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Reverend Lazarus Chakwera takes over as the new Malawi President

LILONGWE

DR Lazarus Chakwera was yesterday morning sworn in as president of Malawi after winning an election rerun.

Dr Chakwera trounced incumbent Prof Peter Mutharika by garnering 58.57 per cent of the vote in the poll held on Tuesday. Malawi's electoral commission announced the results on Saturday.

He and his running mate Saulos Chilima took the oath of office in front of cheering crowds at Bingu International Convention Centre in the capital, Lilongwe.

"I, Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, do solemnly swear that I will well and truly perform, the functions of the high office of President of the Republic of Malawi, and that I will preserve and defend the constitution, and that I will do right to all manner of the people, according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill will, so help me God," he said.

There was a slight glitch that VP Saulos Chilima had to take the office for a second time as they forgot to swear him on the Bible. Chilima is the first Malawian Vice President to serve for two consecutive terms using different parties.

Embattled Chief Justice Andrew Nyirenda while administering the oath to

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JPM inspects SGR, fires Kisarawe DAS



President John Magufuli pictured at Mlandizi in Coast Region yesterday disembarking from a railway coach normally used by Standard Gauge Railway contractors. This was shortly after inspecting progress in the implementation of the 7.2trn/- SGR project. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has expressed satisfaction with the progress realised in the implementation of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project.

He has directed the contractor to ensure timely completion of the railway line which will see travellers enjoying the fastest voyages in the country aboard electric trains.

The 7.2trn/- SGR project is executed by a Turkish construction firm—Yapi Merkezi.

Addressing delegates after touring the project in Coast Region yesterday, President Magufuli said he would facilitate timely completion of the project which is fully funded by domestic revenues.

"We need this kind of high speed train in our country," he declared.

He commended the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications for the job well done, urging officials to make sure the project is completed before the scheduled period.

"Tanzanians are in need of the services," he said, noting enthusiastically that this is the way to a new Tanzania. "We want our country to look similar with European nations," he asserted, reiterating his intention to speed up development in the entire country.

Construction of the strategic SGR line is being implemented

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

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

- Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms
- AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19

Maalim Seif gears up for Zanzibar presidency run

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

SEIF Shariff Hamad has announced that he will contest for the Zanzibar presidency in this year's elections on the ACT-Wazalendo ticket, the sixth time to do so since 1995.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Zanzibar, the veteran Zanzibar opposition leader said various reasons brought him to the decision, including his not being

satisfied with how the country was being managed.

As of now the multiparty system is in danger of disappearing due to deliberate breaches of democratic principles, he said.

"In recognition of this danger I have seen it better to accept advice from many people that this was not the time to abandon the fight. I respond to them that by working

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ZEC unveils ethics committee to supervise Zanzibar elections

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) has launched an Ethics Committee for the 2020 Elections formed under Section 65(1) of the Zanzibar Elections Act (No 4 of 2018).

The provision obliges ZEC, after consultation with political parties, the Registrar of Political Parties and the relevant ministry to prepare ethical regulations to supervise activities of political parties and other election stakeholders.

ZEC Deputy Chairman Mabruki Juma Makame called on election stakeholders grouped in the committee to sit together and come up with guidelines to make this year's election a success.

Mabruki said ZEC believes that citizens will abide by their parties' directives if every committee member will be accountable accordingly.

The Ethics Committee is among six

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Maalim Seif gears up for Zanzibar presidency run

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together with youthful leaders I will lead them during this difficult period in the history of Zanzibar and Tanzania in general," he said.

Another reason he cited is that in 1992 he and fellow associates decided to establish a political party - the Civic United Front (CUF) and encouraged people to support it, as it had open aims of returning justice among the people without discrimination and other forms of oppression.

He said the situation was a thorn to top government officials as they did not like seeing Zanzibar making development strides. Hence they started using state organs to undermine the party and finally he and fellow leaders were chased from the party against the wishes of the followers, he stated.

He described himself as an experienced captain in steering a ship, hence he has agreed to do so to bring changes via ACT-Wazalendo party.

Maalim Seif said the new ship needs a captain with lots of experience to steer Zanzibar through stormy waters. Party leaders and supporters have entrusted him to fly the banner in contesting for

the Zanzibar presidency, he further noted.

He said it would be uncivilized to spurn that trust and in that case he has respected their wish to achieve Zanzibar's dreams.

In all past elections the rulers disregarded the people's verdict and forced candidates from the ruling party to be declared winners despite having been rejected by the electorate, the presumptive candidate declared.

Apart from the aforementioned reasons, he battled with the question whether Zanzibaris still need him and commissioned experts to conduct a research exercise whose results showed that they still trust him, he pointed out.

He said he is pained at heart to see Zanzibar wavering in its development goals year after year, being ruled discriminately and people denied their basic rights.

On July 4 he will collect nomination forms to run for the Zanzibar presidency and will continue with his statement that he has no trust in the Zanzibar Electoral Commission. "But that notwithstanding the party members have vowed to defend their victory anyhow," he added.



Preparation of beef skewers, a popular roasted or grilled delicacy known as 'mishkaki' in Kiswahili, well under way at Dar es Salaam's Mabibo market yesterday. Chicken and fish are sometimes also similarly processed. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Crop boards not indispensable - Agriculture minister Hasunga

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga put crop boards on notice yesterday, saying they will be dissolved if they perform below the government's expectations.

He ordered them to complete farmers registration by June 30, this year.

The minister issued the announcement at the weekend at Lupatingatinga Ward in Chunya District, Mbeya Region when he was the official guest at the launching tobacco markets for 2019/20 season.

He said he had already issued directives to the crop board directors to register farmers by taking into consideration the type of crops they produce, the size of the lands and challenges facing them.

"After June 30 I will start taking measures as I can see even you, the director of Tanzania Tobacco Board (TTB) had not completed the exercise, I will

therefore start with you?" He explained.

Meanwhile, Hasunga called on agricultural officers in districts, wards and villages not to stay in their offices; instead they should visit farmers at their fields and advise them on the basics of better farming for increased production and incomes.

He called on to stop assigning them other duties including levy collections.

TTB acting managing director Stanley Mnonzya said one of the challenges facing tobacco farmers was the delay of payments for farmers, saying TTB will soon start taking steps against the firms who will fail to pay farmers after 14 days.

Some of the farmers urged the government to help to them in solving the problems they are facing including the availability of markets.

The chairman of tobacco farmers association Emmanuel Charahan said tobacco prices have been falling year after year in the last four years, the situation that discourages them.

JPM inspects SGR, fires Kisarawe DAS

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in five phases for the 1,219 kilometers long main track.

The first phase stretches from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro (300km), while the second phase proceeds from Morogoro to Makutupora (422km).

The third phase starts from Makutupora to Tabora (294km), phase four from Tabora to Isaka (130km) and phase five from Isaka to Mwanza (249km).

Upon completion, the SGR line will link Tanzania with neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

President Magufuli laid the foundation stone for construction of the historic railway line in April 2017.

The president has meanwhile revoked the appointment of Kisarawe District Administrative Secretary (DAS), Mtela

Mwampamba over misconduct and appointed Mwanana Msumi to take over the position.

The president directed responsible authorities to assign Mwampamba to a lower level job outside the district.

"I have received complaints over one of my appointees here, the DAS. I have been informed of his misbehavior, contrary to work ethics. There are allegations that he has been engaging in multiple love relationships which include dating other people's wives," he told the audience.

He added: "I had earlier warned him but I think he failed to listen. Since I am in-charge of supervising civil servants' ethics, I revoke his appointment effectively today."

The Head of State urged the newly appointed DAS to adhere to public servants' ethics and avoid engaging into unnecessary conflicts. The new appointee - Msumi is a holder of a Masters degree in Public Administration.

In the event, the president hailed the

Minister of State, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Selemani Jafo for his performance and record.

"Jafo has been a great help to me. He has been working tirelessly day and night to supervise various development projects. I will be surprised if the people of Kisarawe do not recognize his efforts," he said.

He also commended the Kisarawe District Commissioner Jokate Mwegelo for her efforts towards improving the education sector including the "Tokomeza Zero" project.

He also applauded district and regional commissioners across the country for steering various development agendas.

"The Kisarawe DC has done a lot in eliminating zeros here," the president intoned. At Soga village, the president conducted fundraising to support construction and renovation of Soga primary school.

A total of 68,54m/- was collected with the president donating 5m/-.



Livestock and Fisheries ministry permanent secretary Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel (C) speaks at a meeting in Dodoma city at the weekend with livestock and fisheries officers from Ilala municipality in Dar es Salaam. He is with Abdullah Temba (L), an acting director in the ministry, and Ilala municipality planning officer Ando Mwanukga. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

ZEC unveils ethics committee to supervise Zanzibar elections

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committees formed by ZEC for advice on various issues during the run to the polls late October, he said.

ZEC Director of Elections Thabit Idarous Faina said that the committees relate to finance, procurement and distribution, voters' education, defense and security, media communication and monitoring election observers' activities.

activities.

He said among the committee's responsibilities is to formulate election regulations and their enforcement so that every stakeholder is accorded justice and fairness, participating in free, fair and transparent elections.

Members of advisory committees are good advisors of the polls commission in the conduct of elections on the basis

of democratic principles, he asserted.

The Ethics Committee has members from six political parties, ZEC, the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government, the police force and the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, he said.

Zanzibar Assistant Commissioner of Police Hassan Nassir Ali urged people to shed fears during elections time and party leaders in the committee to

observe their oaths and abide by what the ethics regulations stipulate.

Deputy Registrar for Political Parties Mohammed Ali Ahmed appealed to leaders of political parties in the ethics committee to lead in enforcing ethics regulations.

The committee hailed ZEC for setting up advisory committees to ensure a good elections environment.

Rev Lazarus Chakwera takes over as new Malawi President

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Saulos Chilima noted that it was fun but 'once bitten twice shy.'

In his acceptance speech, Dr Chakwera noted that it is an honour that has reignited the dream of a better Malawi.

"The time is up for us to stop dreaming. With your help, we will restore your faith by being a government that stands for the need of Malawians," newly sworn-in President said amid cheers.

"I pledge to run Malawi as that is the path to 'Tsogolo labwino' (meaning better future)," he further pledged.

He has promised the people of Malawi that the new administration will strive to give equal opportunities for everyone.

Prof Arthur Peter Mutharika did not attend the swearing-in ceremony.

Speaking ahead of Saturday's results, the outgoing president Mutharika said that he found the election "unacceptable", but had "sincere hope that they will take the country forward instead of backwards."

Only a few African leaders attended the ceremony. They include former Malawi President Joyce Banda, former Zambian Vice President Nevers Mumba and former Malawi Congress Party leader John Tembo.

Kenya's Raila Odinga has sent his congratulatory message to the new President on his impressive victory.

"The election in Malawi is a symbol of hope for those who support democracy in Africa and around the world," Raila posted on his twitter handle.

The election has brought the opposition Malawi Congress party back to the grip of power after 26 years in the cold.

The ruling party, DPP, says the presidential election was rigged and that it was the worst in the history of

Malawi.

Dr Chakwera becomes Malawi's sixth president having defeated his challenger, Peter Mutharika, in the June 23 polls 58 to 40 per cent, on the basis of official results.

The ruling president, 65, has spent his years mostly performing the ministry of preaching as a pastor.

The change of guard signals a transition following a landmark event back in February where the constitutional court annulled Mr Mutharika's victory in the May 2019 election, citing poll irregularities.

The ruling appeared to have borrowed a leaf from Kenya's Presidential Election which was annulled by the Supreme Court in 2017 over irregularities.

But contrary to Malawi's scenario, in which the contestant went and won a rerun of the poll, President Uhuru Kenyatta's challenger Raila Odinga opted out of rerun, citing inadequate changes in the way the country's electoral body would run the poll.

Rev Dr Chakwera, a Pentecostal preacher and former theology lecturer, will now be tasked with healing deep divisions in Malawian society and spearhead economic growth after years of political turmoil, observers noted.

“The election in Malawi is a symbol of hope for those who support democracy in Africa and around the world”



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr Angelina Mabula (R) elaborates on a point to Njombe residents who sought clarification on issues relating to land ownership and use. It was at yesterday's inauguration of the Njombe regional Lands office. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Kairuki: Govt works on hiccups facing investors in southern highlands regions

THE Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Angellah Kairuki, has assured investors with factories in the Southern Highlands Zone that the government was working on various challenges, including the availability of power for the growth of the country's industrial sector.

In the circumstances, she said the fifth-phase government which has vowed to build up an industrial economy by 2025 has already taken various important steps in having in place an enabling environment to attract investors.

Speaking at the weekend at the end of her visit to the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) after she toured various factories

including Tukuyu Springs Water, Raphael Group Limited, Stawisha (Dutch Potato Project), Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) and Marmo Granito Mine (T) Ltd, Kairuki said the government recognizes the importance of investments for economic growth.

"I congratulate such investments and for we in the government we shall continue to improve the environment for investment in the country," she said.

She congratulated SAGCOT by working together with their stakeholders for the good job being done to ensure they build up the

capacity for small and middle level farmers on better farming methods.

She said the existence of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) offices in Mbeya Region is among the concrete steps by the government to ensure investors get services much closer to them.

The Director of Raphael Group Ltd engaged in adding value to cereals crops Raphael Ndelwa hailed SAGCOT for opening business doors for them and connecting them with farming institutions.

He said apart from significant

achievements realized since 2014, the factory has been faced by various challenges including lack of reliable power, higher levies and access to loans.

The Director of Stawisha Dutch Potato Project engaged in potato farming Theresia Mcha said her institution was working closely with potato farmers and mobilizes for better farming for the crop.

"We want to revolutionize potato farming - up to now we produce more than ten types of modern potato seeds to meet both local and foreign

Bus overloaded and driver was not competent, survivors say

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

SURVIVORS of the Saturday road crash which occurred at Kitonga stretch in Kilolo District, Iringa Region have said the bus was overloaded and the driver was incompetent.

The accident involved a passenger bus -Prezdar with registration numbers T 326 CSX which overturned at Kitonga killing at least 10 people and 50 others were injured.

The bus was heading to Dar es Salaam from Mafinga in Mufindi District, Iringa Region.

One of the survivors, Shaban Omary told this paper that they were earlier informed by bus attendants that the driver has been hired from another company to take passengers to Dar es Salaam.

According to Omary, the overloaded bus was taking passengers to other vehicles to avoid being penalised by traffic police.

"At every police checkpoints, the bus driver and attendants could remove some passengers to other vehicles to maintain a level seating arrangement. There were too many passengers at the stand following increased demand for transport services during the weekend," he stated. A passenger, Sarah Samweli said: "the driver was sometimes speeding to compensate the time lost when waiting for other passengers who were taken into other vehicles to avoid traffic police."

At Kitonga area, the driver lost control of the bus due to break failure and overturned while attempted to overtake another bus.

"We thank God that most of us sustained minor injuries because it was

a very bad accident," she said adding that most of those who have survived had fasten their seat belts.

Iringa Regional Police Commander, Juma Bwire confirmed the accident saying four people died on the spot while six others died when receiving medical treatment at the Ilula mission hospital.

Senior medical doctor at the Ilula mission hospital, Dr Benjamin Chota said that they have preserved the bodies at the hospital

He said the two of the deceased are youth aged 18 years and two children aged below five years. He said the injured include 33 adults and 18 children aged below 18.

Meanwhile, Mbeya Regional Commissioner called upon the Police Force in the region to take stern measure for reckless drivers.

He issued the online appeal at the weekend in his message of condolences to residents of neighbouring Iringa Region following Kitonga road crash.

He said following rampant road accidents in Mbeya Region, the Defense and Security Committee has taken several measures including mandatory stops of heavy trucks before starting journeys to check their brake systems.

"I offer my consolation to Iringa Regional Commissioner Ally Happi, the region's Police for the loss of our loved ones in the accident and pray for quick recovery for those injured," Chalamila said.

He said he was saddened by the big number of children among those who lost their lives in the accident.

He called on parents who lost their children in the accident to calm during this difficult period.

Teachers trained to provide physical and psychological services to pupils

By Getrude Mbago

TEACHERS from various primary schools in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region have been trained on how to provide physical and psychological services to pupils on Covid-19 pandemic and to those who are victims of violence as schools reopen today.

Provided by Save the Children Tanzania, the training also aims to equip the teachers with essential skills and knowledge to enable them to handle children who faced violence during the three-month holiday.

Speaking during the training at the weekend, Jesca Ndana, programme manager (Child Protection and Child Rights Governance) at Save the Children Tanzania said that the training is vital as it will make teachers more friendly to pupils while being easy to notice children with physical or psychological problems.

"There are some of the children

who faced various violence challenges such as rape, beating and other brutal actions something which should also be considered on how to help them especially psychologically," she said.

She also said that the training will also train teachers on how to help minimize fear and worries of children in school as the majority of them still have stress of the Coronavirus pandemic.

"We are aware that the disease has raised fear among our children, and maybe the children felt safer staying home during the outbreak of Covid-19, so, with this training, I hope that teachers are going to help the children remain safe with no worries about the disease," she said.

Azekiel Nichombe, a teacher from Changanyikeni Primary School commended Save the Children for bringing them together saying that the new skills are going to help them receive and live more friendly with children. "In our school, we have prepared a special room to keep and take good

care of children who will be found having some physical or psychological problems, this includes those who will develop fever and victims of violence," he said.

For her part, head teacher at Makongo Primary school Magdalena Machunga said: "We are happy as we are going to meet our pupils, we really miss them, we are well prepared to ensure that children remain safe, all preventive measures have been taken including disinfecting our environment, putting running water and soap in the school environment as well as setting aside a special place to provide first aid for children who will find having problems."

Francisca Makoye, one of the training facilitators urged teachers to utilize the education given to them by supporting the needy children.

She wanted the teachers to create friendly environment for pupils so as to enable them to be ready to speak out about their problems.



Hussein Mussa, head of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Shinyanga Region, takes part in a public awareness seminar in Shinyanga municipality at the weekend. The thrust was on ways to deal with sexual corruption among college students. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Canada

CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY -

CANADA FUND FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES (CFLI) - HIGH COMMISSION OF CANADA TO TANZANIA

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Coordinator, High Commission of Canada to Tanzania

Duration: One year beginning immediately with the option to renew for two additional years with the mutual agreement of both parties.

Deadline to apply: Tuesday 07 July, 2020 at 11:59 am

Maximum contract rate: CAD\$25/hour - payable in Tanzanian Shillings at the exchange rate established by the Canadian High Commission.

Maximum contract value: CAD \$19,000

Area of Selection:

Residents of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with the legal right to work in Tanzania and dependents of diplomatic personnel of the Canadian High Commission over the age of 18 years.

Requirement:

Candidates must legally be allowed to work in Tanzania. The High Commission of Canada will not provide candidates with any assistance to acquire the necessary work permits to work in Tanzania.

The ability to telework is essential. Candidates are required to have a personal computer with Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Acrobat, Internet Explorer and a broadband internet connection to be considered for the contract.

The successful candidate will be required to travel within Tanzania, to Comoros, and Zambia to conduct project monitoring visits once COVID-19 imposed travel restrictions have been lifted in these countries (and points of transit).

STATEMENT OF WORK

The High Commission of Canada in Dar es Salaam is looking to contract a Coordinator for the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Program.

The individual will be responsible for:

- Carrying out project identification, project monitoring, and maintenance of files for Canada Fund projects in Tanzania, Comoros, and Zambia;
- Preparing lists of project proposals for the CFLI Committee with recommendations for consideration by the Head of Mission and rationales for those recommendations;
- Preparation of appropriate Canada Fund approval documents and reports;
- Plan, implement and administer effective systems and procedures, in accordance with CFLI and Global Affairs Canada regulations, enabling the CFLI to deliver its goals and objectives successfully; and
- Monitoring project activities in accordance with the approved

monitoring plan (which may require field visits), to ensure that funded projects are meeting their targets and fulfilling their reporting requirements.

Evaluation criteria:

Interested parties should submit a résumé and a cover letter (no more than two A4 pages double-spaced and in Arial 12-point font), outlining how they meet the requirements listed below along with a sample of their writing in English (no more than two A4 pages double-spaced and in Arial 12-point font). Interviews will be conducted via Zoom. The following criteria will be assessed using a point system:

- Significant experience in project management with additional points awarded for experience managing international development projects (6-10 years);
- Strong planning and organizational skills, attention to detail, and ability to coordinate conflicting priorities within tight deadlines and meet work targets;
- Experience in the delivery of daily operational requirements, in particular managing a budget;
- Experience managing a small grants fund;
- Strong ability to communicate effectively with clients in English orally and in writing;
- Strong ability to provide analysis of political and economic factors influencing decision-making and assess capacity of potential partners;
- Ability to communicate effectively with clients in French;
- Experience using MS-office (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), Internet, WhatsApp, and social media tools (Twitter, Facebook);
- Graduation from relevant post-secondary education program.

IMPORTANT: Interested candidates must clearly outline in their covering letter how they meet the above-noted criteria. Those candidates who do not clearly demonstrate meeting the criteria by the deadline will not be considered.

Asset:

- Demonstrate ability to communicate effectively with clients in Swahili

TO APPLY

Individuals meeting the criteria above are invited to submit:

- Their résumé (in English);
- Their cover letter (in English, double spaced, and no more than two A4 pages in length using Arial 12 point font) outlining how they meet the requirements listed above; and,
- A sample of their writing in English (no more than two A4 pages double-spaced and in Arial 12-point font),

To procurement@fssptz.org no later than Tuesday 07 July, 2020 at 11:59 am

Please put "CFLI Coordinator" as the subject line of your submission message.

Govt set to implement a massive safe and clean water project worth 5.6bn

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

OVER 40,000 residents in Babati town council in Manyara region are set to benefit from steady water services as the government plans to implement a mega safe and clean water project worth 5.6bn/- to serve the population.

Babati Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Bawasa) managing director Eng Iddy Msuya said when speaking to this newspaper in his office.

Msuya said that the project which will be fetching water from the Dareda water source is expected to commence later this month.

"This is a mega and one of its kind project, it is going to address all water blues in the council, good enough is that the project will not require electric power to operate," he said.

He said that the government had already sent its experts from the ministry of water to visit and inspect the project's area.

"We have already deployed water pipes which are capable of pumping large amounts of water. The project will officially commence this month and be completed in July 2021," he added.

"As of this project, residents in the areas of Miomboni, Komoto, Osterbay, Ngarenaro, Nyunguu, Negamsi and Arri will no longer depend on water

pumped by electric power which usually has several challenges," he said.

Eng Msuya further said that the project will involve construction of a tank with capacity to carry 90,000 litres of water at the Singu village.

"We will also construct a one million litres water tank at Sigino village as well as a 225,000 litres water tank at Miomboni village," Eng Msuya added.

According to him, the availability of water in Babati has currently raised to 90 per cent from 57 per cent in 2015 due to several measures taken by the government and stakeholders.

Anna Zabron, Singu village resident applauded the government for bringing the project something which will address the prolonged water crisis facing the residents.

She said that the implementation of the project is a huge relief to the residents, especially women who have been walking miles away in search for the precious liquid.

Reports show that, only 57 per cent of Tanzania's population has access to an improved source of safe water, and only 34 per cent of Tanzania's population has access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time travelling longer distances to collect water.



Tanzania Breweries Limited's Mbeya plant manager Fabian Godwin (L, foreground) takes a visiting delegation led by Angellah Kairuki (R, foreground, Minister of State (Investment) in the Prime Minister's Office, around the facility at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Finance and Planning Dr Philip Mpango has reaffirmed government's commitment to continue strengthening environment for the production and dissemination of statistics in the country.

Mpango made the remarks over the weekend when he laid the foundation stone of National Statistics (NBS) office building in Kigoma Region.

He said the fifth phase government is always keen to see those entrusted with various responsibilities in the government and its institutions are provided with friendly and appropriate

'Govt keen on statistical data dissemination'

working environment where they can perform their duties accordingly.

"This office building is one of those efforts to ensure we accord our employees conducive environment in order to make them work comfortably and attain the expected results like quality statistics in the case of NBS staff," he said.

In his speech, minister Mpango underscored the importance of quality statistics in planning, monitoring and implementation of plans and

programmes and commended NBS for providing the government and other stakeholders with needed quality statistics.

"Without quality statistics we can't measure our progress and that is why with available statistics we have managed to measure and identify all achievements we have so far attained during the fifth phase government," he stressed.

Mpango lauded respondents of various statistical surveys and censuses

for their continued collaboration during data collection by providing correct statistical information according to questions posed by the data collectors.

"Respondents who are mostly normal citizens are key in production of quality statistics. I salute them and recognise their contributions which had made Tanzania one of the few countries in Africa which produce quality statistics," he noted.

Minister Mpango directed

statistician general to ensure the construction work of the building is completed as scheduled in September, this year and vowed to ensure the funds set for the work are availed to the national statistics office during the first quarter of the financial year 2020/2021.

For her part, NBS governing board chairperson Dr. Amina Msengwa thanked the fifth phase government for providing 700 million/- to finish construction of the building which

started in 1994 thanks to the support from Statistics Sweden.

Speaking during the event, statistician general Dr. Albina Chuwa emphasised that such infrastructures are important as they help in adapting use of modern technologies in data collection and dissemination.

"Adoption of new technologies is important because it helps us to reduce costs of production and dissemination of statistics products," she explained.

Four institutions sign agreement to boost horticultural farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

FOUR national institutions yesterday signed a cooperation agreement for providing practical trainings at the Arusha based Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) for five value chains in horticulture.

Speaking here yesterday at the brief signing ceremony of the agreement, the director of Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) Jackline Mkindi said they have signed the agreement in order to remove challenges of lack of experts in the horticultural farming.

Mkindi mentioned the institutions as TAHA, NM-AIST, (World Vegetable Center) and the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP).

"The training will be both short and long term at certificate and diploma levels by following all ministry of education procedures and the whole programme will last five years," she said.

She also said TAHA decided took the step after realising the horticultural sector is fast growing - at more than 11 per cent per year earning the country USD 779 million last year from USD 64 million in 2016.

She said for a long time Tanzania has been depending on foreign experts for value added chains on horticultural products and other crops. She said if we produce more experts of our own for the horticultural sector, the country would further increase incomes to 3bn/- per year.

Last year TAHA was advised to prepare a report enumerating achievements recorded and challenges and proposals for solutions thereof.

NM-AIST deputy principal Prof Emmanuel Luoga said signing the agreement is the beginning of the practical joint policy

implementation between public and private sectors.

He said in the agreement, NM-AIST will dwell on providing practical training to students on horticultural research.

Head of COLEACP Jeremy Knops, speaking via video conference, said they will assist the training financially for the sector's development.

The head of world vegetable centre, Ralph Roothaert said they will work together to raise the crops' value chain by producing quality seeds acceptable nationally and internationally.

NEMC appeals for joint efforts to tame invasive weeds in Lake Victoria

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mwanza

THE chairperson of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Prof Esmati Chaggu, has called for concerted efforts for successful control of increased water weeds in Lake Victoria.

Speaking when winding-up the board's tour in Lake zone regions, Prof Shaggu said that presence of water weeds in the lake affects the environment. The visit was meant to see the effects of Lake Victoria water level increase.

"There should be concerted efforts by various institutions to protect the lake by controlling the invasive plants," she said.

He commended the Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) at Nyegezi campus for continued efforts in providing environmental conservation education to the youth.

He said that in controlling the weeds, the agency introduced an insect called 'Mbawa'. FETA's efforts are part of the Lake Victoria Management Project (LVEMP) which is implemented in two phases. It is East African Community (EAC) project, coordinated by Lake Victoria Basin Commission Secretariat and implemented by five EAC partner states.

The objectives of the project are to improve the collaborative management of the trans-boundary natural resources of the Lake Victoria Basin, and

improve environmental management of targeted pollution hotspots and selected degraded sub-catchments.

She underscored the need to produce enough insects-Mbawa since they are environmentally friendly. He called upon stakeholders to support the agency's project to produce the insects.


"Countries in East Africa depend on the lake for transportation of people and commodities. The presence of water weeds affects transport activities hence delayed development," said Prof Chaggu underscoring the need to involve other partner states such as Kenya and Uganda to successfully remove the water weeds.

NEMC board member from Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) Dr Nduvoto Mollel called on massive production of the particular insects to successfully remove the weeds.

"We need to involve stakeholders to ensure sustainable production of the insects which will be taken to the mostly affected areas," said Dr Mollel.

Acting director, FETA-Nyegezi campus in Mwanza Region, Mukama Ndaru mentioned financial constraints among the major challenges towards controlling the invasive plants.

According to Ndaru they have trained over 100 youth on how to control the water weeds applying 'Mbawa' insects but they cannot go to the field over lack of resources.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	
	
IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL AT DAR ES SALAAM	
APPEAL NO. 10 OF 2020	
BETWEEN	
GAPCO TANZANIA LIMITED	APPELLANT
AND	
POLOT COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT LIMITED.....	1ST RESPONDENT
ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY	2ND RESPONDENT
(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)	
TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) given on the 26th May, 2020 in which EWURA stated that the Compliance Order No. 05-04-2020 is not subject to review by the internal review committee.	
The appellant contends, among other grounds, that the Compliance Order was issued in an error of the law and fact without considering the principles of fair hearing and that EWURA also erred in law for holding that the appellant misinterpreted the law. Thus, the Appellant prays for orders to set aside the decision with costs.	
BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.	
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 29th June, 2020.	
REGISTRAR	

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	
	
IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF TANZANIA AT DAR ES SALAAM	
APPEAL NO. 8 OF 2020	
BETWEEN	
HAMISI RAMADHANI.....	APPELLANT
AND	
VODACOM TANZANIA PLC.....	1ST RESPONDENT
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TCRA).....	2ND RESPONDENT
(Notice Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012).	
TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against part of the decision of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the 2nd Respondent herein, in Complaint No. TCRA/COMP/12/FEBR./2020 dated 17th April, 2020 in which the 2nd Respondent found the 1st Respondent to be in breach of its contractual obligations of supplying internet services to the Appellant and accordingly ordered the 1st Respondent to connect the Appellant with the internet services as per the agreement between the parties.	
The Appellant contends, among other things, that the 2nd Respondent having found the 1st Respondent in fundamental breach of the contract erred in law and fact by failing to award prompt reliefs sought. Thus, the Appellant prays that part of the decision of the 2nd Respondent be revised and set aside with costs and also prays for an order for grant of sought relief for compensation, general damages and reimbursement of subscription fee.	
BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest in the outcome of the appeal may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, P.O. Box 79650, Dar es salaam.	
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 29th day of June, 2020.	
REGISTRAR	

Minister revokes appointment of TDB registrar

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina has revoked the appointment of the acting registrar of the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB), Dr Sophia Mote over irregularities.

The minister said that he wasn't satisfied with Dr Mote's work performance.

The changes came few days after the minister conducted an impromptu visit at Ubungo in Dar es Salaam where small-scale traders conduct their dairy businesses and found a number of irregularities and complaints from the traders.

In a statement issued by the ministry head of communication, Elibariki Mafole stated that the traders had complained about TDB officials

who have been adding paints and kerosene into their milk products with the intention of destroying their businesses.

Mpina directed TDB officials to suspend their operation and wanted immediate measures to be taken to educate them on the best way of conducting businesses instead of destroying their products.

According to the statement, the appointment of another registrar will be named in due course.

"However, after the minister arrived at the area, he queried about officials destroying the milk but the officials failed to provide a clear answer," read part of the statement.

Ester Elius, one of the dairy traders at Ubungo said that the operation conducted by the TDB officials to

destroy their milk had caused big losses as some of the traders had no capital to continue with their businesses.

She urged the government to provide them with loans so as to improve their businesses and produce quality products as required by the law.

The minister further directed the coordinator of private sector desk at the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Stephen Michael to convene a meeting with entrepreneurs so as to discuss their challenges and see how he help them which include linking them with financial institutions.

For his part, Justa Kshumba, TDB officer said that the destruction of the sub-standard milk is conducted as per regulations which she however failed to prove to the minister.



Morogoro Regional Police Commander Wilbroad Mutafungwa has an audience at the weekend with residents of Chihwaga and Makuyu villages at Makuyu Primary School grounds, where assailants yet to be identified shot dead Iyogwe Secondary School teacher Madaraka Mganilwa with an arrow and seriously injured another school teacher, Hosea Charles. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

Rice growers in Morogoro call for more training on aflatoxins

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

RICE farmers in Morogoro Region have appealed to the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) via its centre in Dakawa (TARI-Dakawa), Mvomero District to educate them about aflatoxins.

Farmers made the appeal over the weekend during the training conducted by TARI-Dakawa on the effective use of improved seeds. The training brought on board rice growers from Kilosa and Mvomero districts.

Halima Jumanne, a farmer from Mvomero District said the issue of aflatoxins in various cereals crops is not well understood by farmers more public awareness is much needed to allay fears. She said as of now the fear in the society had increased due reports

from Dodoma Region aflatoxins had caused deaths to several people as well as lack of markets for their various crops including rice and maize.

Another farmer, Scola Libangu, from Kilosa District said the understanding of the aflatoxins was still very low and called on the Ministry of Agriculture to visit cereals production areas to educate farmers on the subject.

"Sometimes a farmer may be producing poisonous fungi unknowingly when storing their crops without following proper storage procedures and this is the subject farmers need to be educated about from time to time, especially for those in rural areas," Libangu said.

Assistant director of Food Security Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, Josephine Amollo said the

ministry had decided to start educating farmers on the poisonous fungi following reports of such knowledge by Mvomero and Kilosa farmers.

He however said the aim of the training was to ensure farmers of cereals increase production using seeds by applying modern technologies.

TARI-Dakawa researcher, Phabiola Langa said apart from educating them on the poisonous fungus, they are also being trained on the best use of seeds that have been researched on to withstand destructive plant pests.

TARI-Dakawa director, Dr Andrew Ngerenza said since they have now produced various kinds of rice seeds that can withstand drought as well as in salty waters and called upon farmers to change their mid-sets and abandon traditional farming.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Makutupora Centre is set to introduce 13 new varieties of grapevines from South Africa in efforts to boost wine production in the country.

Though placed second after South Africa for brewing best wines within the continent, there are only two wine grape varieties grown in Tanzania, Makutupora red and chenin white, a situation which limits the country's ability to produce wider varieties of wines.

The varieties to be imported from South Africa, which is a mixture of red and white grafted scions, as well as root stocks are pinotage, cabinet saviugnon, syrah, merlot, durif and carignan.

Others are chardonnay, chenin black, semillon, ramsey, R99, R110 and S04.

Head of the centre, Dr. Cornel Masawe, told The Guardian in an exclusive interview that the development aimed at elevating the country's wine sector, apart from also boosting grapes cultivation among farmers.

Importation of the hybrid varieties, according to Dr. Masawe, will go in tandem with numerous interventions to uplift cultivation of grapes within the country, a move which is anticipated to stimulate wine making industries from across the country.

TARI to import 13 varieties of grapevines from S.Africa

Impeccable researches has proved that Tanzania has potential weather to produce grapes with high sugar content, which is useful in processing wines of high alcoholic per cent (from 12 to 14 per cent) surpassing the rest counties in the world where the crops is cultivated.

"Moreover, Tanzania is the only country in the globe with friendly weather which supports grapes to grow in two seasons within a year, an advantage which must be used accordingly," he expressed.

However, scientific facts also established that grapes grown in Tanzania (Dodoma) are more wine-worthy, in terms of good taste and aroma, than all other grown in rest part of the world.

Being the country's grapes and wine hub, Dodoma region is currently with at least three major wine factories- Aliko Vintage Co. Ltd, Central Tanganyika Wine Company (CETAWICO), and Dane Holding Company (DHC), and five other small scale plants scattered at different locations under ownership of farmers associations.

Globally, Tanzanias' wines are currently competing highly in the world market against famous brands

from Italy, French, Germany, Britain, America, China and South Africa.


In further efforts to boost the wine sector, Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has injected TARI- Makutupora Centre with at least 297.906m/- for general renovation of the centre's laboratory.

Dr. Masawe explained that, upon its completion, the laboratory is projected to play a paramount role in empowering local wine producers to bottle more high- quality wine varieties.


"The other programme we plan in the future is conducting a series of theoretical and practical trainings to impart grapes farmers and extension officers with key knowledge to professionally grow the prestigious cash crop," he unveiled.

To start with, he said, the state-owned centre has already disseminated knowledge on recommended agronomic practices among grapes farmers and extension officers in Bunda, Geita and Same districts.

"Plans are also afoot to empower farmers over modern ways to process their grapes into juice in order to ensure additional values for their end-product," he elaborated.



TUMAINI UNIVERSITY
DAR ES SALAAM COLLEGE
(A Constituent College of Tumaini University Makumira)



TENDER BOARD

**TENDER NO: TUDARCo/2020-2022/GWND/01,
TUDARCo/2020-2022/GWND/02,
TUDARCo/2020-2022/GWND/03**

FOR

**THE PROVISION AND SUPPLY OF STATIONERY, PRINTING
AND BINDING DOCUMENTS, CLEANING & GROUND
MAINTANANCE SERVICES AND SECURITY SERVICES**

Invitation for Tenders

Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College (TUDARCo) located at Mwenge along Coca-Cola Road has set aside funds for the operations of the College, during the financial years 2020-2022. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contracts for the provision and supply of Stationeries, Printing and Binding documents and Cleaning & Ground Maintenance Services.

- The College Tender Board now invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers and Service providers for the following:

Tender no:	Description	Quantity
1	Supply of Stationeries, Printing and Binding documents	Various
2	Provision of Cleaning and Ground Maintenance Services	Various
3	Provision of Security Services	Various

- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding documents at the office of the Secretary at TUDARCo from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English will be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of Tshs 100,000. Payment to be made through **Maendeleo Bank Account number 013828266011 or CRDB Bank Account number 01J1021002200 or NBC Bank account number 011103030931. The Account name is Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College;** pay in slip should be submitted to College accounts office for issuance of receipt and collection of documents.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing declaration in the format provided in the Bidding documents.
- All bids in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below at or before **Tuesday 14th July, 2020 at 10.00am..** 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 Room, at TUDARCo
- Bidder may opt for a single lot or all lots but in each case a bidder must quote for all items and quantities specified in each lot. Partial bids will not be accepted.
- Tender document must be delivered to the Secretary, Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College Tender Board, at Mwenge along Coca-Cola road Block D room No. 4 on or before **Tuesday 14th July, 2020 at 10.00am.** The outer envelope should be clearly sealed and addressed to the Secretary, TUDARCo Tender Board. P. O. Box 77588, Dar es Salaam, and clearly marked "**Tender No: TUDARCo/2020-2022/GWND/01 or TUDARCo/2020-2022/GWND/02 or TUDARCo/2020-2022/GWND/03 for the provision or supply of Stationeries, Printing and Binding documents, Cleaning and Ground Maintenance, and Provision of Security Services**" Not to be opened before **Tuesday 14th July, 2020, at 10.00am.**
- Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Electronic Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

PROVOST
TUMAINI UNIVERSITY DAR ES SALAAM COLLEGE
TENDER BOARD
P.OBOX 77588
DAR ES SALAAM
Email: Provost@tudarco.ac.tz
Website: www.tudarco.ac.tz

TB clubs hold 'Door to Door' campaigns

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 6,000 people from three wards in Dar es Salaam region have conducted "Door to Door" tuberculosis campaigns, which aimed to educate the public to undergo TB tests and treatment.

Implemented by various TB Clubs under a non-governmental organization—MUKIKUTE, the campaign supports the government's efforts that aim to root out TB cases from the country.

Speaking to this newspaper during the weekend, MUKIKUTE vice chairman Seif Mchila said that the ten-day campaigns had reached 6808 people in the wards of Keko, Azimio and Kiburugwa.

"The campaigns were funded by a Norway based-LHL International organisation. However the number of those who came out for testing was low, something which indicates that there is a need to strengthen awareness campaigns," he said.

According to him, in Keko ward a total of 708 people were reached but only 130 people came out for TB testing whereby 10 were tested positive.

In Azimio ward, the campaign reached 2500 people with only 15 people coming forward for TB check-up and there was no one had the respiratory disease.

"We also reached 4,010 people in Kiburugwa ward where 21 people underwent TB check-up and two people tested positive.

Mchila said that all diagnosed patients had started receiving treatment under closer supervision of MUKIKUTE.

"As majority of TB patients come from poor families, we urge the government to introduce free x-ray screening so as to enable more people to access the services, some of them have been failing to seek TB checkup service due to expenses for the x-ray services," Mchila said.

According to the Global Tuberculosis Report 2019 released by the World Health Organization (WHO), tuberculosis (TB) remains the single most lethal infectious disease globally, surpassing HIV/AIDS, killing some 1.6 million people annually.

In Tanzania, respiratory diseases such as TB and asthma have emerged second top killers in the country after malaria, according to the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

In March last year, Tanzania introduced a pediatric fixed-dose combination (FDC) treatment for Tuberculosis (TB) which offers the opportunity to improve treatment outcome and child survival in the country.



Josephat Kandege (in red tie, sunglasses), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), has a quick word with Kibaha district commissioner Assumpta Mshama (R) after receiving 160 corrugated iron roofing sheets from NMB Bank Plc Eastern zone manager Baraka Ladislaus (2nd-L) the bank donated to Coast Region's Msigani and Magindu secondary schools at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

About 200 small scale farmers benefit from GBV training

By Correspondent James Lanka, Same

ABOUT 200 small scale farmers, women and nomadic pastoralists' traditional leaders have benefitted from trainings on gender based violence (GBV) provided by the Moshi-based non-profit network of farmers' groups in Kilimanjaro Region known as Mviwata Kilimanjaro.

Speaking during the training, a legal officer from the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), Aikael Pallangyo advised the government and the public to ensure availability of a database for women and girls that can be used to make amendments in issues that affect them.

The training was conducted by the farmer's network with support from a Swedish

organisation 'WE EFFECT'. "This training is aimed at helping you to understand your rights and responsibilities for sustainable improved incomes through your daily farming and cattle grazing activities," Pallangyo said.

Coordinator of the Mviwata Kilimanjaro, Alex Urio said the training was provided through the project called 'promoting farmer's network for inclusive development'.

According to Urio, women, girls and Maasai traditional leaders have been educated on issues related to gender based violence as well as their legal rights and responsibilities.

Mviwata Kilimanjaro field officer Stephano Msuya said the network has a total of 4,307 members all from Kilimanjaro Region. Members include semi-nomadic cattle breeders from the Maasai tribe. He said the organisation works

to facilitate access to irrigation infrastructures as well as training on better farming practices such as improved beekeeping techniques, onion growing and poultry farming. One of the training beneficiaries, Cornel Joseph from Shiri-Mgungani in Hai District and Theresia Mushi from Kindi-Kibosho in Moshi Rural District said the training will help them to improve incomes generated from farming activities.



Kilungu district commissioner Edward Mpogolo speaks at the launch of an auction for livestock and crops at Ighuka village on Saturday. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale

By Francis Kajubi

A Dar es Salaam-based non profit civil society organisation 'Babawatoto' has launched a new campaign aimed at encouraging community members to change behaviour by adopting precaution measures against Covid-19 and make it a part of their daily life.

Funded by Foundation for Civil Societies (FCS) with a Swahili slogan 'COVID-19 Nitavuka' literary translates 'I will survive the COVID-19' pandemic, the awareness campaign is expected to

Dar CSO in new initiative to change people's behaviour on Covid-19

reach 100,000 residents of Kinondoni and Ubungu districts.

"The public awareness campaign is there but the campaign targets at changing behaviour of community members through social behaviour send communication messages on flyers, posters, jingles and a special song that we have recorded purposely for the campaign," said Oscar Kapande,

project adviser who also serves as a center's resource mobilization manager.

According to him, the campaign will involve five cyclists commonly known as 'bodaboda' riders and five Bajaj riders who will play a role in dissemination of flyers, posters and will be playing the jingles and the special song for the campaign on their motors.

The bodaboda and Bajaj riders will have to go to the market places and other crowded areas to deliver the messages especially to petty traders, Mamalisha and their fellow riders.

"Awareness campaigns have been conducted by the ministry of health through the media since the eruption of the disease. We want people to change their lifestyles by following

health guidelines against the pandemic hence adopt precaution measures for the rest of their lives," said Kapande.

Festo Swai, bodaboda and Bajaj riders chairman for Kinondoni District thanked the organisation for considering the group in running the campaign.

"Our job links us to between 25 and 30 people daily thus commend their

decision to work with us for during the campaign as key agents in delivering the message to most populated areas of the two districts. All passengers we serve are likely to get this message," said Swai.

According to him, there are 13,000 bodaboda and Bajaj riders in Kinondoni district from 714 passengers' waiting centres.

Kigwangalla due to launch tourism promotion initiative

By Guardian Reporter

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla, is on Wednesday expected to launch domestic tourism promotion initiative (DTPi) aimed at luring more tourists.

According to a statement issued by organisers, the idea is designed to complement the government's efforts in promoting domestic tourism and also mitigate the effects of the novel coronavirus pandemic which has hit hard the tourism sector.

Mkumbwa Ally, chairman of the steering committee of the campaign said that the initiative is a joint effort between St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) and Real PR Solutions, an integrated communications company with specialty in PR, government relations, corporate event management and sports marketing, among others.

He said the launch of the campaign under the theme "Utalii Mpya. Fursa Mpya" will also be attended by senior government officials and key stakeholders in the tourism sector such as Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), Tanzania Tour Operators (TATO) and Tanzania Hotels Association.

Others are Tanzania Local Tour Operators (TLTO), Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), Tanzania Tourism Confederation, Tanzania Private Sector Foundations, Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS), among others.

"We have also invited the minister for Industry and Trade, minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports as well as the minister for Health due to their key role in supporting the tourism sector", said Ally.

He highlighted some of the key features of the campaign to be conducted in phases as a training for youth across the country in various areas in the tourism value chain such as basic skills on tour guide profession, porter services, customer services training in the hospitality industry such as hotels and restaurants, taxi operators and skills to open tour companies. "This training to benefit over 100,000 people will focus on unemployed youth from Form Four and above who have passion in the tourism sector but lack knowledge on how to move forward," Ally said, adding:

"We will start rolling out this campaign in the Lake zone, covering Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Simiyu, Mara and Shinyanga regions. Then will move to other zones across the country."

There would be also an array of cultural and sporting events which will form part of the campaign.

These events are aimed at allaying and bring people together so that businesses could re-open at full capacity and support the national economy as well as keep jobs when the world is grappling with the corona effects.

He said all health precautions will be taken to control the spread of corona virus at all the events.

By Guardian Reporter

Trust hands over toilet facilities to primary schools in Bagamoyo

HASSAN Maajar Trust (HMT) has handed over toilet facilities in two primary schools namely NiaNjema and Majengo, in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

This is HMT's second toilet project after the launching of their new campaign, Vyoo Bora Kila Shule (quality toilets in all schools) that aims to provide adequate toilet facilities to Primary Schools.

The completed toilet blocks two in each school, (for boys and girls separately), the girls' blocks each has a changing room (Dignity Room) for

use by girls for health and sanitary purposes. All the facilities are fitted with water tanks with running water and special access for pupils with disability.

In addition to handing over the toilet facilities, HMT partner, "HerAfrica", an initiative that works

towards providing menstrual hygiene management training in Primary and Secondary schools, donated twenty (20) boxes of sanitary pads, that will be stored in the dignity room in each school.

In the presence of the Bagamoyo District Commissioner, Zainab Kawawa,

the HMT vice chairman, Shariff Hassan Maajar, presented the toilet facilities to heads of the two schools, Renatus Godfrey Kisenha of NiaNjema and Magdalena Tiothemamsi of Majengo. The event was also attended by teachers, parents and the committee chairs of both schools.

Speaking at the event, HMT's vice chairperson said, "After a successful campaign for school desks via HMT's flagship programme a Desk for Every Child, HMT was happy to embark on the next campaign Vyoo Bora KwakilaShule (Quality Toilets for All Schools). The first HMT toilet project was at Kajiungeni primary school at Pugu in Dar es Salaam.

Additionally, the District

Commissioner ZainabKawawa, commended HMT's efforts in improving the learning environment in schools across the country and placed emphasis to the teachers, parents and the community as a whole to take good care of the facilities so that they can last longer and serve as many students as they can.

It was through public support, from corporates and individuals that HMT was able to provide 10,000 desks, in 13 regions in Tanzania capable of seating 3 - 4 children each and therefore successfully lifting over 30,000 children off the floor. Funds raised in the past have been applied towards construction of the toilet facilities in the three Primary schools, in Pugu and

Bagamoyo. "We are delighted to have completed yet another project which will serve a large number of pupils, totalling over 3,360 in both schools, said Maajar.

NiaNjema primary school head teacher, Renatus Godfrey Kisenha, speaking on behalf of his colleague thanked HMT for providing the toilet facilities. "Lack of adequate toilets has long been a major challenge in our schools, we are grateful for this support from HMT, he said.

"HMT has come a long way in realizing its dream of providing desks, libraries and books to students across the country as well as raising awareness on the plight of students learning under challenging circumstances and mobilising Tanzanians and our government to join HMT initiatives that have thus far resolved some of the challenges, albeit in a small way. We are excited that by this new campaign, "HMT is lighting another candle, to shine upon the challenge of quality toilets in our schools".added Maajar.



Bagamoyo district commissioner Zainab Kawawa (in headscarf and glasses) and Hassan Maajar Trust HMT vice chairman Shariff Hassan Maajar (3rd-L) cut a ribbon when handing over toilet facilities and supplies donated under the trust's 'Quality Toilets in All Schools' project to Bagamoyo's Nia Njema and Majengo primary schools at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Number of teenage pregnancies in Misenyi registers a big decline

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

THE number of school girls getting pregnancies has dropped to two this year from 12 in the past three years, thanks to the initiatives taken by Misenyi District authorities to curb the vice.

District Commissioner, Col. Denice Mwila said this over the weekend when speaking to this paper on a number of strategies taken by the district to address the challenge.

"We only have two cases, this year. And this has been possible through awareness campaign carried out across the district," he said.

The five-year campaign, according to DC Mwila, carried out through the community Radio, known as through

Radio Karagwe FM and other media outlets.

In this campaign, we involved a number of players—parents, students and other stakeholders. Our idea is to have zero pregnancy in schools, he said

In the 2017/ 2018 fiscal year, the district with 20 wards had 12 cases of teenage pregnancies, but this year, the number has plummeted to two.

"To us this is a good achievement," the DC said, refuting rumors that Misenyi District had plans conduct pregnancy tests to all female students soon after reopening schools.

"What we're doing is to continue with our awareness campaign to ensure that all people are aware of the negative impacts of teenage pregnancies, he stressed.

DC Mwila encouraged parents and guardians to ensure that their

children particularly girls are raised in the right path and are empowered with knowledge on issues related to reproductive health.

"These are key issues when it comes towards ensuring that children realize their dreams of having better future through better education," he said.

Teenage childbearing in Lake zone stands at 29 percent as the national average stands at 23 percent.

At least 229 girls in Kagera Region dropped out of school due to pregnancies between 2014 and 2018. During the period Misenyo District had 36 school dropouts, which mostly caused by pregnancy.

Among other factors, social and cultural reasons for teen pregnancies include poor parental monitoring, pressure from peer groups and sexual feelings among individuals.

Minister commends BRELA for improved business environment

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has commended Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela) for improved business climate by offering business and ICT trainings, urging the Agency to extend the exercise to all regions as fast as possible.

The call was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Industry and Trade Deputy Minister, Engineer Stela Manyanya, when closing five days training conducted for Mwanza, Mbeya and Mtwara regions at Brela's headquarters.

The training aimed at creating awareness to business officers about different activities especially on how to register businesses and updating company and businesses information so that they can be able to teach business community and register business people at their work places.

Manyanya said Brela has done a commendable job to train such kind of manpower but they are supposed to go fast to reach many regions as soon as possible to enable those officers to register many companies and businesses at their work places.

Engineer Manyanya said the

move by Brela to register businesses electronically will make it easy for businesses registration all over the country and there would be no need for someone to travel all the way from the countryside to town centres for businesses or companies registration.

"You are doing a wonderful job but we don't have time to wait we are supposed to go as fast as possible so that we can reach all business and ICT officers in all regions and teach them on how to register businesses so that we can speak the same language," said Manyanya

Engineer Manyanya also insisted that during the trainings, Brela must cooperate with other institutes like the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and Weigh and Measures Agency (WMA) so that they create one stop centre in their daily services provision.

Deputy minister said the trained officers should use the skills they have acquired to help business communities on how they are supposed to register their businesses and update their information instead of frustrating them as it was the case in the past.

"You must know that government is not here to frustrate any one instead we are here to create conducive

environment for businesses to grow so we must help people to start businesses and register companies," she said

Engineer Manyanya urged entrepreneurs in the country to use government officers when they need to register their businesses or update their information instead of 'using man on streets' who eventually frustrate them.

"You ICT and business officers are very important to the government, because through you we can raise government revenues but sometimes you are involved in corrupt activities something that frustrate the system so please don't do that," cautioned Manyanya

Brela Chief Executive Officer, Godfrey Nyaisa said the training aimed at equipping business and ICT officers of different regions to know how best to register businesses at their work places as a move to reduce operational costs and be close to the communities.

He said the training was conducted by Brela officers adding that those trainers would help to register businesses by using Brela system something that will make it easy for Brela to know the number of businesses that had been registered.



The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania

INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania for Wildlife, Research, Education and Conservation (JGI Tanzania) operates the Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) project funded by the USAID. JGI intends to use part of the funds to procure equipment for mobile application to secure Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO) for rural communities in Western Tanzania,

The requirements, specifications & quantities for equipment are as provided in the table below:

S/N	ITEM	TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1.	Desktop computer	With 64-bit Operating system; 16GB RAM; Processor Intel®Core™ i7 CPU @ 2.80GHz to 3.5GHz, 1TB HDD or higher.	4
2.	Monitors	32" Ultra sharp Flat screen monitor (Ultra HD 3840 x 2160)	2
3.	Desktop computer	64-bit Operating system; 32GB RAM; Processor - Intel®Core™ i7 CPU @2.80GHz to 3.5GHz 9th generation or higher with not less than 2TB storage capacity	4
4.	A4 Color LaserJet Printer	A4 Color LaserJet Printer, built-in Dual-Band Wi-Fi, print speed for A4: Up to 28 ppm (black & white and color prints), Auto duplex printing; 2 paper trays (standard)	2
5.	Android Tablets	With 64GB storage and 4GB RAM; GPS accuracy at least 4 to 3 metres, 10.1inch, SIM card slot preferably with S-Pen.	32
6.	Garmin Glo receivers	Portable GPS & GLOSNASS Receiver for Mobile Devices with Bluetooth technology for better/precise positioning information on the Android device.	32

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania now invites sealed bids from reputable and registered firms based in Tanzania that wish to tender for the supply of the above items under the following conditions:

- Bidders must tender for all or part of the items.
- Application for the bid is free of charge.
- Tender will be conducted in accordance with the JGI Tanzania financial policies and procurement procedures.
- Bidders should submit well sealed bids marked clearly **'TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT'** addressed to:

Executive Director,
The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania,
Mikocheni, Lucy Lameck Street/Serengeti Road - Plot # 375,
P.O. Box 70728,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

And be delivered at the JGI Tanzania - Mikocheni office, Dar es Salaam.

- The deadline for the submission of the tender is **Fourteen (14)** days from the date of the advertisement.
- Electronic and/or late applications shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.
- The delivery point for the goods will be to our office premises located at Bangwe road in Kigoma town.

SECRETARY, JGI TANZANIA TENDER BOARD

The Guardian

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MONDAY 29 JUNE 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

'Fishing Revolution' should fast-track Africa's economy

TANZANIA is blessed with fisheries resources from marine, freshwater, riverine and wetland species. By making use of these resources, the sector provides direct employment of about 183,800 fishers.

The government has adopted an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and is promoting responsible fishing practices. Responsible fishing practices include reducing by-catch and other adverse ecosystem impacts of fisheries.

Fish stocks which are now under comprehensive management plans include pelagic fishery, octopus fishery, prawn fishery and national tuna management.

Tanzania, like other countries in the Western Indian Ocean region, is well endowed with abundant natural resources both renewable and non-renewable. Commercial fisheries, coastal tourism, shipping, coastal mining and more recently natural gas and oil in coastal and marine areas, are some of the most important industrial activities that take place in our coastal and marine areas.

In 2017 Tanzania held a symposium that brought together about 500 scientists, students, managers, decision-makers, community groups and the private sector from more than 30 countries across the world.

The economic value of the goods and services provided by the coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean region was recently estimated to be 20.8 billion U.S. dollars annually but it could be even higher.

We treasure this ecosystem because of the essential goods and services it provides for economic development, but we also recognise that we face several challenges in our endeavours to manage our coastal and marine environments cooperatively and in an integrated and sustainable way.

Africa therefore should be dedicated to promoting the educational, scientific and technological development of all

aspects of marine sciences throughout the region comprising Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, and Reunion.

Fisheries management employs activities that protect fishery resources so sustainable exploitation is possible, drawing on fisheries science and possibly including the precautionary principle. A popular approach is the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

According to the FAO, fisheries management should be based explicitly on political objectives, ideally with transparent priorities. Political goals can also be a weak part of fisheries management, since the objectives can conflict with each other.

Fisheries management is the activity of protecting fishery resources so sustainable exploitation is possible, drawing on fisheries science, and including the precautionary principle. Modern fisheries management is often referred to as a governmental system of appropriate management rules based on defined objectives and a mix of management means to implement the rules, which are put in place by a system of monitoring control and surveillance. A popular approach is the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

Africa's small-scale fisheries play a critical role in global food security and must be supported with greater research and investment.

Industry, NGO, government and academic representatives attended Murdoch University's second Blue Economy Symposium in Tunis recently as part of the Africa Blue Economy Forum 2019 and Murdoch University's Third Commission, a research investigation focusing on issues of public concern to Africa.

Fish accounts for more than one-fifth of the protein intake of African south of the Sahara and provides a livelihood to millions of people. Indeed the collective value of the small scale fisheries of Africa was too big to ignore.

International Day of the Tropics: Does marking it serve the region?

THE inaugural State of the Tropics Report was launched on 29 June 2014.

Marking the anniversary of the report's launch the United Nations declared that 29 June of each year is to be observed as the International Day of the Tropics.

The majority of the world's most vulnerable communities are in the Tropics, and will be most affected by environmental threats, the United Nations said three years ago, marking the first ever observance of the International Day of the Tropics.

"Loss of biodiversity is greater in the Tropics than in the rest of the world," according to the Day's official website, which noted that the region hosts some 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity and much of its language and cultural diversity.

The UN has projected that by 2050, the region will host most of the world's people and two-thirds of its children.

The Day "celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face," according to the website. For example, nearly 95 per cent of the world's mangrove forests by area are in the Tropics.

Mangroves - ecosystems located on the interface of land and sea in tropical regions - can play an important role in reducing vulnerability to natural hazards and increasing resilience to climate change impacts, by acting as a form of natural coastal defence.

However, mangroves are disappearing three to five times faster than overall global forest losses, with serious ecological and socio-economic impacts, according to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Today's focus on the Tropics is meant to provide "an opportunity to take stock of progress across the Tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region," according to the Day's website.

One of the key characteristics of the region is the prevalence of rain - which is highly affected by climate change. The Tropics have just over half of the world's renewable water resources, roughly 54 per cent, the UN said, yet almost half their population is considered vulnerable to water stress.

It provides an opportunity to take stock of progress across the tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region.

The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. An important feature of the Tropics is the prevalence of rain in the moist inner regions near the equator, and that the seasonality of rainfall increases with the distance from the equator. The tropical region faces several challenges such as climate change, deforestation, logging, urbanisation and demographic changes.

Tropical nations have made significant progress but face a variety of challenges that demand focused attention across a range of development indicators and data in order to achieve sustainable development. Consistent with the higher levels of poverty, more people experience undernourishment in the Tropics than in the rest of the world; The proportion of the urban population living in slum conditions is higher in the Tropics than in the rest of the World.

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



A path to economic development



By Ebere Onwudiwe

IN development, a large number of people or quantity of natural endowments don't count - at least, not in the absence of merit and competence. A belief in merit and competence produces good governance, a sure path to economic development. Their absence spawns the 'paradox of plenty' or the so-called resource curse disease...

In his 2019 and 2020 Democracy Day addresses, President Muhammadu Buhari showed deep concern for Nigeria's daunting challenges, all of which boil down to our deteriorating human development measures in health, education, personal income, and other indicators of the good life. We achieved electoral democracy in 1999 (albeit imperfect) in the hope of fostering more human development than we had under military rule. We have failed in this because of bad governance.

Some of our commentators and scholars are blaming democracy for the failures of governance. But these are two entirely different ideas. The basic tension between them should be so clear in the case of Nigeria that it does not help to continue to conflate the two in popular discourse. While a prominent feature of democracy

is periodic elections, the imperative attribute of good governance is accountability. One does not lead to the other. Accountability is a primary quality of checks and balances, by which is meant those procedures that are put in place to diminish the risk of the centralisation of power. Before Abuja reaches for the revolver, let me explain what I mean.

Take nepotism. Although it is more prevalent in developing countries such as our own, it has yet to be history in more developed economies. In the most powerful of them all, the United States of America, presidents have been known to appoint relatives to powerful positions in government. In response, the U.S. expressly passed a law against nepotism in 1967. In 1978, it passed another law to exempt advisory positions, like that of a senior advisor to the president, to which Donald Trump appointed his son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

But no matter how prevalent it is, nepotism is a bad thing because unchecked, it can lead to a harmful concentration of power. That's why the power to appoint people to defined high offices in our democracy is shared between the executive and the legislative branches of government. One appoints, the other confirms.

Everyone knows that the most

achieving countries of the world prioritise merit in large measure in both the private and public sectors of national life; this is true from Singapore to China to the U.S.A and many others.

Nepotism is also bad in another way. It suggests a disregard for merit. Everyone knows that the most achieving countries of the world prioritise merit in large measure in both the private and public sectors of national life; this is true from Singapore to China to the U.S.A and many others.

Take the smallest country in the list, Singapore, which some analysts deem one of the most efficient and incorrupt bureaucracies on earth. The secret of Singapore is an unshakeable belief in good governance that is built on merit and competence.

But God has blessed Nigeria a million times more than Singapore's 5.64 million people, against our 205.92 million people. In her own divine wisdom, God also gave us over 200 mineral resources, including oil and humongous reserves of gas. Singapore, on the other hand, has only a little deepwater oil and a relatively paltry landmass of 709 square kilometres against our 910,770 square kilometres.

Today, the just over five and a half million Singaporeans have \$299.3 billion in foreign reserves. Two hundred and six million Nigerians have only \$33.42 billion. Singapore's GDP per person last year was \$103,717, while Nigeria's was \$6,098. That's the difference good governance makes.

Given this relative deprivation, Singapore had to rely on high-quality human resources made possible by a strict policy of meritocracy leading to good governance. As Thomas Friedman of the New York Times puts it, it had to "run its economy and schools in a way that would extract the maximum from each citizen."

And here's the result: Today, the just over five and a half million Singaporeans have \$299.3 billion in foreign reserves. Two hundred and six million Nigerians have only \$33.42 billion. Singapore's GDP per person last year was \$103,717, while Nigeria's was \$6,098. That's the difference good governance makes.

So what's the moral of these numbers? In development, a large number of people or quantity of natural endowments don't count - at least, not in the absence of merit and competence. A belief in merit and competence produces good governance, a sure path to economic development. Their absence spawns the 'paradox of plenty' or the so-called resource curse disease, with which we are now seriously afflicted.

We need to define what we want as a nation, says Prof Folorunso Fasina

WE are pleased with this opportunity you have given us to have this interview with you. I am Ojogbon Adeyemi Onikosi from Parrotreporters.com. We are doing special features on Nigerians in Diaspora, who despite their success stories outside the shores of Nigeria still have a deep passion for Nigeria. We would like to start off this interview by asking that you give our readers a brief introduction about yourself.

I am Folorunso Oludayo Fasina. I am from Ibadan, Oyo State, a product of Cherubim and Seraphim Primary School, Oje Olokun and Lagelu Grammar School, Agugu both in Ibadan before proceeding to the University of Ibadan for a degree in Veterinary Medicine. Since graduation, I served in Abuja and have worked in the National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom, Nigeria between December 2001 and January 2011. I later left the country to join the University of Pretoria in February 2011 and was made an Associate Professor in 2015. I moved to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in September 2016 to become the Country Team Leader for the ECTAD programme in Kenya. I am married with three children.

QUESTION: Can you give us an insight into the kind of industry you are, in the current country where you currently reside?

ANSWER: Going through the statement above, it is easy to predict that I am in the livestock industry. My work cut across major field of veterinary medicine (infectious diseases, veterinary preventive medicine and zoonoses-infection between human-animal). The interplay between animal and human means that both cannot be separated in terms of infectious diseases; approximately 60% of human pathogens are zoonotic and 75% of emerging diseases are also zoonotic. Hence I have operated also using a "One Health" principle.

Q: Can you share with our readers how long have you been living and working abroad? Also, can you share with us your reasons for relocating?

A: I relocated in February 2011. I have worked in South Africa since February 2011 until August 2016 but still retain my residency in South Africa.

On the reason for relocation to SA, it's primarily a matter of career advancement for me. Nigeria is yet to fully harness the potentials in its youth. I finished my MSc in 2007 and returned to Nigeria but I tell you that in almost 10 years of working in NVRI Vom (2001-2011), I made one promotion not because I am not qualified but because the line of clarity was not there and promotion depends on many other things which I don't agree with as matters of personal principles.

In five years in South Africa, which I call the land of opportunity, I rose from a Lecturer position to become an Associate Professor. I saw it as a compensation for previous denials back in Nigeria. I believe that our Nigerian system still needs structural adjustments so that potentials are not wasted. Nigeria has so many professionals and great individuals who are hampered daily by imbalances in our system. I really should not need to know who or what to achieve my potentials. Anybody should be able to realise his or her potentials from humble beginning.

Q: What was your reason for choosing this country?

A: As I have said, South Africa is a land of opportunity. It allows its youth population to thrive and despite its shortfalls like sporadic and intermittent xenophobic tendencies, I can assure you that many Nigerian youth still prefer that country. We have had many of our professionals coming there for postgraduate programmes. You have educational supports, opportunity for business, opportunity to thrive and do well and get return for your inputs. If I have to choose a country in Africa to relocate to, South Africa will still be on top of my list with a few others. Africa has got lots of potentials that are yet to be fully explored. I have the opportunity to remain in Egypt where I did some consultancies for the FAO or move to join lecturing team in US but decided to remain in Africa.

Q: Have you been back to Nigeria recently and how would you rate Nigeria in comparison to where you currently are now?

A: Yes, I have been but not regularly due to the nature of my jobs. I was home a few times and the last significant one being in December 2015, when I was honoured by the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (CCII) with an award of a Fellow, a distinguished award from Ibadanland.

Nigeria still has opportunities but the environment appears stifling. Many young people appeared despaired. Irregular electricity is one major limitation that hinders growth. Insecurity can be managed better. Social services can be improved. Health and education sectors can be better restructured.

These are matters that are pushing our young professionals out of the country into desperation abroad. Many African nations much smaller in comparison to Nigeria in terms of populations are doing great thing. While Nigeria still battles with < 2,000 megawatts of electricity, South Africa produces about 34,000 megawatts to meet their current demands and approximately 240,300 gigawatt-hours annually.

South Africa, Egypt, Algeria and Libya are all ahead of Nigeria in terms of electricity production but have significantly lesser human populations. Kenya claimed to produce about a quarter of our electricity but yet there is regular power in Nairobi and major Kenyan cities. We need a rethink.

Q: How would you rate the current business/career environment here in comparison to when you were in Nigeria?

A: Business environment in South Africa is set and work with a system. You relate with a system and not individual persons and that make things work. Maybe I need to explain this, a single individual may decide to make your life difficult in the Nigerian business environment because he is in a position of authority unless you play ball with him but that may not happen in a country like South Africa. In Kenya, the business environment is placed in such a way to



Prof Fasina

attract foreign investments. The University system where I am in South Africa also allows anybody to thrive and is open. I was once shocked to find out that my research funds left back in 2006 was waiting for me when I returned in 2011. Nobody has seen me as "mugu" and embezzle the money. If you are a performer, the system allows you to develop maximally.

Q: So, when did you start to consider yourself as a success in your chosen career/industry?

A: "When" is a difficult question to answer personally. I believe that success is a work in progress and as Chief Awolowo has put it, "When you stop studying, you start to die", maybe it applies to success too. I know that averagely, I have had opportunities compared with most of my peers and I am grateful to God for this but I don't consider myself as having been there yet. The people I look up to within and outside the country make me aspire more. However, I have got many acknowledgements from peers and have got close to 30 career-related awards in different forms.

Q: Are you interested in politics? How much interest do you have in political issues in Nigeria?

A: Politics, yes but maybe not direct elective position, at least not for now. I hope that things will change soon so that more actors can move into the political scene and change the dynamics. A friend of mine is contesting for governorship now and he has been harassed, blackmailed, recently pushed off the road in vehicular accident, his friends hijacked and many more. That is not the type of politics I want to do. However I am politically active and play critical roles in terms of organization and supports. Maybe one day I will get a nominative position.

Q: Which political party do you have affinity for and why?

A: Currently, I am affiliated with APC and registered with the party in South Africa. Maybe and arguably, APC is not the best thing that happened to Nigeria yet but be reminded that it frees Nigeria from the shackles of PDP. The years of wastages of PDP are still fresh with us but Nigerians are quick to forget though. We are a resilient people and maybe this over-resilience and condescending too much is bad for our system. The APC is a work in progress and I hope that people will allow the party mature and transform, and instead of staying out and criticising, hard liners and critics should go into the party and help transform it and free it from counter-productive elements that have been identified. I don't believe in criticising without playing my own role. I am the protem secretary of APC in South Africa.

Q: How would you describe the way you see yourself? (A) Nigerian (B) Yoruba (C) Igbo (D) Hausa etc.

A: I am a Nigerian and a Yoruba man. Both are important to me. It is like asking me how I see myself as a husband, father, teacher, administrator, veterinarian etc. I am all rolled into one. There is no separation between your ethnicity and your nationality. If I am not a Yoruba man, I may not have been a

Nigerian. However I promote nationalism. Most of the persons I have mentored are not of my ethnic stock and I have also benefitted from the largesse of many non-Yorubas. I am very open and a proud Nigerian. I promote Nigeria anywhere I go and proudly display my national passport even though I have a UN passport.

Q: Would you advise that Nigeria should cease to be a Republic? That all willing geo-political areas should exist as independent states.

A: Nigeria togetherness is a great asset. How I wish that we can utilise this positively. Our problem is not in being a Federal Republic but in how we operate the system. Our leaders are more like dealers. The interest of this country is not prioritized. Many of the leaders will rather have their investment outside and use this country as the conduit pipe.

Recently, I have read pieces from the likes of Tope Fasua and Bamidele Ademola-Olateju and many others across the divide. These are great writers and are passionate about Nigeria. Many political gladiators and people who live in corridors of power have asked for restructuring but call these individuals to ask about what they actually meant by restructuring and they will begin to babble endlessly.

We need to define what we want as a nation. We need to prioritize love for the poor, the downtrodden, the needy, the motherless, the widow and such individuals. The political leaders need to love their country. There is no single pill that will cure the entire problems but we must keep working at them as a country.

The agitations we experienced recently are because of discontents in many parts of the country. If justice is done and is seen to be done to all, these agitations will disappear naturally. But I don't subscribe to these ethnic divisions, the rich and political class are united in looting the nation dry and the poor man kept fighting and dividing themselves further.

Ok the Ibos claimed that the north is ruling, you just need to visit the streets in Kaduna, Kano, Katsina and you will see thousands of kids who can't even afford a meal and scavenge plates near restaurants. Do we justifiably say that these kids know what ruling is? The same scenarios or versions of it may be seen in Lagos, Abuja, Owerri, Ibadan, Abeokuta.

If regional government will pay us and cut wastages, so be it. If reducing politicians' salaries is the way to go, all the best. We are yet to firmly decide what we want and we cannot eat our cakes and still have them. Regional agitation will not solve anything. It is the people who seem not to be getting a piece of the cake are the one who suddenly becomes ethnic jingoist.

The same FFK and his ilk of yesterday in PDP who are nationalist are now supporting Igbo secession. The same Akinjide who is the country Minister of Justice and Attorney General is now promoting Yoruba secession. As I said, we need a rethink even on who become our leaders.

A: If you had a chance to make in change in Nigeria, what changes would you effect?

A: My own restructuring will start from our aca-

demia. I want to clean the rot in our educational system. If that is done, we will even mould our future leaders. Recently I read a striking statement, "Destroying any nation does not require the use of atomic bombs or the use of long range missiles. It only requires lowering the quality of education and allowing cheating in the examinations by the students."

Patients die at the hands of such doctors. Buildings collapse at the hands of such engineers. Money is lost at the hands of such economists & accountants. Humanity dies at the hands of such religious scholars. Justice is lost at the hands of such judges... The collapse of education is the collapse of the nation." That has been my dream to see a vibrant education system in Nigeria.

A: If you had the opportunity to advise the Nigerian government, what advice would you give them in order to encourage Nigerians both in Diaspora and locally?

A: Many things actually need advisory in Nigeria. Perhaps I will advise that the government first constitute a team that will look at the original charter that made us a country which were developed pre-independence and see where we went wrong. I will ask that the people in government look into the models of nations doing great thing and see where we can copy. We should be able to move forward as a nation. The effort of each of us has to count.

Q: If you were to consider taking an active role in the development of Nigeria, what would you do and how would you go about affecting the Nation positively?

A: One of the first and very important thing we have lost largely as a nation is called mentorship. I have seen many young people - I am also young anyway - going through life making many avoidable mistakes. Our leaders in academia, research, corporate world, government, industry, sport and other fields need to develop young people to grow properly into the fields.

An improperly developed individual becomes a deformed person. That is exactly what we have mainly in Nigeria of today. Young graduates just wangle through life and if they make it, they are lucky but if not, well suck it. We cannot afford to continue to waste human resources like that. I once spoke to a German friend and a Professor and University President in Germany asking for their key to success despite the fact that Germany lack material resources and hear him, "Fasina, but what do we have than our human resources?"

We developed our young minds until they reach their peaks (PhDs), we then send them out as ambassadors or key them into the industry, they bring resources back from other countries". We talk of quality PhDs here and not just finishing university education. We need to have a rethink and define our priorities.

Q: Any advice for Nigerians and especially the youths?

A: First, every youth need to be properly formed. It is not about being able to sing all the songs in vogue. It is not about knowing and using effectively all the social media platform (I count at least 22 of such recently). These fora are important but opportunities exist within the internet space too.

Every young man and woman need to get mentored, look up to someone directly or indirectly, have keen vision, push edges, be daring and go beyond the ordinary to become extraordinary. Launch out through quality trainings and make up your mind to be someone in life.

Someone says that all fingers are not equal but why must I be the smaller finger. Even smaller fingers have decided to be the most important in something, at least in cleaning your nostrils. I want to see youth who dare to contest elections with the established power.

Recently in Kenya, there was a very poor young man that campaign and won election as MP (Member of the House of Representative equivalent in Nigeria) without a single poster or campaign material. He kept going from house to house with his vision and the established politicians thought that he is a joker. When he won, he attracted the national attention and due to the level of poverty, the President has to buy him some clothing and an SUV to match for him to be presentable in the Parliament.

I want youth who made up their minds to be top career persons, internet gurus. Those boys who do internet fraud should rather use their minds to do things legal and productive. We have excellent human resources in Nigeria and the world wonder why we are behind. I have been asked this question again and again and I am also wondering.

Q: On a personal level, if you had a chance to make a change in your in past, what would you do differently?

A: Possibly, I will still want to be a vet first. Probably would have wanted to graduate earlier cutting out almost 28 months of ASUU parity-strike and others, as young boys, we were explorative and sometimes over-daring. In perspective, I won't do some of the things I did back then although I was a good boy. Maybe I will also start my business while in school so that I won't be too keen on looking for jobs but become employer as I am graduating.

Q: Every individual at some point in life has gone through one challenge or the other. Give us an experience of yours and how you pulled through?

A: Challenges that are very categorical in my life are mainly career linked. First in the final year in the University, a lecturer in my final year held me back from graduating with my colleagues for defending my classmates interest on some matters.

I made him know that I passed but only did not satisfy him as an examiner. Well there was no time between graduation and going for the national youth service (NYS) so my classmates went ahead of me while I have to stay back. In the intervening period, I worked as co-Farm Manager and consultant veterinarian for Dominican Farm in Samonda.

Secondly, while my promotions in Nigeria were delayed, I delved into self-development and it paid off. I was noticed by international agencies and I kept getting invitations from outside the country and this assisted my career development. I really want to thank some individuals who played key roles in my life. They are too numerous to mention but exist within and outside the country, particularly my former principals, leaders, bosses and key partners/friends. They are the one behind which my nineteen would not become twenty.

Q: What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning?

A: I am motivated by God, by need to contribute to humanity, to contribute to development of animal resources and "One Health". I take my work seriously and my family is also behind my

Q: All work and no play, they say, makes Jack a dull boy. Would you share with us how you unwind?

A: How I play is by playing. How I unwind is by unwinding. I love indoor activities particularly TV viewing, engaging in empirical discussions, communicating science, playing with my wife and kids, cracking a few jokes and going out for socials with friends and such other things. Otherwise I am easy going and can do a bit of everything.

Consolidating tourism as a new economic frontier

By Fidelis Nwangwu

ONE of the greatest ills that have plagued the public enterprise of governance in Nigeria has been the lack of a culture that aligns public institutions and government with the entrepreneurial spirit of business managers, who have to create and run efficient systems that deliver effectively on public dividends.

The urgency of a world under pressure to kick-start the wheels of economies in the face of huge erosions of national wealth and declining incomes, has laid down the imperative for governments and businesses to swiftly reinvent themselves, and create sturdy fortifications against the looming global economic recession about to make a big crash in. Or whose first wave has already upended livelihoods and ways of life.

This impresses on many the renewed necessity of creating structures that are nimble enough to enable the unleashing of managerial capabilities and the spirit of entrepreneurship towards newer ends. Still, while carefully defining the protocols of safety for activity in this peculiar time, countries are reaching for their lowest hanging economic fruits to tide them through this difficult period. For Nigeria, this appears as tourism.

Importantly, this is a sector that has given considerable thought to the guidelines for safety and recovery in the sector, as the country's tourism head honcho, Folorunsho Coker, affirms in the present need "to consider and deploy innovative recovery solutions that are home grown and practical, tailor made for our specific environment and people. They are in three... policy thrusts: Healing for the people, healing for prosperity and healing for destinations - (to preserve) health, employment and the environment."

Creating Value Within the 'New Normal'

With the aggressive search for vaccines, drugs and other thera-

pies for containment of the coronavirus infection and disease, which has held the world in a dark grip in the past few months, and with the hope for a breakthrough in the near future, this is the time to start perfecting the different strategies for economic survival in a post-COVID world.

It is a world in which the "new normal" requires thinking without any boxes in place (not even outside the box), particularly with the onset of a global economic recession, and its ripple effects in the massive disruptions to the income and survival of nations.

This is more critical in an environment like Nigeria, with the bottoming out of Oil, forcing us to take our routinely declared - but hardly sustained - efforts towards the diversification of the national economy more seriously, alongside a move away from big government and its unwieldy finances. The latter has necessitated the more recent re-consideration of the report of the Presidential Committee on Restructuring and Rationalisation of Federal Government Parastatals, Commissions and Agencies, otherwise known as the Stephen Oronsaye Committee report, in view of finally implementing a number of its significant recommendations.

The report, which was released in 2013, offers an outline for major structural changes in government through the merging, elimination or reversion of a number of government ministries, department and agencies to their earlier statuses.

Of the then identified 541 parastatals, commissions and agencies (statutory and non-statutory), the Oronsaye report suggests that the 263 statutory agencies of government should be streamlined to 161, while 52 agencies are merged, 38 reduced and 14 reverted to being departments in ministries.

For tourism to be able to drive and fulfill a renewed national mandate, which locates it squarely within the entrepreneurial frame and commercial purpose, it needs to be driven by nimble and highly professional struc-



tures, not bogged down by the red tape of bureaucracy or sterile officialdom.

Still, within the Buhari administration's determination to expand the productive base of the Nigerian economy to support a reality that has been severely impacted by COVID-19 and which is defined by an acute revenue crisis preventing the government from fulfilling its obligations to the people, one of the lowest hanging fruits for economic revival is definitely the tourism sector.

With over 7000 tourist centres and sites across the country, among which are 5 UNESCO heritage cities, this is a sector identified in the Federal Government's Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) as one of the ten priority areas of the economy, and which is also an important business sector. Even though it has only accounted for a slice of the national GDP, far lower than its vast potentials, tourism's capabilities cut across a number of sectors, which if properly harnessed would become the new oil.

More than oil as a commodity that was source of over 80 per

cent of national revenue, and more than 95 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings for decades, tourism has the ability to match and surpass the volumes of these inflows and create a steady pool of foreign exchange income for Nigeria.

Here was a sector, which before the onslaught of coronavirus was a huge avenue of growth, constituting almost 10 per cent of the global GDP, at \$8 trillion, in 2016. It accounted for almost 6 per cent of the world's total exports, valued at \$1.1 trillion; almost 5 per cent of the world's investments, at \$652 billion, and about 9 per cent of the world's jobs.

In figures put out by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in recent years tourism contributed about 35 per cent of new GDP in Nigeria, alongside sizeable tax receipts, while being the source of some 20 per cent of new jobs, both formally and informally.

As the world's economies are gradually opening up, within the framework of highly stringent safety protocols, as proposed by Nigerian government's healthcare institutions and international agencies, such as the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the 'new normal' is about responsible practices that preserve human safety.

The Need For a More Nimble Structure

For tourism to be able to drive and fulfill a renewed national mandate, which locates it squarely within the entrepreneurial frame and commercial purpose, it needs to be driven by nimble and highly professional structures, not bogged down by the red tape of bureaucracy or sterile officialdom.

These are structures that have to be more open in

outlook, action-oriented and flexible enough for quick decision-making.

The main vehicle for achieving the mission of tourism in Nigeria has been the National Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), which the Oronsaye Report - about to be implemented in October - seeks to repurpose with a strong commercial function, making it no longer a recipient of government funding.

Nigerian tourism is certainly lucky to have Folorunsho Coker in the driver's seat, as evident from his career pedigree - both as a private entrepreneur and former public official in Lagos State - and the skills he has garnered as a sector manager. These could only be brought into greater effectiveness with a more nimble NTDC structure, better enabling sector laws...

For NTDC to achieve a nimble structure, it is better refigured as an agency under the direct supervision of the president, and not just another of over twenty agencies under the Ministry of Information and Culture. In countries in which tourism has had fundamental impacts as significant drivers of the national economy - from Singapore to Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa, etc. - nimble structures were created in the form of tourism boards and stand-alone agencies or departments under the direct supervision of the presidents.

As such, there appears the need for a Presidential Executive Order to make NTDC a stand-alone agency under the Presidency, with the direct supervision of the President. This will certainly build and enhance the confidence of the many private sector actors inclined to invest in tourism, as indication that their investments would not be bogged down by the unwieldiness of bureaucracy, while decisions relating to the

sector would be expected to be quick and effective. As instance, in achieving defined purposes, the president can swiftly give orders across the gamut of the public service, to those in Immigration, Customs and the embassies, which a minister cannot do, as his or her decisions would first require potentially time-wasting inter-agency consensus attainment, before then seeking presidential approval.

The Case for the Business Manager

One of the greatest ills that have plagued the public enterprise of governance in Nigeria has been the lack of a culture that aligns public institutions and government with the entrepreneurial spirit of business managers, who have to create and run efficient systems that deliver effectively on public dividends. Hence, public service is mostly considered and approached through an entitlement and booty-sharing mentality, which sees it as due allocation or a reward for political fealty.

There is the need at this point for the country to be run by those with the mindset of business managers, who have the track-record to create value/wealth and who ultimately realise that their jobs are bound to the degree of value they deliver.

And how this enhances the lives and experiences of the people - whether in terms of healthcare, education, transportation or the business of entertainment and hospitality. As a revision of the popular Nigerian parlance: The future would be for those who can bake the national cake, as against those who add no value but have traditionally held out for shares or crumbs of the said national cake. The bottoming out of oil has actually sounded the death knell on the notion of a national cake, as there is no longer anything available to share. Nigerian tourism is certainly lucky to have Folorunsho Coker in the driver's seat, as evident from his career pedigree - both as a private entrepreneur and former public official in Lagos State - and the skills he has garnered as a sector manager.

By Olusola Akinbinu

THE speed of information has never been this super-fast. Knowledge revolution has changed the outlook of human societies, altering cultural trends. It is easier today to vary ideas and thoughts, across continents and arrive at the most preponderant. Virtual conference applications and webinars seem to be breaking barriers to knowledge at the most affordable cost. Students now access knowledge at their fingertips, beyond either of the limits of a school curricula or the limit of exposure of a designated tutor.

A few days ago, I put a call to a former classmate who is now lecturing in a newly established Nigerian university. I asked him about his experience since they still conduct online teaching with their students during COVID-19 holidays. In his words, he said, the students are the gainers; the lecturers have to work more. He explained further that the online teaching experience barely allows room for lazy lecturing.

You have to prepare your slides and reference materials up-to-date as students feel far lesser barriers to ask any questions that come to mind. A lot more time has to be invested in studying ahead of the class, by both the tutor and students. An online lecture period accommodates more questions and everyone has more equal opportunity than the physical classrooms afforded.

Students feel the liberty to ask questions that are not directly related to the topic and that inspires others to look in adjoining direction. This twist brings out new useful thoughts for the class to ponder upon for expansion of knowledge views. Norms are broken, innovative thoughts are encouraged. African students were limited to very scarce and expensive textbooks for so many years; many simply recycle old and outdated textbooks, while others make photocopies of same. If these can only ensure that they pass and graduate, that was almost the whole essence of the school adventure.

Why Africa should use internet infrastructure to solve its problems

The ability to function at the pace of the industry, and coping with the technical reasoning of the 21st Century is as good as a different mystical discourse. Hence, the popularity of the derogative slogan: "Unemployable African graduates". They were actually not trained to be employable but to possess a degree.

We are in a world today where the most productive firms, such as Google, Apple, Starbucks, IBM, concern themselves with workers capacity and not their academic status. Many serious SMEs across the world are also following suit. Why employ a graduate if someone with lower qualification can be trained for the purpose and earn less? Those who wish to be employed as graduate status must be prepared to bring something to the table; beyond the ordinary.

More than half of the job offers advertised on popular job portals such as Jobberman are for services, especially for services deepening the markets of foreign-manufactured products in our local market. Many production companies that existed have taken up the importing of cheaper Asian goods as quick financial returns alternative.

This is owing to unfavourable local business conditions in Nigeria, viz: poor electricity supply, unstable forex, multiple taxation, etc, weak infrastructures, etc. Our local markets become an extension of Asian and European markets; our jobs become exported. A higher percentage of our personal earnings are used to buy foreign goods, ruining the aggregate value of the Naira by each unit of household consumption.

The Nigerian child suddenly finds himself in a pool of economic difficulty but school curricula are not designed to explain the reasons for this predicament. But like a calculated hallucination, our education is designed not to understand local needs and the



skill set required to address the daily challenges. University departments are of flamboyant nomenclatures, such that students admitted therein cannot address a three-minute interview of what jobs they can do in the society, and how they will surmount problems. Everyone hopes to join a stagnant civil service; it guarantees a package or retirement benefits.

The reason for the above is not far fetched. The teaching method had not put the societal scenario before the students while training them. They were focused on abstract literature. The perpetuation of this trend is of itself a national laziness. So many people graduate from the university; unprepared for the society. They need help, and can't be looked upon for

help. Why were they trained in the first place if they are to graduate and remain a burden?

Contrary to the most popular reason, most African parents train their wards through school procuring a job for self-sustenance. Education is actually the enlightening of the mind to be able to solve problems and improve human-living.

The margin between these two thoughts have simultaneously created more graduates and more problems in Africa. It is then obvious we mostly don't understand education.

A primary result of this is the popular desire for migration among the majority of African young people. The danger to this scenario too is that the brightest minds who would have

devised the systematic development of Africa are the first to procure visas and residencies abroad. These call for more reasons to study the problems, and evolve more domestic answers, beyond policies, but clear roadmaps that will involve the people.

We cannot keep counting unit personal gains and more compound crises. Privileged political elite declare successes for themselves in the pages of newspapers while socioeconomic situations worsen.

According to the 2019 National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, report, Nigeria's official estimated population is 211 million people; her population under 15 years of age was 100million; so the population under 40 years should not be less than 160 million people.

At the continental level, Africa's youth is forecasted to be 42 per cent global youth population by 2030 at the current pace.

Such a high population of young people should be a blessing, but similar to the concept of oil curse, from the African experience, we are quite experiencing a population curse. Not because of the resources themselves, but our inability to organise them for best use in Africa. The mental and physical energies of our young people are used to develop Canada, Australia and other nations that are transparent in their developmental programmes.

Many other youths remain in the country participating in visionless-proprietary politics, just as a former governor declared openly in Nigeria that he joined politics because of unemployment and not to solve any problem. He is only being truthful. Other youths become professional pastor entrepreneurs, as that is becoming an easy means of survival. Some simply relapse to criminalism, including sophisticated robbery and internet fraud. The population of young Africans in the world and what they will be doing will become a real-world topic within a few decades.

The answer to these problems will revolve around capacity building and transparent local engagements to solve problems within the African continent.

Data about local environmental challenges, housing structures and policies for projected populations in all local governments, transportations models and organised means of service provision, collection and maximisation of environmental resources like rainfall, sunlight, natural vegetation and native plants, etc.

Deliberate redirection of the school curriculum to treat these local challenges will create capacities, jobs, solutions and a new desirable Africa.

Body plots to bolster cassava seed system in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and its partners are working to provide African cassava farmers with regular and reliable access to high quality planting materials to boost yields and incomes.

Speaking ahead of the launch of the Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System (BASICS) programme, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA),

said the programme provides a window of opportunity for cassava farmers to create new lines of income while at the same time catalyzing the diffusion of new varieties.

In June, this programme benefited from a new investment of \$14.3 million by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to consolidate and expand this work in both Nigeria and Tanzania under the project name of BASICS-II.

The goal of the project is to provide farmers with access to affordable, quality-assured seeds of

the cassava varieties in demand by local food and processor markets through the establishment of a commercially viable seed value chain operating across breeder, foundation, and commercial seed levels.

BASICS-II will create a more efficient dissemination and trigger the adoption of new varieties to improve productivity; raise incomes of cassava growers and seed entrepreneurs; enhance gender equity and contribute to inclusive agricultural transformation in Nigeria and Tanzania.

According to Dr Alfred Dixon, IITA Director for Development & Delivery, and Technical Adviser to BASICS-II, "the coming of BASICS-II would not only create seed enterprises, it would also spark the diffusion and adoption of improved disease-free cassava varieties that would offer farmers higher yield."

"To me, this is the most exciting part of the project," he added.

Over the years, IITA and its national partners have developed over 40 cassava varieties but the diffusion and adoption of these

varieties have been low due to the absence of a functional seed system to incentivize their multiplication, distribution, and sales.

The 5-year project will be led by IITA, working in partnership with Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASO), National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IITA GoSeed, Umudike Seed, Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Ltd., Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), and Tan-

zania Official Seed Certification (TOSCI).

Lawrence Kent, Senior Program Officer, Gates Foundation, said "this new phase of the BASICS project will strengthen and expand its innovative approach to the supply of cassava planting materials, helping farmers in Nigeria, Tanzania, and eventually additional countries to access and purchase disease-free stems of the most productive, most demanded, and promising cassava varieties."

Known as a poverty fighter, cas-

sava is grown mostly by resource-poor farmers, but its productivity has been constrained by lack of access to improved varieties with national average yield reported at less than 10 tons per hectare in Nigeria. Even when the best of agronomic practices is employed, yields remain poor if the seeds are not right.

Through the activities of BASICS-II, it is envisaged that this narrative will be changed, says Prof. Lateef Sanni, Project Manager, BASICS-II.

Meet Benin's zero waste farmer inspiring agricultural movement

By Michelle Cohan

THIRTY-five years ago, with just one acre of land, a couple of seeds and a bucket of hope, one Nigerian-born scientist began his quest to trample famine on his continent.

News of the drought across Africa in the early 1980s troubled Father Godfrey Nzamujo, then an expatriate priest and professor at the University of California, Irvine.

"People were dying of starvation. I couldn't stand it," Nzamujo told CNN.

Equipped with a microbiology PhD and his faith, he travelled back to Africa in search of a solution.

There, he found a continent ecologically rich, diverse and capable of producing food.

He believes drought wasn't the only reason for widespread hunger, and that sustainability had been left out of the equation.

Nzamujo began devising a "zero waste" agriculture system that would not only increase food security, but also help the environment and create jobs.

In 1985, he traded in his professor post for gardening gloves and started his sustainable farm "Songhai" in the West African country of Benin.

At the core of the idea of sustainable agriculture is designing farms that mimic the way natural ecosystems work.

"One really important piece of that is structuring farms to persist without external inputs like fossil fuels or toxic chemicals," said Liz Carlisle, an assistant professor in Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Those can create problems that degrade both the food system and the surrounding environment, she said.

Zero waste agriculture, a type of sustainable farming, takes these principles even further by introducing a regenerative loop, where waste in one area produces feed, fuel or nutrients for another.

"The output of one area, like the livestock production, would feed into either energy production or fertilizer



father godfrey nzamujo, founder and director of Songhai, on his zero waste farm in Benin.

for crops," explained Ronnie Brathwaite, a senior agriculture officer at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. "The crop residues will be used in either energy production or livestock feeding, or even making other products."

"Zero waste" is a buzzword today with the spotlight on climate change. However, this type of farming is not new.

It was in place globally for millennia, until farms, especially in developing countries, moved toward synthetic fertilizer use and single crop production during the Green Revolution of the 1950s, according to Brathwaite.

During this period, growing populations generated a need to intensify the food supply quickly. Industrial agriculture created high yields, but it came with a high price, including large amounts of waste from crop production and livestock, Brathwaite explained.

"What was not taken into account was the impact on the environment and the very resources that support it, like soil and water," he said.

Wanting to restore synergy to farms in Africa, Nzamujo

started his sustainable farming mission on a small plot of land given to him by the government of Benin.

In addition to providing organic produce locally, Songhai employs 300 people daily. They harvest crops, tend to animals, oversee composting, or service the biogas digester -- which turns chicken excrement into fuel.

Nzamujo lives on the farm and constantly updates his techniques. He credits his degrees in science and engineering for Songhai's success. But he also thanks his spiritual and

cultural roots, and his father -- a driving force in his life who encouraged him to pursue his studies to the highest degree and to use Songhai to share his knowledge.

Songhai has several "eco-literacy" development programs. They range from 18-month training courses for farmer-entrepreneurs, to shorter stays to learn techniques like irrigation. People come from all over the world to study Nzamujo's methods.

Father Godfrey Nzamujo educates a group of people on his zero waste farm in Benin.

After seeing success on his first zero waste farm, he expanded throughout Benin and western Africa.

Today, the Songhai model is implemented across the continent, including in Nigeria, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Nzamujo says they've trained more than 7,000 farmer-entrepreneurs and more than 30,000 people in total since it began.

It's not always easy to get started in sustainable farming. Beyond the educational investment, local policies and regulations also have to support this type of farming. Not every country allows crops and livestock to be grown together.

Many countries originally rejected Nzamujo's farm plans before Benin granted him some land.

Carlisle believes a key part in fostering the sustainable agriculture movement is decoupling the public sector from extractive agricultural models.

"There is a whole support system around industrial agriculture because

it's been subsidized by national governments," she said.

However, Carlisle notes institutions are being built to support sustainable farmers.

Increasing food security

With more than 820 million people facing hunger globally, according to the UN, coupled with a rapidly increasing population, comes the need for even more food.

If there was a shift toward more sustainable farming practices, could it keep up with the demand?

Some research has shown this model, when implemented correctly, has the potential to produce almost as much as conventional farming. Both the UN and independent scientists have called for a paradigm change away from industrial agriculture to sustainable practices in order to help our planet and the food system.

"With zero waste farming, I think we're in a better position to satisfy the needs of the globe," Brathwaite said. "We can continue to produce similar levels of food to feed a growing population, and we have the advantage of reduction in wastage."

Nzamujo believes zero waste agriculture is now steadily tackling the issues he set out to defeat three decades ago: hunger, unemployment and environmental degradation. And he wants to see it go further.

"Yes, it is a revolution. But it's a revolution that is not them against us," he said. "It is a revolution that is inviting every people to a new way of seeing things."

Over 200 residents employed in new bag making factory in Kahama District

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

OVER 200 people have been employed by Kahama Plastic Investment Tanzania Limited at the factory established in Mhongo ward in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region that manufactures bags for storage of cereals crops.

Apart from job creation for youths and women, the factory is also environmental friendly as it will use waste bags as raw materials for making new bags.

Speaking to reporters at the weekend the company's managing director Khamis Mhoja thanked President John Magufuli for developing the industrial sector and appealed to him to continue putting in place an enabling environment for investors.

"As of now the factory has started working on trial basis, we could have been far ahead but we were held back by Covid-19 pandemic and our expectations is to produce five tons every day," he said.

He added: "Our raw materials are the waste bags and therefore our factory is environmental friendly, while the market is in abundance - the whole of the Lake zone need storage bags for the crops produced," he added.

Deborah Nyanda, Neema Lukumo and Khamis Isa who are residents of Mhongo ward near the factory said they are thankful for the factory as they received employment which earn them money for their livelihoods.

African lion counts miss the mark, but new method shows promise

BRISBANE, Australia

THE current technique used for counting lion populations for research and conservation efforts doesn't add up, according to a University of Queensland researcher.

But UQ PhD candidate Alexander Braczkowski has been investigating new methods of photographing and reviewing data analytics to count lions.

"African lions receive immense publicity and conservation attention," Braczkowski said.

"Yet their populations are thought to have experienced a 50 per cent decline since 1994 - coincidentally the same year Disney's The Lion King was released.

"Current calculations suggest that between 20,000 and 30,000 lions remain in the wild - scattered among 102 populations across approximately 2.5 million square kilometres of Africa.

"Our research shows that the majority of estimates on African lion population and density are based on track counts, audio lure surveys and expert solicitation - which are simply not reliable enough to understand how lion populations are doing over time."

According to Braczkowski, a recently developed technique has shown promise in better counting big cats and understanding their movements.

"It involves driving extensively and searching actively for lions, and then taking high quality photographs to individually identify them and noting their locations," he said.

"We use an analytical method known as Spatially Explicit Capture-Recapture (SECR). "For African lions, it was first applied in the Maasai Mara by Dr Nicholas Elliot and Dr Arjun Gopalaswamy,



A baby lion or cub rests in the branches of a large euphorbia tree in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area.

and has now been adopted by the Kenya Wildlife Service and others to survey lions and other carnivores across the country."

Braczkowski and his colleagues have trialled the technique to better understand the status and density of lions

in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area.

"This was the perfect place to use this novel approach since lions at Queen Elizabeth spend a lot of their time up in trees and it is relatively straightforward to get good pictures of them," Braczkowski

said. "Due to this unique tree-climbing behaviour, managers and tourists at this park very frequently see lions.

"But, our study showed that these lions are now moving more and have larger home range sizes compared to a previous study conducted about a

decade ago

Dr Arjun Gopalaswamy, a co-author and science advisor to the Wildlife Conservation Society's Global Programs said, since larger home range sizes in big cats are usually associated with reduced density due to poorer prey availability, this is a con-

cerning trend.

"There's great value in using methods that keep track of lion populations directly and we urge conservation and research communities to cease using ad hoc, indirect methods and shift to more reliable and direct methods."

Killing the broadcast industry softly

By Simon Kolawole

THE National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), the federal agency that regulates -- and strangulates -- the broadcast industry in Nigeria, always gets away with murder. If you ask me its major contribution to the development of broadcasting in the 21 years of our democracy, I can only remember the frequent imposition of sanctions on broadcast stations for violating some rules and regulations, mostly political, with the NBC usually trying to please the government of the day. They have also been granting licences to governments and individuals to operate radio and TV stations. I almost forgot: they licensed PayTV services. Anything else? I honestly cannot remember much.

Meanwhile, have you tried to apply for a radio licence before? They will tell you there is no available frequency at your location of choice, only for you to hear that someone up there has just been granted a licence for the same location! Even when you are asked to do feasibility study as part of the licence application process, you are ordered to use the services of ordained consultants who will charge you to high heavens. If you go and get consultants elsewhere to do the feasibility, it will be rejected for not meeting "NBC standards". What exclusive standards does the NBC have -- if not that there is a cartel business in its backyard? You and I know very well that this is a racket.

If you want to set up a national TV station in Nigeria today, NBC will ask you to pay N500 million as the licence fee. You heard me right: N500 million for a piece of A4 paper! You have to bear in mind that it is not as if the basic infrastructure is on the ground to make you deliver optimal service. Our terrestrial broadcasting is still stone-age, even though we like to boast that we set up the first TV station in Africa in 1959. South Africa that started in the 1970s is now light years ahead of us. Only God knows for how long the NBC has been talking about implementing "digital switch-over" to allow us see clean pictures on our local stations. Maybe it will happen tomorrow. Or in the next century.

I ordinarily would not bother writing about the NBC because of my low opinion of the agency, but recent events have so nauseated me that keeping quiet can only upset me more. On March 27, 2020, when the attention of the world was directed at fighting the coronavirus, the NBC quietly released the 6th edition of its broadcasting code. Most of the provisions that I have read so far are as deadly as the coronavirus, even though some might appear asymptomatic for now. To add insult to injury, Prof Armstrong Idachaba, the NBC acting director-general, said the code



There are many problems with the code. The attempt to criminalise exclusivity, for a start, has sent key industry stakeholders into disbelief

was meant to develop the broadcast industry in Nigeria. NBC developing the broadcast industry? I missed the joke.

There are many problems with the code. The attempt to criminalise exclusivity, for a start, has sent key industry stakeholders into disbelief. According to the code, the holder of content rights must share with other platforms. So if Jason Njoku's iRokoTV buys the rights to Genevieve Nnaji's Lionheart, for instance, NBC is telling us that the streaming service must sub-license to Mo Abudu's EbonyLife TV "by fire by force". If iRokoTV and EbonyLife TV cannot agree on a price, then the almighty NBC, sitting on its judgment throne in its Abuja office, will tell EbonyLife TV what to pay to iRokoTV. Can you beat that "innovation"? That is how NBC wants to develop our broadcast industry.

For a football fan like me -- and one who has an idea of how PayTV works in other countries, such as the UK and the US -- I cannot make any sense out of section 6.2.8 of the code. It states: "Exclusivity shall not be allowed for sporting rights in the Nigerian territory and, in furtherance thereof, no broadcaster or licensee shall license or acquire foreign sporting rights in such a manner as to exclude persons, broadcasters or licensees in Nigeria from sub-licensing the same." This is silly, pardon my French. I don't know who came up with this idea, I don't know what the NBC is driving at, I don't know the motive, but anybody who knows how sporting rights are sold can only laugh in derision.

The selling point of PayTV is to offer what the competition cannot give. When HiTV secured the rights to the English Premier League in Nigeria in 2007, that became its selling point. HiTV began to offer football on a level that other broadcasters could not. This exclusivity was its major, if not only, marketing edge. As part of the package, HiTV gave terrestrial stations one match to show free of charge every week. If this obnoxious NBC code had been in operation then, HiTV would have been forced to sub-license the EPL rights to DSTV and other PayTV services in Nigeria. What then would have been its marketing edge or selling point? HiTV would have been brought in dead.

The NBC says it wants to promote competition through its new code, but it will only succeed in killing it. A rational investor will hold back. Free market economies thrive on respect for intellectual property, product differentiation, innovation and the right to charge a fair price. Why should I use my brain to create competitive contents when I know that the NBC is there to breastfeed me? Why should I go the extra mile to invest in acquiring rights to top-class contents when I can just fold my arms and wait for you to do all the hard work and then you will be forced by the NBC to share with me? Why should I pay you a fair price when I know the NBC will determine that by its own fiat?

Legally, it is the content producer -- and not the NBC -- that determines who to share content with and what price to demand. That is what

the Nigerian copyright law says. The NBC is trampling on the territory of others. Its legal advisers deserve some flogging. More so, it sounds quite funny that the NBC does not appear to recognise the fact that a licensee acquired the rights in a competitive bidding. After paying a competitive price, the licensee is now forced to share with its competitors at a regulated price. That is automatically an erosion of the value of the original rights. You labour for somebody else to enjoy the fruits. That is how the NBC wants to develop our broadcast industry.

I believe the NBC consultants should have done more work before unleashing this cold code on the industry. It ignores several realities. When rights to a live sporting event are being auctioned, for example, it is not guaranteed that you will be granted the right to sub-license. Now if a licensee approaches the rights owner and asks that a sub-license clause be inserted in the agreement, this leaves the licensee open to a further hike in the fee. The rights owner is not an idiot. The moment he knows you want to sub-license, he will assume you are going to make more money. So the fee will go up substantially. Sadly, it is the NBC that will ultimately decide what the sub-licensee will pay you!

Njoku was particularly angry with the code. He tweeted: "Nigeria Broadcasting Commission (NBC) in making exclusivity illegal, compelling sub-licensing of content & regulating price, are effectively turning the private enterprise into state property... If implemented this 100% destroys PayTV in Nigeria... it makes zero sense for @irokotv @ROK DSTV @NetflixNaija @irokotv @africamagictv @FilmhouseCinema @SilverbirdTV @SceneoneTV or any other platform or independent production house to invest in local content... No consultation, no thought... This our champagne socialism & zero input style of policymaking is the reason Nigeria is stunted in every-

thing. I invest billions (of naira in content then I am compelled to share with everyone else as NBC sets the price... Ridiculous."

In modern times, stakeholders are usually carried along when industry rules are being made. In telecoms, for example, I know that the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) consults widely with stakeholders in making the regulations. The world has moved beyond dictatorial handing-down of regulations that have industry-wide implications. It is very clear that the NBC is working to an answer, probably driven by someone who has an axe to grind with some operators. That is the only way I can understand the novel coronavirus the NBC is introducing into the regulation of our broadcast industry. NBC is now seeking to consult -- months after rolling out the code!

In fairness, the NBC claims to have good intentions. The objective of the code, we are told, is to enthrone fair market competition, with special consideration for new market entrants. According to Idachaba, the code will protect and promote the local broadcast industry from "monopolistic" and "anti-competitive" behaviour. The code, he said, will stimulate advertising revenue into the broadcast industry and grow the local creative industry. These are, no doubt, lovely objectives. What I can't see clearly is how the provisions of the convoluted code will achieve these good intentions -- except in NBC's dreams. But the road to hell, according to our elders, is paved with good intentions.

AND FOUR OTHER THINGS...

BRUTISH AND SHORT
Gunmen have been wrecking Katsina for ages, but it seems President Buhari's home state is only getting noticed now. Dozens of villagers were killed by the criminals in one attack recently, leading to protests and the unimaginable burning of a Buhari billboard. Ironically, when

gunmen strike in Katsina, Zamfara, Sokoto or Kaduna, killing hundreds in one blow, newspapers describe them as "bandits". But when gunmen strike in southern Nigeria, they are called "Fulani herdsmen" and "jihadists"? The fact is that the government has failed to protect the ordinary Nigerian, no matter the region or religion. That should be our biggest worry. We deserve better than this. Terrifying.

APC'S COVID-23

I bear witness that Nigerian politicians know one thing: how to get power. The only thing they lack is the knowledge and commitment to use the power to better the lot of the people. There is a bitter and desperate struggle for the soul of the All Progressives Congress (APC) ahead of the 2023 presidential race -- with the Godwin Obaseki/Adams Oshiomhole imbroglio serving as another dress rehearsal as the intrigues heighten. Nigerian politicians know how to gather, plot, manoeuvre, twist, turn, rock and roll just to grab power. If just 25% of this energy is devoted to good governance, I bet you: Nigeria will be one of the most advanced countries in the world. But it is all about self. Sad.

NBET FIASCO

What is going on in Aso Rock? On June 8, President Buhari approved the appointment of Dr Nnaemeka Eweluka as the MD of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET) Plc to take over from Ms Marilyn Amobi effective July 24, 2020. The approval was addressed to the minister of finance, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, who oversees NBET. On June 15, 2020, Mr Sale Mamman, the minister of power, also got presidential approval to ask Amobi to proceed on terminal leave "immediately". Two ministers getting contradictory directives from the same authority! Many incidents have been ridiculing the Buhari administration, but I think the NBET fiasco is first-class. Shame.

EXECUTIVE JEST

A lot has been said about the Executive Jets flight that took "a bunch of useless people" for a concert in Abuja -- in violation of COVID-19 guidelines. But what I am not hearing people discuss is the judge. Who would have paid for a private jet to take him to Abuja? How much does a judge earn to be able to afford private jet flights? Would well-wishers or the treasury foot the bill?

As for Sam Iwuajoku, the CEO of Executive Jets, who said he thought the "Babatunde Fashola" on the manifest was the minister, I have just one question: was there a permit to fly the minister in the first place? So many abnormalities have become routine in this country. Amazing.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 100 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

WORD-FIT

3 letters: RAT, EAT, BYE
 4 letters: MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN, HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL,
 5 letters: AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE
 6 letters: BUCKET, PLENARY, SOMALIA, TEASED
 7 letters: BROWSER, BULGARE, OMADHAUN
 8 letters: EMINENCE, DYNAMITE
 9 letters: CALAMITY,

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

- the sixth day of the week
- bring about or perform
- Country of a thousand hills
- tala
- quite, gentle and submissive
- Togo's Capital
- fever marked by severe internal bleeding
- ethnic group in Chemba district
- move towards the land
- hinnies
- a light meal
- a narrow passage of water connecting two seas
- a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley and rye

Down:

- a public meeting place and market square
- angry
- an illicit drinking place in India
- man's wide brimmed hat
- cannabis
- without clothes
- let someone do something
- remove from a place of danger to a safer place
- alkene
- legal prohibitions
- Russia's Capital
- energy, style and enthusiasm
- a pigsty

SOLUTIONS

W O R D F I T

C R O S S W O R D

CONCERN

Elite bankers dominate TMRC mortgage loan beneficiary list

By Guardian Reporter

ELITE banking officials are biggest beneficiaries of mortgage loans disbursed by Tanzania Mortgage Refinancing Company's concessional loans aimed at first time home owners, a new report has said.

TMRC which was established in 2010 with a US\$40 million (over 92.6bn/-) World Bank loan with an objective of easing the country's mortgage market targeting mainly low and middle income first time home owners, has seen senior banking officials dominate the list of beneficiaries with most of them investing in second

home acquisition or renovation of existing homes.

The company which is under Bank of Tanzania but has banks as its shareholders received another US\$30 million (over 69.4bn/-) disbursement for World Bank's International Development Agency in 2015. "Many Tanzanians struggle in achieving a lifelong dream of owning their home. The Government of Tanzania has tried to work in unlocking this challenge through the Housing Finance Project. Some banks have been noted to be using government monies aimed at supporting first time home ownership to Tanzanians for other purposes," the

report stated.

Banks such as Absa Bank Tanzania (formerly Barclays Tanzania) and I&M Bank have taken concessional loans to run staff welfare programmes largely benefiting senior banking officials with foreigners having a field day.

Absa Bank Tanzania which has received 5bn/- of the concessional funds under its first phase allocation, had top management officials take mortgage loans of between 300m/- and 500m/-. "An onsite review of some of the houses financed under Absa 1-portfolio can

reveal some strange things, loans of 300/- to 500m/- but only incomplete structures that one cannot yet live in raising questions if monies were applied for fully to the purpose," the report added.

It accused TMRC's top management of working in collaboration with such elite bankers who get big sum of money through concessional loans aimed at first time home owners to invest in government securities such as Treasury Bonds.

The report said while Bank of Tan-

zania lends TMRC cash at six percent interest, TMRC give it to banks at between 7.5 and 8.5 percent paid quarterly targeting first time home owners but banks get the concessional loans and use the money to generate more profit through Treasury instruments.

"Some banks are accessing these concessional funds under the guise of going to do mortgage lending but instead taking the funds to be utilised towards investing in government securities where they get very good risk free yields of 16 percent against cost

of between 7.5 and 8.5 percent," the report noted.

It further censures queer relations between TMRC senior management officials with banks some of which involve their private companies which work with such banks hence favour each other when it comes to decisions on disbursement of funds.

Banks such as KCB Tanzania Limited and Commercial Bank of Africa have been enjoying favours with TMRC's management because of queer relations among senior officials. The report gave an example of CBA which has failed to provide sufficient cover for a 3bn/- disbursement due to bleak business but has already been given an additional 7bn/-.

"Some banks go further and report United States dollar loans while knowing well that the Housing Finance Project does not allow financing of US dollar loans but only Tanzanian shillings loans. The mortgage data states that all loans should be in local currency even though some of the loans are in US dollars," the report noted.

KCB Bank which has struggled to meet conversion of both its loans amounting to 10bn/-, has resorted to loan reclassification where business and personal bank staff loans have been submitted to TMRC as first time home ownership mortgage loans thanks to good relations with the refinancing company's top management.

In order to ensure that it compensates failures of its member banks, TMRC management has resorted to seeking interest rate reduction from Bank of Tanzania with such requests being successful in April last year when the rate was reduced from 7.5 to six percent. TMRC also requested BoT for a penalty waiver in July 2019 in favour of Bank of Africa Tanzania Limited's 5bn/- pre-finance facility.



Tanzania Mortgage Refinancing Company's CEO, Oscar Mgaya

HISTORIC

CRDB shareholders hold maiden virtual AGM, approve 17/- per share dividend

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc's shareholders made history by turning up in their thousands to attend the first ever live-streamed annual general meeting that endorsed payment of 17/- as dividend per share which translates into a whopping 44.4bn/- payment.

The estimated 1,500 shareholders who were forced to hold the virtual AGM to avoid spreading the novel coronavirus at a physical gathering in May, applauded management of the country's largest, home-grown financial services provider for its resilience, dynamism and impressive annual performance which resulted into a 120.1bn/- net profit last year.

The profit was an increase of 87 percent from the 64bn/- net profit made in 2018 while the 17/- per share dividend is over 100 percent increase compared to 8/- paid in 2018. The banking conglomerate had planned to hold its 25th AGM on May 16, 2020 at the Arusha International Conference before the novel

coronavirus struck.

Presenting the report for the year ended December 31, 2019, CRDB's Board Chairman, Ally Laay said that all the three business entities within the CRDB Group reported a transformative growth and improved performances, in terms of higher earnings and profits, compared to what was achieved in 2018.

Laay expressed gratitude to shareholders for joining the meeting as well as their committed support, which has made the bank continue to grow stronger. "The board of directors have adopted strategic initiatives that seek to provide investors with a stronger, stable and sustainable form of capital distribution so as to maximise long-term share value for shareholders whilst collaborating with the management to inculcate a high-performance culture that will yield positive returns," he said. Laay also announced that the group has its eye on growth prospects to new markets and is currently well positioned to enter the DR Congo's banking market.

Presenting details of 2019 performance, CRDB Group's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said businesses continued to improve with growth in all key indicators including loans and advances, deposits and assets, which grew by eight percent to 3.4trn/- from 3.1trn/- in 2018.

Nsekela noted that deposits grew by 11 percent to 5.2trn/- while net assets also increased by nine percent to 6.6trn/-. "Our customer base also grew by 50 percent across the group from two to three million. Overall customer satisfaction has shown positive trends, as a result of our transformational efforts in digitising customer feedback routes and service touch points," Nsekela noted.

He further reported that the group has improved its asset quality by reducing non-performing loans from 8.3 percent to 5.5 percent which is the biggest improvement, compared to an industry average currently pegged at 11 percent.

"On the innovation front, we



CRDB Bank Group CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela (C) addresses shareholders in Dar es Salaam at the bank's rescheduled 25th Annual General Meeting at the weekend - the first held virtually, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. He is with board chairman Dr Ally Hussein Laay (R), who presided over the meeting, and chief financial officer Frederick Nshakanabo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

keep soaring. In the last financial year, we have launched several innovative financing solutions for different sectors and customer segments aiming at addressing financial challenges that impede growth," the group CEO stated.

Speaking on the groups' earnings, Frederick Nshakanabo, CRDB Bank's Chief Finance Officer said earnings remained strong while the bank expanded its overall market share in to slightly above 20 percent.

Nshakanabo quips further noted that the group's Return on Equity (ROE) improved nearly by double to 14.7 percent, a rate higher than the industry average currently at eight percent while net interest income grew by 19 percent to 526bn/-

CRDB Bank Group also comprises of CRDB Bank Insurance Brokerage Limited and CRDB Bank Burundi SA, which is the first overseas subsidiary in the neighbouring Burundi, a part of the regional expansion plan in East Africa.

NEW PRODUCT

Firm starts 'Rudi Shule na ShuleSoft' campaign targeting resumed classes

By Francis Kajubi

AS students at all levels resume classes today after a three months break due to coronavirus outbreak, an information communication technology company launched a learning campaign known as get back to school with ShuleSoft literary meaning 'Rudi ShulenaShuleSoft.'

The new campaign that will last for a month targets at encouraging students and private school owners to continue using online platforms in teaching and school management respectively.

ceive school fees and truck students' performance.

"Students need to visit our website and register to enjoy live streaming of teaching sessions.

The company has been running the ShuleSoft learning platform since its inception in 2017 and has been working with more than 400 private schools," said Swilla.

According to him, the company has been able to reach more than 100,000 students mostly from private schools and that following the Covid-19 outbreak which forced government to close down schools last March, the company launched a free learning system.

"Our system allows over 100,000 users at one time to access the platform and deliver live streams both in English and Kiswahili. The 'Rudi shulenaShuleSoft' thus enables students,

teachers and parents to interact at real time hence discuss issues to improve delivery of lessons" he explained.

The Inet Managing Director further noted that with ShuleSoft, the platform also allows continued assessment reports, consolidated sheets, position, average, ranking and gives streams reports at real time.

"It enables sending messages and reminders to parents and teachers with just one click, thus making it easier for parents and guardians to monitor their children's progress in real time," he added noting that apart from being a learning system, ShuleSoft is integrated with NMB Bank Plc to enable respective schools take note of school fees of their students while allowing parents and guardians to pay digitally using mobile phones.



Inet Company Limited's managing director, Ephraim Swilla explaining how ShuleSoft system which incorporates 'JifunzeNyumbani' platform works in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

RELIEF

G20 debt relief initiative for poor nations receives 41 applications

PARIS

THE G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) to help the world's poorest countries free up funds as they battle the Covid-19 pandemic has received 41 applications to date, the group said.

The applications include 26 African countries, the G20 said in a statement following two days of meetings of the International Financial Architecture Working Group on June 23-24. The initiative, agreed in April, stands to benefit 73 eligible countries from the International Development Association (IDA) currently on a debt service plan to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and any of the least developed nations as defined by the United Nations.

Around \$14 billion could be provided in immediate and critical liquidity relief by official bilateral creditors alone, according to the World Bank. "We are encouraged by the increasing number of applicants benefiting from the historic G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative," said Bandar Alhomay, the Saudi G20 presidency IFA WG policy lead. "This initiative ensures mobilising critical resources towards mitigating the pandemic's consequences."

The G20 nations had agreed on April 15 to a time-bound suspension of debt service payments to ensure the world's poorest countries are supported in their efforts to protect lives and alleviate the economic and financial crises resulting from the coronavirus crisis.

The move is part of the G20's efforts to support the global economy during the pandemic and ensure financial stability. The Centre for Strategic International Studies estimates the G20 had deployed \$7 trillion in direct spending, tax relief and lending by the end of May.

IMPRESSIVE

DCB Bank shareholders to get 5.4/- dividend per share after four-year lull

By Guardian Reporter

SHAREHOLDERS of DCB Commercial Bank Plc joined the ranks of peers earning some shillings from their investments after endorsing 5.4/- dividend payout per share with approval of 500m/- proposed by the board of directors.

During a virtual annual meeting following the outbreak of the coronavirus, the 18th annual general meeting held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, showered praises on Managing Director, Godfrey Ndalaha's management for managing to pay the dividend which has been elusive for the past four years.

Outgoing DCB Board Chairman Professor Lucian Msambichaka said the dividend was a result of 2.038billion/- net profit made during the year ending December 31, 2019.

Prof Msambichaka stated that the board had decided to pay the dividend despite the prevailing commercial situation in the country which was largely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, to award its shareholders whose support has been exemplary.

"Another important factor that contributed to the paying of this symbolic dividend is to use the profits to strengthen the bank's capitalization so that it continues to make more profits sustainably," he said.

"The success of the DCB is largely attributed to shareholders because until 2018 when our bank made a profit of 995m/-, our shareholders were deter-



DCB Commercial Bank PLC's board chairman, Professor Lucian Msambichaka

mined to use the amount to consolidate capital rather than earn dividend," Prof Msambichaka added. Addressing the shareholders, DCB's Managing Director, Godfrey Ndalaha said the bank has continued to improve its capital while confidently fulfilling all resolutions made during last year's AGM.

Ndalaha noted that one of the resolutions of last year's AGM was that the bank expands its capital base widen its network of agents in the country but also cut down on non-performing loans. "We implemented that and now we have agents across the country and five small service centers and eight branches while doing well in cutting down non-performing loans," he said.

He said from the various initiatives taken by management, DCB's NPLs have been reduced from 19 per cent in 2018 to 14 per cent last year while the imbalance from payable loans to NPLs also reduced from 2.6 percent to 0.3 percent over the same period.

Commenting on the financial performance, DCB's acting Director of Finance, Ester Bgoya said one of the factors that also contributed to the bank's success was reduction in last year's operating costs from 17bn/- to 15.8bn/- due to controlling of unnecessary expenditure by investing in technology.

"Although we have had credit increase in 2019, interest rates earnings declined from 15.7bn/- to 12.5bn/- as bank targets to reduce rates to provide more cheaper loans," said Bgoya.

COMMEMORATION

Ogivy marks founder's 109th birth with introduction of new product

By Guardian Reporter

OGIVY Africa announced the rollout of the region's first real-time marketing product that offers social intelligence and analytics, community management and content innovations in a unified offering to mark founder, David Ogilvy's 109th birthday.

Christened FEED, the product aims to connect brands to popular culture to keep pace with rapidly changing audience interest. FEED is being rolled out across Africa in a phased manner with June 23rd as the launch date to commemorate the 109th birth anniversary of its global founder, David Ogilvy.

"With FEED, we are delighted to see real-time marketing become a reality in this region. Brands have recognized the importance of having their finger on the consumer's pulse for decades now, and there are several offerings in the market to serve different aspects of that opportunity," said Ogilvy Africa's CEO, Vikas Mehta.

Mehta said the first phase starts in



Ogilvy Africa's CEO, Vikas Mehta.

Kenya with command centres and physical infrastructure set up in Nairobi after completing over

three months of beta testing with some of existing clients of Ogilvy Africa.

FEED will now be rolled out in its next phase to Ghana, Zambia and Tanzania and by the end

of the year, the offering will be available to clients throughout the continent. Besides, every deployment has the capacity to serve the entire continent from any location and is expandable to unlimited users.

"The agility and compatibility of these offerings however, remains a challenge.

FEED has been developed to evolve the disparate offerings into one complete solution," he added noting that the FEED ecosystem combines three components, or the three Ps - Platform-People-Process and every deployment starts with an audit of the technology environment and a customized solution-stack is deployed that complements the existing assets, instead of replacing them.

Upon deployment, clients have an option to get an on-site team placed in their premises running a command-centre supported by off-site teams stationed in Ogilvy Africa's offices.

The working process is designed to provide width and depth of skills while being agile enough to work in 24-hour sprints.

"While technology is available to all, technology alone seldom solves a problem. The added layer of our talent, combined with FEED's proprietary process are key. We've designed the process to put agility at the heart of the setup that delivers real-time, consistently," Mehta noted.

FISCAL-BACKING

Sudan transition given \$1.8 billion lifeline at support conference

KHARTOUM

COUNTRIES around the world donated more than \$1.8 billion to support Sudan's fledgling transition to democracy at conference hosted by Germany on Thursday.

The funding will help to ease Sudan's dire economic situation, which sparked the revolution against autocrat Omar Al Bashir last year. The EU donated €312m America gave \$356.2m, Germany €150m and France €100m. The money will be spent on various projects in Sudan, officials told the online event.

The UAE Minister of State for International Co-operation, Reem Al Hashimy, pledged to provide \$50m for economic growth initiatives in Sudan, in co-operation with the World Bank, to ensure job creation and encourage quality investments.

Ms Al Hashimy spoke of the \$3bn provided by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the days after the removal of Al Bashir. The funding provided urgent cash to maintain Sudan's import of vital goods. "I could speak for hours about the relations between UAE and Sudan," Ms Al Hashimy said. She also spoke of supplies delivered to Sudan to help in the fight against Covid-19.

Ms Al Hashimy said she hoped that peace deals being negotiated in Juba would be concluded soon to resolve long-running civil conflicts in Sudan. The support through the World Bank, she said, was part of the UAE's belief that investment was the way to create a prosperous future for the country.

Spain said it was providing €3m but was ready to cancel \$74m in debt as soon as "conditions are met." The Arab League committed to help build up Sudan's public institutions and support for the peace process.

Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, running Sudan under a transitional power-sharing deal with the military, is desperate for foreign support. Mr Hamdok thanked the international community for its support.

"We are extremely delighted with responses we're hearing from partners and friends," he said. "It is the kind of support we had hoped for. There is a lot to be done, not only with solidarity but investment in the region."

Mr Hamdok said that without the support, instability could spread through a volatile region in east and north-east Africa and disaffected young people would keep migrating by sea to Europe.

"We expect our partners to support us to have a successful transition," he said. "I do not want to paint a rosy picture. Any transition is messy and there are so many challenges." Inflation topped an annual 100 per cent last month and the Sudanese pound plunged to 141 to the dollar on the black market, compared to 55 at the official rate.

RESTRICTIONS

Zimbabwe stops stock exchange trading and mobile money transactions

HARARE

INFLATION in the southern African nation is at 786% and its economy is forecast to shrink as much as 10% this year, according to the World Bank. Zimbabwe suspended most monetary transactions on mobile-phone platforms and halted trade on the local stock exchange in an effort to stabilise its currency.

The measures come two days after President Emmerson Mnangagwa warned his government will tackle "malpractices" that he said have undermined his government's efforts to end an economic crisis. Inflation in the southern African nation is at 786 per cent, its recently revived currency has collapsed, and the World Bank estimates the economy will shrink as much as 10 per cent this year.

The suspension of monetary transactions by companies including Econet Wireless unit Ecocash will "facilitate intrusive investigations, leading to the arrest and prosecution of offenders," the Ministry of Information said in a statement Friday in the capital, Harare. Other companies affected by the regulations include state-controlled Telecel.

The government is in possession of "impeccable intelligence which constitutes a prima facie case whereby the phone-based, mobile-money systems of Zimbabwe are conspiring, with the help of the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, either deliberately or inadvertently, in illicit activities that are sabotaging the economy," the ministry said.

The measures will remain in place until mobile-money platforms have been "reformed to their original purpose and all the



A man counts a wad of the new Zimbabwean ten-dollar notes.

current phantom rates of exchange have converged into a genuine rate of exchange that is determined by market forces under the Foreign Currency Auction system," it said.

The Zimbabwe dollar has slumped to 57.35 per US dollar after a currency peg of 25 to 1 in place since March was abandoned. "These unprecedented measures have been

necessitated by the need to protect consumers on mobile platforms, which have been abused by unscrupulous and un-partisan individuals and entities to create instability inefficiencies in the economy," Zimbabwe Reserve Bank Governor John Mangudya said in an emailed statement.

The bank said merchant transactions that can continue include payments for

utilities such as water, power and airtime of as much as ZW\$5,000 a day. "Bona-fide transactions will be processed normally," Mr Mangudya said.

Ecocash said in an emailed statement it would expect a directive of this nature and significance to be communicated by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. With more than 10 million registered users, it's the

country's biggest mobile-money operator and it said clients should "remain calm and continue to do lawful transactions as usual." Zimbabwe Stock Exchange chief executive Justin Bgonyi said he hadn't been officially informed of the measures and could not comment. Telecel chief executive Angeline Vere said she was unaware of the announcement.

WORLD

Malawi's new president sworn in, pledges better Malawi for all

LILONGWE

MALAWI president-elect, Lazarus Chakwera, 65, took the oath of office yesterday following his victory in the Tuesday fresh election.

Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) chairperson Justice Chifundo Kachale declared Chakwera, leader of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), new Malawi President Saturday night after a thorough count and scrutiny of the vote from the country's 28 districts and 5,002 polling centres.

Chakwera, who contested in the Tuesday poll with the country's Vice President, Saulos Chilima as his running mate, pledged a better government for all Malawians, including those who did not vote for him.

"With your help, we will restore a new generation's faith in the possibility of having a government that serves, not a government that rules; a government that inspires, not a government that in-

furiates; a government that listens, not a government that shouts; a government that fights for you not against you," he said.

Chakwera, who was born in the colonial era and raised up in the era of Malawi's founding leader, Kamuzu Banda, expressed gratitude for the "blessing of growing up in a well-governed Malawi" and he pledged to run the country well to the expectation of all Malawians.

For those who did not vote for him, Chakwera said the new Malawi is for all and he asked for their support. "Give Dr Chilima and I a chance to earn your trust and make this win a win for all of us, that is how we will fulfil a dream of a new and better Malawi for all of us," he said.

Chilima, who was Chakwera's running mate in the Tuesday poll, also took the oath of office of the Vice President. Chakwera's party has been out of power since 1994 when Malawians voted out Kamuzu Banda's one-party government



Lazarus Chakwera

and ushered in democracy.

In the Tuesday fresh election, the MCP leader beat incumbent president Peter Mutharika. A few hours before the official announcement of the fresh poll results, Mutharika held

a press briefing where he urged all Malawians to "respect the presidency and remain peaceful after the results are announced".

Xinhua

US sanctions, virus make for Iran's toughest year - Rouhani

DUBAI

IRANIAN President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday that his country is experiencing its toughest year because of US sanctions coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The coronavirus crisis has exacerbated economic problems that worsened after US President Donald Trump withdrew in 2018 from Iran's nuclear deal with major powers and reimposed sanctions. On Monday, Iran's rial currency fell to its lowest ever level against the US dollar.

"It's been the most difficult year due to the enemy's economic pressure and the pandemic," Rouhani said in a televised speech.

"The economic pressure that began in 2018 has increased ... and today it is the toughest pressure on our dear country."

Iran has seen a sharp increase in coronavirus infections and deaths since restrictions to stem the spread of the pandemic were gradually lifted from mid-April. The death toll has recently topped 100 a day for the first time in two months.



More than 220,000 cases have been confirmed, and over 10,000 deaths.

Rouhani said wearing of masks will become mandatory for two weeks starting next Sunday in "gathering places" that are deemed "red spots".

Senior officials have regularly warned that restrictions will be reimposed if health regulations such as social distancing to stem the surge in infections are not observed. Iran launched a campaign on Saturday to motivate a reluctant public to use face masks.

Agencies

Vaccine candidate shows promise in human test - Chinese firm

BEIJING

CHINA National Biotec Group (CNBG) said yesterday that early human test results for a coronavirus vaccine candidate suggested it could be safe and effective, the second vaccine candidate from the firm to show encouraging results in a clinical trial.

The experimental shot, developed by a Beijing-based unit of CNBG, has induced high-level antibodies in all the inoculated participants in a Phase 1/2 clinical trial involving 1,120 healthy people, according to preliminary data of the trial. CNBG said in a posting on the social media platform WeChat, without disclosing specific readings.

Chinese companies and researchers have been allowed to test eight vaccine candidates in humans at home and abroad,



making China a major front-runner in the race to develop a shot against the virus that has killed nearly 500,000 people globally.

CNBG, affiliated to the state-owned China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm), said earlier this month that another vaccine candidate produced by its Wuhan-based unit also triggered high-level antibodies safely in clinical trial participants based on preliminary results.

A vaccine has to prove its effectiveness in "Phase 3" human test where thousands of participants are recruited in order to be cleared for sale.

CNBG said on Tuesday it will run a Phase 3 for its vaccine candidate in the United Arab Emirates, without specifying which shot will be tested.

Xinhua

China-EU relationship to grow more solid, mature

CHINA and the EU have to be two major forces for world peace and stability, two major markets for world development and prosperity, and two major civilizations for upholding multilateralism and improving global governance, said Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen via video link on the evening of June 22.

Xi's proposal has chartered the course for the China-EU relationship to grow more solid and mature and reach greater heights in the post-COV-

ID-19 era. China and EU account for 1/3 of the global economy.

Their sound interaction carried out at the critical moment of the global fight against the pandemic not only has sent a positive signal for joint anti-pandemic efforts, cooperation and global economic recovery, but also will inject more stability and positive energy into the instable and uncertain world.

Cooperation and win-win results have always remained a basis for the bilateral relationship between China

and European Union (EU) in the past 45 years. The trade volume between the two sides now is 300 times more than that when they just established diplomatic ties, and eight million visits are exchanged between them every year.

China and the EU have established dozens of dialogue and consultation mechanisms in different areas and at different levels, and their cooperation has been extended to peace and security, environment, science and technology, culture, education and health.

China and the EU have jointly built a partnership for peace, growth, reform and civilization, and continuously deepened their comprehensive strategic partnership.

They enhanced cooperation under multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations (UN), jointly promoted global public health government, and worked together to cope with global challenges such as climate change, so as to make their relationship more globalized and strategy-oriented. China-EU cooperation has improved the

welfare of the two peoples, and serves as an important stabilizer in the ever-changing world.

Facing the severe COVID-19 pandemic, China and the EU offered mutual help to overcome difficulties. The heads of two sides maintained frequent exchanges, and carried out constructive communication over emergency material supply, the steady and smooth functioning of global industrial and supply chains, and strengthening macroeconomic policy coordination.

China and the EU offered huge medical materials to each other, and maintained smooth operation of the China-France "air bridge."

China has sent multiple medical teams to support Europe's fight against COVID-19, which left a beautiful story of China-Europe joint anti-pandemic efforts. The two sides established joint expert team, and multiple video conferences were arranged for Chinese and European scientists and medical workers to share experiences. Besides, the fully loaded China-Europe freight trains also offered strong support for European countries in the pandemic.

People's Daily

ASEAN leaders urge cooperation to rebuild economies

By Prime Sarmiento

SOUTHEAST Asian leaders have emphasized on the need for regional cooperation in rebuilding their economies hard-hit by the pandemic.

At the 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit held on June 26, leaders of the 10-member bloc pledged their "strong commitment" to implement a comprehensive recovery plan that will stabilize the regional economy while keeping COVID-19 at bay. This was one of the highlights in the 'ASEAN Leaders Vision Statement on a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN: Rising Above Challenges and Sustaining Growth' that was issued at the end of the virtual summit chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

Analysts said that ASEAN's focus on regional cooperation implies the leaders' acknowledgement that they need to go beyond providing fiscal stimulus to their respective domestic economies.

"They have come to the realization that if you want to get out of COVID-19, you have to get out of it as a region," said Mustafa Izzuddin, senior international affairs analyst at political consultancy Solaris Strategies Singapore.

Speaking with China Daily, Mustafa said the economies of the 10 countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - are inter-connected. As such even if one country has completely wipe out the virus, it will be impossible for this country to open up its borders and go back to business if its neighbors are still dealing with an outbreak.

The economic recovery is a "collective effort," he said, noting that the novel coronavirus can spread beyond one's borders.

Tan Hsien Li, co-director of ASEAN Integration Through Law at the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore said ASEAN members usually come together to address major crises such as the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak in 2002.

"The COVID-19 is of the same magnitude. This (pandemic) will propel greater cooperation as there is the realization that nobody can go it alone," Tan told China Daily.

Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, senior economist at the Jakarta-based Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), said that summit was held at a time when the countries in the region are dealing with "severely-damaged business and investor confidence" caused by the COVID-19.

"Supply chain disruptions, weak demand shocks, and other social distancing measures, affected the intra-regional trade and export to other regions like the United States, Japan and European Union," Anbumozhi told China Daily. This is why he welcomed the ASEAN Vision Leaders Statement, noting that it shows that the 10 countries can work together in order to save lives and jobs.

Compared with other regions, the number of ASEAN's COVID-19 cases are relatively lower. The number of confirmed cases in the region is at 136,616 as of June 25, according to the World Health Organization.

ASEAN governments have closed borders, temporarily shuttered schools and businesses and promoted social distancing to stem the rise of infections. But while these containment measures helped curb the spread of the virus, they also slowed economic activity. Trade and investment flows were disrupted while unemployment level increased and consumer demand weakened. The Asian Development Bank forecast Southeast Asia's economy to fall by 2.7 percent this year.

In their Vision Statement, ASEAN leaders said they will implement a comprehensive recovery plan "with a view to improving stability and resilience of the regional economy, preserving supply chain connectivity, while staying vigilant of a second wave of infections".

They also pledged to retain "necessary interconnectivity" in the region by encouraging business travel but without sacrificing public health; support small and medium enterprises and restore a conducive business environment.

Agencies



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc attends a press conference after conclusion of the 36th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Friday. (XINHUA)



Photo shows the launching ceremony of the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for WHO-Action of China.

Charity fundraising program infuses impetus to international anti-epidemic cooperation

THE China Population Welfare Foundation (CPWF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have jointly launched a charity fundraising program in Beijing to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program, which is called COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for WHO-Action of China, aims to raise money via some 20 Internet-based Chinese fundraising platforms and facilitate international cooperation in combating the novel coronavirus.

While human beings are experiencing the worst global public health crisis since the World War II, the WHO has fought the battle against COVID-19 together with all countries starting from the very beginning.

The organization has not only notified countries of the pandemic and issued warnings against the outbreak, but also provided technical guidance and strategic advice on containing the epidemic.

Meanwhile, it has helped guarantee medical supplies for countries and regions in need and speeded up in developing vaccines, diagnostics and medicines.

At every critical point in the fight against the epidemic, the WHO has offered professional advice in time based on science and fulfilled its duties, greatly guiding and promoting global anti-pandemic cooperation and winning high praise from the international community.

Amid the outbreak, the WHO plays a crucial role in coordinating the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an official statement issued by the Belgian government on May 30.

The WHO has supported countries in saving lives, noted Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Experts pointed out that as long as a single country fails to contain the epidemic, the virus is sure to spread globally.

Developing countries, especially African countries, have relatively weak public health systems, so the top priority in international anti-pandemic response is to help them build a solid line of defense.

In March, the WHO initiated the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, calling on individuals, businesses and charities to donate money for global response to the outbreak.

The donations, which will be mainly used to help countries with relatively weak public health systems, will enable medical workers fighting on the front line to obtain much-needed medical supplies, grant medical workers and communities easier access to

scientific epidemic-related information and improve the capability of vulnerable countries in discovering and tracking cases.

The COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund is an emergency measure taken by the WHO to help countries deal with the epidemic and an effort of the organization to save lives and should be supported by the international society.

To support WHO is to support international cooperation and the battle for saving lives as well. Such a concept has actively been carried out by China and should also become a consensus in the world.

China has always participated in global anti-epidemic actions and firmly supported WHO's leadership in international cooperation in combating COVID-19.

After the outbreak, China has donated a total of \$50 million to the WHO, set up a special fund for anti-epidemic cooperation worth of two billion yuan, and provided medical supplies for the organization and other countries.

The COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for WHO-Action of China serves as another practical measure of the country to support the WHO. It demonstrates China's sincerity in safeguarding the life and health of people from all countries and its sense of responsibility to promote the building a community of common health for mankind and international anti-epidemic cooperation.

Humankind lives in a community with a shared future, and solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapon in the face of COVID-19. The world needs more than ever a strong international organization like the WHO to survive the crisis.

The world does not lack the tools, the science, or the resources to make it safer from pandemics, said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, adding that what it has lacked is the sustained commitment to use the tools, the science and the resources it has.

The epidemic has reminded the world in a bitter way that countries and individuals should always support and help each other, forming a unified force in the battle against the virus.

Although separated by mountains and rivers, people around the world are close at heart. Ever since the charity fundraising program was launched, many netizens have responded actively with generous donations.

It is hoped that such kindness and goodwill gathered together will infuse impetus to international cooperation on anti-epidemic and save more lives.

People's Daily



China has always participated in global anti-epidemic actions and firmly supported WHO's leadership in international cooperation

Selfish approaches in world politics bring to a dead end, awareness of this grows - Putin

MOSCOW

THE world community will recognize one day that selfish approaches to building international relations lead nowhere, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with the program "Moscow. Kremlin. Putin" on Rossiya-1 television.

"We should understand that joining forces in the fight against common threats is crucial, and superficial things related to ensuring dominance at all costs, these selfish approaches to building relations in the international arena lead to a dead end, they do not enable the entire international community to function effectively," Putin said.

The head of state noted that even if no drastic changes took place now,



gradually this awareness would accumulate. "One day the amount of this information, in my opinion, should grow into changing the quality of relations in the international arena," he said.

Putin cited as an example Russia, which provided assistance to European countries when even their closest

allies failed to do so. "Believe me, we did this not for any political reasons, but because it was hard for them and because they asked us about it. We didn't bother them with our proposals," he said, emphasizing that Russia's authorities didn't have any political calculations.

The Russian leader said he knew people were facing a challenging situation. "They asked for support and we did so. That's all. And no matter how they tried to compromise our noble actions and impulses later, they cannot do it.

At the everyday common to the mankind level, our open, honest, friendly position is clear in the civil society of these countries, and it cannot but be taken into account in the future by political elites," he said. **Agencies**

Biden surging ahead in some polls, but next US president still far from certain

WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is ahead in the polls, but experts said the winner of the 2020 race to the White House is still far from a done deal.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and recent civil unrest, U.S. President Donald Trump has come under severe criticism on a number of fronts.

A New York Times/Siena College poll released this week shows Biden with a strong, 14-point advantage, at a time when Trump is still fighting the coronavirus, as well as dealing with the economy, badly hit by the nationwide lockdown.

The lockdown triggered by the pandemic has put millions of Americans out of work, and the jobless rate now stands at levels not seen since the Great Depression nearly 90 years ago.

Many Americans still support Trump, as his administration rolled back years of red tape and regulations that slowed economic growth.

But now, the thriving economy with a constant growth and a low level unemployment rate in the past recent years has been erased, and the president is racing against the clock to get the economy moving forward again in the next crucial months before November's elections.

While Trump has maintained the economy will bounce back in a so-called "V shape", many economists are skeptical.

Moreover, Trump's personal style may be a turn-off to many voters, although his supporters love his outspoken and sometimes outlandish persona.

"The emotional basis for Trump's campaign is: things are bad, this is the fault of bad people... Such people are trying to stop me from fixing what's wrong. Join me and I'll crush them and then I'll make things better," Clay Ramsey, a senior research associate at the Center for International and Security Studies at University of Maryland, told Xinhua.

At the same time, there are a number of worries for the White House. U.S. media is reporting a spike of COVID-19 confirmed cases in some U.S. states. And while that may simply reflect increased testing, the public may be fearful of going back to restaurants and movie theaters, or frequenting businesses in which they come into close contact with others. Those fears were reflected by the plunging U.S. markets this week.

However, there are several X factors, one of which is that polls showing Biden ahead might not predict the general election, as there is evidence that while



Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden

many Americans may not openly admit they support Trump, they support him in private.

At the same time, polling guru Nate Silver, of the website FiveThirtyEight, told ABC News on Sunday that it's still possible for Trump to clinch the White House by winning the electoral college vote, as he did in 2016.

There is also the issue of the protests that swept the nation in recent weeks, amid calls to defund the police. While Biden has openly said he does not support defunding the police, that nuance

may be lost on a U.S. public that only sees images of radical protesters in the street.

GOP Strategist and TV news personality Ford O'Connell told Xinhua that Democrats now realize they are "playing with fire," as calls to defund the cops are echoing in the Democratic Party's left wing.

If that continues, "that is certainly winning more and more voters over to Donald Trump's law and order side," O'Connell said.

Xinhua

Wearing face masks, French voters return to delayed municipal elections

PARIS

VOTERS in France donned face masks to cast their ballots on Sunday in a delayed second round of country-wide municipal elections, a mid-term test for President Emmanuel Macron and his ruling party which could fail to win a single big city.

A year ago Macron had hoped the local elections would help anchor his young centrist party in towns and cities across France, including Paris, ahead of an anticipated 2022 re-election bid. But more recently, presidential aides have been playing down expectations.

France's 35,000 mayors set policy on issues from urban planning to education and the environment and while local factors typically drive voter choices, they give the electorate an opportunity to support or punish a president mid-mandate.

"We have a government that is completely disconnected from reality," said Naouel, a voter in Paris' 9th district who said she was backing the centre-right opposition candidate.

France pressed ahead with the first round of the municipal elections in mid-March, less than 48 hours before Macron imposed one of Europe's strictest coronavirus lockdowns, forcing a long delay before the second round.

The pandemic could still depress turnout. At midday this was at 15.3%, below the 19.8% registered at the same time in 2014.

In polling stations in Paris, clerks wore masks or face shields, with some sat behind plexiglass screens. "It's better organised than last time," said pensioner Jean de Nathan.

In the capital, the election's biggest prize, the sitting socialist mayor Anne Hidalgo is on track for a comfortable win after a shambolic campaign by Macron and his La République en Marche (LaRem) party.

Paris is unlikely to be the only disappointment for Macron.

The Greens could do well in cities such as Lyon, Marseille and Bordeaux, sometimes in alliance with the Left, building on momentum they created in 2019's European elections. In Perpignan, Marine Le Pen's far-right party may take control of its first city with a population of more than 100,000.

Macron has said he will "reinvent" his presidency and present a detailed plan next month for the final two years of his mandate.

A government reshuffle is widely expected. The biggest question mark is over the future of Edouard Philippe, Macron's popular prime minister, who is running for his old job as mayor of Le Havre.

Agencies

China completes global deployment of BeiDou Navigation Satellite System

THE last BeiDou Navigation Satellite-3 constellation satellite, also the 55th of the BeiDou satellite family, was successfully launched on board a Long March-3B rocket at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Southwest China's Sichuan Province at 9:43 am on June 23.

The full deployment of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) constellation, accomplished six months ahead of schedule, has come to a successful closure and drawn worldwide attention.

In a video message, the United Nations (UN) Office for Outer Space Affairs congratulated on the complete deployment of the BDS constellation, acknowledged the Bei-

Dou system's role in promoting the world's social and economic development, and praised its significant contributions to the peaceful use of outer space and international cooperation, such as UN activities in outer space.

The final launch went through twists and turns. Due to the failures of two previous launch missions, the entire procedure was rechecked for times, and the launch time was postponed from May to June.

Then the launch scheduled for June 16 was delayed again after technical problems were found in pre-launch tests.

The final satellite is a geosynchro-

nous earth orbit satellite, and will undergo a series of in-orbit tests before it is commissioned. Comprehensive tests for the entire BDS system will be conducted to ensure reliable operation and outstanding performances of the system.

Upon the completion of the tests, BDS will provide all-time, all-weather and high-precision positioning, navigation and timing services for users as well as the services of satellite-based augmentation, short message communication, precise point positioning and other characteristic services.

The BDS construction was initiated in 1994. Over the past 26 years, China has conducted 44 BDS

launch missions at Xichang Satellite Launch Center. By using launch vehicles of Long March-3A series, the country has launched 4 BDS-1 experimental satellites, 55 BDS-2 and BDS-3 constellation satellites into predetermined orbits without failure.

It is worth noting that an intensive campaign of 18 launch missions was carried out within two and a half years since the global constellation deployment started in 2017.

Facing the challenging task of fighting against the COVID-19 outbreak this year, the entire BDS team has been working tirelessly on both frontlines - the constellation

deployment and the epidemic control and prevention, and secured the final victory in the BDS global constellation deployment.

With strong support from telemetry, track and command, ground operation, inter-satellite link management, application validation and other subsystems, all in-orbit satellites previously launched have been commissioned.

The past three decades and more have witnessed the explorations and practices of three generations of devoted BeiDou engineers, who have gone through a whole process including program demonstration, implementation, dual-satellite positioning service, regional constella-

tion deployment, and global coverage provision.

Relying on themselves, they have blazed a trail of innovation and self-transcendence, and succeeded in building BDS, an aerospace system that has the largest scale, the vastest coverage, the highest service standard and the closest relevance to daily life of the people in the history of China.

The BDS is also the first major Chinese aerospace infrastructure that provides public services worldwide.

As China's great contributions to the development of global satellite navigation, it has provided more options for the people around the

world with better and more precise spatial and temporal services, and gained valuable experience for the modernization of China's major scientific and technological program management.

Today, BDS is used in more than half of the countries in the world. It will continue to participate in international satellite navigation affairs, push forward the multi-system compatibility and sharing, carry out international exchanges and cooperation, promote its international applications according to the needs of the global users, and share the latest BDS development achievements.

People's Daily



Dwayne Johnson

World leaders, stars unite at event aimed at fighting virus

LONDON

A SUMMIT that included a star-studded virtual concert hosted by Dwayne Johnson has raised nearly \$7 billion in cash and loan guarantees to assist the poor around the globe whose lives have been upended by the coronavirus pandemic.

Global Citizen said its summit with world leaders had raised \$1.5 billion to help COVID-19 efforts in poor countries, along with a promise of 250 million doses of a vaccine for those nations if one is successfully developed.

The group said it had secured \$5.4 billion in loans and guarantees from the European Commission and the European Investment Bank to support fragile economies worldwide.

The event included a Johnson-hosted concert with performances by Jennifer Hudson, Miley Cyrus, Coldplay and Chloe x Halle. Cyrus performed The Beatles' "Help!" in an empty stadium and Hudson performed "Where Peaceful Waters Flow" from a boat in Chicago.

"The \$6.9 billion that was pledged today to support the world's poorest and most marginalized communities is an incredible next step on our journey out of the COVID-19 era, but there is more still to be done, as no one is safe until everyone is safe," Hugh Evans, CEO of Global Citizen, said after the event Saturday.

"As we fight this virus, we also need to

take care of the most vulnerable people and address the challenges they're facing right now," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said during the event.

Speakers also included the leaders of New Zealand, El Salvador, Sweden, South Africa and Barbados.

Organizers said the show was not just a fundraiser, but aimed to draw awareness to the disproportionate impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on marginalized communities.

French President Emmanuel Macron said shared action was needed to defeat the virus.

"Let's mobilize, let's refuse an 'every man for himself' approach, let's continue to move forward together. France and Europe take their responsibility today and will do so tomorrow," Macron said.

Worldwide, nearly 10 million people have been reported infected by the virus, and nearly a half million have died, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Experts say those figures seriously understate the true toll of the pandemic, due to limited testing and missed mild cases.

About a dozen potential COVID-19 vaccines are in early stages of testing. While some could move into late-stage testing later this year if all goes well, it's unlikely any would be licensed before early next year at the earliest.

AP

Card games, pool, TV shows entertain Zimbabweans in lockdown

HARARE, Zimbabwe

IT'S come to this: Some children in Zimbabwe are so tired of the weeks of coronavirus lockdown they are yearning to return to school.

"This is all now boring," 10-year-old Tafadzwa Mafuta said. "I miss reading, writing and playing with my friends."

Zimbabweans starved for entertainment, including some children, have turned to petty gambling and other activities in poor neighborhoods where many have lost their livelihoods.

Some defy social distancing, crowding shoulder to shoulder.

Ronald Kanhete's informal television repair shop was demolished under the government's clean-up campaign targeting "illegal" buildings. The campaign hasn't stopped even under lockdown.

Now he spends his days by a crowded pool table in the poor Mbare suburb in the capital, Harare, betting on games with the little money he has.

Before coronavirus, pool was a way for him to pass time. Now he jostles with some juveniles for a chance to win some money at the pool table to survive.

"Pool is a game I enjoy ... it has also become my meal ticket," he said.

Elsewhere, a group of young men and children knelt around a sack spread on the dirty ground, playing a game of cards. Money exchanged hands fast, even as a soldier in a truck used a loudspeaker to order people back into their homes.

Security agents enforcing the lockdown also break up dozens of people playing or watching soccer matches in the poor residential areas.

Previously, these were friendly matches for men trying to keep fit. Now they have become competitive "money games," sometimes involving players from the country's elite professional soccer league.



In this photo taken on Thursday, May 21, 2020, Zimbabwean musician Progress Chipfumo, left, and his band take part in the "Lockdown Live" gigs that have attracted tens of thousands of viewers in recent weeks, in Harare. Zimbabweans starved for entertainment, including some children, have turned to petty gambling and other activities in poor neighborhoods where many have lost their livelihoods. The music shows have come as a relief for both entertainment-starved Zimbabweans and artists struggling to make ends meet. (AP Photo)

The league has threatened to punish players taking part in the unsanctioned matches, but players, unpaid for months due to the lockdown, say they need the money to keep hunger at bay.

Even children are in on the action, betting small amounts on the teams.

Zimbabwe's education ministry says it plans to begin a phased opening of schools at the end of July, although teacher unions argue that it is still unsafe to do so.

Some parents say they cannot afford to pay for online classes being offered by some professionals.

"They should just return to school as normal, they can wear masks and the teachers can enforce social distancing," said Pertunia Sibanda of Mbare suburb, adding, "It's better than having them here busy playing cards for money."

She said the only time she gets to spend "quality time" with her three children is when, like many people around the world, they are watching their favorite entertainers online or on state television.

The music shows have come as a relief for both entertainment-starved Zimbabweans and artists struggling to make ends meet.

Musician Progress Chipfumo takes part in the "Lockdown Live" gigs that have attracted tens of thousands of viewers in recent weeks. Entertainers say the lockdown has reduced them to charity cases. The government has promised to help them with basics such as food.

"Right now I don't have a single cent," said Chipfumo, whose last live show was three months ago. The lockdown shows "help me to connect with my fans, and maybe with a few dollars."

"The musicians are not getting much out of this exercise because most of them are just sacrificing their services to try and entertain stressed Zimbabweans" said one of the gigs' promoters, Tinashe Mutarisi, who recently converted a warehouse at his paint manufacturing company into a recording studio.

For children such as 10-year old Tafadzwa, nothing, including the television shows, beats school, which he once despised for being too routine and tedious.

"I used to love the holidays, but this is now just too much," he said.

AP

Hamilton saddened and hurt by Ecclestone's racism comments

PARIS

FORMULA One champion Lewis Hamilton has criticized "ignorant and uneducated" comments by former F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone.

Hamilton, a six-time world champion and the only Black driver in F1, was shocked by Ecclestone's claim during an interview with broadcaster CNN on Friday that "in lots of cases, Black people are more racist" than white people.

"Damn, I just don't even know where to start on this one ... so sad and disappointing to read these comments," Hamilton posted on Instagram. "This is exactly what is wrong - ignorant and uneducated comments which

Ecclestone made his assertion when he was asked his opinion on Hamilton setting up a commission to increase diversity in motorsport.

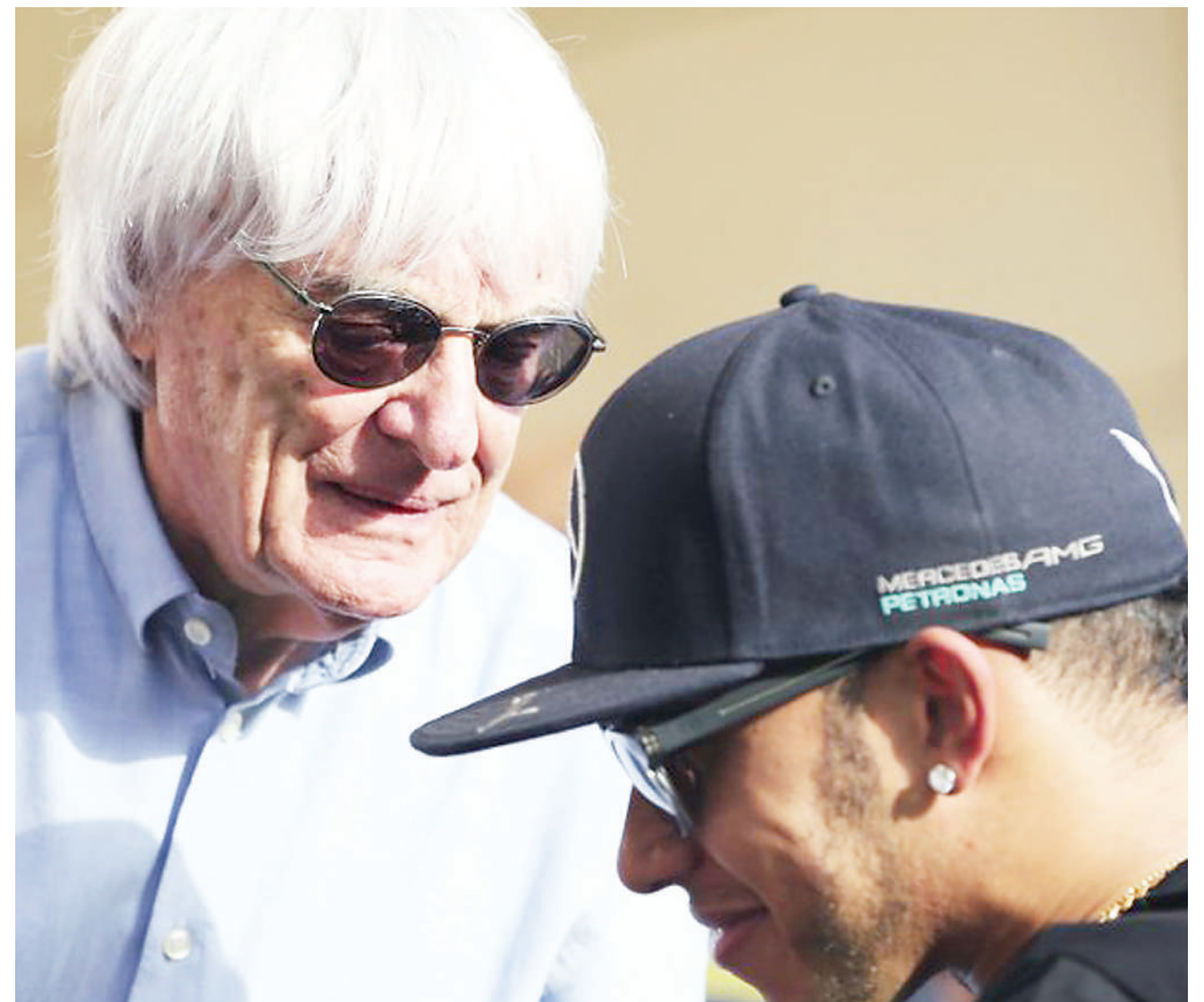
"I don't think it's going to do anything bad or good for Formula One. It will just make people think, which is more important," Ecclestone replied. "People ought to think a little bit and say 'what the hell, somebody's not the same as white people and that Black people should think the same about white people. Because I think in lots of cases, Black people are more racist than what white people are.'"

Challenged to give evidence, Ecclestone replied: "Things over the years I've noticed and there's no need for it."

Hamilton recently attended a Black Lives Matter march in London. He has spoken widely about racism in recent weeks after saying he felt "so much anger, sadness and disbelief" following the killing of George Floyd - a handcuffed and unarmed Black man - by a police officer in Minneapolis last month.

"Lewis is a little bit special. First he's very, very, very talented as a driver and he seems to be now extremely talented when he's standing up making speeches," Ecclestone said. "This last campaign he's doing for the Black people is wonderful. He's doing a great job and it's people (who are) easily recognizable that people listen to."

F1 pledged to increase diversity in a white-dominated series by setting up an initiative called "We Race As One." F1 chairman Chase Carey followed up



In this Thursday, April 16, 2015 file photo, Bernie Ecclestone, President and CEO of Formula One Management, left, talks to Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain ahead the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix at the Formula One Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain. Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton has criticized "ignorant and uneducated" comments by former F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone. Hamilton, a six-time world champion and the only Black driver in F1, was shocked by Ecclestone's claim during an interview with broadcaster CNN on Friday, June 26, 2020 that "in lots of cases, Black people are more racist" than white people. (AP Photo)

with a personal donation of \$1 million.

Hamilton has spoken of abuse he received throughout his career, dating back to junior days in karting. In 2008 he was racially abused by fans at the Spanish Grand Prix near Barcelona. Some blacked up their faces while wearing black wigs and T-shirts with "Hamilton Family" written on them.

Ecclestone insisted Hamilton had never discussed this, and was surprised Hamilton took offense.

"Well, he knows people have been against him because he said they have, but I'm surprised that it concerns him even," Ecclestone said. "I'm really unhappy if he took it seriously, I never

thought he did. I didn't think it affected him."

Ecclestone was evasive about whether he should have done more to condemn those incidents, considering he was in charge.

"Well, I think I did behind the scenes a little bit," he said. "What else could you do?"

Asked if F1 should have done more over time to fight racism, Ecclestone replied "they're too busy trying to win races or find sponsors, so really other things have little if any interest."

Hamilton said those comments were indicative of a deep-seated problem.

"It makes complete sense to me now

that nothing was said or done to make our sport more diverse or to address the racial abuse I received throughout my career," Hamilton said. "If someone who has run the sport for decades has such a lack of understanding of the deep rooted issues we as black people deal with every day, how can we expect all the people who work under him to understand? It starts at the top."

F1 distanced itself from Ecclestone. "At a time when unity is needed to tackle racism and inequality, we completely disagree with Bernie Ecclestone's comments that have no place in F1 or society," F1 said.

AP

Liverpool slam fans' 'wholly unacceptable' title celebrations

LONDON

PREMIER League champions Liverpool were forced to criticise their fans' "wholly unacceptable" behaviour after police claimed glasses and bottles were thrown at them during title celebrations that turned violent.

Liverpool supporters have ignored coronavirus social distancing guidelines since Jurgen Klopp's side were crowned English champions for the first time in 30 years on Thursday.

Thousands have flocked into the city centre to party after many initially gathered around Anfield.

With many drinking to excess, the title celebrations have turned ugly.

Merseyside Police Assistant Chief Constable Jon Roy said two officers needed medical treatment for injuries to their backs after bottles were thrown as they went to help an assault victim in a crowd of supporters on Friday.

A group of about 100 people threw glasses and bottles at riot police as they tried to stop them committing acts of disorder in the city's Pier Head waterfront area, according to Roy.

Deputy chief executive of the North West Ambulance Service Mick Forrest said crews were sent to 34 emergencies as a result of the violence.

Twenty-seven people were taken to hospital, three in a serious condition.

"The crowd largely dispersed by about 1.30am and a short time later

officers were confronted by a group of people more than 100 strong who sought confrontation with the police," Roy said.

"They were committing acts of disorder and then threw glasses and bottles at the police when they tried to intervene.

"Specially trained officers in protective kit had to disperse them and we then had a number of really violent, absolutely unacceptable, incidents of violence and disorder throughout the city centre."

Fifteen people have been arrested for public order offences and one man was arrested on suspicion of assault, he said.

In a joint statement with Merseyside Police and Liverpool City Council, the club condemned supporters who ignored social distancing advice.

"Our city is still in a public health crisis and this behaviour is wholly unacceptable," read the statement.

"The potential danger of a second peak of COVID-19 still exists and we need to work together to make sure we don't undo everything that has been achieved as a region during lockdown."

Liverpool's mayor, Joe Anderson, also condemned the scenes, claiming on Twitter they had brought a "negative focus" on the city.

Social media images showed a firework hitting the Liver Bird building, one of the city's most famous land-

Why Liverpool's excellence under Klopp defies conventional wisdom

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THERE are dozens of vantage points from which to view the past 25 months for Liverpool Football Club. In Europe, they reached consecutive Champions League finals, winning one and losing another. Domestically, they of course won their first title in 30 years, while also losing just two of 70 matches since May 2018. That's 186 of the past 210 points at stake, for those keeping score at home.

When a club enjoys such a period, you'll read many "how" pieces, and rightly so. We strive to understand, seeking formulas and best practices that explain success. Amid all of this, there's one thing that stands out and makes this all the more remarkable because it confounds conventional wisdom.

Very few Liverpool players arrived at Anfield with an unquestioned, "can't-miss" superstar label, something you simply don't see very often at top clubs. That many of them now enjoy superstar status is a function of what they achieved at Liverpool, working with Jurgen Klopp and his staff.

The closest you get to guaranteed star signings are probably goalkeeper Alisson and central defender Virgil van Dijk. The former cost £56 million from Roma; he was the Brazil goalkeeper. But even with Alisson, we're talking about a guy who had one season of European football under his belt and who, until 12 months earlier, had been Wojciech Szczesny's backup in Serie A.

Van Dijk was the most expensive defender in history at £76m, but he came with a raft of caveats, which prompted other clubs to consider the fee way too high. He had suffered a serious injury the year before. He was 26, but had played for only Groningen, Celtic and Southampton and he had all of 16 caps for the Dutch national team. Both suggested that either he was the latest of bloomers or the myriad scouts and coaches who had watched him his entire career to that point didn't appreciate his gifts.

It rather goes downhill from there.

Mohamed Salah had enjoyed two prolific seasons at Roma, but many still remembered him as the fruitless winger who couldn't get a game at Chelsea. He arrived in the summer of 2017 and cost £37.5m. Between forwards and attacking midfielders, you'll find no fewer than 20 who switched clubs between 2016 and 2018 for more money. Some of them understandably so (Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, Romelu Lukaku), others less so (Hulk, Thomas Lemar, Alvaro Morata).

You can make a similar point for Salah's teammates in the front three. Sadio Mane cost £37m from Southampton, where he'd scored 21 goals over two years as a clever winger. Roberto



Jurgen Klopp has worked wonders at Liverpool, especially when you consider how he not only developed players into stars, but got a lot of players with little expectation and turned them into world-beaters all at the same time. (Agencies)

Firmino, who predates Klopp, arrived from TSG Hoffenheim, who had finished mid-table the previous two seasons. Liverpool signed him during the Copa America; he was 23 at the time and making his first competitive appearances for his country. Nice players and definite upsides, but not exactly two guys to bring traffic on Merseyside to a standstill with excitement.

The midfielders? Georginio Wijnaldum arrived from a relegated Newcastle side. Fabinho had enjoyed success at Monaco, but he was still a defensive midfielder with four Brazil caps to his name and who had already been discarded by a big club (Real Madrid).

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain offered a lot more in terms of name recognition, of course, but more in terms of unfulfilled promise. He was a 24-year-old winger who, between injuries and inconsistent performances, had started barely 20% of Arsenal's league games over the previous six years. Again, a gamble.

Naby Keita was, on the other hand, eagerly anticipated, partly because Liverpool paid a whopping £53m for him, partly because they signed him a year before he actually arrived. But again, we're not talking about a household name at the time, but rather another promising Red Bull alumnus. What's more, in part due to injuries and

in part to the play of teammates, he's been somewhat peripheral to these two seasons of success.

Need more examples? Jordan Henderson came nearly a decade ago as a promising kid from Sunderland, no more than that. Joe Gomez was a teenager from Charlton. Joel Matip, a free transfer from Europa League-standard Schalke. Andy Robertson, a 23-year-old wingback from a relegated side who cost £8m plus bonuses. (Trent Alexander-Arnold, who, ironically, might end up being the single greatest player on this team, has of course been at the club since the age of 6, so he's in his own category.)

You get the picture. Aside from 5000-to-1 fairytales, title-winning teams who excel for multiple seasons normally do so with stars who arrive as stars: last-piece-of-the-puzzle type guys. Not so with Liverpool. The vast majority of these players are stars now, but they became stars at Anfield, working under Klopp. Their résumés pre-Liverpool are generally unremarkable, at least at the highest level.

(Oh, I almost forgot: James Milner. He did have a glittering career before being signed by Brendan Rodgers as a free agent in 2015, a few months before Klopp's arrival, and he's been a spectacularly solid servant to the club. But as befits a man who has a parody

Twitter account named @boringmilner, it's safe to say nobody was thronging the streets in celebration when his move was announced.)

Much has been written about the Borussia Dortmund sides that Klopp built, and such parallels are often tricky. That was another era (particularly at the start of his reign) and another sporting landscape. The players he signed skewed younger and, with a few exceptions, even less heralded than at Anfield, which is understandable, given the differences in budget.

That said, there is one quirk that jumps out at you. With a few obvious exceptions (such as Robert Lewandowski and, to a degree, Mats Hummels), a number of players who excelled under Klopp at Dortmund struggled elsewhere. From Mario Gotze to Shinji Kagawa, from Nuri Sahin to Kevin Grosskreutz, from Neven Subotic to Lucas Barrios to even Henrikh Mkhitaryan, you're struck by how many looked so good in the Klopposphere only to hit roadblocks once they moved on.

Is that also a Klopp effect? Did he make good players look like great ones? Will it happen if and when some of the current crop at Anfield leave, or is it just an irrelevant quirk and a tiny sample size?

All of this is a testament to the work Klopp and his staff have done. They not only made Liverpool greater than the sum of its parts, they made the individual parts better.

And no, this isn't simply a case of buying promising talent and watching it flourish, either. Any executive with enough money could buy a 20-year-old Kylian Mbappe, watch him score 50 goals at age 25 and take credit for his development. Not only were the vast majority of these guys not ready-made superstars when they arrived, they weren't superstars-in-waiting, either. That they are now is down to Klopp and the environment Liverpool were able to create.

Klopp's seeming ability to multiply the talents of his players feels positively biblical, like something out of the Wedding at Cana. It's not the only facet that explains the past two mind-blowing seasons at Anfield, but it might be the toughest for any club to emulate.

Man City will give 'exceptional' Liverpool guard of honour, says Pep Guardiola

LONDON

PEP Guardiola on Saturday confirmed that his Manchester City side will give new Premier League champions Liverpool a guard of honour when they meet next week.

Liverpool's first English league title in 30 years was secured two days ago as second-placed City lost 2-1 at Chelsea.

The top two meet at the Etihad Stadium next Thursday and Guardiola, whose team had won the two previous Premier League titles, says Liverpool deserve to be given the traditional guard of honour.

"Of course we are going to do it," said Guardiola. "We are going to do the guard of honour of course."

"Always we receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it."

The Spaniard refuted any suggestion that his team have not been as hungry or motivated this season, despite Liverpool winning their

19th league title with a record seven games to spare.

"A team that wins eight titles (trophies) in the last three years have passion, in every single game, in every competition, everywhere. No one in this country can say that." Added Guardiola, who led City to a third straight League Cup triumph before the coronavirus lockdown in March.

"It is so difficult to do what we have done in the most difficult league in the world but you cannot win all the time."

"There was one team that was exceptional and, when one team is exceptional, I say learn from them and congratulate them. It is simple."

"This team's passion and desire, it is going and going and going again."

City visit Newcastle on Sunday for their FA Cup quarter-final and are still chasing a treble of major trophies, leading Real Madrid 2-1 after the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie at the Santiago Bernabeu.

AFP

Seven positive virus cases as South African football set to resume

JOHANNESBURG

THERE have been seven positive tests for coronavirus at four clubs as the South African Premiership -- the richest in Africa -- prepares to restart.

Orlando Pirates midfielder Ben Motshwari was the first player to be infected with the COVID-19 disease and has made a full recovery.

Another midfielder, Given Mashikinyi from Bloemfontein Celtic, also tested positive and is in quarantine.

Also in self-isolation are two unnamed Kaizer Chiefs players and three unidentified non-playing members of the Stellenbosch FC staff.

"The affected duo will be in self-isolation for the stipulated period of 14 days," a Chiefs statement said.

"They will be retested after the isolation period and if their tests come back negative, they will be able to rejoin the squad."

A Stellenbosch official said: "We are assisting the staff members to recover as safely and speedily as possible and mitigate the risk of exposure to other employees."

The coronavirus pandemic has yet to reach its peak in South Africa with health minister Zweli Mkhize warning this week that "the worst is yet to come".

By late Friday, 124,590 cases of COVID-19 infection had been recorded with 2,340 deaths from the disease in the most industrialised African country.

The government gave the go-ahead this week for the Premiership, which offers 40 million rand (\$2.3 million/2 mn euro) prize money, to resume.

- Mid-July resumption - Clubs have between six and nine fixtures to fulfil in the 30-round season with reports suggesting a mid-July resumption.

Pitso Mosimane, coach of defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns, says the 16 clubs will need a minimum of three weeks to prepare for the restart of a league halted three months ago.

Sundowns, who trail leaders Chiefs by four points but have played one match less, and sixth-place Bidvest Wits have the most matches to play and face a hectic schedule.

All matches will be played in one of the nine South African provinces with Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal reportedly the favourites.

"Finishing the season in one province is our best option health wise as it should enable us to control the environment," Premiership chairman Irvin Khoza said.

Apart from a potentially thrilling title race, with Chiefs and Sundowns yet to meet in the second round, a fierce struggle is looming to avoid relegation.

Only seven points separate seven clubs with Black Leopards propping up the standings on 20 points, three less than AmaZulu, Polokwane City and Baroka FC.

Bremen snatch play-off survival chance, champions Bayern rout Wolfsburg

BERLIN

WERDER Bremen gave themselves hope of avoiding relegation from the German Bundesliga by thrashing Cologne 6-1 to grab a play-off place on the last day of the season, while champions Bayern Munich routed Wolfsburg before lifting the trophy on Saturday.

Japan striker Yuya Osako scored twice as Bremen stole the lifeline of the relegation/promotion play-off place from Fortuna Dusseldorf, who lost 3-0 at Union Berlin and were relegated with Paderborn, finishing one point behind Bremen.

"We put in a great performance under pressure," said Bremen coach Florian Kohfeldt after the club's 1,900th Bundesliga game.

"But we are aware that we haven't achieved anything -- in the relegation play-off, the emotions will be even greater."

Bremen have spent more seasons than any other team in the Bundesliga, having only spent one term in the second tier, in 1980-81.

Bremen will face second-tier opponents in either Heidenheim or possibly neighbours, rivals and fellow struggling giants Hamburg in the play-off first leg on Thursday.

"I have experienced a few derbies, but I don't care who we face. I just want to appeal to the fans to stay home to watch it," added Kohfeldt, with games still behind closed doors due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A burst of goals from Osako, Milot Rashica and Nicolas Fuellkrug -- all in the space of eight minutes -- had Werder 3-0 up at the break against Cologne at the Westerstadion.

Former Everton midfielder Davy Klaassen then fired home a rebound just after the break before Osako, facing his old side, added his second and USA international Josh Sargent completed the rout. Dominick Drexler pulled a goal back for Cologne.

Four-time Bundesliga champions Werder also needed a favour from Berlin and got one as Union beat Fortuna 3-0 with goals from Nigerian duo Anthony Ujah and Suleiman Abdullahi either side of veteran midfielder Christian Gentner's effort.

Bremen will find out their opponents on Sunday, with Heidenheim currently in the play-off place ahead of the final round of matches in the second division.

- Hundred up for Bayern - At Wolfsburg, Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski scored a penalty for his 34th league goal of the season, finishing as the top scorer for the fifth time.

Kingsley Coman, Michael Cuisance and Thomas Mueller also got on the scoresheet as Bayern, champions for the eighth straight season, finished 13 points clear of second-placed Borussia Dortmund following a 4-0 win.



Gladbach celebrate clinching the fourth and final Champions League place (AFP Photo)

Mueller set up Coman for Bayern's opening goal to finish the campaign with a league record 21 assists, and his goal that rounded out the win was also Bayern's 100th league goal this season -- one short of the Bundesliga record.

"I am proud of the way we have played over the past few months," said Bayern

coach Hansi Flick, who has won 28 of his first 31 games in charge.

Flick also hailed the efforts made to ensure the Bundesliga became the first top European league to resume following the coronavirus lockdown.

"The Bundesliga has led the way in Europe, which was an outstanding achieve-

ment," added Flick. "In this respect, this is a very special championship for us."

- Gladbach into Champions League -

Meanwhile, Borussia Moenchengladbach and RB Leipzig secured qualification for next season's Champions League after 2-1 wins over Hertha Berlin and Augsburg respectively, as fifth-placed Bayer Leverkusen missed out by two points despite beating Mainz 1-0.

Dortmund, who had already wrapped up second place, crashed to a 4-0 home defeat by Hoffenheim, for whom Croatia striker Andrej Kramaric scored all four goals, including a no-look penalty.

That result allowed Hoffenheim to leapfrog Wolfsburg and take sixth place, although both sides will go into the Europa League next season along with Leverkusen.

Before kick-off in Dortmund, Mario Goetze, who scored Germany's winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final, was given a send-off by the club with his contract expiring this month.

Elsewhere, Timo Werner signed off with a brace in RB Leipzig's 2-1 win at Augsburg in what was his final appearance for the club before moving to Chelsea.

Schalke's disastrous second half of the season was completed with a 4-0 thrashing at the hands of Freiburg as they finished the season 12th, having been third in December.

Eintracht Frankfurt beat bottom side Paderborn 3-2 in Saturday's other game.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Why Liverpool's excellence under Klopp defies conventional wisdom

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima (L), dribbles past Ndanda FC center back, Paul Maona, when the squads locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League clash, held at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Gwambina FC ultimately books spot in Premier League

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

MWANZA'S Gwambina FC has turned out to be the first outfit in this season's First Division League (FDL) to secure a place in the next season's Premier League.

The Misungwi District-based club achieved the feat thanks to a 1-0 win the side posted in the FDL's Group B encounter with fellow Mwanza side, Pamba FC, which took place at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on Saturday.

Winger Meshack Abraham netted the goal for Gwambina FC on the 90th minute of the game.

He eventually went into the club's history as a player that helped the outfit make certain of their participation in the top flight next season.

Gwambina FC looked like they were to be forced to toil for promotion to the Premier League given they registered 1-1 draw with Dar es Salaam's Transit Camp FC in the FDL match played in the city.

The Misungwi squad was in need of two points to land promotion to the Premier League.

After the Saturday clash's final whistle, Gwambina FC officials and fans jubilantly ran into the pitch to celebrate their outfit's success with the players.

The fans were seen running around the pitch, blowing trumpets to soak themselves in the celebrations of the memorable history the club has written.

"Our club Gwambina FC has now formally won a place in the 2020/21 Premier League season," a statement disclosed on the club's website after the clash.

Gwambina FC will join another outfit from the FDL's Group A in participation in the next season's top flight.

In Group A, Dodoma FC and Ifhefu FC are fighting for the Premier League ticket, whereas sides that will finish second in the FDL's two groups will take part in play offs for promotion to the Premier League.

The play offs will as well bring together sides which will finish 15th and 16th in the Vodacom Premier League.



Mwanza's Alliance FC players celebrate a goal the team netted in one of their recent games in the Vodacom Premier League, played in the region.

Alliance FC form renews hope of avoiding relegation to FDL

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

DESPITE being in the Vodacom Premier League's relegation zone, Alliance FC were hungry and optimistic to return to league action and prove the doubters wrong.

Despite their lowly position, Alliance are confident of their ability to fight their way out of the relegation zone.

They got back to work following the coronavirus-enforced break with purpose and picked up a hard-fought 1-0 away win against fellow strugglers Mbeya City FC.

Attacking midfielder Juma Nyangi gave Alliance FC an early lead which they managed to hang on to the final whistle.

This was a six-pointer game that gave the Mwanza outfit a huge advantage over Mbeya City FC.

Getting an early lead showed the necessary urgency and desire to win from the first minute but more importantly hanging onto the lead highlighted the de-

termination to fight for the top-flight status.

They were strong and organized in defence, something that has been severely lacking for most of the season which has seen them concede 37 goals.

It may feel like Alliance FC's 1-1 draw with Police Tanzania was a wasted opportunity, however the visitors are one of the unbeaten sides in the last five rounds.

A home draw against a good Police Tanzania side was not that bad for Alliance FC, a team that has actually struggled at home in the first round.

Their momentum was maintained with a highly credible win against top four hopefuls, Coastal Union, on Saturday.

The results placed Alliance FC just two points away from salvation, with a fixture list that leaves much in their own hands.

The fight for survival at the bottom of the table has rarely been either so congested or hard to call.

It is commendable for Alliance FC to hit the ground running with

seven points out of possible nine in the opening three fixtures.

Just four points currently divide third-bottom Mbeya City FC from Mtibwa Sugar in 13th spot.

A single point separates four clubs immediately above and below the relegation line.

It is debatable how much of an advantage playing at home offers Alliance FC given their record of having drawn more home games than winning.

It is, nevertheless, still probable that the familiarity of playing in one's own stadium offers home comforts that could make a difference in the end.

Alliance FC's last four home matches sees them take on Namungo FC, Lipuli FC, Mtibwa Sugar and Ndanda FC.

Their away schedule presents a different story, with trips to JKT Tanzania and then Simba on the last day of the season.

However, with a string of very winnable six-pointers coming up against Lipuli FC and Ndanda FC, Alliance FC could be forgiven for forgetting away games and con-

centrating on their home contests until the end of the season as survival is the only thing on their mind.

Scoring in all the post-coronavirus three games was at least encouraging but the lack of goals is still a concern.

Against Police Tanzania for instance, if they had found their shooting boots and not squandered three golden opportunities in the first half where they were dominant, the outcome may have been considerably different.

But these struggles are nothing new. Alliance have been up against it all season with only 27 goals scored in 32 matches.

The club owner, James Bwire, will be content with the way the initial restart has panned out.

There is still a genuine belief they are capable of getting out of relegation scrap over the remaining six matches as opposed to the other Mwanza-based side, Mbao FC, who look dead and gone.

Arusha RC vows to support AFC quest for top flight spot

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE newly appointed Regional Commissioner for Arusha, Idd Kimanta, has hit the ground running here, taking up office with a commitment to turn around all sporting events, teams and cultural outings.

For starters, the new official is to give a shot in the arm to the ailing Arusha Football Club (AFC), currently playing in the First Division League (FDL) but heavily constrained financially.

"It is a shame that the Arusha team, which is now playing in Shinyanga, has its players boarding in cheap and squalid guest houses, this is rather painful," he stated.

"It will never happen again during my tenure here."

Kimanta, who previously served as the District Commissioner for Monduli, said he will ensure that the AFC will be promoted to Premier League next season.

He added he will also support the army team of Mbuni FC, based in Monduli, that plays in Second Division League (SDL), so it can escalate into the FDL.

For years, Arusha has not been able to produce a football team to play in the First Division League.

The region's only card is the AFC team, struggling to make ends meet while playing in the FDL.

The last time that Arusha managed to slot into the Mainland Premier League was over eight years ago, this was through the former JKT Oljoro FC.

The side was since sold off to Misungwi District of Mwanza and is now going by the name of Gwambina Football Club.

The Oljoro team, which belonged to the National Service (JKT) base of Arusha, climbed into the Premier League during the 2011/12 season, but dropped again to the FDL in the 2013/14 season.

Now through the new Regional Commissioner's support, Arusha wants to try its card again in top flight, through the AFC.

"We are opening up new chapter in sports and culture, building teams, supporting players and making sure that Arusha name tops the list when it comes to all events," Kimanta, who also worked hard in support of Mbuni FC during his tenure in Monduli, disclosed.

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It is a shame that the Arusha team, which is now playing in Shinyanga, has its players boarding in cheap and squalid guest houses, this is rather painful

5 EATV MONDAY
 11:00 DADAZ LIVE
 14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
 14:30 Bongo Hits
 15:00 Funguka
 15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
 16:00 Akili & Me (r)
 16:30 #HASHTAG
 17:00 5SELEKT
 17:55 Kurasa
 18:00 eNewz
 18:30 Music/Soap
 19:00 EATV SAA 1
 19:45 MJADALA
 20:00 DADAZ (r)
 21:00 UJENZI
 21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
 22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT @ 9:30
 5Sports

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 The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrika RADIO
 06:00 Supa Breakfast
 10:00 MAMAMIA
 12:00 Kipenga Xtra
 13:00 Planet Bongo
 16:00 EA Drive
 20:00 Kipenga
 21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

