarantee
Lot 31	Service of Fire extinguishers
Lot 32	Consultancy Services
Lot 33	Provision of maintenance and services of telecommunication system

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Interested suppliers are advised to include the following in their applications;
1. Brief overview of the company and key staff (Company Profile) including physical business address.
 2. Latest Business Registration Certificate or Certificate of Incorporation
 3. Latest Copy of TIN and VAT registration certificates and evidence of tax compliance (TaxCompliance Certificate) in Tanzania
 4. Written endorsement of at least three reputable customers dealt with for the past 2 years other than CSSC.
 5. Operating licenses / certificate for the services or goods which require such.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Eligible suppliers meeting all stated requirements are requested to;

- a) Submit one application for each lot they are applying for. If a supplier is applying for two different lots, each lot should have a separate application document with supporting evidence specifically for that lot.
- b) Interested, eligible suppliers should email their electronic quote via email to procurement department at procurement@cssc.or.tz copying director@cssc.or.tz and cmwalongo@cssc.or.tz
- c) All quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings.
- d) Applicants will not be required to pay any fee for any service category applied at CSSC office
- e) Existing suppliers who wish to be considered for the CSSC list of suppliers are also required to submit their application for pre-qualification.
- f) Applicants will not be required to protect their submitted documents with password.

Executive Director
Christian Social Services Commission
4 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road
P.O. Box 9433 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The deadline for the submission is 1600hrs East Africa Time on 21st January 2022. All tenders should be electronically submitted to procurement@cssc.or.tz copying director@cssc.or.tz and cmwalongo@cssc.or.tz

This advert can also be accessed through <https://cssc.or.tz/>

Isles government will continue investing in high quality education, says minister Soraga

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Minister, of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Labour, Economy, and Investment), Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga, has said that the government will continue putting quality education infrastructure so as to accommodate pupils well and facilitate smooth teaching and learning.

According to him, a conducive teaching and learning environment will attract and enable young children who are registered to love school, perform well in examinations and later become good experts to serve in various sectors.

Minister Soraga said this yesterday when launching a building of six classrooms and two teachers' offices at Mtoni Kidatu School in Magharibi A district, Unguja. The event was part of the commemoration of the 58th anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution.

He wanted leaders and parents to ensure that all school-age children are registered to start school as education is their essential right.

He also urged parents and residents of the area to keep a close eye on their children's education, monitoring their progress and morals.

Soraga said the government will continue implementing the goals of the revolution which brought independence and eliminated discrimination by facilitating provision of essential services to people including free education.

Zanzibar permanent secretary at the ministry of Education and Vocational Training Ali Khamis Juma said the classrooms will help reduce congestion of students in classes from 90 to 60 students per

classroom.

Magharibi District Commissioner Suzan Kunambi said despite construction of the classrooms, the district still faces acute shortage of classrooms, something which forces some schools to put 120 pupils in one classroom.

Halima Seif Khamis, a teacher at the school said the school has 4,060 pupils which include 354-kindergarten, 2,740 primary and 966 secondary.

Mihayo Juma Nhunga, Mwera MP hinted on the note that despite efforts by the government to construct schools, the constituency still has a shortage of 50 classrooms.

The lawmaker urged residents in the area to protect the school's environment and borders by avoiding conducting human activities near the school's area.



...the government will continue implementing the goals of the revolution which brought independence and eliminated discrimination by facilitating provision of essential services to people including free education



Lake Nyasa Basin Water Board director Elice Engelbert pictured in Mbeya city yesterday opening a stakeholders' meeting on the development of resources in the basin. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Heavy rain, strong winds wreak havoc on 44 houses in Tunduru

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

HEAVY rains with strong winds in Tuwemacho Village, Tuwemacho Ward in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region has blown away roofs of 44 houses, leaving scores of villagers without shelter.

Reports say, in addition three people received injuries from falling bricks of their houses.

Tuwemacho Ward Councillor,

Khadija Mohamed Timamu confirmed the disaster saying the victims were housed in neighbours homes while repairing their houses.

She the damaged houses included three that belonged to teachers and 11 pit latrines of Tuwemacho Primary School as well as a building housing CCM ward offices.

She said the last time such a disaster hit the village in 2019.

The Councillor also praised the

Chairman of Tunduru District Council Hallu Mussa and the Executive Director Chiza Marando for visiting the villagers to console them from the disaster.

In regard to those injured, the Village Executive officer Ali Fadhili said all of them were received head and leg injuries and were rushed to the ward dispensary for treatment and later discharged.

For his part, the Chairman of

the Disaster Committee, Tunduru District Commissioner Julius Mtatiro confirmed the disaster saying he had already instructed the Executive Director to send experts to assess the situation.

However, DC Mtatiro called on the executive Director to look into the possibility of refurbishing the school's damaged infrastructures using funds government funds for the purpose.

TARI-Uyole head says Tanzania to start exporting edible oils soon

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA will soon begin exporting edible oils following the increase in availability of suitable cultivation land and availability of quality palm oil seeds accessible to farmers, it has been said.

Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) -Uyole Director General Dr Tulole Bucheyeki made the remarks when inspecting a quality palm oil seeds block which is expected to be distributed to farmers in Kyela district in Mbeya region.

"We have conducted research and tested soil in various places

in the district and we have seen that there are places which are suitable for production of the crop, which we believe will be a solution to cooking oil shortages in the country," he said.

Some farmers in the districts pleaded with the government to continue providing them with quality seeds to increase production.

One of the farmers, Ibrahim Lameck said they are prepared to practice palm oil farming at a large scale but the move has been derailed by lack of expertise on modern farming and quality seeds.

He said palm oil was profitable if well produced because the crop

is sold from seeds, residues and produce which is different from other crops.

"We are requesting that the distribution of quality seeds reaches a huge number of farmers in the district to make the crop an economic changer," he said.

Agriculture officer for Kyela district Benard Libata said due to the collaboration available between TARI and the district council, it was evident that the farmers will receive seeds.

He said in the first phase, the process to distribute seeds went well with the exercise now being expanded.



Ummy Nderiandanga (3rd-R), a Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, and Hamad Chande (3rd-L), Kojani legislator and Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office, pictured at Chamanangwe in Wete on Pemba Island on Wednesday presenting sewing machines to leaders of groups of people with disabilities who are undergoing tailoring and allied. Receiving the machines on behalf of the groups is Asha Issa Kombo (L). Others are Zanzibar National Council of Persons with Disabilities director Ussi Debe (R) and Ahmed Aboubakar Mohamed from the Office of Zanzibar's First Vice President. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bid No.SMZ/HO110/G/ODB/2021/22/17

FOR

SUPPLY OF OFFICE FURNITURE FOR MNAZI MMOJA HOSPITAL

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 03rd January, 2022

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in Zanzibar Leo ISSN 1821-8556 Issue no 6316 dated 19th August,2021
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital during the financial year 2021-2022. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Supply of office Furniture for Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Zanzibar.
- The Mnazi Mmoja Hospital invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers for supplying of Supply of office Furniture for Mnazi Mmoja Hospital.
- Bidding will be conducted through the Open Domestic Bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No. 11 of 2016 and are open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Bid Data Sheet.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Procurement and Disposal Management Unity, P.O. Box 672 at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Zanzibar from 8:00am up to 2:00pm local time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shilling One hundred thousand (150,000/=). Payment should be settled through the following Account details: Peoples Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) account number 0743593001. Mnazi Mmoja Hospital
- All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of Tanzania Shilling two million only (2,000,000.00/=) of Banker's Cheque.
- All Bids in one original plus two copies properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address Procurement and Disposal Management Unit, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital before 2nd February 2022 at 2:00 pm hors. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Board Conference room.
- Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids, and bids not received, bids not opened and not read out in public at the bids opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

DR. MSAFIRI L. MARIJANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MNAZI MMOJA HOSPITAL
ZANZIBAR



Kilindi district commissioner Abel Busalama (3rd-L) assesses progress in the construction of classrooms and teachers' office at Kimbe Secondary School on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

A Man accused of killing a former pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Iringa Diocese, Elizabeth Ng'unga (36), finally appeared in court on Thursday.

The suspect, Naftari Lulandala was arraigned for the first time at the Iringa Resident Magistrates' Court.

Lulandala who is the brother-in-law of the late Pastor Elizabeth Ng'unga is accused of committing the murder on December 15th last year at Kipaduka village in Kilolo District, Iringa Region.

Man in court for allegedly killing Iringa ELCT pastor

Before Magistrate Said Ally Mkasiwa of the Iringa resident magistrates' court, the accused was not allowed to answer anything as the court does not have jurisdiction to hear the case.

The case was adjourned until January 17th, 2022 pending completion of investigation. The accused was denied bail and

ordered to remain in custody. Recounting on how his wife was murdered, Aron Mkumbo, the husband of the late pastor, said that his wife was brutally killed and that her body was found tied up with a manila rope.

Iringa Regional Police Commander, Alan Bukumbi confirmed the incident, saying they

are so far holding one person in connection with the murder.

The late pastor Elizabeth Ng'unga was serving at the Mlandege Luganga, Ilula, Isimani - Kihorogota, Mfyome, Ndiuka, Mkwawa congregations before she joined the ELCT headquarters in Iringa as the assistant head of office.

Songea downpour leaves 55 private residence, school buildings roofless

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE roofs to 55 buildings at residences and primary schools, including classrooms and teachers' house, at Mkako village in Songea Municipality, Ruvuma Region were on Wednesday afternoon torn off by heavy rains and winds.

Mkako Ward Councilor, Isack Ndunguru said the one hour long rain, accompanied by strong winds have destroyed people's properties and left many residents homeless.

Ndunguru said that some government properties which have been destroyed include Mkako primary school and two teacher's houses.

He said the office of the

ward executive officer was also unroofed.

He said they are yet to establish the cost of the damaged properties.

"We have many people who are homeless as 55 houses had their roof torn off; we have found them an alternative shelter. Teachers whose houses have been damaged are accommodated by their fellow teachers," he said.

He appealed to the district authority to consider providing the victims with humanitarian assistance as well as construction materials for maintenance of the houses.

On January 3, heavy rain with strong winds in Kalengakelu ward of Mlimba-Kilombero District in

Morogoro Region blew away the roofs of 41 houses, including three classrooms of Kalengakelu Primary School, leaving many residents without shelter.

Mlimba acting divisional officer Aoley Mhenga confirmed the spate of destruction on the eve of the New Year, noting that two people were injured in their house as a wall collapsed, appealing to the district's disaster relief committee to find ways to assist the victims.

Ward councilor Martha Mkula thanked the district authorities for urgent assistance following the disaster, asking for more action towards assisting the victims, and repairing the classrooms.

CITES remembers Richard Leakey (77)

By Guardian Correspondent

THE CITES Secretariat is saddened to learn of the passing at age 77 of Richard Leakey, the world-renowned fossil hunter, politician and conservationist.

Building on the work of his famous parents, he helped to confirm Africa's status as the birthplace of humankind. He also served as director of the National Museums of Kenya, director and then chairman of the board of the Kenya Wildlife Service and head of Kenya's national civil service.

In the CITES community Leakey is best known for mobilizing international action against the poaching of Africa's elephants and rhinos. Although at times controversial, he had a strong impact on international elephant politics. Most famously, he oversaw the public burning of Kenya's stockpile of poached ivory in 1989, which garnered widespread

attention.

Leakey also played a major role in Kenya's national efforts to conserve its native wildlife. One of the strategies he pursued was to engage local communities in protecting the national parks bordering their homes by providing economic incentives. He did this by raising park fees and attracting some USD 150 million from Western governments to support ecotourism and community development projects.

When representing Kenya at CITES, Leakey was a passionate advocate for the country's position on the African elephant. The issue of elephant conservation and the ivory trade has often dominated public perception of the work of CITES. It continues to be vigorously debated at CITES meetings.

The CITES Secretariat extends our sincere condolences to Richard Leakey's family and friends and to the people of Kenya for their loss.

Sinopharm, Sinovac vaccines prevent severe hospitalisation from Omicron, agency reports

CAIRO

CHINA'S Sinopharm and Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines protect against "severe hospitalisation" caused by the Omicron variant, the United Arab Emirates-based news outlet The National reported Tuesday, quoting a World Health Organization (WHO) expert as saying.

Abdi Mahamud, the WHO's incident manager for the pandemic, said that "more evidence is showing that Omicron is affecting the upper respiratory

tract, causing milder symptoms than previous variants."

The UAE recently approved the emergency use of a new recombinant protein vaccine manufactured by Sinopharm, which will be used as a booster jab in the country, the report said.

The new Chinese vaccine demonstrated an improved immune capacity against the new variant, "with a high safety rate that allows rapid production and easy storage and distribution," according to the UAE's health ministry.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCY AT THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU) IN GENEVA SWITZERLAND

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), wishes to inform the General Public that the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which is a worldwide organization that brings government and industry together to coordinate the establishment and operation of global telecommunication network and services hereby invites applications from suitably qualified Tanzanians and other applicants worldwide to fill the following post available at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva- Switzerland:-

POST: Programme Officer

POST NUMBER: TD23/P3/365

VACANCY NOTICE NO: 66P-2021/BDT-DDR/EXTERNAL/P3

DUTY STATION: Geneva, Switzerland

For more information and instructions on how to apply please visit ITU's website: <http://www.itu.int/employment/Recruitment/index.html>. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TO TCRA.

ITU is an equal opportunity employer.

Issued by:

Director-General,
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
Mawasiliano Towers,
20 Sam Nujoma Road,
P.O. Box 474,
14414, DAR ES SALAAM



Juma Duni Haji (L), a member of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo aspiring for the party's national chairmanship, receives a nomination form for the purpose of election committee member Muhene Said Rashid in Zanzibar yesterday. The position has lain vacant since Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad's mid-February 2021 death. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Mbeya City DED: All Std 7 passed students to start Form One on January 17 as planned

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A TOTAL of 9,713 students who have been selected to start form one on January 17, this year in Mbeya City will commence their studies as construction of all classrooms have been completed by 100 per cent.

Mbeya City Council executive director Amede Ngwanidako made the statement yesterday when speaking on the preparations to receive the new students.

Ngwanidako said that the government issued 1.8bn/- for the construction of 92 classrooms, a work which had to be completed by December 31, 2021.

"Among the 92 classrooms, eight are storey buildings which are constructed at Ruanda secondary school where its construction is on final stages," he said.

He said a total of 3,680 students were in need of the classrooms, so the construction of the 92 more classrooms will address the shortage and facilitate smooth learning to the students.

He wanted parents with children who are required to report to school to prepare them well and make

sure that they go to school so as to achieve their life dreams.

"The government has continued to invest much by constructing friendly infrastructures so as to support children to get education. Our role as parents, relatives, leaders and the society is to supervise and make sure that we keep them at school for their bright future," he added.

In September 7, this year, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved US\$567.25 million in Emergency Support to Tanzania to address the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency financial assistance under the Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument to support the authorities' efforts in responding to the pandemic by addressing the urgent health, humanitarian, and economic costs.

The funds have been disbursed to various sectors so as to implement projects which will help reduce impacts of Covid-19 and stimulate development. This included construction of 15,000 classrooms in various schools across the country.

Repositioning HIV prevention to accelerate achievement of the 2025 global AIDS targets

By Special Correspondent

THE COVID-19 pandemic has reversed some of the hard-won gains in the global HIV response - this was one of the key takeaways at the recent International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) in Durban, South Africa.

COVID-19 negatively affected access to HIV treatment, and the sexual and reproductive health of adolescent girls and women. It disrupted sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV, as well as services for gender-based violence (GBV). The pandemic also impacted health services supply chain and logistics management systems in many countries.

In 2020, HIV claimed the lives of 310,000 people, and 670,000 people acquired HIV in East and Southern Africa. An estimated 58 per cent of these infections were among women and girls, against a background of entrenched gender inequalities and prevalent gender-based violence. Key populations and their sexual partners accounted for 32 per cent of new infections in 2020.

The conference followed on the heels of the 2021 UN Political declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending inequalities and getting on track to end AIDS by 2030, held in June last year. The High Level Meeting of UN Member States noted that the global community had missed the 2020 targets, and recommitted to ending AIDS as a public health threat. The declaration committed to ending inequalities as the key driver of HIV and AIDS, and to achieving

ambitious new targets - including reaching 95 per cent of people at risk of HIV with combination prevention services.

Reflecting on the best way to manage multiple epidemics on the continent, especially the collision of COVID-19 and HIV, ICASA was an opportunity to reflect on strategies to fast track achievement of the 2025 targets. The high-level re-launch of the East and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment presented a much-needed impetus since the landmark agreement was endorsed eight years ago. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) evaluation indicated that accelerated efforts are needed urgently in reducing early and unintended pregnancies, retaining girls in secondary school, preventing gender-based violence, enhancing economic pathways for girls, and curbing the effects of pandemics such as COVID-19.

A Call to Action to leave no one behind in Africa, through differentiated HIV testing and treatment service delivery, was emphasized. A strong call was made to innovate to accelerate implementation of the new Global AIDS Strategy. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, together with partners and other UN agencies, support strengthened implementation of programmes and interventions targeting young people towards scaling up Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and youth-friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services for adolescents and young people in the region.

By Dominic Naidoo

THIRTY endangered white rhinos were introduced to their new home in Rwanda following a long flight from South Africa.

The oversize passengers travelled in a Boeing 747, conservationists said, hailing it as the largest single transfer of the species ever undertaken.

The translocation was carried out through collaboration between the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), African Parks and Beyond, with funding provided by the Howard G Buffett Foundation.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute says that the White Rhino or "Square-lipped rhino is the largest living species of

30 South African white rhinos relocated to Rwanda

rhinoceros. The square-lipped rhino has a wide mouth used for grazing and is the most social of the rhino species. There are two subspecies: southern white rhino (*C. simum simum*), with an estimated 20 405 wild living animals in 2013, and the much rarer northern white rhino (*C. simum cottoni*).

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature classifies the white rhino as near threatened due to widespread poaching for their horns. The translocation of the rhinos is aimed at extending the range of the animals and securing new breeding groups in Rwanda.

A more diverse rhino gene pool would ensure the long-term survival of the species at a time when increased levels of poaching continue to exert unsustainable pressure on current populations.

This initiative will also benefit the local economy of Akagera ensuring that the conservation of their outstanding natural landscapes generates long-term benefits for local communities and all Rwandans.

The rhinos began their 40-hour journey to the new home in following months of preparation, said African Parks, a charity headed

by the United Kingdom's Prince Harry which is involved in the exercise.

Wildlife veterinarians had to sedate the animals to keep them docile for the duration of their journey. "We had to tranquillise them to reduce their stress, which is itself risky, and monitor them," said African Parks' CEO Peter Fearnhead.

RDB Acting Chief Tourism Officer, Ariella Kageruka said in a statement that, "this is an opportunity for Rwanda to substantially advance its contribution to rhino conservation, with Akagera poised to become a globally important sanctuary for

black and now white rhinoceros.

"This is timely for the conservation of these incredibly threatened species. We're extremely proud of our conservation partnerships and our national parks, which are playing a pivotal role in meeting biodiversity targets and in driving sustainable, transformative, equitable socio-economic growth."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature classifies the white rhino as near threatened due to widespread poaching for their horns.

The Akagera Park boasts a highly trained, incredibly efficient anti-

poaching unit to ensure the rhinos and other wildlife are protected. These units consist of experienced and dedicated game rangers as well as their trained canine counterparts.

"Thanks to the efforts of our Rangers, including their canine counterparts, and due to community involvement, poaching has remained at an all-time low over the past three years in Akagera, a far cry from where we were almost a decade ago," the Park says.

Before African Parks took over management in 2010, lions and rhinos had been hunted, almost completely and 30 000 cattle were grazing inside the park. Poaching was rampant, and tourism was just trickling along.



Dodoma City Council workers demolish houses built near the council's investment high-rise building (pictured), which is expected to come into use soon after the owners of the houses are compensated. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Fuel prices go slightly down in Iringa

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE price of petroleum products in Iringa Region has decreased slightly with diesel sold at 9/- less per litre while petrol prices have dropped by 67/- per litre.

A random survey by this reporter at various filling stations in Iringa Region showed that the price of kerosene has gone up by 100/-.

Pump price for a litre of petrol is 2,565/- and 2,389/- for diesel at the Muniu petrol station at Kitanzini area. The price was similar at Total filling station at Mshindo, Hope service station and Iringa service station located near the post office street.

Hope Service Station marketing manager, Kassim Nyalusi told this paper that said the drop in petroleum product prices is due to an increased number of customers.

Nyalusi said a litre of kerosene is sold at 2,399/-, petrol at 2,565/- and diesel at 2,389/-. He said the number of customers has increased as many farmers are now purchasing fuel to operate their farm equipment including tractors.

David Mduma, motorbike driver expressed happiness for the price drop, saying it will also reduce the cost of living.

Hamisi Mwenda, a commuter bus driver said the government should always look into ways to reduce fuel

prices to improve the welfare of citizens.

Isack Samwel, a 'Bajaj' driver at Mashinetatu station said that raising fuel prices was affecting their business as they could hardly achieve their targeted daily collections.

The latest fuel prices announcement by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) indicated that from January 5, 2022 the prices would drop between 4/- and 35/- for a litre of petrol, 43/- and 67/- per litre of diesel except for Mtwara whose diesel prices have increased slightly by 2/- per litre.

EWURA Director General,

Godfrey Chibulunje said with the decrease, consumers will now pay 2,501/- for a litre of petrol in Dar es Salaam, 2,325/- for diesel, and 2,335/- for kerosene. Chibulunje said the interventions made by the Energy ministry have played a great role in determining the new prices.

On October 5th 2021, the government reduced fees and charges of government institutions imposed on petroleum products by 29.38/- per litre in petrol prices, 30.05/- a litre on diesel prices and 26.99/- a litre on kerosene prices.

In December, the government also suspended collection of the petroleum fees of 100/- a litre on petrol and diesel.



Ramadhan Kigingi (3rd-R) of Mikuyuni in Kilimanjaro Region's Mwanga District, welcomes Mwanga district commissioner Abdallah Mwaipaya to the village yesterday. The DC was on an inspection tour of a road recently rehabilitated by the Rural and Urban Road Agency (Tarura). Others are Mwanga constituency legislator Joseph Tadayo (2nd-R), Special Seats councillor Halima Amiri (R) and Tarura's Mwanga district manager, Emmanuel Yohana. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi



Muheza district commissioner Halima Bulembo (R) accompanied by Muheza Town Council director Nassibu Mmbaga (L, foreground) and other officials shortly after receiving 67 classrooms for use by secondary schools in the district. Photo: Correspondent Steve William

Dr Subhash Chandra's efforts paying off, 10,000 farmers switch to organic farming

By Shivani Meen

ZEE group founder and Rajya Sabha MP, Dr Subhash Chandra visited Haryana's Hisar on Sunday and highlighted a series of initiatives done by the 'Subhash Chandra Foundation' for the betterment of farmers in the village.

In a media conference, Dr Chandra stated that his organization is working tirelessly to place Hisar amongst India's top 50 villages.

He further said that his organization has invested approximately 15-18 crores in various development programs targeted at strengthening Hisar and its farmers.

Dr Chandra described organic farming as a "Game Changer" that is helping farmers increase their revenue. He said, "We have conveyed the benefits of this method of farming to over 10,000 farmers, from which 800-1000 are indirectly engaged with us and over 300 are directly engaged."

Dr Chandra commented on the relocation of Asia's largest airport from Hisar to Jewar, saying, "It was because of lack of coordination that the airport had to be relocated from Hisar

to Jewar." Otherwise, Hisar would've been a superior option."

In October last year, Dr. Chandra launched various initiatives in the villages of Sadalpur, Adampur, and Adampur Mandi as part of the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

He also initiated the Subhash Chandra Foundation's 'Krishi Kranti' program. The effort involved about 1,000 farmers who will aim towards organic agriculture.

Chandra mentioned during the program that strengthening women, agriculture, and youth might lead to rural Swaraj. He stated that if a farmer's income is higher, he or she will be able to better the future of their children.

Organic farming is a method of production that avoids or limits the use of synthetically compounded fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides genetic engineered organisms, and livestock food additives.

Organic farming employs organic fertilizers such as green manure, and compost, as well as crop rotation and companion planting strategies.

Kazungu calls on committee to submit correct reports to public

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

FINANCE and Planning ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Dr Khatib Kazungu has called on the ministry's Communications Committee to submit correct reports and in time to the public as the public has the right to receive the reports according to the constitution.

The directive was issued here on his behalf by the Director of Human resources in the Finance and Planning ministry, Lusius Raphael Mwenda, at the official launching of the ministry's Communications Committee that brought together delegates from the ministry's various departments during its task meeting.

He said: "The Communications Committee is an essential link in communications issues among departments, divisions with the government Communications Unit that has been tasked to communicate

with our stakeholders."

He added: "It is my hope that every one of you will be fully accountable in collecting reports needed from relative departments as you will discuss here and reach a consensus in order to strengthen more strategic communications with our stakeholders for them to benefit from the committee's existence."

He said among the tasks of the communications Committee include the monitoring reports on the department or unit, to collect and prepare reports that are supposed to be issued to the public by submitting them to the Government's Communications Unit.

He also called on them to abide the procedures in issuing reports as there are special people permitted to do the work in the government ministries, departments and institutions, and that in regard to the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the task is entrusted

in the permanent secretary and the Head of the Government Communications Unit who is also the ministry's spokesperson.

For his part, the Head of Ministry's Communications unit, Benny Mwaipaja pledged to supervise the Committee well and report to the relative levels, and added that the Unit's responsibility is to bring the ministry closer to the public and



...to collect and prepare reports that are supposed to be issued to the public by submitting them to the Government's Communications Unit

Rangers: Fight against poachers hampered by lack of equipment

By Guardian Correspondent

FOREST rangers patrol the Bangangai game reserve in Western Equatorial, in the southwest corner of South Sudan.

Their task is to stave off poachers and protect the game reserves.

The job is already a challenge, but made all the more difficult amid a lack of resources and an increase in poaching since a fragile peace deal was signed in 2018 to end the country's five-year civil war.

The reduction in fighting has made it easier for people to travel, which has in turn fuelled poaching in the forests outside the protected parks.

A lack of job opportunities is also driving people to kill animals for money, according to locals.

It's a daunting task for the rangers who don't have vehicles or radios when they go out on patrol.

There are roughly 100 rangers and one car to cover five protected areas in Western Equatorial state. Officials say it is not enough.

"The challenges are that we need a vehicle because it would help us in many ways," says ranger captain, Kindosa Ruvango Godfree.

"When we have problems it could facilitate movement into town. With regards to communication, having a radio would be ideal on patrol or to be able to speak to the base. You've seen the type of (dense) forest we have, so if something happens to people on patrol they'll need reinforcements for injury or from an attack."

South Sudan's six national parks and 13 game reserves cover more than 13 percent of the country's terrain. The country has more than 300 mammal species and boasts one of Africa's greatest annual antelope migrations.

The Bangangai game reserve

covers approximately 170 square kilometres and its location on the intersection of Central and East Africa gives it a unique biodiversity.

It is home to animals such as chimpanzees, bongos, the African golden cat, ground and tree pangolins.

However, it's often hard to spot any animals here - there are hardly any left.

During the civil war, the park was inhabited by armed groups making it inaccessible to rangers. Many of the animals were killed or fled.

Today, some 25 forest rangers regularly patrol the reserve, tracking animals and looking for poachers.

But without radios or trucks it's hard for them to communicate and coordinate with one another.

In September, the team captured a poacher from neighbouring Congo but was unable to transport him to police in the main town because they didn't have a car.

The rangers detained the poacher at their post for a month before he escaped, they said.

Fauna and Flora International (FFI) is one of the few organisations in the country helping South Sudan's wildlife ministry to protect its parks.

FFI trains rangers on how to use GPS and camera traps and teaches the community about the importance of protecting wildlife.

Since the organisation started working with rangers and the community in 2018, it says it's seen an increase in the number of animals here.

Focus has now shifted to the edges of the park, where human settlements are encroaching and poachers are proliferating.

"With the security now there is more movement of these nomadic people. Why? Because they are interacting with the community, getting the food from them and

sometimes also they're targeting the big animals. Animals like elephants, like lions, like leopards," says Clement Bangunda, program officer for Fauna and Flora International.

"They are destroying the natural river and the animals are running, they are burning the bushes, unnecessarily burning, and this is affecting the environment."

Residents burn swaths of land to clear it for cultivation, which can eventually damage the soil.

The war displaced more than four million people and pushed tens of thousands to the brink of starvation.

It means conserving the parks isn't a governmental priority amid a dire humanitarian crisis, but the group says the parks, rich in biodiversity and natural resources, need to be protected.

"In a place like South Sudan when you're facing so many other emergencies and development needs the importance of saving parks might be considered secondary," says Benoit Morkel, South Sudan country representative for Fauna and Flora International.

"But when you look at the potential that this country has to rely on its natural resources and what natural resources there are, the scale of these protected areas is massive and they truly do hold such incredible biodiversity and potential for generating sustainable incomes through tourism, through a number of income generating streams."

Morkel says protecting the parks is also vital in the fight against climate change.

"If you look at the state of the country and the economy, it's certainly not contributing significantly to climate change and yet is being massively impacted by it. Part of the reason to protect these reserves is to contribute to climate resilience."



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF VENDORS TO SUPPLY GOODS AND SERVICES FOR 2022

FINCA Microfinance Bank is inviting interested and potential suppliers to be Pre qualified for supply of goods and provision of services for 2022.

NOTE: All current vendors working with FINCA are advised to apply too.

S/NO	CATEGORY A: SUPPLY OF GOODS	REFERENCE
1	Supply of Stationeries	FT/SG/2022/1
2	Supply of Office Furniture and Fittings	FT/SG/2022/2
3	Supply of Office Consumables	FT/SG/2022/3
4	Supply of Branded items and Promotional Materials	FT/SG/2022/4
5	Supply of ICT Equipment ,Software and Accessories	FT/SG/2022/5
6	Supply of CCTV Camera , security alarm and other security equipments	FT/SG/2022/6
7	Supply and Maintenance of Currency handling equipments , accessories	FT/SG/2022/7
8	Supply of Safes, vault doors, access doors controls and security doors and locks	FT/SG/2022/8
9	Supply and Maintenance of firefighting equipments	FT/SG/2022/9
10	Supply and Maintenance of Air conditioner	FT/SG/2022/10
11	Supply and maintenance of generators, UPS and Inverters	FT/SG/2022/11
CATEGORY B: PROVISION OF SERVICES		
1	Provision of air travel, reservations and ticketing services	FT/PS/2022/1
2	Debt Collection/ Recovery and Auctioning services	FT/PS/2022/2
3	Provision of Advertising and Publication Services	FT/PS/2022/3
4	Provision of Insurance services	FT/PS/2022/4
5	Provision of Security Services	FT/PS/2022/5
6	Provision of Bankers Blanket Bond(BBB) insurance services	FT/PS/2022/6
7	Provision of Courier and postal delivery services	FT/PS/2022/7
8	Provision of cleaning, sanitary, fumigation and pest control services	FT/PS/2022/8
9	Provision of Internet Services	FT/PS/2022/9
10	Printing of marketing materials (Brochures, signage, banners ,handbills, posters, fliers etc)	FT/PS/2022/10
11	Provision of Service, Repair and Maintenance of Motor Vehicles	FT/PS/2022/11
CATEGORY C: CONSULTANCY		
1	Provision of Valuation and Mortgage Registration Services	FT/CONS/2022/1
2	Provision of Audit Services	FT/CONS/2022/2
3	Provision of Legal Services	FT/CONS/2022/3
4	Provision of Tax Services	FT/CONS/2022/4
CATEGORY D: WORKS		
1	Refurbishment and Maintenance	FT/WORKS/2022/1

The interested company/firm is requested to submit proposal with the following details:

- * Evidence of registration with BRELA
- * Certified true copy of memorandum and Articles of Association
- * Evidence of payment tax for the last three years showing clearly Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- * Comprehensive company profile and verifiable evidence of similar jobs successfully executed including list of recent clients and their contact.
- * Company has registered address, functional contact email address, telephone number and contact person.
- * List of products and services offered along with standard rates or sample pricing (i.e. vendors pricing Scheme/methodology)
- * Reference letters from three previous clients of similar projects satisfactorily executed
- * Audited financial statements, duly stamped by a registered auditor.

Note that supplier/service provider will be selected and pre-qualified based on submitted proposal basing on meeting requirements, experience in the market, financial capacity, technical competence, and ability to meet current and future demand, warrant validity, manufacturer's authorization and after sale services/support.

Interested applicants must submit their proposals (hard copies) not later than Thursday 21st January 2022 16.00hrs at TAN House Building 8th Floor-Victoria area.

Application for the expression of interest accompanied by the above listed documents should be forwarded in a wax-sealed envelope boldly marked at the top left corner "Category and reference" and addressed to:

Administration Manager
FINCA Microfinance Bank
 Bagamoyo Road Plot no.34/1 8th Floor
 TAN House, Victoria Area
 P.O BOX 78783
 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- This is not an invitation to tender. Full tendering procedure will be applied to vendors and service providers prequalified for supply of goods and services.
- Only successful vendors will be contacted for the tender process.



FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

It is only fair for farmers to pick the crops to grow

MINISTERIAL and some regional authorities were lately on an interventionist mood amid reports of some ward executive officers arresting and slap fines on small farmers mixing crops in their plots.

The farmers in question have been growing maize alongside cotton, which appears to have an impact on the cotton, as it is pushed to vie for soil nutrition with maize.

It is unclear where the problem really lies, as cotton is more drought resistant and that means that it isn't cotton but maize that needs space and favour in obtaining nutrition from the soil.

The problem however seems to be a colonial hangover where government officials are employed to supervise the growing of what is usually called a cash crop, but in fact it is an export crop.

In other words, the contention is that the farmers are cropping up their own crop (maize) with cotton, apparently contrary to the interests of the district authorities, which have a greater interest in cotton than maize.

Mixing crops leads to the field being dominated by maize, and the cotton interspaced just for the look of it, is not viewed as a priority.

So the ward officials may just be right in believing that the farmers are precluding a positive cotton crop in favour of a bigger maize crop, and indeed they wish that the farms were separated.

While that would in a way mean double toil for villagers, some of the officials see nothing wrong with that. Assuming that the said officials

know that farmers' strength is limited, it is strange that they want the cotton crop to be assured first, and then extra energy be given for maize.

But that would be the opposite of what each family needs - that they have maize, and cotton can come later.

The government is now putting things in a clear view: we ought to have come away from the days of forced planting of this or that crop.

There are complaints from various development-minded quarters where a host of other issues are raised, not just what crops are favoured but how much time the farmers spend actually sweating and toiling.

While that depends much on the place and culture one is talking about, there are complaints on the use of farm proceeds, including that farming is done by women but the crops are harvested - and sold - by men. The latter are often associated with using the earnings as they wish.

This may not be relevant to the current issue. Still, it ably portrays the structure of dependency and potential of oppression, where women depend on men and are often shortchanged.

Professional advice on what crops to plant would surely come in handy, but having all manner of officials favouring particular crops to the extent of arresting or penalising "defaulters" can easily prove counterproductive.

We shouldn't return to the days when people fled their residences whenever the taxman came for poll tax dues.

Africa tour by Chinese Foreign minister of immense relevance

CHINESE Foreign minister Wang Yi on Wednesday arrived in Nairobi on the second leg of a three-nation tour, first visiting Eritrea, then Kenya and finally the Comoros.

Last year during the same cycle of visits, the minister touched down in Dar es Salaam and, in 2013, Tanzania was the first country then incoming Chinese President Xi Jinping visited.

Xi Jinping again embarked on a three-nation tour, primarily emphasizing Beijing's growing relations with Africa. He was at that time president for just ten days, and came over.

Kenya has witnessed heated discussion over the past three years or so in relation to the Chinese debt in particular.

At one point the Kenyan legislature passionately debated terms of engaging a Chinese firm to modernise Mombasa port, and the matter hasn't been really rested.

Wang Yi was likely to come across a challenging climate of opinion from radicals that have boasted a global platform since the days of occupying meeting venues of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

They rather loosely linked voices wish for a multilateral system where presumed loans are given but payment becomes optional, without an agreed mode of assuring returns and profit.

But it is clear that no money will be loaned if no hard contract is applicable, and converting a facility into a jointly owned long-term investment might work.

A write-up from Nairobi says the Chinese Foreign minister begins a visit to Kenya on Wednesday, with the East African country a beneficiary of Chinese loans to

develop infrastructure but now facing criticism over the resulting debt burden.

The Kenyan foreign ministry has described Wang Yi's impending visit as historic, citing likely accords in security, health, climate change and green technology transfer. In the latter aspect, many analysts in the West admit that China more or less leads in the field.

What comes up consistently is the "backlash from African critics against rising debt levels", and an impression that China is shifting from hard infrastructure loans to efforts to boost trade.

Discussions on what could be the specific objective in each country were not overly helpful but it can be said that the Chinese agenda on African counties doesn't differ, only the projects and the challenges each country faces.

The write-up notes: "Eritrea is one of the poorest and most isolated nations in the world, and China has not said publicly what the purpose of Wang Yi's visit was." But, of course, both countries not only import and export while also developing their transport and other infrastructure, so that would leave quite a few queries or doubts addressed.

All in all, it is only to be expected that both African countries and China appreciate the importance of seeking solutions to debt management running in rhythm - as it were - with global practices.

That includes forming joint venture companies and splitting the profits if repayment is slackening, turning things into long-term investments.

All this points to the special importance and relevance of the Chinese Foreign minister's upcoming visit to Africa.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



How to be a leader people will follow anywhere

By Max Klein

BRAIN lightning struck when I was 23. My captain in the (US) Marine Corps asked me to describe good leadership in one sentence to the platoon if I could.

I thought for a second and replied: "Sir, good leadership is the actions you take that make people want to follow you."

He thought for a minute and said: "Sergeant, that may be one of the best definitions for leadership I've ever heard."

Like I said, lightning. I wasn't that good as a leader at the time being freshly promoted but, looking back, I think that my attitude and that answer meant that I was on the right track to becoming a half-decent leader someday.

Since then I've studied and practised leadership in military, corporate and volunteer settings. I have found that there's a major performance difference between people who just have to follow you versus people who truly want to.

Most people follow their bosses only because they're paid - no other reason. But a few good leaders inspire more than that. They inspire people to want to go above and beyond just because of how they lead.

This difference between having to follow and wanting to follow can make the difference between average and great results for you as a leader.

Here's how to be a leader people will want to follow anywhere.

Be willing to humbly get your hands dirty

I love the story of the old man who, during the Revolutionary War, saw a group of muddy and exhausted soldiers struggling to get a defensive position built. Their leader, a corporal, was standing by just watching them work and shouting orders.

The man asked the corporal why he wasn't helping, to which the latter replied: "I am in charge of leading these men. They do as I tell them."

"So why aren't you helping?" asked the old man. The corporal's reply: "Because I'm their leader. They do as I say. If you feel so strongly and want to help, then go ahead."

So the old man helped the men until the job was done. He thanked the soldiers for their hard work and for allowing him to help. Dirty and sweaty, the old man then walked up to the corporal.

"You should notify higher command the next time your rank prevents you from supporting your men - and I will happily provide a more permanent solution," he said.

The corporal's face ran white as the Commander of the Continental



Army, General George Washington, mounted his horse and rode back to headquarters. Imagine the love the men had for him after that. Humble and dirty hands inspire that love.

The best leaders I have ever met got their hands dirtier and worked harder than everyone else. They did it without meddling or micromanaging or arrogance. If they were helping, they became helper, not the bosses, just like George Washington did.

You're never above the work of those you lead. Of course, you can't jump in and help with everything - as you have to manage bigger things - but you should always be ready to help if needed.

A good leader who has the humility and willingness to get his or her hands dirty is a leader people want to follow.

"Many people excuse themselves by claiming that they don't have to do work anymore because they are beyond it. They are simply afraid of getting their hands dirty. Getting your hands dirty washes your being." That is a word of wisdom from American-born enlightened Buddhist teacher Frederick Lenz (1950-1998).

You have to want and care

People know if you want to be their leader or not - just like children can sense if you resent them or resent your life. Not that employees are children but that the perception of human acceptance of things is universal.

Even if your job isn't curing cancer, you can still be proud of the work you are doing. Caring about your work is how you inspire others to care.

I, as many veterans do, struggled for years with a sense of purpose when I left the military. I thought, "how could whatever job I had at the time compare to where I just came from?" It couldn't. And I was wandering aimlessly.

Then I realized that no matter

what I did, I had a purpose. The purpose of doing my best. Of providing for my family's future. Of being a positive and productive member of society. Of making the lives of people I led better. Of adding good to the world when I could.

There's a noble purpose to be found in any honest and hard work. When you care about doing a good job, regardless of your mission, you set an example for pride in a work ethic. When you think like this, the people you lead know that they have a leader who truly cares; a leader who wants to lead.

And a leader who wants to lead and do their best regardless of the mission is a leader people want to follow.

So, to steal from legendary British novelist, author and illustrator William Makepeace Thackeray: "Whatever you are, be a good one."

Bleed and eat at the right times

"Take care of your employees, and they'll take care of your business." This is advice by British business magnate, entrepreneur, investor and author Sir Richard Charles Nicholas Branson.

Indeed, it touches on one of the most important aspects of leadership. I often write "leaders bleed first and eat last" because that summarises leadership in six words.

A leader puts the welfare of those they lead ahead of their own - they eat last. Leaders put themselves in discomfort or harm's way before those they lead - they bleed first.

One of the best leaders I ever knew would risk ridicule, punishment and comfort to make sure we were taken care of. He would stand up to the crap that often flows downhill. He would step on upper-management's toes if they were doing us wrong.

He cared about us even more than his career, it seemed, and in turn his career flourished.

He was the greatest leader most

of us ever had or will ever have. He served us with all he had and we gave him all we had in return. No other leader could ever match his results because all of us wanted to follow him.

Mutual trust spawned from servant leadership makes someone a leader people truly want to follow. Robert K. Greenleaf (1904-1990), the American founder of the modern Servant leadership movement and the Greenleaf Centre for Servant Leadership Robert K. Greenleaf once aptly put it: "The first and most important choice a leader makes is the choice to serve, without which one's capacity to lead is severely limited."

Conclusion

If you can tip the scales from people having to follow you for a paycheck only versus wanting to follow you even if you weren't their boss, then you've become a great leader.

If you have to pick one approach that inspires this desire to follow you the most effectively, it would be serving the people you lead.

Take care of them. Look out for them. Lift them up. Tell the customers that they are wrong if they are before you ever throw your team under the bus. But if someone you lead is wrong, counsel them with care and without a paper trail if possible. Take care of "your" people and they'll take care of you.

Get your humble hands dirty just like George Washington did. Take care of your people before you take care of yourself. Bleed first and eat last.

When you do these things you'll become a leader people truly want to follow.

"Become the kind of leader that other people would follow voluntarily, even if you had no title or position," counsels Canadian-American motivational public speaker and self-development author Brian Tracy.

• medium.com



celebrating 50 years

Re-Advertised: Request for Proposals

RFP Title: Printing and Distribution of MVC_MIS Tools

RFP Number: 2022-PACT/11/02

Date of Solicitation: 7th January 2022

Closing Date and Time: 21st January 2022, 11:00 am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

Questions and Clarifications: Due by 20th January 2022

Introduction to Pact and ACHIEVE Project:

ACHIEVE aims to provide either short-term technical assistance or service delivery, which will help priority PEPFAR countries achieve and maintain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding (PBF) women, infants, children, and youth. To contribute to the global 95-95-95 epidemic control targets, ACHIEVE will provide comprehensive services through intensive household case management to prioritize sub-populations of OVC such as CLHIV, orphans who have lost their parents due to HIV, children whose biological parents are HIV-positive, and children of female sex workers. ACHIEVE will implement preventive interventions to reach at-risk boys and girls ages 9-14. ACHIEVE will also deliver DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) interventions to AGYW 10-14 of age.

Pact is a promise of a better tomorrow for all those who are poor and marginalized. Working in partnership to develop local solutions that enable people to own their future, Pact helps people and communities build their own capacity to generate income, improve access to quality health services, and gain lasting benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources around them. At work in more than 30 countries, Pact is building local promise with an integrated, adaptive approach that is shaping the future of international development. Visit us at www.pactworld.org.

The Adolescents and Children, HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE) project is a five-year, USAID-funded global project to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. ACHIEVE is implemented by Pact, in partnership with Jhpiego, Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WHER. In Tanzania, the project is implemented between October 2020 to April 2024 with a focus on three key strategic objectives: 1. To strengthen the capacity of the national and community-level social services workforce, systems, and structures to ensure quality services for OVC, at-risk AGYW, and people living with HIV (PLHIV). 2. To strengthen the capacity of local organizations to manage and implement USAID/PEPFAR OVC awards as prime implementing partners. 3. To deliver high-quality OVC services and DREAMS interventions for AGYW 9-14 years.

Pact Tanzania under ACHIEVE project will procure MVC_MIS tools to support project implementation, data collection, and reporting for lead and community caseworkers who deliver services to OVC, adolescents, and their caregivers.

Overall Objective:

The overall objective of this assignment is to procure and distribute MVC_MIS tools for ACHIEVE project for 33 sites per the below list of tools to be used to support implementation, data collection, and reporting of FY 22 activities.

A. Requirement/ Scope of Work

Description of Items

Type of item for printing	Number of items	Specifications
National MVC Registration Form	3,600	Trifoliate (White, Yellow, Pink) and include 3 double sided page instructions at the beginning of the book A4 Perforated, serial number (use Letter of the form name before the serial number), perfect binding 20 forms @ book1 page @ form
National MVC Monthly Service Delivery Tracking Form	86,088	Trifoliate (White, Yellow, Pink) Perfect binding, include 2 pages guide instructions (double sided) at the beginning of the book. Serial number on the top (use Letter of the form name before the serial number) Legal, Perforated, 40 forms @book1 page @form
National MVC Referral Form	20,000	Trifoliate (White, Yellow, Pink) Perfect binding, include 1-page guide instructions at the beginning of the book. Serial number on the top of the form, and the SAME serial number on the bottom part of the form. The bottom portion of slip is perforated too! Legal, 60 forms @book 1 page @form
Screening and Enrollment	4,000	Perfect binding, A4 size, 4pages instructions (2sheets double-sided), Then forms: 1-page, single color; 70gsm bond paper with numbering; Perforated; Cover full-color 250gsm gloss, 20 forms @ book 20x14
Family and Child Asset Assessment	22,176	Perfect binding; A4 size; set of 8 pages instruction at the beginning of the book (4 sheets double-sided) + 5 sheets double-sided forms x10 (5x10x1) Serial number; perforated
GBV Screening	33,360	4pgs instructions (2sheets double sided) then forms 2pgs (1 sheet double sided) 100 forms @book, b/w 70mf bond paper Numbering and perforation Cover: 250gsm gloss full colour
HIV Prevention Knowledge	25,600	Perfect binding; 4 pages instructions at the beginning of the book (2 sheets double-sided) + 2 pages double-sided form (1 sheet) x 50 (1x50x1) A4 size, perforated
HIV Risks, Services and Adherence	12,152	Perfect binding; 6 pages instructions at the beginning of the book (4 sheets double-sided) + 2 pages double-sided form (1 sheet) x 50 (1x50x1) A4 size, perforated Serial number
HIV Risks Services Adherence Quarterly Monitoring Tool	40,240	Perfect binding; 6 pages instructions at the beginning of the book (3 sheets double-sided) + 2 pages double-sided form (1 sheet) x 50 (1x50x1) A4 size, perforated Serial numbers
Care plan	18,958	Trifoliate (White, Yellow, Pink) Legal Perforated, serial number (use Letter of the form name before the serial number), perfect binding, perforated 60 forms @ book 2 pages @form
Positive Parenting Job Aid	15,000	A4 size folded to A5, printed both sides 80gsm glossy laminated, full colored
CCWs Job Aid	15,000	Size: A3; 1Cover Paper Type: Art Gloss; Cover Paper Weight: 170 gsm; Print Options: Both Sides; Notes: A3 folded to A4
GBV&VAC Incident Reporting Form	12,000	Trifoliate Ncr paper numbering with perforation 1x3x50
GBV&VAC Service	360	Duplicate Ncr paper; A2 size; numbering with perforation 1x2x50; full color

Scope of Work

The selected vendor (s) will have the following scope.

1. Vendor to visit Pact office to see the sample of the tools to be procured as per the quality of the materials needed.
2. Pact will review the samples submitted by the vendors regarding the samples Pact shared with the vendors and select the best vendor. This applies only to shortlisted vendors.
3. Ensure a good arrangement of the document(s) before mass printing. This includes -
 - Page set up.
 - Typesetting as per the government standard format (Font style, size, line spacing, etc)
 - Align, update, and format table of content against document content and PlanRep System.
 - Align, update, and format a list of tables of figures.
 - Insertion of appropriate logos and back page.
4. Obtain approval of the final arranged document(s) from Pact Tanzania in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania (If need be) upon submission of a printed sample of the guide.
5. Deliver the Printed tools or guidelines to established destinations/delivery points as per the list of distribution shared by Pact Tanzania.
6. A vendor should communicate any substantial alteration of the document to ACHIEVE -technical team through the Pact-Procurement team.

Interested vendors should request the full Terms of Reference (ToR) through email with the subject line "TOR for Printing and Distribution of MVC_MIS Tools" to ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org before Thursday, 20th January 2022.

All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org with the subject line "Request for Clarification: Printing and Distribution of MVC_MIS Tools" before COB 20th January 2022.

B. Eligibility

To be considered for the award, vendors must currently be legally operating in Tanzania, and the quotation must include all of the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the requirements/technical specifications outlined in Section A;
- Ability to deliver the items/services specified in Section A no later than the date(s) required.

C. Submission Instructions

The following information to be included by a vendor in the proposal:

- Draft inception report detailing methodology & timelines for providing printing services.
- Quote, valid for at least 90 days
- Current company profile.
- Delivery time (estimated work completion timeline after receiving an order).
- Quality of the work (measured on the sample submitted upon request).
- Copies of registration, certificate and address of their registered office, valid business license, VAT, TIN certificates, Tax clearance certificate, and any industry-relevant license or certificate.
- Evidence of similar assignments, and at least two (2) names and addresses of client served.
- Current Audited financial statement for 2 consecutive years.
- Payment terms.

Vendors who wish to answer this RFP should send their proposals in sealed envelopes to Pact Tanzania Head Office by 21st January 2022, 11:00 am. All sealed envelopes need to be marked as:

"Tender for Printing and Distribution of MVC_MIS Tools."

Office Address:

**The Tender Committee
Pact Tanzania
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

PACT will open all bids on **Friday 21st January 2022 at 11.30 am** in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

Quotes must be in Tanzania shillings and include taxes and distribution costs separately:

- Proposals submitted through emails will not be considered.
- Quotations received after that time or at a different address may not be accepted
- All quotations and delivery dates shall be valid for at least 90 days following the submission as mentioned above.

Free at Last: Trafficked woman's story a warning to other vulnerable job seekers



Desperate for work, Kamikazi put her faith in 'agents' to find her a job. Instead, she found herself working without pay as a domestic worker in Kuwait. Photo: Aimable Twahirwa/IPS

KIGALI

When Kamikazi * from Gisagara, a district in Southern Rwanda, was forced to quit her job due to COVID-19 last year, she desperately sought other employment.

A former co-worker in the food processing firm where Kamikazi once worked introduced her to "agents". They assured her she would find decent employment in the Middle East, but little did she know her co-worker had delivered her into the arms of human traffickers.

The following day, with her passport in hand, the 22-year-old approached the agent, who told her to pay about 300 US dollars as a facilitation fee.

"One day, I received a call from the agent who told me that I had to travel to Kenya where I would secure my visa to Kuwait," Kamikazi told IPS.

At the border between Tanzania and Kenya, the young woman met other members of the human trafficking syndicate who helped her to cross into Kenya unnoticed before travelling by road to the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

In Nairobi, she and the 'agents' hid residential house with several other young women of different African nationalities. Driven by fear and desperation, she continued with the ruse until the group finally boarded a plane to Kuwait.

"I was told that domestic workers from our region (East Africa) were more highly valued in Kuwait than those from other countries," she says.

Kamikazi recalls her arrival. The traffickers took their passports and held her and some other young women prisoner in an apartment.

"We believed them because my hope was that the new opportunity would help change my life for the better," she told IPS.

However, her hopes for a better future were soon dashed.

She was "hired" by a family - but found herself locked up and unpaid. And if it suited them, her employers would swap the domestic workers between themselves.

"I didn't have any valid travel document, and I was treated like an animal being traded by one family to another," she said.

To make matters worse, she realised that her ex-colleague, whom she considered a close friend, was responsible for her situation. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in most countries in the Middle East, domestic workers are excluded from labour law, which means they have no social, health or legal protection.

Domestic workers suffer from particularly arduous conditions, and their situation is all the more vulnerable because most countries have no laws governing their employment, the report said. Because they are excluded from labour law provisions, written employment contracts are not required.

Victims of human traffickers often become sexually exploited, forced into labour, slavery and can become victims of organ removal and sale.

Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) has warned that thousands of people fall prey to traffickers who portray themselves as recruitment agents. Vulnerable young women seeking greener pastures fall prey to these traffickers.

Latest estimates by UN Women indicate that while it's challenging to get exact numbers of victims, the vast majority of detected trafficking victims are women and girls, and three out of four are trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Recent cases of maids being mistreated and assaulted by their employers in the Middle East have shone a light on domestic workers' hidden and unregulated conditions.

In many cases, these women work illegally, which means they have little protection if their employers abuse them.

With tears in her eyes, Kamikazi remembers her first hours with her new employer.

"After confiscating my passport, I was told to stay at home (...) I was like in a cage," Kamikazi said.

A typical working day started as early as 4 am and ended at midnight or later. There were no days off, and there was no going out unless to accompany the family somewhere.

"I had to take care of the house pets in addition to cooking, cleaning, washing clothes (...) I wanted to escape because I was abused by my employer but had no idea where to turn," she said.

Whereas Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) findings indicate that the majority of the victims are intercepted at the point of exit - either at the airport or the different border points of the country - evidence shows there are cases where young women are trafficked to neighbouring countries as a transit for commercial sexual exploitation in the Gulf countries.

An investigation by law enforcement institutions in Rwanda found at least 47 local-based syndicate members were trafficking women from Rwanda to work abroad. As a result, 49 individuals, including company owners, were arrested and prosecuted in courts of law in 2018, according to judicial reports.

The trend shows an upward trajectory, with 131 trafficking victims identified in 2020, compared with 96 victims in 2019. Like Kamikazi, most human trafficking victims are enticed from villages and towns with false promises of gainful employment abroad.

Studies have proven that when families are economically unstable, the vulnerability of children increases. Traffickers prey on such families by making false promises of a new job, augmented income, better living conditions and financial support abroad.

Even though Rwanda has a strict anti-trafficking law that penalises sex and labour trafficking with up to 15 years of imprisonment, the RIB Secretary-General, Jeannot Ruhunga, is convinced that trafficking,

especially women and children, continues to be a serious challenge faced by the international community.

Speaking during the workshop 'Law enforcement practitioners' workshop under the theme: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings with a Multi-stakeholders' approach for Central and East Africa, the senior Rwandan police investigator noted that organised trafficking in persons is transboundary. It's a global problem but seriously affects Central and East Africa.

"The most important is about how countries work together to address challenges encountered during the investigation and prosecution of this transboundary offence and to strengthen cooperation and mutual assistance," Ruhunga said.

According to data from the Rwanda Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, the majority of suspected human trafficking victims identified in Rwanda were from Burundi (62.7%), followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (15%) and Rwanda (13.6%).

Case data by the National Public Prosecution Authority reveal between 2016 and 2018, most perpetrators were male (63%), with females still comprising a substantial percentage of traffickers (37%).

The 2019 study conducted by Rwandan NGO Never Again Rwanda stresses that the effective management of national borders constitutes a critical component of inhibiting human trafficking because it functions to deter criminals and identify victims.

The research found that the primary transit countries for trafficking in East Africa are Uganda, Kenya, and, to a lesser extent, Tanzania. Uganda ranks first, followed by Kenya and Tanzania as destinations for trafficking.

Dr Joseph Ryarasa Nkurunziza, Executive Director of Never Again Rwanda, told IPS that awareness and education are key to beating human trafficking in Rwanda. "Awareness is important considering that the pandemic has worsened the situation for many vulnerable groups which are now more prone to human trafficking," Nkurunziza said.

For Kamikazi, her ordeal has come to an end. After being forced to work night and day and kept prisoner in her employer's home, she was rescued after asking assistance from a businesswoman in Kuwait.

Her rescuer contacted the Rwandan Embassy in Dubai.

"It seemed like my employer didn't want to give back my passport, but the Kuwait Police told them to give it to me."

"Kamikazi's name has been changed to protect her identity. This is part of a series of features from across the globe on human trafficking. IPS coverage is supported by the Airways Aviation Group.

A fast-spreading pandemic has dispatched additional 100 million people into poverty

UNITED NATIONS.

The UN's highly-ambitious goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 has been severely undermined by a rash of problems worldwide, including an escalating coronavirus pandemic, continued widespread military conflicts and the devastating impact of climate change.

According to published estimates, more than 700 million people have been living in poverty around the world, surviving on less than \$1.90 a day.

But the fast-spreading pandemic, whose origins go back to December 2019, has been singled out as the primary reason for a rise in global poverty - for the first time in 20 years.

A World Bank report, which was updated last October, says about 100 million additional people are now living in poverty as a direct result of the pandemic.

For almost 25 years, extreme poverty - the first of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - was steadily declining. Now, for the first time in a generation, the quest to end poverty has suffered a setback, says the report.

Sir Richard Jolly, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK, told IPS at least the World Bank is emphasizing that world poverty has been rising - after many years where in countries with positive economic per capita growth, it suggested that poverty had fallen, or soon would.

Admitting he was "a fan" of the UNDP's annual Human Development Report (HDR), he said: "So, for me, multi-dimensional poverty is a more realistic and relevant indicator". "I want to know what's been happening to life expectancy, access to education and incomes of the poorer sections of society, those below a poverty measure or median income"

For instance, the numbers and percentages of the population below \$10,000 in many countries, lower for some, especially in Africa. Even if by income measures poverty is rising, a multi-dimensional measure is much better, he said.

"What are those in UNDP's HDR office saying about recent poverty trends?" asked Sir Richard, who was a former Trustee of Oxfam and chairman of the UN Association of the UK.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the pandemic has "laid bare" challenges - such as structural inequalities, inadequate healthcare, and



In India, five out of six people in multidimensional poverty were from lower castes. Credit: UNDP India/Dhiraj Singh

the lack of universal social protection - and the heavy price societies are paying as a result.

Ending poverty sits at the heart of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and is the first of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite this, poverty and hunger, Guterres said, are on the rise, following decades of progress.

In his New Year message last week, he said the world welcomes 2022 "with our hopes for the future being tested": by deepening poverty and worsening inequality, by an unequal distribution of COVID vaccines, by climate commitments that fall short of their goals and by ongoing conflicts, divisions, and misinformation.

"These are not just policy tests. These are moral and real-life tests. And they are tests humanity can pass - if we commit to making 2022 a year of recovery for everyone," he declared.

In an interview with IPS, Roberto Bissio, Coordinator of Social Watch, an international network of citizen organizations that monitor how governments meet internationally-agreed commitments, pointed out that the World Bank once again underestimates poverty by measuring it with the extremely low

benchmark of \$1.90 a day. Further, by assuming that the tide lifts all boats equally it claims that the Covid-induced poverty "tsunami" of 2020 is being turned around by economic growth in 2021.

"This ignores the conclusion of the World Inequality Report 2022 (launched December 7, 2021 and available here: <https://wid.world/news-article/world-inequality-report-2022/>), showing that inequalities have been exacerbated, particularly in the South, where states don't have deep pockets to fund emergency social protection".

The Bank is right that SDGI on reducing poverty won't be achieved by 2030 without major policy changes, but neither will SDGI on reducing inequalities, said Bissio, who was also a former member of the Civil Society Advisory Committee to the Administrator of the UN Development Programme, and has covered development issues as a journalist since 1973.

"And it shamefully ignores that World Bank promoted policies of privatization and deregulation make the inequalities worse," he argued.

"Instead, the policies recommended by the infamous and now discontinued "Doing Business" report of the World Bank,

are still part of the conditions imposed on countries to receive emergency from the Bank".

The institution that claims to have poverty reduction as its main mandate is part of the problem, not of the solution, said Bissio, who is also international representative of the Uruguay-based Third World Institute.

Vicente Paolo Yu, Senior Legal Adviser at the Third World Network, told IPS the setback in 2020 to the fight against global poverty due to the Covid pandemic exacerbates the impact of other crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and the development gap on the global poor, particularly those in developing countries.

"Global poverty and inequality among and in all countries, climate change, biodiversity loss, and unequal pandemic responses are among the present-day results of historical injustices on the

Global South committed in the name of Western civilization and globalization," he said.

"The past is part of our present that shapes our future. These crises are linked and cannot be fought effectively through piecemeal efforts or in silos."

Global poverty and inequal-

ity exist not because people are not hard working in their own homes and communities but because the way that the global economic, financial, and trade system is set up makes it difficult for poor peoples and countries to get out of poverty, he argued.

Developing countries that have recently managed to succeed in cutting poverty have been those that have implemented diverse development policies, said Yu, who is a former Deputy Executive Director of the South Centre in Geneva. Hence, poverty and inequality are not natural phenomena but are borne out of the actions and decisions taken by human societies. They can also be reversed by human decisions, he noted.

"Failing to act together as a common human community on all fronts on poverty and inequality and their various manifestations in the root causes and impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pandemic responses leads to the denial of human choices and opportunities, violations of human rights, and increased human insecurity, powerlessness, and exclusion for peoples, their communities, and their countries," declared Yu.

Fighting these must be through a broad and systemic effort across the world founded on a deep sense of urgency and understanding of equity and justice as public goods in undertaking interlinked actions in the economic, social, and environmental fields. It is about choosing to create the conditions for human dignity and a decent life for all rather hoping for charity from the wealthy, he added.

"The continued existence of deep poverty and inequality for many peoples across the globe, compounded by the climate, biodiversity and pandemic crises, is injustice writ large - particularly when seen against the technological and industrial advances and capital accumulation of a relative few".

"It is against the tenets of all faiths and human goodwill to refuse to act against the injustice of poverty. We should not simply look away and call for charity. We need to act with courage and conviction to correct injustice, redress wrongs, and achieve liberation from poverty and inequality."

The year 2022, he predicted, should be the year when all peoples come together to set each other free from the shackles of global poverty and inequality.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Matching farmers to innovation in Africa makes communities climate resilient change

By Rhys Bucknall-Williams

THE dust has settled on COP26. Food and agriculture appeared high on the COP agenda as never before, rightly taking its place as one of the key sectors that contribute to climate change, yet also most vulnerable to its effects.

Campaigns like ClimateShot demonstrated how innovation helps vulnerable communities build more climate-resilient livelihoods and feed growing communities as the world's population is expected to reach 10 billion by 2050.

Nowhere is this more true than in Africa, and next year's COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, is important.

Climate action for communities across Africa will be front and center of debate in Sharm el-Sheikh, with greater emphasis than usual on the role of agriculture, farming and food systems, which are central to so many African economies.

It's critical that we better understand how farmers actually adopt climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices on the massive scale needed to address the climate crisis.

Projects like 'Building Livelihoods and Resilience to Climate Change in East and West Africa' - funded by the European Union and supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - deploy Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) to answer how.

Matchmakers must connect innovations to farmers

Many of us are familiar with how apps like Uber and Lyft have radically changed mobility in major cities around the world.

In Kenya, a mobile app called Hello Tractor connects farmers to scarce tractors and related equipment that is often unaffordable to



farmers to own outright.

The Hello Tractor business model is itself innovative, making older business models suddenly viable by connecting geographically disparate consumers (i.e. farmers) and using big data to allocate the use of those resources in a much more efficient way. The company literally maps out delivery routes to minimize unnecessary journeys.

Kenyan tractor owner Dominic Kimani told Africa News:

"In the old days we used to park our tractors at shopping centres and patiently wait for customers who would not show up sometimes. However, with the use of this application I can get customers from far and wide and it has been easy to find work."

Hello Tractor founder Jehil Oliver emphasized: "Nearly all farmers in the Africa region are reliant on rain fed agricultural systems... There is simply not enough labour available in these rural communities to ensure farmers have access to the labour that they need to plant on time and maximise their productivity. That is

where Hello Tractor comes in."

Kenya-based researchers from the CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) had separately met with both farmers and business leaders - including Hello Tractor and US tractor firm John Deere - in various community forums.

Meanwhile, AR4D research by CCAFS showed that farmers should adopt new tillage methods - namely 'ripping' - which required specialist equipment produced by firms like John Deere.

The CCAFS team introduced ripping technology into the Hello Tractor platform by connecting them to producers John Deere.

The impact emerged by taking disparate innovations a step further and 'bundling' them together; matchmaking producers with farmers.

Bundling innovations delivers greater impact than the sum of its parts. In Africa, 85% of agriculture is rain fed and that means rainfall heavily influences crop yields.

The problem is, rainfall is very poorly measured in many African countries, most of which have seen dwindling numbers of meteorological observation stations over past decades.

Satellites can help, but most farmers need 'hyper-local' measurements of rainfall to be able to plan how to farm, and only rain gauges on the ground can provide the granular data needed.

And without easily verifiable metrics of the climate risks that small-holder farmers face - particularly rainfall - it's often impossible to overcome the 'risk aversion' that hinders the establishment of contracts between farmers and service providers like bankers and investors.

This is where 'frugal' innovations - simple, low-cost technologies - can be matched with data-driven digital platforms.

In West Africa, the agCelerant platform deploys 'phy-gital' agriculture - the combination of physical asset management tools with digital solutions - so that banking or investment service providers for small-

holder farmers can be scaled across markets.

Assume that a farmer has taken insurance out against drought. If at the end of the season of poor rainfall, the farmer applies for a pay-out, how does the insurer know that the farmer is telling the truth about the amount of rainfall on the farmer's land in that year, and that they have just not been complacent?

To overcome this challenge, CCAFS and its partners developed prototype rain gauges, that were recyclable and enabled with 'Internet-of-Things' technology. These affordable gauges cost only US\$50 apiece.

These gauges provide critical data and information to other key players in crop value chains who can provide finance, insurance and investment services to farmers, who are then empowered to better leverage climate risks.

So far, these gauges have been installed in Kenya and Tanzania, with further units ready for field deployment in Ghana and Ethiopia. Procurement for more units is

underway to support projects in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal.

Innovation must be demand-driven

Raising awareness of new innovations inevitably leads to greater demand, making them more sustainable in the long term with better value for money.

In Ethiopia, the CCAFS team collaborated with the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and the National Meteorological Agency (NMA) on a major public awareness campaign delivered through Fana Radio, one of the major media houses in the country.

Messages about climate-smart agriculture - and the innovations that are opening up access to such technology and practices - were shared with 15 million farmers across Ethiopia.

Making use of this extensive infrastructure (including 12 regional FM radio stations) and the Fana's reputation, the broadcasting campaign delivered specific and highly contextualized information in the local languages to farmers in support of projects across different areas.

What this EU-IFAD supported project in Africa shows is how - on the frontlines of climate change - there is ample opportunity to connect and capitalise on all the innovation that's already happening in communities vulnerable to climate change.

Major pledges at COP27 aside, such 'grassroots' efforts can be a major part of the solution to the climate crisis, especially when guided by the best climate and social science and supported with investment from international partners.

Rhys Bucknall-Williams is CGIAR Global Communications and Knowledge Manager.

TARURA opens up western regions with improved roads

By Guardian Reporter

THE Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) has continued to open roads in various parts of the country, in efforts aimed to facilitate transportation of people and produce to town and thus stimulate economic growth.

The agency is well committed to ensure that all places that were previously inaccessible are now connected with quality roads, bridges and other infrastructures for the country's development.

In the Rukwa Region, TARURA has continued to implement various projects in Nkasi District, Katavi, Melele councils and Sumbawanga Municipality.

TARURA manager for Sumbawanga District Council, Eng Samson Kalilo said budget increase has enabled the opening of the 8km Miyangalua-Movi road at a cost of 80m/- and the rehabilitation of the bridge and the Laela-Mission road at a cost of 161m/-.

"This road that we have opened at gravel level from Miyangalua-Movu was very rough especially in the rainy season and caused the people espe-



cially the farmers of maize and bean crops to fail to transport their produce easily to the markets."

Alfred Hassan, a resident of Sumbawanga Rural, thanked the government for the improvement of infrastructures and said they were struggling to transport their produce to the towns of Laela and Sumbawanga Municipality due to poor roads.

He said the opening of the road has greatly helped residents to transport their products, stimulate trade and economic growth.

He said in Sumbawanga Municipality, TARURA has completed the construction of the Kankwale Bridge connecting the original Sumbawanga and Kankwale Village at a cost of 238m/-, the construction of the 1km-Tawaqal Petrol station - High Court road at the tamarac level at a cost of 500m/- as well as the construction of the Momoka bridge connecting Senga Ward and Momoka which cost 244m/-.

Momoka ward councillor, Rev. Charles Chakupewa commended

the government through TARURA for taking immediate steps to build the Momoka Bridge connecting Senga and Momoka wards, explaining that the completion of the bridge would be an important link for residents of the two wards to access social services easily.

TARURA manager for Nkasi District Council, Eng Elly Mkwizu explained that the agency is in the process of constructing the Kavunja Bridge on the Kavunja River which has reached 70 percent and will cost 1.79bn/-.

He said the construction of the bridge will help solve the long-standing transport problem for Korongwe residents who had to travel more than 200km to reach Namanjere but through the construction of the Kavunja Bridge they will now spend little time (35 Km) to reach Namanjere via Kilando.

"Residents in Korongwe were facing a huge challenge of transport especially during the rainy season, they had to take the 200km road to reach Namanjere but with the

bridge the distance will only be 35km," said Eng Mkwizu.

Rogata Kapeta, a resident of Masengule Village in Kilando ward appreciated the government for constructing the Kavunja Bridge as before constructing the bridge some people especially patients and others had to cross the water due to emergencies but majority of them lost lives by being attacked by crocodiles.

In Katavi Region, the agency has continued to open roads to reach out of reach in Nsimbo, Melele, Tanganyika and Mpimbwe District Councils.

TARURA manager for Melele District, Eng Nolasco Kamasho said that the agency has opened the 5km-Nshama-Songambe, the 10km-Inyonga-Imarauduki road and construction of a 3km-Inyonga-Nswaka road at the tarmac level.

Imarauduki village chairman, Richard Fabiano also thanked the government for opening various roads as they previously had to travel around 20km to Inyonga but

with the construction of the Inyonga-Imarauduki road, transportation has been easier.

"We thank the government for repairing this road for us as this area during the rainy season is flooded and it leads us to walk around 20 km to the district to transport our produce, we now believe this road will be a great saviour for us," he said.

In Nsimbo District Council, TARURA has opened the 16km-Tambazi-Mtambo road, Katumba HC-Kalungu (1.5km), Mnyeki-Kambulonge (13km), Mtapenda-Ndurumo (6.82 km) and Msaginya-Kanonge-Kambona (3.95km) at a total cost of 500m/-.

The agency has also made maintenance of the Mtapenda Bridge at a cost of 232m/- to further open up economic activities.

In Rukwa Region, TARURA serves a total road network with a length of 1818.823-km where tarmac is 38.70-km, gravel 747.46-km and soil 1032.663-km. In Katavi Region, the agency serves a road network with a length of 2475.65-km asphalt is 36.42-km, gravel is 442.841-km and soil is 1996.367-km.

Climate change in East Africa: "We keep on losing what we have"

By Susan Martinez

ACROSS East Africa, swarms of desert locusts have invaded communities for the past few years. The insects devour everything in their path, and many families were unprepared for the damage to their crops. In southern Ethiopia, Darmi Doyo, a mother of five children, lost her entire harvest last year.

"It was very stressful when the locusts arrived. They ate everything that we had, and every crop that we cultivated was destroyed," she says. "We didn't have the power to make them go away."

For Darmi, the locust infestation came after a year's hard work trying to secure food for her family that was supposed to last through the dry season. But when the locusts arrived, the community had no time to protect their crops.

"I saw it with my own eyes, the locusts were not only in my land, but in the land all around us...They came to our village more than three times," says Darmi, recalling her shock at seeing the insects with insatiable appetites. "They ate the leaves of the trees on top of eating the crops...they even started eating the bark of the trees after they damaged everything else."

Darmi had already been struggling with the unforgiving droughts that made it difficult to grow crops, and the locust infestations made matters worse. Climate change - and its unpredictable and extreme weather patterns - helped make her land the perfect breeding ground for the desert locusts.

"Not only the locusts, but also the weather conditions affect our lives and our crops," explains Darmi. "The weather conditions make us suffer a lot. We can't predict anymore which weather will be the best for our cattle or when to cultivate our land...it changes so much."

Even during the rainy seasons in Borena Region, where Darmi lives, there is less precipitation. The seasons of drought are longer and drier. Despite their best efforts, farmers are becoming frustrated, losing crop after crop to climate disasters.

"We worked hard to cultivate our land, we bought seeds and tried hard. For example, beans take two months to mature but at the end of that time, near to their maturity, the rain stopped and we couldn't harvest anything. We keep on losing what we have."

US democracy faces gravest danger

NEW YORK

Unless the Republicans and Democrats put the nation above their party and personal interests, our democracy will face the gravest danger in more than a hundred years.

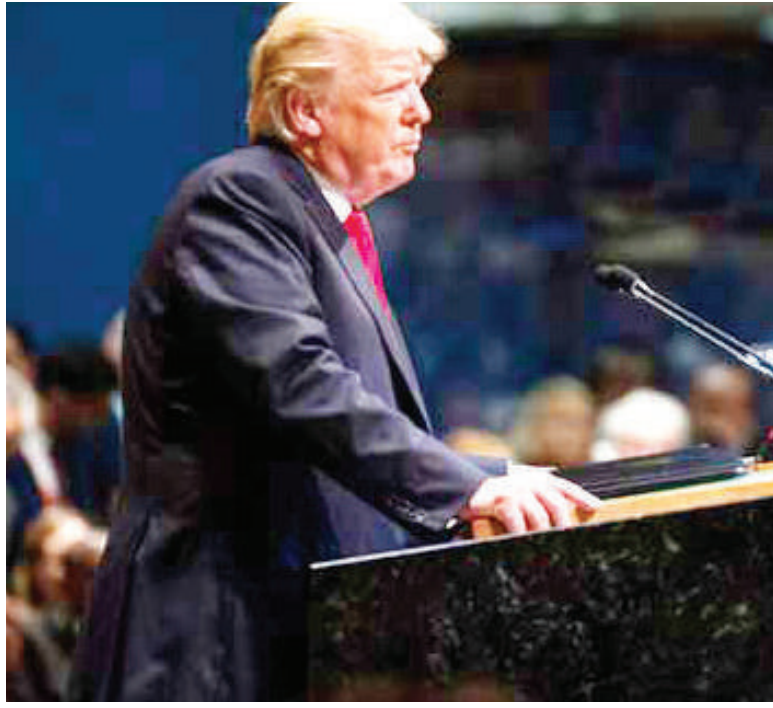
Authoritarianism will creep in, leading to the collapse of American political institutions and the demise of our democracy as we know it.

Righting the Wrong

On January 6, Trump was planning to hold a press conference during which he was expected to repeat lies for the hundredth time that the election in 2020 was stolen, that the insurrection a year ago was actually peaceful, and that he - not Biden - is the duly-elected president.

He canceled the press conference at the urging of the GOP and now is expected to instead spread these lies at his Arizona rally next week. He will, needless to say, remain true to himself and deny any wrongdoing and blame the Democrats for persistently undermining his presidency as well as for all the ills that face America today.

Trump is uniquely dangerous; he wants to solidify his absolute control over the Republican Party, rouse his followers, instill hatred of the Democrats, and of course raise enough money for his re-election campaign should he decide to run again.



US President Donald Trump addresses the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, September 2018. Credit: UN Photo/Cia Pak

Moreover, the Arizona rally will be his first foray into the mid-term elections designed to rouse the rank-and-file of the Republican Party to recapture the House and the Senate as the forerunner to the 2024 election.

The tragic aspect of the Trump phenomenon is that the elected leaders of the Republican Party continue to follow him religiously, regardless of the fact that he is corrupt, was defeated in re-election as

an incumbent, was impeached twice, and faces several criminal charges.

Indeed, no former president in American history has been able to maintain his grip on his party the way Trump has. And no Republican Party has abdicated its moral and constitutional responsibilities and willingly succumbed to a deranged egomaniac, misogynist, and habitual liar. How could this happen, and why? The answer is Trump's and the

Republicans' voracious lust for power.

The Republican Party has become a minority party and there is no circumstance under which the party can win nationally in a free and fair election. Demographically, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, and other minorities currently represent more than 40 percent of the American population, and it is estimated that by 2045 they will become the majority, who largely vote for Democrats.

Collectively, even at the present they can deny the Republican Party from ever capturing the White House again if they go out and vote en masse.

The Republican Party faces two choices: one is to adapt to the changing demographic reality and develop socio-economic programs that respond to the needs of people of color (POC) without sacrificing much of their conservative ideology.

This includes lowering taxes, particularly for those who earn less than \$200,000 a year, immigration reform, which the Republican Party has long-acknowledged needs

addressing and will help in outreach especially to Hispanic voters, and supporting minority small business owners with tax breaks and other financial incentives, which won't incur further government spending.

The second choice is to prevent or make it extremely difficult for POC to exercise their right to vote through a variety of deplorable measures. One state after another is passing discriminatory rules, including gerrymandering districts on racial lines, restricting early voting, which disproportionately affects Black Americans who are more likely than any other ethnic or racial group to cast early ballots (whether in-person or by mail and absentee ballots), enacting voter ID laws even though voter impersonation fraud is exceedingly rare and those who don't have valid ID are disproportionately POC, and empower state legislators to invert their own elections and manipulate the electoral college to their advantage.

Sadly, if not tragically, the Republican Party went for the latter option. Many Republicans

simply believe that POC are illegitimate citizens and should not be able to vote and have the power, as they fear accurately or otherwise, to enact laws against whites, the way whites have enacted discriminatory laws against POC. America, from their perspective, was founded by white people, and the thought that the US is becoming browner every passing day scares them to the core.

They needed a leader who is a bigot, shameless, and crude, with no scruples and no morals, but audacious—a performer with the ability to sway large audiences with his lies and sneering face. The Republicans need him to promote their agenda without fear of public repercussions, and he needs the party to satisfy his ego in order to exercise raw power, and also grant him its full support should he decide to run again.

We are still reeling from the violent storming of the Capitol on January 6 to prevent the peaceful transfer of power. Trump, who incited his followers to attack the Capitol, was ready to shatter our democracy only to bask in his authoritarian impulse.

What does that say about the Republican Party, which largely ignored or downplayed the insurrection in its determination to seize power and chose chaos and violence over voting, even at the expense of tearing our democratic institutions apart? How ironic and deeply troubling that 52 percent of Republicans say that the insurrectionists were trying to protect democracy.

The most ominous note that must be repeated loud and clear is that the party under the leadership of Trump will incite violence should they fail to win the 2022 election, as anyone who carefully listens to the many utterances spewed by reckless Republicans leaders can discern with clarity.

In that context, although Trump during his rally will not openly encourage his followers to resort to violence to undo the result of the election, the message to them will

be loud and clear.

It is hard to exaggerate the transformation of the Republican Party since the rise of Trump in 2016, from a patriotic party that stood for democracy to a white supremacist party willing to destroy it only to stay in power.

Many thousands of Republican leaders should follow the footsteps of Representative Liz Cheney, who stood up against Trump and in favor of the truth, and still rescue our democracy by accepting reality and being truthful with their followers.

The election of Biden gave the country hope of preserving our democracy and attending to the political and social malaise that swept the nation, especially during Trump's tenure in the White House. But to address these ills, the Democrats must spare no effort to hold onto the House and Senate in the 2022 mid-term election, as these will be the most consequential in more than a century.

Indeed, should the Republicans manage to recapture both chambers of Congress, our democracy will slide toward the precipice of disintegration while authoritarianism creeps in, and Biden's agenda will be shattered.

The Democrats have their work cut out for them. They must rise in unison, which is bitterly still missing, stop short of nothing to strengthen voting rights, prevent the appointment of partisans to subvert the election, fight political corruption at every level, make political power decreasingly dependent on money, get out the vote, and eliminate the filibuster to pass the voting rights bill.

Furthermore, they must hold accountable the traitors behind the insurrection on January 6, including Trump.

Democrats and the millions of law-abiding Republicans should sound the alarm before it's too late, and never waver to preserve and protect America's 244-year-old democracy that served as a beacon of hope and freedom to the global community.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 199 00--

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

3 LETTERS: FEW, ADD, ANA
 4 LETTERS: MEAN, TAME, NOSE, NEWS, REAP, DINE, MINT, (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: LEAST, AWASH, POEMS, TAPES, EGRET (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: CAREER, STRIVE, ANSWER, AMORAL, ASSETS (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: MALINDI
 8 LETTERS: ADAPTORS
 10 LETTERS: TYRRHENIAN

CLUES: Across

- Printed publications
- a female servant
- plural form of ass
- sliced bread broiled to make it crisp
- Creator of heaven and Earth
- edema
- submit to the authority of
- an organic compound made by replacing the hydrogen of an acid by an alkyl or other organic group an indirect reference
- make a bleating sound
- apparition of dead people

Down:

- to specify
- a time for anticipation
- sending mail through the post office
- a small South African antelope
- a roof that resembles a half circle
- to make ashamed
- a hollow ball of perforated metal to hold tea leaves
- the mark or line left by a fold
- an adolescent
- a sudden cry in a loud voice
- syrian cloth
- to move at a slower pace to stay behind the others

WORD-FIT **CROSSWORD**

SOLUTIONS

W O R D - F I T

S A L V A T I O N S S H O P S O I L E D

T A M E T B I D R

P R O A F L O A T A M I D U L A M A

E S C O R E N R T R I B E I

S M A C C M S U U A N T

C A R E E N S H A M A N T

L W C A E A T U N D E R

A V O W E M E N D F R A T U N D E R

A I I D I R I

U G A N D A N S A F F E C T E D

S E N D E C I F F Y C

E T S E T S E T L U S E N E T E

By Magezi: 0755429240 telmagazi@gmail.com

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.40 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.30 HRS DJ SHOW 10.35 HRS DJ SHOW 10.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 01.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.40 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.30 HRS DJ SHOW 10.35 HRS DJ SHOW 10.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 01.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.40 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.30 HRS DJ SHOW 10.35 HRS DJ SHOW 10.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 01.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.40 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.30 HRS DJ SHOW 10.35 HRS DJ SHOW 10.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 01.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.40 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.30 HRS DJ SHOW 10.35 HRS DJ SHOW 10.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 01.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.40 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.30 HRS DJ SHOW 10.35 HRS DJ SHOW 10.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.05 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.25 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.35 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.40 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.45 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.50 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12.55 AM NEWS BULLETIN 01.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Instagram Facebook Twitter

Radio One

INBAR CHIEF TOUTS USE OF BAMBOO IN CONSTRUCTION AS NATURE-BASED SOLUTION

By Property Watch Reporter

THE International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation has said use of bamboo and rattan in construction of structures is a solution for sustainable development objectives since 1997, long before the words 'SDGs' or 'nature-based solutions' were commonplace.

INBAR Director General, Ambassador Ali Mchumo said in a recent report that in order to create a fairer and more sustainable future, there is need to treat all global challenges as interconnected, and deal with them together.

"It would be self-defeating, for example, to tackle poverty alleviation without also combating the root causes of climate change, which threaten to make poverty an endemic problem in many parts of the world," Mchumo said in a magazine articles published by INBAR.

He said bamboo and rattan offer some brilliant examples of 'win-win' solutions because they are fast-growing, self-regenerating and versatile, hence offer a critical source of income, energy and



A modern bamboo structure.

construction material for people in rural communities, as well as a tool for restoring degraded land, storing carbon and reducing emissions.

"They can be used to help solve some of the world's most pressing challenges, including climate change, land degradation, deforestation, rural

poverty and plastic pollution. Bamboo and rattan update was conceived to bring together the most important news, views and activities about these plants," he added.

Ambassador Mchumo further noted that new research findings and projects with focus on the people who are

using bamboo and rattan to help improve the world around them. "In this special first issue, we highlight two people who have contributed most to the field of bamboo for sustainable development. In his feature, Professor Walter Liese, the 'grandfather of bamboo', reflects on the changes in the bamboo

sector since his career began in the 1950s," the INBAR DG noted.

He pointed out that as Professor Liese shows, people's understanding of the plant, and how it can be used, has changed dramatically in the last few decades, opening up a whole range of new possibilities for sustainable development.

"Many of bamboo's new materials and uses would not be possible without the pioneering work of researchers, such as Professor Liese, who have identified key features about bamboo's structure and properties," Mchumo noted.

Looking to the future, the Director of the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan, Professor Fei Benhua also provided valuable insights into some of the key developments which are reshaping China's bamboo businesses.

"From bamboo 'scissors' which make it easier to harvest plants, to new durable engineered materials, China's bamboo sector is constantly providing innovative solutions. Professor Fei shows how China's research and development into bamboo, as the largest, and most innovative, bamboo economy in the world, has important implications for other countries, including many of INBAR's member states," he added.

Outlook meant to help Ugandan SMEs take part in oil sector development ready

By Property Watch Reporter

OILNEWS Africa, a leading content generation and upstream oil and gas activity analysis firm, has provided the first free industry outlook for the upcoming Uganda upstream sector development phase.

The phase is led by TotalEnergies and China National Offshore Oil Corporation, or CNOOC Group, one of the largest national oil companies in China. CNOOC is the third-largest national oil company in China after China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and China Petrochemical Corporation.

Uganda has made its early steps towards the development phase with an engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) services contract for the Tilenga project awarded to a consortium of a subsidiary of McDermott International Ltd and Sinopec International.

The Tilenga project, which includes six oilfields and is scheduled to feature 426 oil wells at full production, is located in Uganda's Lake Albert Basin. It is the centrepiece of oil projects projected to bring investments of over US\$15bn to Uganda and Tanzania, consisting of 31 well pads connected to a central processing facility (CPF) via buried flowlines.

The OilNews Africa report is entitled "Uganda Tilenga Project Development Stage & East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Outlook 2021 – 2025." It looks into the various aspects of the development phase project scope, starting with the development of the nine oilfields and the supporting facilities such as camps.

It looks into the initial project schedule and phases with first dives into the expected contracts in the first six months and overall project schedule thereafter. The report also addresses the preliminary well pad schedule for the three rigs as well as services and goods to be provided by Ugandan companies.

This is particularly important as the government pushes for local content in the project and the licence holders promise to involve local enterprises as a way of acquiring a social operating licence. The report also unbundles other support infrastructure projects including the Kabaale industrial park, the refinery and the EACOP. Under the EACOP construction phase, it looks at the route, design and planned facilities while considering the refinery's cost-benefit ratio.

The report further highlights the technical attributes of the EACOP and Tilenga feeder alongside the five spreads, concluding in the pipeline characteristics. The Working Policy Framework Towards MSME Development in Oil & Gas Counties developed by the Kenya National Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) shows that access to information is among the five biggest challenges affecting local investors in East Africa wishing to participate in the nascent oil and gas sector.

Other challenges include lack of finance, legal and regulatory environment, access to finance, capacity building and supporting infrastructure. OilNews Africa lead researcher Mwambia Mbote says: "We have since inception envisioned a platform that would open up the oil and gas sector and level the field for local players who see great potential in this area but lack the know-how on ways to engage. "This outlook allows local businesses in Uganda to be part of this multi-billion-dollar development phase at all levels, including in various segments that have been ring-fenced for local companies. "We do believe that local companies can be involved through all levels – technical, skilled and unskilled – through mutually beneficial joint ventures with international companies."

It is estimated that Ugandan contractors could earn up to US\$1.5 billion from contracts associated with the development phase in the Kingfisher and Tilenga oil projects as well as the EACOP and Kabaale Petrochemical city estimated to cost over US\$15 billion.

Handful of Chinese firms snap Sh1trn contracts

NAIROBI

A few Chinese companies have amassed road and infrastructure contracts worth Sh1 trillion under the Jubilee administration while Kenyan contractors are left to fight for small roads and sub contracts.

Their speed, financing muscle and negotiation power has endeared them to almost all government departments, ministries and parastatals, which have seen them eat the lunch of local companies who the government accuses of shoddy jobs and uncompetitive bids. China Communications Construction Co (CCCC) and its subsidiary China Road and Bridges Corporation (CRBC) holds the bulk of the road and railway contracts, earning about Sh777.1 billion.

Others include China Wu Yi, Synohydro, Jiangxi Engineering, China Railways 21 Bureau Group and Third Engineering Bureau of China City Construction Group that have earned hundreds of billions for projects across the country.

Local companies like S.S Mehta, H. Young, and Seco have been pushed to the periphery as Chinese firms secure lucrative road, rail, and electricity contracts. The dominance of Chinese companies has left a bitter taste among local contractors who are now losing out even on county roads and real estate projects.

"The Chinese companies are now doing Kerra [Kenya Rural Roads Authority] Class D roads. Kenyan companies who used to be awarded these contracts have been forced out only for the Chinese companies with shared apartment address to be awarded six to ten jobs," a local contractor who did not want to be named told the Business Daily.

China's influence on Kenya's mega projects development started gathering steam with the construction of the Thika Superhighway between January 2009 and November 2012 at a cost of nearly Sh32 billion in the last term of President Mwai Kibaki. CRBC and CCCC have since bagged the lion's share of Kenya's mega projects – at least two railways, two ports and 23 road projects.

They include a \$3.5 billion (Sh393.82



Ongoing construction of the Nairobi Expressway Uhuru Highway.

billion) standard gauge railway, a \$398 million (Sh44.78 billion) oil terminal at the Mombasa port and road projects such as Southern, Western, and Eastern Bypass in Nairobi and the A109 National Highway Project.

They are expanding the Eastern Bypass, building Nairobi Expressway, Nairobi Inland Container Depot, Nairobi South Railway Station, Valley Road/Ngong Road/ Nyerere Road Interchange & Upper Hill/ Haile Selassie Overpass as well as the Naivasha Inland Container Depot, first three berths at Lamu Port and the Likoni Floating Bridge.

Transport Cabinet Secretary James Macharia did not pick our calls or answer text messages with related queries but in a televised interview he said Kenya preferred Chinese firms due to the speed of delivery and costs. He said Chinese companies bring skilled people, put offsite facilities to do pre-casting, they work 24 hours and manage their cost component well.

The Chinese, Mr Macharia said, are

fast in terms of making decisions and implementation of projects, for instance the Nairobi Expressway was launched in October 2019 and it is 80 percent complete yet a European consortium to dual the Rironi-Mau summit that started negotiations in September 2016 has not finalised negotiations.

The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR was initiated on December 12, 2014 and completed on May 31, 2017, eighteen months ahead of schedule. "If some of these projects are won by the Chinese it is because their bids are a lot more competitive. Kenol to Marua was open for competitive bidding, which is being done for total Sh13 billion.

"When we opened the bid for the first lot, the winning bidder was at Sh7 billion but we had some European bidders which I will not mention which had gone up to Sh18 billion. So, when people say we are giving the Chinese, am I going to give a project for the sake of not giving Chinese at Sh18 billion when it could have been done at Sh7 billion the same standard?" he asked.

Local contractors, however, say the reason the Chinese complete the projects in time is being paid immediately they undertake the job while Kenyan companies have to wait for years, accumulating pending bills. They claim the Chinese firms are getting the contracts due to political influence and kickbacks.

Chinese contractors have claimed several casualties in corruption cases, including former Transport Cabinet Secretary Michael Kamau, former Infrastructure Principal Secretary Nduva Muli, Mohammed Swazuri, the chairman of National Land Commission, Atanas Maina, former managing director of the Kenya Railways Corporation. Several officials, businesspeople, and companies were also named in the SGR probe.

"The truth is political kickbacks right now, no local tier-1 companies are getting any contracts. The idea was to encourage skills transfer but right now it seems like no Kenyan company has skills to do even basic roads," the source said.

BANK GIVES FIRST 100 MASTABATA CLIENTS WINNERS 10M/- CASH PRIZE

By Property Watch Reporter

TEN NMB Bank Plc's customers started the year 2022 on a high note after receiving 100,000/- each as first draw of 'Mastabata kivyakovyako' held in Dar es Salaam this week.

The digital finance competition was launched mid last month to promote the use of MasterCard payment cards as part of the bank's support for a national cashless economy. NMB is also using the digital economy drive to reward loyal customers who have transformed with the bank on its digital transformation journey.

Speaking at the draw to pick the first weekly winners of the campaign, NMB's Senior Personal Banking Manager, Ally Ngingite said over 200m/-

will be won during the three months of the promotion.

"This is the third edition of the 'MastaBata' campaign which was first introduced in 2018 to encourage and motivate both customers and non-customers to use bank card cards when making payments for goods and services," Ngingite said.

He said apart from the weekly draws in which 100 winners will walk away with 100,000/- each, 25 customers will win 1m/- every month while the grand finale which will be held in March, 30 customers will take home 90m/- with each receiving 3m/-.

"Like its predecessors, 'MastaBata kivyakovyako' is also intended to recognise and reward NMB loyal customers

who continue to use our services especially those involving digital transactions," he added.

The NMB Senior Manager further noted that in total, some 1,000 customers of the bank are expected to win cash prizes of over 200m/- by the end of the promotion. Those making use NMB MasterPass QR are also eligible.

He pointed out that since its inception in 2018, the campaign has successfully promoted digital payments as records show that card usage has increased tremendously. The achievement led to Mastercard International rewarding the bank with a special trophy last November for being the fastest bank in card usage growth in with a year-on-year increase of 104 percent.



NMB Bank headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Floating platform anchored off Cabo Delgado coastline

MAPUTO

The floating platform to be used in the production of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the Coral South gas field, within Area Four of the Rovuma Basin, off the coast of the northern province of Cabo Delgado, has reached Mozambican waters from South Korea.

A press release issued on Monday in Maputo by Mozambique's National Petroleum Institute (INP) states that a certification process for the heliport is underway which will ensure landing and takeoff for the helicopters that will airlift working and support staff.

The certification will be followed by an inspection of the floating platform, by a multi-sector team, to assess aspects such as health, safety and the environment, as well as emergency plans and preparedness.

After that work has been concluded, a second multi-sector team headed by the INP will inspect the platform prior to issuing its licence to operate, in line with the Regulation on the Licensing of Hydrocarbon Infrastructures and Operations.

The arrival of the floating platform is in accordance with the government plan, thus becoming a milestone of the project whose final investment decision was taken in June 2017. Production of LNG is scheduled to begin at the start of the second half of 2022.

The floating platform has the capacity to produce 3.4 million metric tonnes of LNG per year. It is the first of its kind to be operated in Africa. Only four floating LNG platforms have been built, all of them in Korean shipyards.

The platform is 414 metres long, 65 metres wide and 39 metres tall. It is an integrated unit that will extract, liquefy, store and assure the delivery of its production. It also has a residential complex capable of hosting about 350 employees. The floating LNG platform was built by Samsung Heavy Industries, after the Korean shipbuilder won a 2.5 billion dollar deal to build the offshore production platform in 2017.

The Italian energy company ENI discovered the Coral South gas field in May 2012. It is estimated to contain about 16 trillion cubic feet (TCFs) of gas. An agreement has already been reached with British Petroleum (BP) under which BP will buy all the LNG produced from the floating platform.

How vandals are chipping away railway in the bush

NAIROBI

It ends abruptly in the bush. The Jubilee government's most expensive piece of infrastructure terminates hurriedly in Murtoto, Suswa, about six kilometres deep into the wilderness from the Mai Mahiu-Narok highway.

A pack of railway foundation pillars is stacked on top of each other, marking the finality of that moment when Chinese contractors, who built the standard gauge railway (SGR), ran out of funds and hung their boots.

As a last act of kindness, they fenced it off before they abandoned it, after building 592km of the line from Mombasa. Shrubs are germinating on the gleaming line, the longest almost knee-high, following the months of disuse.

A 'No admittance' sign is plastered on every cement post, sunk one metre apart along the line. In between the posts is an iron and steel fence that should lock away the SGR from harm's way and trespassers.

Vast land stretches further ahead into the wilderness beyond the end of the line. And with every kilometre ahead, dreams of landlords waiting for a share of the railway billions are muted. Some, already compensated for their land, are now quietly 'repossessing' it.

Then there is another group of land speculators who had bought large tracts of land from locals further ahead who would have joined the list of railway millionaires had things gone as planned. Before it stopped abruptly, they were next in line, waiting for their turn to resell their land to the government and walk away with a fortune as hundreds of others did on the line from Mombasa to Nairobi.

But with the railway ending shortly after Suswa, they are now counting painful losses. Perched on top of one of the imposing bridges that tower 100 metres above the ground is a local guard, dressed in the colourful traditional Maasai attire.

From time to time, he leaves his comfort leaning on what is left of the line, and walks lazily from one end of the bridge to the next, his sword dangling from its holster, restless, and suspicious of any unfamiliar motor vehicles, like the one we are using to access the end of the line.

He has the advantage of height which gives him the vantage point he needs to see what is happening further ahead on the line. Mobile in hand ready to call for help should he spot any trouble. Below him are dozens of sheep and goats grazing inside the line, having accessed it

from the numerous openings made by locals seeking grazing land.

A visit to the end of the line by the Business Daily has, however, revealed the shocking reality of vandals chipping away the abandoned line one bridge at a time, selling off the railway as scrap metal in neighbouring towns as Kenya Railways police deployed to man the line sleep on the job.

At least three bridges that tower up in the air have been vandalised almost in their entirety, as thieves walk away with one piece of metal after the other fuelled by the booming scrap metal business. Who the thieves are and where they come from, no one knows.

Moses Atega, a resident of Murtoto, says he was shocked why the government abandoned the line in the wilderness. "The government should have terminated the line at least at the next town to make it usable. Now here in the bush, nothing goes on apart from vandalism at night," he said.

Despite giving them more than one month to respond to our inquiries, Kenya Railways refused to comment on the extent of the vandalism and the cost of the bridges so far vandalised. It also did not respond to our inquiries on the initiatives put in place to stop vandals from chipping away the railway line. Instead, it issued a statement dubbed 'railway network expansion special update' in which it outlined the milestones it has achieved in supporting the Big Four agenda and Vision 2030.

"The SGR has a total network of 592km between Mombasa, Nairobi and Naivasha. The SGR line has also led to the expansion of the Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Nairobi at Embakasi, and construction of the ICD - Naivasha at Mai Mahiu."

The Kenya Railway Corporation said this has contributed to the decongestion of the seaport of Mombasa and facilitated seamless transit of goods destined to western Kenya and neighbouring countries. It said since commencing operations of the Madaraka Express service in 2017, Kenya Railways has transported more than 5.4 million passengers and more than 1.3 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of cargo.

At Sh477 billion, the SGR is Kenya's most expensive project since independence. The country first spent Sh327 billion to build the Mombasa to Nairobi line in the first phase of the project, which was done by China Roads and Bridge Corporation (CRBC).

Excited with the prospects of the line, Kenya then added another Sh150 billion to extend the line by another 120km to Murtoto but ran out of funds after the Chinese government



The vandalised SGR in Murtoto, Suswa.

developed cold feet mid way and refused to finance the project beyond Naivasha, fearing that it would be another white elephant.

This left the Kenyan government in a major dilemma and had to come up with a stopgap plan, linking the line to the old metre-gauge line to Malaba. The problem with this is that it ended up living several kilometres to rot in the bush.

The delay by Uganda and Tanzania in embracing the idea of a regional railway line developed by the same contractor using the Chinese standard has not helped unlock the funding. The feasibility of the Nairobi Malaba line was dependent on Uganda buying in and allowing the Chinese contractor to extend the

line to Kampala on its side. Besides the Sh477 billion, the government has pumped in more money to build the ICDs both in Nairobi and Naivasha, bringing the cost of the infrastructure to more than Sh500 billion. There is also interest on the loans given through the China Exim bank, which push the eventual cost of the line way past the Sh500 billion mark.

The SGR is President Uhuru Kenyatta's pet project and he has personally gone out of his way to ensure his government delivers on this Jubilee Party's election campaign promise. When he launched the Madaraka Express passenger train service in May 2017, the head of state had already got wind of what vandals were up to.



A floating platform to be used in the production of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the Coral South gas field being offloaded off the coast of Cabo Delgado.

CONSTRUCTION

The Guardian
PROPERTY WATCH
 DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

UK HOUSE PRICES END ON A RECORD AFTER BEST YEAR SINCE 2006

LONDON

Britain's property market ended 2021 on a record high with the average house price hitting £254,822, a rise of £24,000 since the start of the year and up 10.4 per cent since December last year. House prices rose 1 per cent on November, capping the biggest full-year rise in prices since 2006, according to mortgage lender Nationwide.

"The price of a typical UK home is now at a record high of £254,822, up £23,902 over the year - the largest rise we've seen in a single year in cash terms. Prices are now 16 per cent higher than before the pandemic struck in early 2020," said Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist. "Demand has remained strong in recent months, despite the end of the stamp duty holiday at the end of September."

Mortgage approvals for house purchase have continued to run above pre-pandemic levels, although they dropped in October as activity in the housing market eased following a rush earlier in the year caused by the stamp duty tax holiday. However, in the first 11 months of 2021 the total number of property transactions was almost 30 per cent higher than over the same period of 2019.

"At the same time, the stock of homes on the market has remained extremely low



High-end market apartments in north London.

throughout the year, which has contributed to the robust pace of price growth," said Mr Gardner. Britain's housing market rebounded strongly after the first coronavirus lockdown in 2020 and has powered ahead since then, helped by a now-lapsed tax break for buyers and by ongoing demand for bigger properties as more people work from home.

Nationwide's quarterly figures found Wales ended the year as the strongest performer, with house prices there up by 15.8 per

cent year on year - the first time in the history of the regional series (which started in 1973) that Wales has ended the year at the top.

House price growth in Northern Ireland was at 12.1 per cent - the strongest end to the year it has had since 2007, while annual house price growth in Scotland was 10.1 per cent, in line with the UK generally. London was the weakest performer with annual growth remaining at 4.2 per cent - making it the only UK

region to record lower annual growth in 2021 than in 2020.

Affordability in the capital is an issue with the typical buyer in London now located in the 90th income percentile rather than the 80th percentile as was the case 10 years ago, signalling an even larger proportion of people priced out of the market or needing to borrow a greater multiple of their income in order to buy a home.

Separate data from Knight Frank, found that average

prices in the capital increased 1.3 per cent in the year to December, a reflection of the static market conditions seen this year. However, it is a slight improvement on the 4.3 per cent decline recorded in December 2020.

Outside of London the picture was very different with average prices rising 3.2 per cent in the year to December, the strongest annual rate of growth since February 2016 reflecting the robust demand for space and

greenery during the pandemic.

Tom Bill, head of UK residential research at Knight Frank, said the Omicron Covid-19 variant has placed the prime London property market at a crossroads. "Interest rates may stay flatter for longer, demand for space could increase and rising supply may stutter if the new variant proves to be more serious than the early anecdotal evidence suggests," he said.

"The holding pattern that activity and prices have been in for the last six months could be prolonged. Equally, there may be a bounce in transactions early next year if the impact of the new variant is less severe than feared, with supply accelerating to catch up with demand, which itself would be boosted by the return of more international buyers."

Looking ahead, Mr Gardner expects the housing market to slow in 2022, after the stamp duty holiday encouraged many to bring forward their house purchase in order to avoid additional tax. However, the outlook remained extremely uncertain, he said.

"The strength of the market surprised in 2021 and could do so again in the year ahead. The market still has significant momentum and shifts in housing preferences as a result of the pandemic could continue to support activity and price growth," Mr Gardner said. "Indeed, the Omicron variant could serve to reinforce the shift in preferences in the near term."

Saudi Arabia's Dur Hospitality awards \$22m contract for residential complex in Riyadh



Riyadh skyline on a cloudy day.

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia-listed Dur Hospitality Company has awarded an 82.5

million Saudi riyal (\$22m) contract to Al Murshid Contracting Group for the construction of a luxury residential compound in Riyadh, amid a rise in

demand for high-end properties in the kingdom's capital.

The 18-month contract covers construction, finishing and

electromechanical work on 75 "smart" villas located near the northern gate of the diplomatic quarter in Riyadh and close to some of the major government authorities and departments, Dur Hospitality said in a filing to the Saudi stock exchange (Tadawul) on Wednesday.

"The expected positive financial results of the project will start from the third quarter of 2023," the company said. Saudi Arabia is working on a development plan to transform Riyadh into a major global city economy by 2030.

As part of the strategy, the kingdom aims to grow the capital into one of the top 10 city economies globally, doubling its population to 15-20 million, while increasing the number of visitors to more than 40 million by 2030, the Royal Commission for Riyadh City has said.

Authorities will finalise the Riyadh 2030 development strategy next year, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Tuesday. Riyadh-based Dur Hospitality, which was established in the 1970s, has a market capitalisation of 31.5 billion riyals, figures compiled by Tadawul show. The luxury villas project will be financed through Islamic credit facilities known as Tawarruq, Dur Hospitality said, adding that construction will take place on land owned by the company on Riyadh's King Khalid road.

Meanwhile, the Riyadh 2030 strategy will be carried out through 26 sectoral programmes, including more than 100 initiatives and 700 pioneer projects across sectors and in different parts of the city, aimed at transforming the city into one of the most liveable places in the world.

Several new projects are under way in Riyadh. New developments include the \$20bn Diriyah Gate Project with 20,000 housing units, \$17bn King Salman Park community with 12,000 units as well as an \$8bn mega entertainment project, called Qiddiyah, consultancy Knight Frank said in a report in August. Other schemes include the \$7.8bn King Abdullah Financial District, \$3.2bn Mall of Saudi being developed by the UAE's Majid Al Futtaim Group and The Avenues Mall.



The 108-room Motto by Hilton Rotterdam Blaak.

Partnership introduces new motto to Europe's hospitality industry

ROTTERDAM

Two of Europe's leading hotel companies, Borealis Hotel Group and Cycas Hospitality, have announced a strategic partnership to open and operate new, branded hotels across Europe.

The first phase of the collaboration was revealed last week with the signing of a hotel management agreement for Cycas to operate the 108-room Motto by Hilton Rotterdam Blaak, as well as a second, new hotel that will be announced in early 2022. Set to open mid-2022, the Rotterdam hotel - a converted, former bank - represents the first Motto by Hilton to open in the Netherlands, as well as the urban lifestyle brand's European debut.

The hotel's central Rotterdam location, just 350m from Rotterdam Blaak metro station, 1.4km from Rotterdam Centraal Station and 8km from the airport, will ensure easy access to the city's main attractions.

Its versatile social spaces and innovative food and beverage offerings are expected to appeal to a wide range of travellers, including the groups market. Design highlights include a light-flooded, glazed atrium, providing guests spaces to meet, drink, work and relax.

Bart van de Kamp, CEO and Founder of Borealis Hotel Group, said: "I am delighted to announce this partnership with Cycas Hospitality. At Borealis we set the bar for our hotels and operators very high. Under Matt's leadership, I've watched Cycas transform from a niche, extended-stay operator into an impressive, full-service pan-European hotel company. Cycas shares our international perspective and our values of hard work, high standards and fun, and we look forward to working together on this as well as future deals."

Matt Luscombe, CEO of Cycas Hospitality, said: "I have known and admired Bart for more than 10 years. He is a phenomenal developer and hotelier, and he's established an outstanding team at Borealis. We are honoured to be supporting Borealis with the next phase of their growth in 2022, and are very excited that this will include Cycas's first Hilton-branded hotel."

WORLD

4.5m in US quit their jobs in November

HOUSTON

MORE than 4.5 million people in the United States quit their jobs in November, the largest number since the "great resignation" started during the pandemic, according to Labor Department data released on Tuesday.

That means 370,000 more people quit their jobs in November than in October.

Job openings in November were at 10.6 million, but there were only 7 million people looking for a job then.

The job openings available were above the pre-pandemic level. The unemployment rate for November was reduced by 0.4 percentage point to 4.2 percent.

Resignations were especially high in retail, ac-

commodation and food services, professional and business services, healthcare and social assistance. Those industries also have a high number of openings.

Workers were most likely to quit their jobs in the hospitality industry, which had by far the highest resignation rate 6.1 percent in November.

The various reasons why people quit include burnout, insufficient pay, fear of getting the virus, shortage of child care services, the desire to stay home with children, and wanting to start a new career.

While healthcare workers are quitting mostly due to the stress from having to deal with the pandemic up close, a large number of US workers are quitting because of low pay. "This Great



Recruiters speak with a potential applicant during a tailgate job fair in Leesburg, Virginia, on Oct 21. AFP

Resignation story is really more about lower-wage workers finding new opportunities in a reopening labor market and seizing them," said Nick Bunker, director of economic research at the Indeed Hiring Lab, to The New York Times.

Overall, there are fewer people participating in the US labor market now, compared with before the pandemic. Labor Department data showed the overall labor participation rate for November was 61.8 percent, below the 63.3 percent in January 2020.

Tight supply

Heidi Shierholz, president of the Economic Policy Institute, told The

Guardian that things are looking pretty tight given the available supply of labor right now. "But there are millions on the sidelines who will come in, once the labor supply suppressing effects of COVID-19 are in the rear-view mirror," she said.

Others are less optimistic than Shierholz. "The imbalance between labor supply and demand is large enough that even a moderate improvement in conditions would not be enough to make it easy to hire again," said Daniel Zhao, senior economist at the career site Glassdoor, in a recent blogpost about 2022 workplace trends.

Agencies

Eritrea eyes all-round cooperation with China

ASMARA

ERITREA hopes to learn from China's development experiences and strengthen cooperation with China in various fields, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki said on Wednesday.

He made the remarks while meeting with the Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Asmara, the country's capital.

The Eritrean leader asked Wang to convey his sincere greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

He congratulated the Communist Party of China on its centenary, saying that over the past century, the CPC has adapted socialism to the Chinese context and continuously carried it forward, demonstrating the strong vitality of the socialist system.

China has not only made brilliant achievements in its own national development and economic development, but also made great contributions to the cause of human progress by opposing hegemony and building a just and equal global order, he said.

Strengthening partnership with China is crucial to Africa's development, and cooperation with China is of great significance to the 1.3 billion people on the African continent, said Afwerki, who hopes China to play a bigger role in supporting Africa's development.

He said Eritrean-China friend-

ship enjoys a solid foundation and Eritrea always firmly supports China in safeguarding sovereignty and independence and respects China's legitimate position.

Afwerki said he was very pleased to have decided with President Xi Jinping to establish the bilateral relationship as a strategic partnership.

Eritrea has drawn up a roadmap for cooperation with China and looks forward to learning from China's development experience to conduct more dynamic cooperation, especially in infrastructure, mineral resources, agriculture and human resources, he said.

Wang first conveyed cordial greetings and best wishes from President Xi Jinping for the Eritrean president. He said Eritrea is the first stop of his opening visit as Chinese Foreign Minister in the new year, which fully demonstrates the importance China attaches to the Sino-Eritrean relations and traditional friendship between the two countries.

The two heads of state decided to elevate China-Eritrea relations to a strategic partnership, opening up broader prospects for bilateral cooperation, said Wang.

China would like to take this opportunity to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and push bilateral cooperation across the board to a new high, he said.

China stands ready to work with Eritrea to turn the tradition-



Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki shakes hands with Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi when he met him in Asmara, Eritrea, on Wednesday. (YANG ZHEN / XINHUA)

al political friendship between the two countries into a driving force for economic cooperation, transform Eritrea's rich natural resources into its development advantage and help Eritrea enhance its capacity for independent development and expedite its industrialization process, the Chinese minister said.

Afwerki refuted the so-called Chinese "debt trap" rhetoric, stressing that China has never interfered in other countries' internal affairs and is an indispensable and true development partner of Africa. He hoped that China can play a bigger role in Africa's peace and development process.

The two sides also agreed to work together to implement the outcomes of the Eighth Minis-

terial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and boost China-Eritrea practical cooperation in all areas.

MEETING WITH ERITREAN FM

The Chinese foreign minister also held talks and signed a joint statement with his Eritrean counterpart Osman Saleh on Wednesday. It has been 32 years in a row for Chinese foreign ministers to visit Africa for the first time, which demonstrates the solidarity and cooperation between China and Africa, and also shows that China's diplomacy always stands on the side of developing countries, said Wang.

As strategic partners, China and Eritrea should more firmly

support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns, he said.

"We should strengthen coordination and cooperation in international and multilateral affairs, hold high the banner of multilateralism, and oppose hegemony and power politics. We will continue to promote democracy in international relations and safeguard international fairness and justice."

China will always stand by our African brothers, and China's vote in the United Nations always belongs to developing countries.

On his part, Osman said the establishment of the Strategic Partnership between Eritrea and China will push bilateral relations to a new height.

Eritrea fully agrees with Chinese President Xi Jinping's "nine programs" initiative and is ready to work with China to align and implement the cooperation framework plan, strengthen cooperation in infrastructure, ports, industrial parks, and translate the willingness of cooperation into tangible results.

The two countries share common ideals on issues such as peace and stability, sovereignty and independence, mutually beneficial development, equity and justice. Eritrea firmly pursues the one-China policy and supports China's just position on issues related to China's Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and the South China Sea. Xinhua

NATO-Russia Council scheduled for January 12, confirms official

BRUSSELS

THE alliance has confirmed that the NATO-Russia Council meeting will take place on January 12, calling on Moscow to consider "NATO's concerns about Russia's actions," the NATO official told TASS on Tuesday.

"The NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has convened a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council on 12 January 2022 in his capacity as the Chair of the NATO-Russia Council," the statement reads.

According to the NATO official, "any dialogue with Russia would have to proceed on the basis of reciprocity, address NATO's concerns about Russia's actions, be based on the core principles and foundational documents of European security, and take place in consultation with NATO's European Partners."

NATO has not revealed the agenda of the meeting so far. Earlier, Russia confirmed its intention to discuss with NATO the proposals on security guarantees, in particular, the withdrawal of US nuclear weapons from Europe, prevention of the deployment of NATO forces near Russian borders as well as abandoning the policy of engaging Ukraine and Georgia in the alliance.

In December, Stoltenberg has repeatedly stated that he proposed to convene the NATO-Russia Council in early 2022 to address the situation in and around Ukraine and the claims about the alleged buildup of Russian troops near the Ukrainian border.

Russia's stance

On December 31, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Joe Biden held talks over the phone. Kremlin Aide Yuri Ushakov stated that the Russian side was satisfied with the contact, praising the conversation as constructive.

According to Ushakov, the heads of state focused on the upcoming negotiations on security guarantees, having agreed to maintain further contacts relating to this issue.

Moscow expects to ensure legal security guarantees, which will prevent NATO from eastward advancement and deploying weapons near Russian borders.

As the Kremlin aide noted, the US president agreed with this position. The Russian leader warned that possible new sanctions against Moscow could result in the severance of the ties with the US and seriously damage its relations with the West in general.

On January 10, the Russian-US consultations on security guarantees are likely to kick off in Geneva.

Tesla latest corporate hostage to Xinjiang lies

SOME human rights and trade groups in the United States have obviously gone too far in criticizing Tesla for its New Year's Eve announcement that it had opened a showroom in the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region, claiming the move shows the electric car manufacturer was "supporting genocide" there. They are demanding that Tesla and its chairman, Elon Musk, close the showroom.

The demand made on Tuesday is egregious and unreasonable, because it is based on nothing but lies and stories fabricated by some extremists and anti-China elements engaged in a smear campaign against the country.

There has never been evidence supporting the allegations of "genocide" or "forced labor" in Xinjiang, yet politicians in Washington have still used these accusations to interfere in China's internal affairs, for example, by passing the so-called Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act in December to ban imports of goods made in the region.

Now they are trying to coerce the "private sector" to participate in their campaign in a bid to give the lies credence. "The international community, including the public and private sectors, cannot look the other way when it comes to what is taking place in Xinjiang," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

Tesla has entered China because it is the world's largest new energy vehicle market with more than 2.6 million units sold in the first 11 months of 2021 and because the Chinese market is business friendly.

Musk was "astounded" by the efficiency displayed in the construction of Tesla's Shanghai factory, which was completed within 10 months, prompting him to say "I really think China is the future". Not to mention the many supportive measures that the government has rolled out for new energy vehicles such as tax exemptions and subsidies.

All this explains Tesla's success in China, where its factory currently makes up to 500,000 vehicles a year, turning the country into a major global export hub for the US electric carmaker. Indeed, China has the potential and the market to enable Tesla to turn its vision to create the most compelling car company of the 21st century by driving the world's transition to electric vehicles into reality.

Agencies

Biden to speak 'truth' on Jan 6 anniversary, Trump cancels event

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden will mark the one-year anniversary of the deadly Jan 6 assault on the US Capitol by Donald Trump's followers with a speech on Thursday warning of

the threats to democracy, while Trump abandoned plans for a news conference that day as he reprised his attacks on Democrats and the media.

The White House said Biden would push back against Trump's false claims, adopted

by many of his followers, that his election defeat was the result of widespread fraud, as well as attempts to downplay the violence of the worst assault on the Capitol since the War of 1812.

"The president is going to

speak to the truth of what happened, not the lies that some have spread since, and the peril it has posed to the rule of law and our system of democratic governance," White House spokesperson Jen Psaki told reporters on Tuesday, in the first

preview of Biden's remarks.

Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris will speak Thursday morning at the US Capitol, one year after thousands of Trump supporters raided the complex in a failed attempt to stop the counting of Electoral College

Chinese democracy contributes new model to international political spectrum

IN Shanghai, a mail courier, also a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC), is running all over the city to survey food deliverymen and employees in other new professions. By delivering their voices to the NPC, he is bringing more labor security to the people in flexible employment.

In Wenling, east China's Zhejiang province, a consultation meeting was held on a renovation project of old residential complexes in a neighborhood. The meeting, joined by a number of government officials, residents in the neighborhood, and professionals, delivered a renovation plan that pleased all parties.

These two stories, which are told in a recently published documentary titled "Pursuing Common Values of Humanity: Chinese Stories on Democracy, Freedom and Human Rights," exactly demonstrate the vitality of the Chinese democracy and mirror the Chinese wisdom that lights up the whole-process people's democracy.

As it is said in the white paper China: Democracy That Works published by the State Council Information Office, China's democracy is thriving alongside those of other countries in the garden of civilizations.

China has created and developed whole-process people's democracy in line with its national conditions. This is a form of democracy with distinctive Chinese features which at the same time reflects humanity's universal desire for democracy. It has fueled the development of the country and driven the revitalization of the nation. It has contributed a new model to the international political spectrum.

In promoting democracy, China has undergone a difficult process of selection, experimentation, practice and development. Whole-process people's democracy contributes China's ideas and solutions to the political progress of humanity.

A sound and genuine democracy must

allow the people to become masters of the country. It must allow them to enjoy the right to stand for election, the right to vote, and the right to extensive participation. It must allow them the right to express their expectations and the right to have those expectations.

China did not follow the established path of Western countries in its modernization drive. Similarly, China did not duplicate Western models of democracy, but created its own. Now, the entire Chinese population, almost one fifth of the world's total, enjoys extensive rights and freedoms. This is most encouraging to developing countries and greatly enhances their confidence in developing their own democracy. China's new approach to democracy represents a significant contribution to international politics and human progress.

Whole-process people's democracy offers Chinese experiences for other countries to develop the most suitable form of

democracy in accordance with their own characteristics and realities. China's democratic practices indicate that only democracy rooted in a country's unique social environment has proven to be reliable and effective, and can thrive and progress.

Countries can borrow from the successful experience of others and develop forms of democracy suited to their own modernization process, but they should not simply duplicate other systems or models.

China never seeks to export the Chinese model of democracy. On the contrary, it firmly supports the independent choice by every country of its own path to democracy, and opposes any interference in others' internal affairs on the pretext of "bringing democracy".

Democracy manifests itself in two dimensions: On a national level, it refers to the people's status as masters of their own country; on an international level, it refers to the democratic relations between na-

tions. China is a faithful and exemplary actor in pursuing, exploring and practicing democracy. It endeavors to increase democracy both within its own territory and between nations.

From proposing to build a community with a shared future, to promoting cooperation and common progress in economy and science, and from pursuing the greater good and shared interests and applying the principles of sincerity, affinity, good faith and real results in strengthening cooperation with other developing countries, to advancing the Belt and Road cooperation, China has always been standing on the right side of history.

Promoting democracy in international relations, championing peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and building a new model of international relations, China is making the global governance system fairer and more equitable

People's Daily

BRI projects light up Africa's prospects

NAIROBI

WORK on infrastructure projects backed by the Belt and Road Initiative maintained a steady pace in Africa last year, thanks in part to some creative ways of managing construction tasks during the pandemic.

Smaller work teams were part of the solution at construction sites as African nations pin their hopes on BRI projects to rebuild their economies from the impact of COVID-19 and address a widely acknowledged deficit in vital infrastructure.

The BRI-backed projects also provide plenty of jobs for Africans at a time when many have been thrown out of work because of the restrictions imposed to control the pandemic.

The need for infrastructure in Africa is clear. Almost 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to grid electricity, accounting for more than two-thirds of those worldwide in this predicament. About a third of people in rural areas have no sealed roads serving their communities, data from African Development Bank indicate.

The bank estimates the continent's infrastructure needs at \$130-\$170 billion a year, with a financing gap in the range of \$68-\$108 billion.

The Legatum Institute, a think tank in London, said a third of the continent's financing needs are required for the maintenance of existing facilities.

To realize such levels of expenditures, African countries are required to spend an additional 1 percent of GDP annually on infrastructure, above the 3.5 percent that has been spent consistently since 2000, the institute said in a report for 2021.

Still, Africa is gradually making progress on infrastructure thanks to China, which is providing technical skills and funding through the BRI and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, a bilateral platform

that has helped bring China and Africa closer together.

According to the Africa Policy Institute, a pan-African think tank in Nairobi, China is not only upgrading rural roads but is also helping to develop the Trans-African Highway Network of more than 56,000 kilometers, according to estimates.

"By contributing to the development of Africa's highway infrastructure and opening up of road-based corridors, China is helping Africa to win the war on poverty eradication through trade promotion and overall economic growth," the institute said in a report released in November.

By late that month, 52 of the 55 members of the African Union were participating in the BRI, which was proposed by China in 2013 as a means of improving connectivity among countries through increased trade, economic integration, and cultural exchanges. The BRI projects have shown resilience in the face of the pandemic.

According to China's Ministry of Commerce, China's direct investment in Africa reached \$2.07 billion from January to July, outperforming the pre-pandemic level in the same period of 2019.

As part of efforts to enhance anti-pandemic cooperation, Chinese firms were quick to resume operations in Africa after initial disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Joint programme

According to a white paper on China-Africa cooperation released by China's State Council Information Office in November, more than 1,100 China-Africa joint programs have continued and nearly 100,000 Chinese technicians and workers have remained at their posts in Africa throughout the pandemic.

One such project that has been progressing steadily is the Nairobi Expressway in the Kenyan capital. Costing \$600 million, the roadway will reach 27 kilometers with four lanes. It will connect the



Passengers at Nairobi station of Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya on Nov 17. The Chinese-built railway has operated for more than four years. File photo

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport with the western part of the city via Nairobi's central business district.

Work began in June 2020 on what will become the first toll road in the East African country.

The Kenya National Highways Authority said more than 75 percent of the work has been carried out, and the expressway is due to open in June.

Paul Maringa, the principal secretary for infrastructure, said the project implementers had to be extremely well organized to ensure that work schedules were maintained despite the obstacles posed by the pandemic.

"We broke down the work teams into smaller work teams and that basically removes congestion in any work area," Maringa said.

"We also chose to adopt the principle of working 24 hours. That meant we worked during the day and the night. That way we got in more working time because the night is not a constraint for us."

More than 4,000 Kenyans have been employed for the project, which is financed by the China Road and Bridge Corporation under the business model of build-operate-transfer.

Another high-profile project in the country is Lamu Port, part of an ambitious transport corridor linking the country with South Sudan and Ethiopia.

The first three berths at the site were commissioned in June 2021. The China Communications Construction Co, the contractor for the project, got work underway in October 2016.

Aside from the port, other vital infrastructure including roads, airports, a railway, a dam and even cities will be built under a grand project called the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor. The megaproject has a price tag of more than \$29 billion.

For Lamu Port, more than 1,500 people have so far been hired at the

site, according to Africa Policy Institute.

In Senegal, the construction of the Foundiougne Bridge, the longest bridge in West Africa, has likewise proceeded despite the pandemic. The 1,300-meter bridge is being constructed by China Great Wall Industry Corporation and China Henan International Corporation Group. The bridge will serve as a shortcut to Gambia and the Casamance region of Senegal.

In North Africa, Egypt's new administrative capital taking shape 45 kilometers east of Cairo is another key BRI project that has proceeded despite the pandemic.

Covering 700 square kilometers, the new city is expected to accommodate 6.5 million people as well as the nation's parliament, government agencies, embassies, and ministries.

Chinese banks provided most of the financing for the new city that is expected to decongest the current capital Cairo.

In broad terms, the pace of work under BRI projects in Africa slowed down in the first quarter of 2021. But Chinese financing and investment activities picked up again in the second quarter with an increase from the previous quarter of 36.9 percent, according to Green Finance and Development Center, a think tank focused on sustainable finance and energy.

Work on infrastructure projects backed by the Belt and Road Initiative maintained a steady pace in Africa last year, thanks in part to some creative ways of managing construction tasks during the pandemic.

Smaller work teams were part of the solution at construction sites as African nations pin their hopes on BRI projects to rebuild their economies from the impact of COVID-19 and ad-

Russia calls for peaceful solution to Kazakhstan's problems through dialogue

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is closely watching the events in Kazakhstan and is calling for a peaceful solution to problems in the neighboring country, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

"We are closely following the events in the fraternal neighboring state. We are calling for a peaceful solution to all problems in the framework of the Constitution and the law, and dialogue, and not through street riots and the violation of laws," the statement said.

The foreign ministry noted that the measures taken by the Kazakh leadership were aimed at this. "The steps taken by the Kazakh President Tokayev seek to stabilize the situation, promptly solving existing problems <...>," according to the ministry.

"We hope that the situation in the country, which has relations of strategic partnership and alliance, fraternal, human contacts with Russia, will stabilize as soon as possible," the foreign ministry went on to say.

Furthermore, the diplomatic service mentioned that it was in close contact with Russia's foreign missions. "The situation near the buildings of our diplomatic and consular missions remains calm. According to the latest data, no casualties on the Russian side were recorded in Kazakhstan. We are closely monitoring the situation," the ministry stated.

On January 2, crowds took to the streets in the cities of Zhanaozen and Aktau in the Mangistau region, protesting against high fuel prices. Two days later, the protests engulfed Almaty, where the police used flashbats to disperse the crowd, as well as other cities, including Atyrau, Aktobe, Uralsk, Taraz, Shymkent, Kyzylorda, Karaganda and even Kazakhstan's capital Nur-Sultan.

Fondant cakes in traditional Chinese style made by Chinese cake maker enjoy worldwide popularity

HAN Lei, a skillful fondant cake maker from Suzhou city, east China's Jiangsu province, has ingeniously integrated traditional Chinese cultural elements with fondant icing techniques, making cakes that gain increasing popularity overseas.

The 36-year-old cake maker has participated in eight international competitions and won over ten world championships.

After a long journey of development, fondant cake, which originated in England, highlights characteristic decoration as much as flavor. More and more people have involved themselves in the business and created unique fondant cakes, gradually turning them into a kind of cultural creative product.

"When I was little, I grew fond of traditional Chinese opera. I was really interested in the costume and stage props used in opera performances,"

Han said, disclosing that he often thought about how to incorporate exquisite traditional cultural elements into fondant cakes and combine Chinese and Western cultures skillfully in delicious cakes.

Over the years, Han has taught himself sketching, elaborate-style painting, paper cutting, clay figurine making and other crafts—all for making more creative fondant cakes, according to him.

Han once baked a cake in the shape of embroidered shoes. To make the "silk threads" of the shoes on the cake look more layered and exquisite, he not only bought and studied embroidered shoes, but learned knowledge about embroi-



Han Lei makes fondant cakes. (File photo)

dery at a workshop.

During the 2015 Japan Cake Show Tokyo, Han took his cake in traditional Chinese style onto the world stage for the first time.

The fondant cake he brought to the event combined cake baking with dough modeling techniques and was infused with ten kinds of traditional Chinese cultural elements, including facial makeup in traditional opera, embroidery, blue and white pottery and peonies. It stood out among many entries and eventually won the highest award in the cake show.

Since then, Han's cakes featuring traditional Chinese cultural elements have frequently received awards in international competitions.

At the World Trophy of Pastry Ice Cream Chocolate held in Italy in 2019, Han, as the head coach of a Chinese team, led a team of three members making a large chocolate sculpture named "The Monkey King", a legendary mythical figure in China, on site within eight hours based on their one-month-long planning and training. The chocolate sculpture scored the Prize for Best Artistic Sculpture and the Prize for Journalistic Criticism.

Believing that flavor is crucial to creative and distinctive cakes, Han and his team members tried adding seasonings such as star anise and pepper to dough, and developed a fondant cake with an unusual taste. Besides, they have developed flower-

and tea-flavored fondant cakes, continuously making innovations in the flavor of cakes.

Han is convinced that what's unique for a nation is also precious for the world. Now he is spending more time and energy on teaching his fondant cake making techniques to more people.

Over the past few years, Han has trained three Gen Z world champion cake makers. He has always shared his formulas, innovative materials and techniques without reservation, hoping to cultivate more Chinese fondant cake masters, introduce traditional Chinese style to more people, and pass on the craftsman spirit embodied in the fondant making skills.

People's Dai-

French parliament approves Macron's vaccine pass

PARIS

FRANCE'S parliament yesterday approved President Emmanuel Macron's plans for a vaccine pass to help curb the spread of the Omicron variant after a tumultuous debate whipped up by Macron's comments that he wanted to "piss off" the unvaccinated.

Macron told Le Parisien newspaper earlier this week that he wanted to make the lives of those refusing the COVID-19 vaccine so complicated by squeezing them out of public places that they would end up getting jabbed.

Macron's coarse language barely three months before a presidential election was widely seen as a politically calculated, tapping into an intensifying public frustration against the unvaccinated.

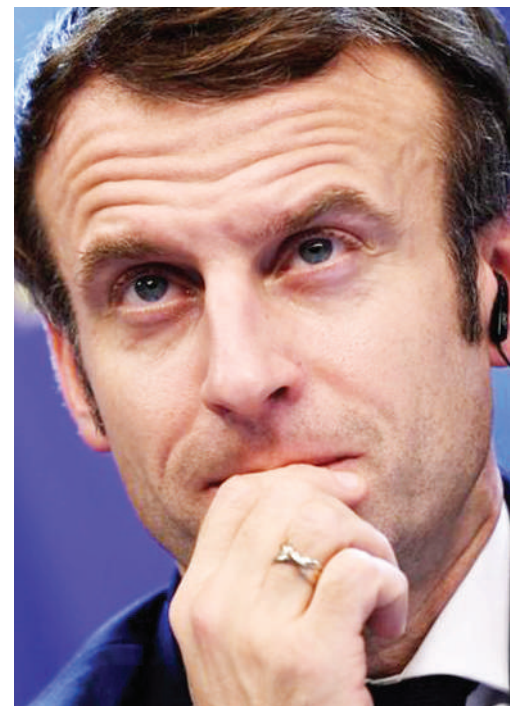
More than 90 percent of over-12s have received at least two doses, government data shows. Health Minister Olivier Veran said a record number of people since Oct 1 received a first shot on Wednesday after Macron's comments were published.

Lawmakers in the lower house passed draft legislation including the vaccine pass shortly after 5 am after an all-night session by a margin of 214 to 93. Many of those who voted against the bill were from the far-right or left-wingers.

The legislation will go to the Senate before a final vote in the National Assembly.

People in France have for several months had to show either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test to enter venues such as cinemas and cafes and use trains. But with Delta and Omicron variant infections surging, the government decided to drop the test option in the new bill.

The vaccine pass rules will apply to over-16s and not over-12 as the government had initially sought.



European countries have been grappling with whether to coerce citizens into getting vaccinated through mandates. Italy on Wednesday made COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for people from the age of 50, with teachers and public health workers already obliged to get the shot.

Prime Minister Jean Castex said countries that had moved towards compulsory vaccinations such as Italy and Austria had lower vaccination rates than France.

Castex also said France was ready to move towards a fourth COVID shot when the time was right.

On Wednesday, France registered a record of more than 332,000 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, and a further 246 COVID deaths in hospitals, as the country.

Agencies

BRUSSELS

FOLLOWING a break over the holiday season, European countries are witnessing skyrocketing new COVID-19 infections as the Omicron variant continues its onslaught across the continent.

SURGING NUMBERS

France, Greece and Croatia have broken new COVID-19 case records while the two neighboring countries of the Netherlands and Belgium have seen infection rates hiking significantly by 35 percent and 79 percent respectively. In Greece, despite a tightening of measures during the holiday season, cases have skyrocketed. The National Public Health Organization (EODY) confirmed on Tuesday 50,126 infections with

COVID-19 infections surge in European countries as Omicron spreads

in 24 hours, an all-time high. Greek experts expect the number to continue rising this month, with daily cases possibly reaching 80,000 in the coming days. In Hungary, official data on Wednesday showed 5,270 new infections in a 24-hour span, more than doubling the figures recorded in the previous few weeks.

Reportedly in a "community spreading" phase, Finland reported 38,700 new COVID-19 cases in the past seven days, compared to 19,600 new cases in the previous week. Despite vaccination campaigns and anti-pandemic measures including closures and lockdowns, the

peak of new infections has yet to come in some European countries, experts say. "The peak of the pandemic has not been seen in Finland as of yet," said Liisa-Maria Voipio-Pulkki, senior expert at the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Dutch experts think that the peak will arrive at the end of January. "But it is not clear how high that peak will be," said Dutch epidemiologist Susan van den Hof.

OMICRON, HOLIDAY GATHERINGS BLAMED

Official data showed that the surge of new COVID-19 infections was largely fueled

by the highly transmissible Omicron variant, and the situation was worsened by gatherings during the holiday season. EODY President Theoklis Zaoutis told reporters that more than 70 percent of new cases in Greece's five big regions are infections with the highly contagious Omicron variant. The Spanish Ministry of Health said the Omicron variant is now responsible for 43 percent of all COVID-19 cases in Spain. In Hungary, the Omicron virus variant is also spreading fast. The Hungarian government said on its official website on Wednesday that the variant is responsible for more than 11

percent of new infections.

Croatian Minister of Health Vili Beros said Omicron is the reason for the increased number of infections while other factors include the gatherings for New Year's Eve, as well as non-compliance with measures. Polish Minister of Health Adam Described the increase in the country as a temporary situation caused by the holiday season and the increasing number of tests performed. Hungarian healthcare expert Zsombor Kunetz told Xinhua that the government should do more to counter the Omicron variant. "As I have been saying before, what the gov-

ernment should do to stop the pandemic are the following: mandatory vaccination, mandatory use of FFP2 mask in crowded places indoors, and 2G rules except for workplaces, public transportation, and grocery stores. Only vaccinated individuals should be allowed to any other locations," said Kunetz.

VACCINATION

In order to counter the spread of the Omicron variant, officials and experts have once again made appeals for people to get vaccinated as soon as possible. French Health Minister Olivier Veran stressed the importance of

vaccination, saying it helps prevent severe symptoms whereas an unvaccinated person, when infected, will likely need to be hospitalized. To fight the pandemic, Hungarian authorities have decided to start another special vaccination program in January, following a successful one started in November, in which people can get the job without prior registration or appointment.

German Health Minister Karl Lauterbach stressed that although the risk of illness caused by infection with the Omicron variant has been "significantly less dangerous," this is not a reason to "lift the alarm," especially for those who have not been vaccinated.

SPORT

Warrant issued in Memphis slaying of rapper Young Dolph

MEMPHIS, Tennessee

AN arrest warrant has been issued for a Tennessee man wanted in connection with the fatal shooting of rapper Young Dolph, who was gunned down in a daylight ambush at a popular cookie shop in November in his hometown of Memphis, authorities said Wednesday.

A first-degree murder warrant was issued for Justin Johnson, 23, in the Nov. 17 shooting of Young Dolph, whose real name is Adolph Thornton Jr., the U.S. Marshals Service said in a news release.

The marshals service and the Memphis Police Department have been searching for suspects in the killing. A \$15,000 reward has been offered for information leading to an arrest. Authorities said Johnson is 5 feet, 8 inches (1.7 meters) tall, weighs 190 pounds (86 kilograms) and has the name "Jaiya," tattooed on his right arm.

The shooting stunned the city of Memphis and shocked the entertainment world. Police said two men exited a white Mercedes-Benz and fired shots into a Memphis bakery where Young Dolph, 36, was buying cookies and killed him.

Police released photos taken from surveillance video that captured the shooting but investigators have not released any information about a possible motive.

Known for his depictions of tough street life and his independent approach to the music business, Young Dolph was admired for charitable works in Memphis.

He organized Thanksgiving food



This image released by the U.S. Marshals Service shows Justin Johnson. An arrest warrant has been issued for Johnson, 23, in connection with the November 17, 2021 fatal shooting of rapper, Young Dolph, who was gunned down in a daylight ambush at a popular cookie shop in his hometown of Memphis, authorities said on Wednesday. (AP)

giveaways, donated thousands of dollars to high schools, and paid rent and covered funeral costs for people in the Castalia Heights neighborhood where he was raised.

City officials and community activists pointed to the killing as a symbol of the dangers of gun violence in Memphis, where more than 300 homicides were reported last year.

A private funeral was held for Young Dolph on Nov. 30 and a section of a street in the neighborhood where he grew up was renamed for him Dec. 15.

He was honored a day later at a public celebration at FedExForum, the home of the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies and the University of Memphis men's basketball team. AP

Tanzanians register for Soundoff Music Festival

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIANS have begun registering for a competition, which will see winners secure free flight tickets for a trip to Dubai to participate in the famous Soundoff Music Festival slated for March 3-9.

The competition's winners will also take part in trade and tourism exhibitions in the city.

A statement issued early this week by the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), the festival and exhibitions' organizers, said so far Tanzania is one of nine countries whose winners have started winning the tickets.

United States, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Angola are among 14 countries that will each nominate five winners.

Over 70 free packages were provided to lucky Afrobeat fans, who had the chance to win a unique opportunity to see Dubai courtesy of their respective countries' radio show hosts, sponsored by DET.

Each of the winners that will have the opportunity to travel with a partner will get two return tickets, accommodation, and tickets to Expo 2020.

The winners will as well land access to the very exclusive Afrobeat Desert Safari Party and all activities linked to the festival.

Popular Afrobeat sensation, Oladapo Daniel Oyebanjo, alias 'D'Banj', who was the first artist with an Afrobeat song in the UK's top 10 singles, has promised visitors a memorable experience.

The artist, whose single 'Oliver Twist' made its way into the UK's



Nigerian artist, Oladapo Daniel Oyebanjo, popularly known as 'D'Banj', is one of the artists set to perform in this year's Afrobeat Soundoff Music Festival that will take place in Dubai from March 3-9.

top 10 singles, hinted there will be more surprises from him during the Soundoff Music Festival.

D'Banj, who has been on various radio stations promoting the rare opportunity, revealed his deep and very meaningful connection with Dubai.

According to the award-winning artist, Dubai has inspired him in various ways.

He got the inspiration for his soon-to-be-launched self-

named perfume from Dubai.

The city is moreover the area where the Nigerian musician met his good friend and mentor, Kanye West, on the former's first visit.

According to 'D'Banj', he has enjoyed success in his music career since that encounter.

The organizers noted that the Soundoff Music Festival promises to be fun-packed.

The festival's packages, which are sold fast, are limited and heavily discounted.

The official website for the Soundoff Music Festival is www.afrozonsdxb.com. The website hosts further information on the ways to join 'D'Banj', radio shows hosts, and celebrities at the Afrozone Dubai Soundoff.

It also has all information that the competition's participants will need on the discounted packages for travel to Dubai.

Djokovic in limbo as he fights deportation from Australia

BRISBANE, Australia

TENNIS star Novak Djokovic spent a day confined to a hotel room waiting for a court to deal with the confronting prospect of a possible deportation from Australia.

The 20-time Grand Slam singles winner will spend at least another night there, in immigration detention, as he fights against the deportation move.

With his entry denied and his visa canceled by Australian Border Force officials who rejected his evidence to support a medical exemption for the country's strict COVID-19 vaccination rules, Djokovic had to trade the practice courts for the courts of law on Thursday.

The nine-time champion's chance of playing in the Australian Open starting Jan. 17 remains in limbo.

Federal Circuit Court Judge Anthony Kelly said there was a delay in receiving the application for a review of the visa decisions and the temporary ban on Djokovic's deportation.

A lawyer for the government agreed the 34-year-old Djokovic should not be deported until Friday at the earliest, while the hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Djokovic's trip was contentious well before he landed, with the conservative federal government and the left-leaning

state government of Victoria seemingly having conflicting views over what constituted acceptable medical grounds for an exemption to Australia's vaccination policy for foreign travelers.

Djokovic announced on social media Tuesday that he had "exemption permission" and he landed in Melbourne late Wednesday with a medical exemption from Victoria state that was expected to shield him from the vaccination regulations in place for the Australian Open.

That would have been okay to enter the tournament, but apparently not the country.

After a long-haul flight, he spent the night trying to convince border authorities he had all the necessary documentation, but the Australian Border Force issued an early morning statement saying Djokovic failed to meet entry requirements.

"The rule is very clear," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told a news conference. "You need to have a medical exemption. He didn't have a valid medical exemption. We make the call at the border, and that's where it's enforced."

Health Minister Greg Hunt said the visa cancellation followed a review of Djokovic's medical exemption by border officials who looked "at the integrity and the evidence behind it."

The president of Djokovic's native Serbia



Serbia's Novak Djokovic holds the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Russia's Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia on February 21, 2021. Djokovic has had his visa canceled and been denied entry to Australia on Thursday and is set to be removed from the country after spending the night at the Melbourne airport as officials refused to let him enter the country for the Australian Open after an apparent visa mix-up. (AP)

blasted the "harassment" of the star.

Djokovic was transferred Thursday morning to a secure hotel which is controlled by immigration officials and has previously housed asylum seekers and refugees.

Supporters draped in Serbian flags gathered outside during the afternoon in a show of support.

In the meantime, Djokovic's lawyers launched the legal action which has delayed, at least temporarily, his deportation.

Quarantine-free access wouldn't have been an issue if Djokovic

could show he was fully vaccinated for the coronavirus.

Instead he applied for the exemption, a route that only became an option in recent months after Victoria state backed away from a full no-vaccination, no-play policy.

Questions have now been raised about the approval of the exemption.

The Sydney Morning Herald published letters sent in November from the Department of Health and the health minister to Tennis Australia which indicated that Djokovic didn't meet the standard – as defined by the Aus-

tralian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation – for quarantine-free entry.

Asked about the confusion, Morrison said the onus was on the individual traveler to have correct documentation on arrival.

The prime minister rejected the suggestion that Djokovic was being singled out, but he acknowledged that other players may be in Australia on the same type of medical exemption.

"One of the things the Border Force does is they act on intelligence to direct their attention to potential arrivals," he said.

"When you get people making public statements about what they say they have, and they're going to do, they draw significant attention to themselves."

Anyone who does that, he said, "whether they're a celebrity, a politician, a tennis player... they can expect to be asked questions more than others before you come."

The medical exemptions, vetted by two independent panels of experts and based on information supplied anonymously by players – and taken on face value – had been designed to allow Djokovic to play in the Australian Open

regardless of his vaccination status.

He has spoken out against vaccines in the past and has steadfastly refused to acknowledge whether he received any shots against the coronavirus.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said on Instagram that he spoke to Djokovic while he was being held at the airport.

He said Serbian authorities were taking measures "so the harassment of the best tennis player in the world be stopped in the shortest possible time."

Djokovic's initial social media revelation that he was heading to Australia became a hot political topic this week.

Many Australians who have struggled to obtain sparsely available and often expensive rapid antigen tests, or who have been forced into isolation, perceived a double standard.

Critics questioned what grounds Djokovic could have for the exemption, and backers argued that he has a right to privacy and freedom of choice.

Tension has grown amid another surge of COVID-19. The state recorded six deaths and 21,997 new cases on Thursday, the biggest daily jump in cases in Victoria since the pandemic began.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley on Wednesday defended the "completely legitimate application

and process" and insisted there was no special treatment for Djokovic.

The Victoria government mandated that only fully vaccinated players, staff members, fans and officials can enter Melbourne Park when the Australian Open begins Jan. 17.

Only 26 people connected with the tournament applied for a medical exemption and, Tiley said, only a "handful" were granted. None of those players have been publicly identified.

Among the acceptable reasons for an exemption are acute major medical conditions, serious adverse reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine or evidence of a COVID-19 infection within the previous six months.

Djokovic tested positive for the coronavirus in June 2020 after he played in a series of exhibition matches that he organized without social distancing amid the pandemic.

Concerns about the visa status initially heightened Wednesday when Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said while the state government and tennis organizers "may permit a non-vaccinated player to compete in the Australian Open, it is the Commonwealth government that will enforce our requirements at the Australian border."

AP

Love and courage guide Eriksen, Propper to bold decisions in 2022

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IT'S the juxtaposition that gets you. Davy Propper and Christian Eriksen made their professional debuts on the very same day and on Tuesday -- 4,370 days later -- they made radically different choices when faced with an almost existential question: How do I feel about football?

One is in love. The other is not.

Christian Eriksen had not kicked a ball in competitive play since that day last June when he collapsed on the pitch during Denmark's game with Finland at Euro 2020 and, in his own words, "died for five minutes" after suffering cardiac arrest. The quick intervention of doctors saved his life and he was fitted with an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD). The device allows him to lead a moderately normal life, but it means he will live the rest of his days in the shadow of risk, particularly in situations of high physical and mental stress -- like, say, professional football.

And yet, Eriksen wants to come back.

"My goal is to play in the World Cup in Qatar," Eriksen told Danish television. "I want to play. That's been my mindset all along... I'm sure I can, because I don't feel any different. Physically, I'm back in top shape."

If he does, it won't be at Inter Milan, the club he joined two years ago and helped to the Serie A title last season. Regulations in Italy do not allow those fitted with ICDs to play competitive sports; on Dec. 17, Inter terminated his contract. The risks are considered far too great. He'll have to do it elsewhere.

And then there's Propper, the PSV Eindhoven midfielder. He announced on Tuesday that he was retiring from the game at 30 years old and walking away from the final 18 months of his contract, leaving several million on the table. He said he "gradually lost the love for the game" and no longer "feels comfortable in the world of football."

"I don't want to be a part of it any longer," he said.

The parallels between Propper and Eriksen run deep, and not just because they're the same age and play the same position.

Both men come from footballing families. Propper's brothers, Robin and Mike, play respectively for FC Twente in the Dutch top flight and Huissen in the fifth tier. Eriksen's father, Thomas, was a former footballer-turned-coach, his cousins Andreas and Mathias are also footballers.

Both grew up immersed in the sport; both made it their career. Both were precocious talents, both were formed as footballers in Holland, and both made their professional debuts on Jan. 17, 2010. Propper came on as a substitute for Vitesse Arnhem in a 2-1 defeat at NEC Nijmegen, while Eriksen started for Ajax in a 1-1 draw away to NAC Breda. (NEC and NAC ... You can't make it up.)

They faced each other in the Dutch league, and they later faced each other in the Premier League -- Eriksen moved to Tottenham in 2013, Propper to Brighton in 2017 -- and both played for their countries, with Eriksen earning 109 caps for Denmark and Propper 19 for the Oranje. And here they are, announcing their diametrically opposite choices on the very same day.

Propper says his disillusionment with the game was gradual: "It was difficult for me to observe the discipline needed to perform at my best and have my life ruled by a hectic football schedule." When the coronavirus pandemic hit, it was the final blow. He tried to rekindle the love affair at PSV, returning there last summer as a free agent, but to no avail.

Meanwhile Eriksen returned to Milan, where he'd settled, after the Euros and worked to rescind his contract with Inter. He couldn't play; there was no point. He went through the paperwork and the bureaucracy and underwent more tests. And then, most days, he made the half-hour drive across the border to Switzerland and the Swiss town of Chiasso to train with the local team, who play in the third tier. This month, he'll look for another club. His agent, Martin Schoots, says a return to the Premier League -- where rules on player safety would allow him to play -- would "absolutely feel like coming home."

Professional footballers dedicate their lives to the sport, initially (like the rest of us) out of love at a young age -- sometimes later out of money, a sense of duty or competitiveness. At the highest level, when careers end, usually in their 30s, they're often parents and millionaires. They re-enter society knowing they have lived a dream for the past 20, sometimes 25 years. Real life -- as most of us know it -- was placed on hold in their early teens. When they go back to it, it sometimes feels like they've come out of cryogenic suspended animation. They enter a world where their peers have grown up. (Perhaps that's why so many cling to the game for as long as they can, trying to reinvent themselves as coaches or pundits.)

Eriksen and Propper are making very different choices, and both are making them free of any kind of financial encumbrance. Eriksen has made tens of millions in his career, and while Propper earned substantially less, he too knows he can live more than comfortably the rest of his life without doing another day's work.

But there are two factors that unite them. One is love. In Eriksen's case, it's love for the game and squeezing out as much as you can out of it for as long as you can. In Propper's case, it's love for himself and his family, and the self-care it takes to realize that every moment you're doing something you don't like is a moment you're denying yourself and your loved ones. Most of us don't have that luxury, because we need the paycheck. He does.

Tuchel reaffirms he's boss at Chelsea, where player power long ruled

LONDON

CHelsea managers often succumb to the club's internal politics, but after a challenging week on and off the pitch, it is difficult to imagine Thomas Tuchel emerging from the past week with more credit than this.

The only disappointing aspect of Wednesday's 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur is that their Carabao Cup semi-final tie is still alive going into next week's second leg, such as the profligacy in translating their superiority to the scoreline. There is an irony in Chelsea ending Romelu Lukaku's return to the fold ruing missed chances in the manner that prompted them to sign him in the first place, but this was nevertheless a tactical masterclass from Tuchel to follow the lesson in diplomacy he served up in the days prior.

Antonio Conte knows how precarious things can be in the home dug-out at Stamford Bridge. He won the 2016-17 Premier League title but was sacked a year later amid disagreements over transfer strategy and, funnily enough, concerns over his handling of the club's leading striker, back then a



Thomas Tuchel

combustible figure by the name of Diego Costa.

The Lukaku situation is different but still fraught with danger. Lukaku's controversial Sky Sport Italia interview laid bare concerns over Tuchel's approach, a challenge to his authority that more autocratic managers might have found unacceptable.

Yet Tuchel has navigated a fine line between disciplining Lukaku and consigning the episode to history, while also managing a nod in the direction of accommodating the Belgium international in a way the striker believes can maximise his talents. Tuchel revealed that Thiago Silva and N'Golo

Kante tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, which at least in part prompted a change of system from 3-4-2-1 to 4-4-2.

"There weren't five left to play a back five," he said afterward, also referencing injuries to Andreas Christensen, Renee James, Ben Chilwell and Trevoh Chalobah. "It took some minutes on the training pitch to walk through the principles."

It was time well spent. The knock-on effect was for Kai Havertz to play alongside Lukaku, giving the 28-year-old a strike partner to feed off. This sort of arrangement was hugely successful for him at Inter Milan and

might be the key to finally extracting the best from Chelsea's €115 million signing in the weeks and months to come.

However, it wasn't an instant success on that score given Lukaku touched the ball just four times in the opening half an hour. Perhaps Tuchel's mastery of the Lukaku situation extended to somehow insuring he was so peripheral early on that any irate home fans had almost no opportunity to direct any hostility at the Belgian.

The visiting supporters did their best to stoke antagonism. "He's Inter Milan, he's Inter Milan, Romelu Lukaku, he's Inter Milan," sang the away contingent, but their fortitude was not replicated by Conte's side, who gifted both goals in embarrassing fashion. Japhet Tanganga lost the ball cheaply to Marcos Alonso, who slipped a pass through for Havertz, and the German international steered a shot goalward that Davinson Sanchez could only poke into his own net.

Chelsea were revelling in their preeminence, and by the time Lukaku made his first meaningful contribution 33 minutes in, they were only too ready to welcome him to the party. He picked the ball up and ran at Sanchez, who appeared

to have quelled the danger before lunging into a reckless tackle that gave Hakim Ziyech an opportunity to whip one of his dangerous deliveries into the box. When Tanganga tried to head the ball away, his clearance stuck Ben Davies and ricocheted past Hugo Lloris in Tottenham's goal.

Chelsea supporters responded by singing their Tuchel song: "We've got super Thomas Tuchel. He knows exactly what we need..." That second line has rarely felt more accurate.

Spurs improved after the interval, but they barely threatened Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga all night, inducing Conte into offering a frank assessment on the distance between Tottenham and his former club.

"Honestly, I also want to be very clear," he said. "If we think that with the transfer window in January, we solve the situation, I'm telling you it isn't true. There is a lot of job to do."

"First of all, in January it is very, very difficult to buy. Then you have to see if there is the possibility to buy players you need. I think that we have to continue in the way that we are doing, to continue to improve the levels of our players."

"Then if there are some opportunities and the club are convinced of these opportunities to improve the team, then yeah. I don't see in the transfer window the resolution of our problem. To think you buy one or two players and solve the situation, you are not right."

"There is only not a problem of mentality. Chelsea last season won the Champions League and in this season they invest much money to improve the team. This is enough to understand the difference in this moment between us and them."

That investment principally came in the form of Lukaku, who had a couple of chances to mark his comeback with a goal. Even without it, Tuchel looks on course to extend his 100% record in semifinals, winning all of his previous eight.

Lukaku went to acknowledge the home fans at full-time and received a subdued but warm response. It was probably about the best he could hope for in the circumstances.

Player power has often told in these parts, but there's no doubting right now that Tuchel is the boss.

ESPN

Could Aston Villa salvage Coutinho's World Cup hopes?

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

EVEN Philippe Coutinho was surprised to be named in the Brazil squad that was called up for last November's World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina. He did not play -- he has not appeared for his country since the first two rounds of the current qualification campaign back in October 2020.

But being remembered was important. It showed that he is still in the thoughts of Brazil coach Tite, which, in World Cup year, could have some bearing on what happens to the attacking midfielder in the next few days.

How could he possibly have said 'no' when Barcelona came calling in 2018? For a Brazilian creative talent, this was an offer that was impossible to refuse. It meant putting himself in a line that stretched from Romario, Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho through to Neymar. No more glamorous opportunity existed. And so Coutinho traded Liverpool, where everything had gone well and he was happy, for Barcelona, where nothing was going to go right.

In the list of disastrous transfers, Coutinho must be somewhere near the top. The reported fee made him at the time the second most expensive player in history. It sent a wrecking ball through Barcelona's finances and through Coutinho's career. And the second part, at least, was not hard to predict, for three reasons.

The first was that Coutinho was signed with the idea that he would replace Andres Iniesta. This was a non

starter. He is simply not a genuine midfielder. He is a player for the final third of the field, for the front three rather than the midfield trio. The second was that Barcelona did not need him in the front three. The other two at the time were Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, both entering into the veteran stage. The last thing Barcelona needed was another player who wanted the ball to feet. They needed a flyer, someone who could extend the pitch by running on to balls played ahead of him. Before joining Paris Saint-Germain, Neymar had performed this role wonderfully well, dovetailing deliciously with Messi and Suarez. But this was not Coutinho's game. The whole, madly expensive signing made little sense.

Perhaps it might have worked had Coutinho strode in like a man possessed, determined and disposed to bend the world to his will. But that could never be Coutinho. As Tite notes, the player is painfully shy. Almost every step up in his career has been tough for him to negotiate. For Brazil he did not spark at Under-17 level. He helped win the Under-20 World Cup, but was a member of Oscar's supporting cast. And it took time and a lot of love from Tite before he established himself in the senior side.

Internazionale had a long term relationship with him, signing him from Vasco da Gama long before they could take him to Italy. And in the end, Inter Milan effectively gave up on him, letting him go to Liverpool for a derisive £8.5 million. Up until this point there was only one



Philippe Coutinho

place where his promise had really flowered -- at a loan spell with Espanyol, where coach Mauricio Pochettino, in characteristic style, managed to coax the talent out of him. Liverpool learned the lesson, showered him with love and, even if they were reluctant to lose him, they made a huge profit and have been able to finance their own trips to the transfer market.

With the loss of Messi, maybe there would be one last chance for Coutinho to make the Barcelona move come good. After all, now he could play in his pre-

ferred position. But maybe there has been too much bad blood. It was an open secret that Barcelona were desperate to offload their expensive acquisition, and this has not provided an environment conducive to a Coutinho comeback. He could continue to run down his contract. He has seemed resigned to doing that for a while. But the World Cup at the end of this year changes everything. It will probably be his last -- he will be 34 in 2026. And with that call up last November, Tite was sending him a message.

He may not figure in

the first team at the moment. He has clearly been overtaken by Lucas Paqueta of Lyon as Brazil's prime attacking midfielder. But he is still in with a chance. And World Cup history is full of tales of players who did not imagine that they would see any action but who ended up as heroes. So suddenly it becomes more likely that Barcelona can get him off their wage bill and that Coutinho can go and play his football somewhere else, if only on loan.

But where? Rio de Janeiro giants Flamengo have been floated as an option, but it seems unlikely. New coach Paulo Sousa is apparently keener on reinforcing his defensive resources -- leaving England as the most probable destination. Premier League clubs have both the money, and the memory of Coutinho at his best. Sources tell ESPN that as many as five English top-flight clubs have expressed an interest in signing him on loan.

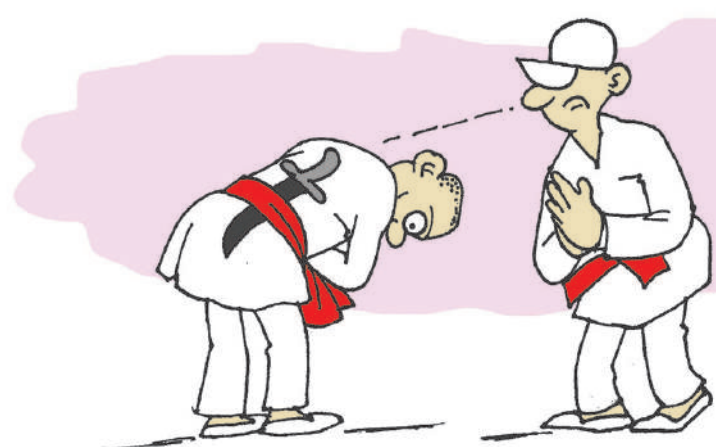
Newly rich Newcastle United may be interested, and there would be logic behind an approach

from Everton -- the club are under pressure and Coutinho knows the city. Arsenal have the Edu Gaspar connection. The former midfielder is the club's technical director -- and filled a similar role with Brazil when Coutinho was showing his best form.

But perhaps the most intriguing piece of speculation is the one linking Coutinho to Aston Villa. Steven Gerrard, his former teammate at Anfield and now manager at Villa, has first hand knowledge of what Coutinho can do and how to get the best out of him. Moreover, after transferring Jack Grealish to Manchester City, the attacking midfielder positions at Villa could do with an upgrade. This is a move that would seem to tick all the boxes. The Villa coach knows the player, the club need the player, the player needs to shine to get his career on track and go to the World Cup.

All eyes, then, on Birmingham -- where Coutinho could find the Bull Ring (a local shopping centre) more to his liking than the one in Barcelona.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Tuchel reaffirms he's boss at Chelsea, where player power long ruled

PAGE 19



Malawian midfielder, Duncan Nyoni.

Simba SC releases two players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's NBC Premier League defending champion, Simba SC, has released two players, with the outfit also loaning another player to improve its squad.

Malawian midfielder, Duncan Nyoni, is one of the players offloaded by Simba SC.

The midfielder's contract was terminated by the domestic football giants that will this season compete in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Simba SC leadership said it terminated the footballer's contract for poor performance.

Nyoni arrived at Simba SC on August 13, 2021, from Malawian outfit, Silver Strikers, and lasted a few months at the Tanzanian outfit.

It should however be noted that several players, including Nyoni, were placed on the starting list by Simba's head coach, Spanish Pablo Franco Martin, in various league ties.

Midfielder Abdulwamad Kassim that joined the club from Kagera Sugar is another footballer released.

The footballer has played just one game against KMC FC which had the defensive midfielder coming on as a substitute in the last five minutes of the duel that saw Simba SC notch a 4-1 victory.

Reports suggest Kassim may be joining top-flight squad Ruvo Shooting in this season's mini transfer period.

Simba SC has accepted keeper Jeremiah Kisubi's request to join Mtibwa Sugar on loan after failing to get playing time.

He was competing for a spot in the club's starting lineup with other shot-stoppers, Aishi Manula and Beno Kakolanya.

Simba SC is currently working hard to bring back midfielder Clatus Chama.

The Zambian midfielder, now featuring for Renaissance Sportive de Berkane of Morocco, is sorely missed at the Msimbazi Street outfit.

KMC FC unveils Hitimana as new head coach



Thierry Hitimana

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COACH Thierry Hitimana has been officially announced as the new head coach for Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on a one-year contract.

The Rwandan tactician has taken over at the NBC Premier League side's technical bench after parting ways with the league's other club, Simba SC, recently.

Hitimana had mutually terminated his contract with Simba SC on December 28, 2021, after serving as an assistant coach at the club.

The former Namungo FC

head coach did not issue specific reasons for his resignation from Simba SC, an outfit he had coached for a brief spell.

Some sources stated Hitimana was rumoured to be inching closer

to taking over as the next coach of Rwanda's national team 'Amavubi', when the side's current coach Vincent Mashami contract ends in February 2022.

The Rwandan coach is taking over

the reins of veteran Tanzanian coach, John Simkoko, who was KMC FC's head coach.

Habibu Kondo that was serving as Simkoko's assistant has retained his post at the outfit.

Hitimana boasts of a rich CV, which includes handling Rwanda's clubs, Bugesera, and Rayon Sports, as well as the country's national U-23 team.

The coach has further trained Tanzanian outfits, Simba SC, Biashara United, and Namungo FC.

He is a CAF 'A' license holder who is known for his experience of working with youngsters.

He exhibited his proficiency during his time with Uganda's U-17 team 'Hippos', which he guided to the 2019 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations finals which took place in Tanzania.

He was formerly the assistant coach of Rwanda's U-23 team from 2012-2015. On the club level, he was the assistant coach of Rwanda Premier League giants, Rayon Sports, from 2003-2015.

In 2020 Hitimana was the head coach of Namungo FC but was sacked in November last year after a series of poor results.

KMC FC has had a poor start to this season's NBC Premier League, winning just two games out of 11 matches.

The Kinondoni District-based outfit has settled for a draw in five matches and suffered four defeats.

The club has been finding it difficult to get good results despite making good signings this season.



Bangladesh's Ebadot Hossain acknowledges the applause. GETTY IMAGES

Bangladesh 'crossed all barriers to bring wonderful win'

MOUNT MAUNGANUI

BANGLADESH ODI captain and senior player Tamim Iqbal praised the team for crossing "all barriers" to beat New Zealand in their own backyard in the first Test in Mount Maunganui.

On Wednesday morning, there were celebrations led by Tamim and other players following the historic win, at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka, where the BCL final was taking place.

Tamim praised the scale of the victory, particularly keeping in mind Bangladesh's previous record in New Zealand.

"We returned empty-handed from New Zealand for many years, many tours," Tamim wrote on his official Facebook profile.

"The situation was tougher this

time. But the team crossed all the barriers to bring a wonderful win. Beating New Zealand in New Zealand is one of the toughest jobs in world cricket. We showed that we can.

"What really touched me was that it was a total team effort. It is a team with great spirit. No praise is enough for Ebadot [Hossain]. [Mahmudul Hasan] Joy, [Najmul Hossain] Shanto, Liton [Das], [Mehidy Hasan] Miraz and Yasir [Ali] everyone contributed in the win. Even Taijul Islam took a brilliant catch as a substitute."

Tamim said that captain Mominul Haque deserved special mention for continuing to motivate the team during a "difficult time".

"I will mention someone separately. At a very difficult time, when no one believed in the team, when there was

doubt within the team too, only one man didn't lose his belief."

"He always tried to motivate the team by saying 'we can, we definitely can', despite bad days, bad performances. He has tremendous love for Test cricket. He gives the most priority to Test cricket. I doff my cap to the captain, Mominul Haque."

Chief selector Minhajul Abedin wants the team to use this blueprint to continue their success in Tests.

"This is a memorable win. It is a huge milestone for our cricket." Abedin said.

"I think if we hold on to this process for the next three to five years, we can become a good Test-playing team.

"People say a lot of things about the cricketers' ability, but playing while being in a bio-bubble is tough. They

have adjusted themselves and given the nation a great gift. Definitely, they deserve a salute."

Habibul Bashar, another senior selector and a former national captain, called the win Bangladesh's greatest accomplishment in Tests.

"I am lost for words. I am extremely happy. We have won a few Tests, done a few good things, but I think this is our greatest achievement as a Test-playing nation.

"We played great cricket throughout this Test match. In every department. Top-order batting, fast bowlers, spinners. Even the captain got us breakthroughs. It will be tough to find something negative from this Test win."

AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MONOGAMY OR POLYGAMY
WHICH ONE WILL YOU CHOOSE?

DEPENDS ON WHICH
SIDE I AM ON!

