



AGRICULTURE



'SPEED UP PRODUCTION OF IMPROVED SEEDS' PAGE 3

INVESTMENT



CHEMBA INVITES NGOS TO SUPPORT GOVT INITIATIVES PAGE 4

EDUCATION



GOVT URGES GRADUATES TO WORK HARD PAGE 5

FINANCE



MUSOMA FISHERMEN DIRECTED TO FORM GROUPS PAGE 6

Guardian PROPERTY WATCH
WORLD VISION CANADA CONSTRUCTS 90M² CLASSROOMS, LATRINES AND STAFF ROOM IN LONGIDO

Gold bulls take heart from the Fed's resolve as dollar buckles

New city bus park to have hotel and mini supermarket

First phase complete on Entebbe research clinic

MV KILINDONI

Page 5



FLUORIDE

Page 6



Minister Kabudi, Rwanda envoy talk CHOGM, transit trade

By Guardian Reporter

THE Rwandan government has expressed satisfaction with transit freight improvements, promising to continue using Dar es Salaam port for shipping a large portion of the country's inbound and outward bound cargo. Rwanda transports over 80 percent of its cargo through the port, on the basis remarks by Major General Charles Karamba, the resident Rwandan ambassador, at a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi. "Tanzania and Rwanda are not only neighbours; we are relatives," he said, noting further that Rwanda considers the port of Dar es Salaam as its own har

TURN TO Page2

Ministry battles Form I intake shortcomings

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 759,706 pupils have been selected to join secondary education next month, the government announced yesterday, but with thousands likely to miss the January intake due to shortage of classrooms.

The number of pupils who will not join secondary school in the January intake has increased considerably from 58,699 pupils or 7.73 per cent of those who passed the standard seven exams in 2019 to 8.9 per cent this year.

In a report issued yesterday, Dar es Salaam region tops the list of those missing secondary school placing

TURN TO Page2



Motison Group of Companies workers pay their last respect before the casket bearing the body of their late Executive Chairman Subhash Patel at its major industrial premises at Mikocheni light industries area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

Smuggling tanzanite: Quarry owners likely to lose permits

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

QUARRY owners shall from now be held responsible for instances of attempted smuggling of gemstones, Minerals minister Doto Biteko declared here yesterday.

So far the precautions taken to stop smuggling of tanzanite target individual artisan miners and dealers, while the measure set out by the minister extends responsibility to those employing quarry workers involved in ferreting out the gemstones.

Extending the onus of stopping smuggling follows concerns that cases

“We cannot condone such rackets here after things started going well. From this day any quarry worker caught ferrying stones illegally, even the firm that employs will face consequences”

of smuggling of the rare blue gemstones have been on the rise in recent months.

The minister announced this measure in a meeting with quarry operators at Mirerani, where he cited reports that seven major smuggling cases were registered in three months, despite the presence of circumventing wall encompassing the breadth of the tanzanite mining zone.

“We cannot condone such rackets here after things started going well. From this day any quarry worker caught ferrying stones illegally, even the firm that employs will face consequences,” he stated.

TURN TO Page2

Draw up rapid industry uplift strategy - minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Geoffrey Mwambe (pictured) has issued a seven-day ultimatum to agencies under the ministry to submit their budget limits and strategies to rapidly uplift the two key



economic spheres.

He also cautioned executives and other officials that frustrate investors and traders to be careful and “watch out,” issuing this note of precaution in a

TURN TO Page2

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Smuggling tanzanite: Quarry owners likely to lose permits

FROM PAGE 1

Quarry operators were tasked with conducting primary screening at their respective exit points before allowing miners to move out so that the final check at the gates will be easier.

A total of 30 minerals trading centers have been set up across the country and thus no excuse is available for miners to take their products elsewhere, the minister underlined.

"We built the wall so that we may prevent smuggling of rare tanzanite gems. But there are still people who take pride in stealing regardless," he stated, warning that smugglers will be prosecuted but those employing them stand to lose their mining permits.

Simanjiro legislator Christopher ole Sendeka had earlier complained that during screening people who enter Mirerani gates there are numerous instances of imprudent searches, long queues and exposure to inhospitable weather in various instances.

"We need more booths for screening, shelters and more officials to undertake the task so as to speed up the process," he said.

In response, the minister stated that he had ordered the construction of new facilities to start immediately. There will also be all weather roads to circumnavigate the mining quarries to reduce obstacles of moving from quarries to the major exit point, he said.

A total of 306 surveillance cameras have been installed around the perimeter wall, officials revealed in the past month.

Manyara Regional Mining Association (MAREMA), Justin Nyari, appealed to the government to reduce or remove taxes on construction and mining equipment.

In another mining zone, 50 people including agents, gold dealers and officers at the Chunya minerals trading centre were arrested in relation to a smuggling racket that compelled the minister to intervene, directing the police to take

steps against various officials.

Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said yesterday that police in Chunya District, Mbeya Region conducted a crackdown after the minister's visit early this week and managed to arrest the suspects from various areas across the region.

"There are certain issues that I will not disclose as investigations are still going on, but what I can say is that the crackdown was spurred by the minister," the police commander noted.

On Monday, minister Biteko revoked licenses of six gold dealers and fired three officials of the Chunya minerals trading centre over suspicions of abetting illegal exports of gold.

He ordered immediate dismissal of the gold traders association chairman at the trading centre, Gagala Paul, alleging that he had conspired with officials to facilitate illegal exports.

Gold dealers and miners must cooperate with the government in ending illegal gold export in Chunya, to ensure discipline and enhance productivity in the minerals sector, the minister appealed.

He urged gold miners and traders to make sure all the minerals are traded at the established centre, as stringent measures will be taken against anyone conducting the business outside official centres.

Officials in the district must register existing gold smelting plants to enable the government to map out gold quantities they produce as well as monitor related markets. Permanent Secretary Prof Simon Msanjila was similarly asked to reward whistleblowers facilitating the arrest of gold smugglers.

On Independence Day, at the swearing in of cabinet ministers and deputy ministers at the Chamwino State House, President John Magufuli raised concern at reports of rampant incidents of illegal gold exports from the district.



Ardhi University (ARU), Vice Chancellor Professor Evaristo Liwa escorts Finnish ambassador to Tanzania Riitta Swan and her assistants when they paid a courtesy call at the University on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tanzania, Rwanda confer on CHOGM, transit trade

FROM PAGE 1

bor, in the talks held in the capital.

The envoy's focus was on the coming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled for June 2021, where he highlighted opportunities for business interactions between the two countries.

CHOGM was to be held in Kigali in June this year but was postponed

because of the Covid-19 pandemic, a biennial get together serving as a high consultative and policy-orientation gathering.

Commonwealth leaders selected Rwanda as host for the next summit when they met in London in 2018.

Prof Kabudi assured the envoy that Tanzania continues to create a conducive business and investment environment.

"We have put in place a good

environment that allows neighboring countries to export and import their commodities with ease," he said, noting also that Tanzania exports fresh fish and fillets using Rwandan planes, with plans underway to purchase cargo planes that will be exporting the products directly from Tanzania. The move will boost trade within the East African region, he asserted.

Data by the International

Association of Ports and Harbors shows that Dar es Salaam port is the fourth largest port on the Indian Ocean coastline in Africa after Durban, Mombasa and Maputo. The port is also a gateway for commerce and trade for landlocked states such as Malawi, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

Draw up rapid industry uplift strategy - minister

FROM PAGE 1

meeting with administrators of public institutions and agencies under the ministry.

"Each institution must prepare a report and submit to me within seven days, indicating major strategies to bring about significant changes," he said, challenging the Business Registration and Licensing Authority (BRELA) to state their contributions to this drive.

The minister expressed keen interest in new, comprehensive and viable strategies, for instance in the need to show the job description of each and every position of manager in those institutions.

"I want every unit in the ministry to rethink and revisit its position as well as its contribution to transforming these key sectors," he declared, noting further that managers must give this vision the needed weight to ensure it yields the needed results.

Managers in the ministry need to be more innovative and adopt initiatives with a positive impact, new systems that will create new markets for locally manufactured

goods and products, both internal and foreign markets, he elaborated.

Products being produced by local entrepreneurs need to be supported to reach international markets, he stated, expressing concern that agencies authorities under the ministry weren't working to link local producers as part of creating new markets.

"I visited a dairy product company that claimed it has been sourcing its packaging materials in Kenya. You can be surprised that in Tanzania we also have producers of packaging materials similar to those in Kenya, who claim there are no markets for their products here," he said.

The minister also pointed a finger at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) for often siding with foreign competitors to ruin local producers, noting that the government is unhappy with this tendency.

Deputy Minister Exaud Kigahe urged ministerial officials to work as a team with departmental staff in the various institutions for the good of the vital economic inputs they are tasked with.



Former Industries and Trade Minister who is now minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Innocent Bashungwa (L) hands over office documents to his successor minister Geoffrey Mwambe in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ministry battles Form I intake shortcomings

FROM PAGE 1

with 14,926 pupils, followed by Geita (9,572), Mara (7,809), Dodoma (7,145) and Coast (6,888) selected pupils.

Mbeya has 5,549 unallocated pupils, Kigoma (5,498), Morogoro (4,686), Kilimanjaro (3,015), Arusha (2,768), Simiyu (1,837), Tanga (1,537), Iringa (907), Singida (674), Rukwa (564), Manyara (557) and Shinyanga

(234).

Pupils from Kagera, Katavi, Lindi, Mtwara, Mwanza, Njombe, Ruvuma, Songwe and Tabora selected to join secondary education will all join secondary education in January.

Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) told a press conference here yesterday that 91.1 per cent of pupils who sat the national primary education exams

this year passed, noting that a total of 74,166 pupils are expected to join secondary schools towards the end of February next year.

Heads of regional administration and district authorities in areas facing a shortage of classrooms need to work with education stakeholders to complete construction of the remaining rooms by end of next February.

He also urged that pupils who have been selected be admitted

without restrictions. "I ask parents and guardians to collaborate with regional and district administrative secretaries to ensure the directive is implemented accordingly for students to join school by next month," he declared.

He said that this is the first selection being released through the students' selection management information system, and it has helped to lower costs of the entire process, saving time and increasing

efficiency.

A total of 970 pupils were selected to join special schools due to outstanding performance, with 1,238 pupils being admitted to vocational schools and 1,961 pupils registered for boarding schools.

In all 385,665 girls and 362,247 boys will be joining secondary education in January, the ministry indicated.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr Binlith Mahenge directed district

executive directors to liaise with the regional administrative secretary to complete the construction of remaining classroom before the minister's deadline is reached.

At the moment 148 classrooms are needed in the region, with the city council leading having a deficit of 50 classrooms. Education performance has noticeably improved compared to last year's performance, he added.

Revenues from tourism sector increases - report

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

REVENUES from tourism sector have increased by 7.9 per cent from \$ 2,412.3million in 2018 to \$ 2,604.5 million in 2019, the 2019 International Visitors' Exit Survey Report has shown.

Presenting the survey report to the executive committee, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Aloyce Nzuki said tourism

has continued to play an important role in the country's economy and is rated among the fastest growing sectors in Tanzania.

He said the sector has recorded improved performance as by the increasing number of tourist arrivals from 1,505,702 in 2018 to 1,527,230 in 2019.

"This performance is largely attributed to the government efforts to promote tourism invest and attractions as

well tourist products placing Tanzania among the unique tourist destinations in the world," he said.

Dr Nzuki maintained that cognisant to the importance of the sector to the economy, the ministry in collaboration with the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Immigration Department and the Zanzibar Commission of Tourism prepare and publish International Visitors' Exit

Survey report on annual basis.

Another finding of the report, he said is that the overall expenditure per person per night was \$266 in 2019 compared to \$193 recorded in 2018.

On the other hand, visitors who came under the package tour arrangement spent an average of \$ 379 per person per night in 2019 compared to \$ 331 in 2018. At the same time non-package tourists

spent an average of \$ 216 per person per night in 2019 compared to \$135 in 2018.

The report also shows that cost of touring Tanzania is broadly the same as those of most of the neighbouring countries. The United States, United Kingdom and Germany were the long-haul source of markets.

"About 67 per cent of the visitors came for leisure and holidays while the main tourism activities for most of the

visitors were wildlife viewing, beach touring and mountain climbing," said the PS.

Dr Nzuki also noted that among sub-Saharan countries, Tanzania is the second after South Africa in foreign currency earning through the tourism sector.

However, he explained that there are still several challenges that the sector as indicated in questionnaires filled by tourists, one of the being poor infrastructure and low

use of credit cards.

He observed that currently the number of tourists who use cash payments is declining as many use credit cards, thus the need to find out where the problem is.

The other challenge, according to the survey that need further scrutiny is why some tourists who visit the country do not come back for more visits, a situation that is not good for national economic growth.

Speed up production and dissemination of improved seedling to farmers - ministry

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

AUTHORITIES in Kigoma Region have been urged to effectively implement directives issued by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to speed up oil palm production and disseminate improved seedlings of Tenera variety to the farmers and stakeholders to address the shortage of edible oil in the country.

Speaking yesterday during a tour at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI Kihinga) Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Kusaya said that the government plans are to promote the crop throughout the country, but they have started with Kigoma Region.

Kusaya said from the plan, each district council in Kigoma Region is supposed to produce and disseminate one million seedlings to the farmers, institutions and other stakeholders.

"TARI Kihinga, as experts in this area, will provide seeds and so far each district council had been given more than fifty seedlings. The institute is also following up the district councils and providing training to extension officers to ensure production of the quality seedlings and its distribution to farmers," he said.

He urged them to keep records of those given the seeds for tracking.

"This is an order from the Prime Minister, I don't expect the district



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation project officer Salome Mtali (L) explains to students from secondary schools on how to join the firm's Instant School Service which will access them to get free digital studies, during the Uwezo 2020 Awards ceremony organised by Great Hope Foundation at the University of Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

councils to go against the directive," he said.

According to the PS, Tanzania edible oil consumption is estimated to be 570,000 MT, per year, but the country produces only 205,000 MT which means deficiency is 365,000MT which is actually imported from other countries.

This amount costs the nation 443bn/- annually adding that this should not be the

case because Tanzania has a potential land to produce all types of vegetable edible oil that is needed in this country.

He said so far TARI has produced 4.2 million seeds of improved Tenera variety for the farmers and the plan is to continue producing more seeds and disseminating them to the farmers and stakeholders.

TARI director general, Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said that besides production of improved

seeds, TARI has also built capacity for the district council by providing training so that they can produce and manage the seedlings well.

"We have already produced more than 4.2 million seeds and disseminated them to the district councils. We are producing more and more so that our nation can be edible oil self-sufficient and export to other neighbouring countries," he said

Govt will always defend rights of the poor - Constitution minister

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has resolved to protect the poor hence whenever anyone emerges with intentions to cause harm to them he will be severely dealt with according to the country's laws.

These remarks were given by the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Minister, Mwigulu Nchemba on Tuesday this week at a special meeting of the Security and Defense Committee lead by Kahama District Commissioner Anamringi Macha during his one-day visit in Shinyanga Region.

The minister reproached people who try to engage the government by taking away people's rights, hence these people should be told that the government would not entertain their intrigues.

Earlier, listening to complaints raised by Specious Sylvester, a Nyakato Ward resident who said his ex-husband Richard Majenga had sprayed her with acid and swindled her assets, the minister said such things should now come to an end and steps be taken against the perpetrators.

He instructed the District Commissioner to make sure nothing should be done in re-

gard to the former couple's assets until the issue that was in court is settled.

In regard to other assets that had already been sold and those remaining, the Minister directed that all these should be followed up as their ownership was dual and if any one of the two unilaterally sell any asset, legal steps should be taken on him/her as soon as possible.

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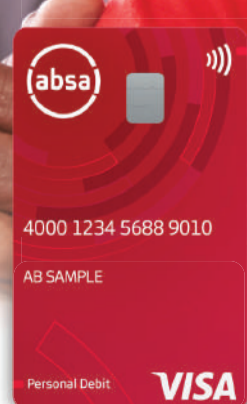
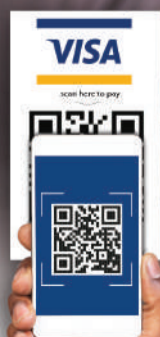
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Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam has rehabilitated a bridge at Immaculate Heart of Mary English medium nursery and primary school in Dar es Salaam. The bridge was swept away by flood waters. Looking on are Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam past president Abdulqadir Hameed (2nd L), Immediate past district governor Sharmila Bhatt (R), project director Kumail Manji (L) and Rotarian Ezra Kavana moments after the event held over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

Katavi Region allocates 500-acres to TARI for crops research centre

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

AUTHORITIES in Katavi Region have allocated a 500-acres of land to the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) for the construction of a research centre for various crops grown in Katavi and neighbouring regions.

The allocation of land aims to change farming practices of the farmers from subsistence to commercial farming that uses seeds from modern technology that would be researched on at the centre after its completion.

The land, located in Tanganyika District is a plan being implemented following the directives of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to develop the farming sector in Katavi Region and expansion of research activities in every region to assist farmers adopt modern farming practices.

Handing over the land to the TARI managing director Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo before the Tanganyika District Council members, CCM leaders and the constituency's Member of Parliament, Katavi Regional Commissioner Juma Homera gave three months to the research institute to

start research activities to assist farmers. The RC said Katavi Region has been cultivating various strategic crops including cotton, maize, cashew nuts, coffee, sim-sim, cassava, rice and tobacco hence they decided to hand over the land to ensure farmers in the country's western zone get modern technological seeds.

He said the strategy in their plans was to establish sufficient agro-processing factories using raw materials produced by farmers in the region in order to expand the employment sector. "We have already established a cotton ginnery in Tanganyika District, our aim is to establish many more that will use various raw materials from crops cultivated in the region," he said.

Speaking after receiving the land Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said before being given the area they began assisting farmers to producing oil palm and cotton seedlings as the area had no destructive pests.

Tanganyika District executive director said they have allocated special areas for investment and so far there were eight investors including TARI and pledged of cooperation to arrive at the set goals.

'Human errors and drivers' negligence among factors contributing to most of road accidents'

By Guardian Reporter

HUMAN errors and drivers' negligence are among the factors contributing to most of the road accidents in the country, police said yesterday.

According to the force, the number of road crashes had dropped, but there are still some accidents of which the victims are school children, pedestrians and motorbike drivers.

Zonal Traffic Officer, Nuru Selemani made the statement in Dar es Salaam when

speaking at a graduation ceremony to award secondary school students and motorbike drivers who had undergone one month road safety training.

"The various initiatives by the government and stakeholders have largely contributed in reduced accidents; more efforts are required to ensure the safety of children to and from schools," he noted.

The road safety education was conducted by Total Tanzania, Total Foundation and implemented by Amend, a

non-governmental organisation working in the area of road safety.

It was implemented in two regions namely Tanga and Dar es Salaam whereby 80 motorcycle drivers and 40 students from Turiani and Tanga secondary schools benefitted.

The traffic boss appealed to drivers and other road users to adhere to traffic rules and regulations to avoid accidents, which are mostly caused by human errors.

"It is annoying that most of the road crashes involved

school children. It is the responsibility of every Tanzanian to protect our children from accidents, he noted.

Total Tanzania's managing director, Jean Franchois Schoepp said the number of accidents caused by motorcycles in 2018 were 725 while in 2019 they accounted for 162 accidents, a decrease of 37.5 per cent.

He said the giant oil firm had since 2012 been providing road safety education to children under 18 years whereas so far 200,000 children had benefitted. Total

invested over 300m/- for the programme.

"The participants are now road safety ambassadors and have committed to extend vital road safety information in their respective schools and communities," said Schoepp adding the training for drivers involved practical exercises on proper use of junctions and roundabouts, safe overtaking and emergency stops. "We will continue to support the government's efforts towards reducing road accidents by promoting road safety education to youth

and students. The government had done a lot to ensure the safety of road users such as drivers, cyclists and pedestrians," he added.

Deputy director of Amend, Tom Bishop said: "This is just the first year of the programme, will continue providing similar education to school children and youth.

According to Bishop, road accidents are becoming more dangerous to children in Africa. He said by educating secondary school students, many Tanzanians will share the acquired knowl-

edge with fellow students as well as the community.

Turiani secondary school head teacher, Yasinta Nandi commended the stakeholders for choosing to educate her students on road safety matters. She said the 20 students who had benefited from the training will share the knowledge with other 1,610 students.

"We are happy with the one month training for our students, we will make sure they transfer the acquired knowledge to other students." She said.

Chemba District invites NGOs to support government initiatives

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

CHEMBA District authority has welcomed non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to work in the district, saying by so doing they support the government initiatives to improve service provision to people, especially rural-based population.

The appeal was made by District Commissioner Simon Chacha who observed that residents of the district are faced with a lot of challenges that call for attention of different stakeholders.

Speaking during a field visit to Isini village in the district to witness agricultural activities through adaptation to climate change for improved livelihoods initiatives, he expressed appreciation for the good work the villagers were doing, thanks to modern farming technology.

The villagers have been trained on soil and water conservation technology that can be easily applied in their individual farms and the significance of timelines in the farm operations by Inades - Formation, Tanzania, a non-governmental organisation(NGO) operating in the country.

They have also been trained on community microfinance, bee keeping to help them improve their livelihoods. DC Chacha thanked Inades -Formation for the initiatives that had proved very helpful to the villagers.

"It is really encouraging to see ru-

ral-based farmers adopting such new technologies that not only increase food production but also mitigating effects of climate change," he said.

He added that the government through the district authority welcomes such partners that work directly with people on the ground to empower them.

Chacha described Inades -Formation as one of the organisations working to empower farmers with best farming practices, calling on them to make good use of the knowledge and do away with the traditional farming methods.

He noted that Chemba just like other parts of Dodoma Region is very dry, appealing to partners who can invest in drilling boreholes and help villagers access water easily for both domestic and agricultural use.

Mohamed Semdoe, environment officer in the district also noted that the new farming technology introduced in the district by Inades -Formation is helping a lot on environmental conservation.

He said "We are glad to have such a project that is very environmental friendly and aimed at improving agricultural productivity."

One of the farmers in the village, Raphael Monga thanked the organisation for equipping them with knowledge on farming, microfinance, environmental conservation and bee-keeping.



Turiani secondary school Form Three students in jovial mood shortly after receiving their certificates after attending a road safety programme conducted by Amend Tanzania and supported by Total Foundation. The event took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

NEMC told to play crucial role for national strategic projects

By Guardian Reporter

THE government wants to see the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) paying critical attention to national strategic projects over and above standing firm in protecting Tanzania environment.

Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Ummu Mwalimu told NEMC leaders on her visit to the council's offices on Monday in Dar es Salaam, that national strategic projects currently being implemented by the government were very important for the national development agenda and needed particular attention from every quarter to ensure they

succeeded and were completed on schedule.

Apart from overall task of protecting and managing Tanzania's environment, the minister said, NEMC should pay due and critical attention to national strategic projects that were being implemented because they meant a lot for country's development.

She said NEMC experts must make field visits and talk to investors instead of relying on consultants to advise investors on environment impact assessment processes. "You must get out of offices and advise investors on what to do instead of leaving the task to consultants because some of them are dishonest and have contributed to delays in giving investors en-

vironment impact assessment (EIA) certificates," the minister said.

The minister also called on the council to strengthen zonal offices and empower workers to enable them to do the government's investment tempo. "We need to do a lot of work to meet the needs and expectations of investors. This will only happen if you will strengthen zonal offices and give workers all the necessary facilitation in order to remove the enormous workload currently at the headquarters," she said.

The minister called on Tanzanians to ensure they protected the environment in whatever they did because, she said, Tanzania was part of this planet facing

unprecedented rise in temperatures.

NEMC director general Samuel Gwamaka told the minister that the council shared the concern of the minister, telling her that NEMC appreciated the importance of the strategic projects being implemented and paid special attention to them.

"The council appreciates your concern on all issues raised and we shall implement all your directives and advices relating to management and workers. We have our own schedule that we employ to ensure strategic projects are implemented well. Indeed the implementation will now be easier now that there is ministerial push through your directives," the DG said.

Govt urges graduates to work hard, bring improvement in public service

By Getrude Mbago

THE government yesterday urged graduates from the Adult Education Institute (IAE) to put their skills and knowledge in good use by ensuring that they work hard to bring changes and improvement in the public service.

The graduates totaling 1786, majority of whom are teachers in public schools were conferred with certificates, diplomas and degrees. Speaking during the IAE

56th graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, deputy permanent secretary in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Gerald Mweli said in a bid to eradicate illiteracy, investing in quality education was vital.

"I have been told that majority of the graduates here are servants in various public entities, so my appeal to you is to go and be reliable agents of change by utilizing well the skills and knowledge you

have acquired to bolster the country's development.

He said education was among the essential areas that need more investments to fight various challenges facing communities.

Mweli also said that the government in collaboration with the World Bank (WB) and other partners is also implementing a five-year project to enable more young Tanzanians to access and complete secondary education in safer and better learning environments.

Dubbed 'Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP)', the project is expected to directly benefit about 6.5 million secondary school students by strengthening government-run schools and establishing stronger educational pathways for students who leave the formal school system.

"SEQUIP will see increasing access to schools, improving education quality for all public secondary education options as well as supporting

more children to continue with studies if they drop," he noted.

He also said that the government has improved adult centres in various regions so as to strengthen provision of adult education in the country. Michael Ng'umbi, the institute's director also said that provision of alternative education is also vital in achieving the country's goals of having a literate society.

"We are mullied to eradicate ignorance by improving lit-

eracy among Tanzanians, this calls for coordinated efforts between the government and stakeholders," he said.

He further said that recently the institute launched a special five-year National Literacy and Mass Education Rolling Strategy which is expected to reach over five million people across Tanzania.

According to him, the strategy focuses towards having a well literate society for the improved livelihood by 2025.

Ng'umbi said that the strat-

egy has considered several reform measures and restructuring in order to effectively and efficiently deliver adult and non-formal education services in the country.

Naomi Katunzi, chairperson of the IAE's governing council urged the graduates to go and transform challenges into opportunities.

She wanted them to stop complaining on lack of employment but rather be innovative and work hard to achieve their goals.



Dar es Salaam residents look at MV Kilindoni 'Hapa Kazi Tu' at Kigamboni ferry which has been rehabilitated by Songoro Marine Company. The pantoon makes its trips between Nyamisati to Mafia Island. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Majaliwa officiates launch of MV Kilindoni pantoon

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will continue supervising the implementation of all development projects to ensure the work is of high standard to benefit the people.

The remarks were issued by the Prime Minister, Kasim Majaliwa on Tuesday this week when officiating the launching of MV Kilindoni 'Hapa Kazi Tu' ferry that would be sailing between Nyamisati and Mafia Island.

The event was held at Songoro Ferries Building and Repair Workshop at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam.

Majaliwa said the construction of the ferry was commissioned by president John Magufuli to ensure that all promises in the CCM 2021/25 Election Manifesto were honoured as a way of proving to Tanzanians that CCM works on its pledges.

"In the 2015-20 CCM Election Manifesto, the party said and wrote that there would be a ferry that would be sailing to Mafia island, and today this is the one being launched and sailing to Mafia," he said.

The PM further said in order to ensure the water transport sector is strengthened, the government plans to construct a ship that would be sailing along the coast from Mtwara-Lindi-Kilwa-Dar es Salaam-Tanga and Zanzibar as well as nearby Comoro Islands.

He explained that the aim of the government was to ensure it strengthens road, air, water and rail transport sectors to enable Tanzanians select the means of transport they prefer.

Earlier, the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) Chief Executive Officer Eng Japhet Masele said the Agency in 2019/20 was implementing the construction of four

ferries and so far three of them - MV Ilemela, MV Kayenze and MV Ukara have started services while MV Kilindoni was now getting into the water to start services.

He said another new ferry, MV Chato has been completed and was expected to start services after final inspections now being carried out by experts from the Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute (DMI) and Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC).

Deputy Minister for education, Science and Technology, who is also the Mafia Member of Parliament Omary Juma Kipanga thanked President John Magufuli for providing the people of Mafia with reliable and safe means of transport.

MV Kilindoni Ferry has a carrying capacity of 100 tonnes - 200 passengers and six small vehicles.

Fluoride-contaminated water still affects Oldonyosambu residents

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

USING water with a high concentration of fluoride mineral continues to affect residents of Oldonyosambu Ward in Arumeru District, Arusha Region.

Speaking to this paper early this week, the Oldonyosambu Ward Councillor Raymond Lairumbe said there was an acute shortage of clean and safe water and the residents still use the fluoride contaminated water.

"The situation is still critical, in 2018 President John Magufuli on his way from the border area to open the Kenya Tanzania Customs post, promised us with a 4.6bn/- water project," said Lairumbe.

He added: "Right now water pipes have already been laid by Arusha Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (AUWASA) that have reached our ward, hence we expect after a short time the project will be completed."

He said as of now they did not have

an alternative supply of water than the fluoride contaminated water.

He said the fluoride in the water has caused some residents developing deformed legs, have little thinking capacity, teeth decay, babies born with outside heads and people failing to walk long distances.

He however said the government, working together with various stakeholders introduced water purifying technology using bones, but only a handful of households benefited.

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PS tells NCC to work transparently and efficiently to develop construction sector

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Works, and Transport, Elius Mwakalinga has directed the National Construction Council (NCC) to work transparently and professionally in order to develop the country's construction industry.

Mwakalinga issued the directives in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the annual board meeting NCC, meant to provide a platform for board members to extensively discuss various issues in the sector.

"If we want to provide the best leaders in the sector who can take the

sector to another level in terms of development we can only reach that level if we'll be operating in a very transparent and professional manner," the technocrat told the gathering.

The PS further noted that the executives need to be transparent when preparing their annual

budget for different projects until their execution so that even if the new staff is being assigned on the projects other employees will be able to fill in as they are aware of all relevant information needed for the project to be done successfully.

"If there is no transparency and you executives

are the only one who knows everything about the project then it is very much possible for the projects to fail and thus hinders the country's development," he stressed.

According to him, adhering to professionalism in the workplace is an important factor that contributes to increasing efficiency and avoiding unnecessary gossip and quarrels from co-workers.

Arch Mwakalinga also called on the NCC to work in partnership with various institutions in the country so that they can develop ideas on different approaches that can be used in boosting constructive development projects in the country.

He also emphasized that engineers are a key factor in the country's development, so they have a responsibility to make sure they work with the highest standards and if they all work together the country is out to benefit.

He also urged NCC executives to avoid conflicts, as it has been a source of disruption to the development of various projects in the country.

"This institution is vital in the development of our country especially in this period when we are a middle-income country, and so I ask you to not be afraid in doing your job, and for any assistance you need the ministry is here to

serve," he said.

The ministry, he said has set aside funds for supporting professionals in the construction industry, urging NCC to select people who are willing to go for further training.

NCC Chief Executive Officer Dr Matiko Mturi said that the council has been facing various challenges including a shortage of staff as well as financial constraints.

So far, NCC has 30 employees instead of 80 for the council to work smoothly.

He also cited budget deficit as an issue thwarting the performance of the council.



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The judges and Legal and Human Right Centre officials pose for photograph with representative from family members of the late Godfrey Luena. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Musoma fishermen directed to form groups to access loans from banks

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

FISHERMEN in Busekera, Bwai, Kumsoma shores and in Lake Victoria islands of Iriga and Bukuba in Mara Region have been called on to form groups in order to access loans from Musoma District Council and other financial institutions.

Likewise, they have been urged to abide by laws, regulations and other procedures governing harvests of lake resources.

The call was given on Wednesday this week by Musoma District Fisheries Officer, Augustine Constantine during the visit by the district's officials to the fishermen aimed at improving fishing activities.

The entourage included the District Community Development Officer, Tanna Nyabange, his assistant Nyanjara Majura and officials from Equity Bank who mobilised fishermen to open accounts with the bank.

Nyabange said it was important for fishermen to transform the sub sector by abiding by laws, regulations and other procedures on fishing, and abandon the use of illegal fishing gear and that every fisherman should be a guardian and teacher of fellow fishermen.

He said the District Council will continue providing training to fishermen so that all fishing areas become safe and called on them not to contravene any laws.

Tanna Nyabange, the district's community development officer called on the fishermen to form groups in order to access loans from Musoma District Council and other financial institutions.

For their part, Equity Bank officials mobilised the fishermen to open accounts with the bank to access loans to strengthen their fishing activities.

Kemilembe Kabugumila, an Equity Bank official said they have registered 79 fishermen groups with 1,035 members which the bank will begin with in providing loans.

"We Equity Bank officials will first meet with the Musoma District Commissioner Dr Vincent Anney and the Constituency's Member of Parliament Prof Sospeter Muhongo to discuss loans opportunities to fishermen groups in Musoma rural areas," said Kabugumila.

He said the bank was ready to dish out loans to the fishermen's groups and the arrangements were underway, including discussion with the DC and the MP to make the exercise a success.

Minister tasks Tarura to speed up roads infrastructure improvement

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister in the President's Office Regional Administration and Good Governance, Dr Festo Nduvane has called on the Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to speed up improvement of road infrastructure and bridges.

He also urged the agency to timely address the potential impact of damage to the infrastructure with a view to enhance economic growth and development of the people.

Dr Nduvane was speaking during his visit of TARURA head offices in Dodoma to meet with its top officials for introduction and receive the agency's performance report.

"We all know the importance of the roads sector as a vital component for the people's development, TARURA has been given a sensitive sector in contributing to the national economic growth, hence we would lie to expect speed we had in the last three years increase," he said.

He called upon TARURA Chief Executive Officer Eng Victor Seff to ensure every road project signed was implemented within the contract period, and he would not agree to any lame excuses for contract extension.

"This habit of contract extension on flimsy grounds ruins government plans, hence all road contracts have to be completed within the contract agreement terms including the time frame," he stressed.

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Dar es Salaam Special Zone Traffic Police Commander Nuru Seleman (2nd L) presents a certificate to Form III students of Turiani secondary school Maria Mahajile after attending road safety training for juveniles and motorbike drivers organised by Amend and Total Foundation in Dares Salaam yesterday. Left is Total Tanzania managing director, Jean Francois Schoepp. Photo: John Badi

Passenger vehicles should park at authorised areas only - Maswa DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

MASWA District Commissioner in Simiyu Region Aswege Kaminyoge has banned all passenger carrying vehicles to park in unauthorized areas of Maswa town and instead they should be parked at the central bus station and other officially allocated smaller parking lots.

The ban was issued yesterday by the DC when speaking to transport stakeholders, saying the District Council constructed the central bus station specifically for passenger buses and other passenger vehicles, but is surprised when such vehicles are being parked in alleys and other unauthorized places.

He said the illegal parking has been causing the Council revenue loss thereby making it unable to meet its development plans for the people.

"I instruct all those concerned in-

cluding the police force to ensure all unauthorized parking areas are stopped, seize all vehicles found parked in them," he said.

He called on drivers of these vehicles to respect existing laws and procedures requiring them to park the vehicles at authorized places.

The Chairman of Maswa District Road Safety Committee Samuel Mwanga said laws governing town planning provide guidelines on how activities in urban areas are run.

He said as for now they will be making silent inspections to identify drivers who violate road safety laws, the violations that have been causes for many accidents.

Vivian Christian, Maswa District Executive Director said the official position was that all vehicles should be parked at special areas for embarking and disembarking passengers.



I instruct all those concerned including the police force to ensure all unauthorized parking areas are stopped, seize all vehicles found parked in them

Bumbuli leaders asked to put voters' interests first

By Correspondent George

Sembony, Bumbuli

ELECTED leaders in Bumbuli, Tanga region have been asked to put the interests of their voters at heart to ensure the area is developed and transformed at a high speed.

The call was made by Bumbuli Legislator, January Makamba at the first full council meeting which re-elected Amiri Shehiza to chair the council for another five years.

Makamba pointed out that there were still so many challenges that need to be tackled despite progress made in the seven years since its inception to become a council.

He reminded councillors of the fact that the council was still in its infancy as an institution and stressed that where there are major development challenges, a strong commitment is needed to move people towards progress.

Makamba explained that the main reason for the establishment of the council

was that it was a marginalized area that required the presence of an institution that will be closer to the people to meet many development challenges.

"Even when I decided to seek the consent of the people to become a member of parliament, 10 years ago I did so because I wanted to make my contribution to the development of Bumbuli," said Makamba.

He said that so far there were still so many challenges and expressed that he be-

lieves that all those elected were motivated by the same spirit.

He said there was no reason to be ashamed of the state of affairs in the council. "It is strange seeing someone take a picture of a bus that's stuck and throwing in the networks. This reality of our situation and there is no reason to be ashamed of that. That is why we even use our pocket money to repair infrastructure when there is no government funding to do so," he explained.

He promised to co-operate with the council's experts, saying they relied heavily on their knowledge and integrity in bringing about development in the council.

Makamba urged the experts, however, to understand the pressure on elected officials due to the high expectations of the people so when they criticize or push some development activities they are doing so in good faith.

Makamba said that when they see one of the experts delaying, or being negligent

or does not have the right spirit they will speak without fear. "We do it in good faith and openly. What is not right is using intrigue, lies, slander and incomplete information against experts," he said, urging councillors not to do so because it leads to unreasonable chaos.

He said that during this period they will push for development with great vigour to create a great and good record even if they will not be able to end all problems in five years. "We should be

proud to show that there are clinics, classrooms, schools, roads or water from the work we have done," he said.

Speaking at the meeting, Tanga Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Judica Omari stressed the importance of ensuring government laws and regulations are implemented and citizens understand and fulfill them. She also put emphasis on security, explaining that it is important in bringing development to the people.

Nyasa DC mobilises for increased coffee production by using modern seedlings

By Guardian

Correspondent, Nyasa

NYASA District Commissioner Isabela Chilumba has called upon residents of the district to increase coffee production by using modern quality seeds that yield better coffee crop to increase households' and district's income.

The DC was speaking recently during her one-day visit at Upolo and Luhangarasi wards in Mpepo Division in the District, the visit whose aim was to close militia training in Upolo Ward, to mobilise coffee cultivation and to prepare classrooms and school desks for the intake of Form I students early next year.

She explained that Nyasa District has many big farms that can increase coffee production as compared to neighbouring Mbinga District which is now a leading coffee producer, hence she called on farmers, in Mpepo ward in particular to adopt modern quality seeds for cultivation.

She said the government has freely distributed 7,000 coffee seedlings aimed at increasing coffee

production.

In regard to the mobilization for classrooms and school desks for the Form I students' intake early next year, the DC called upon people and officials at various leadership levels to ensure every student who passed his/her examinations reports to

school. In Upolo Ward in the district, the DC closed militia training and called on those who passed out to utilize the training gained in defending the country's borders, not to allow foreigners coming in without permits, reminding them that the area was bordering Mozambique.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR AUDITING SERVICES

Miracle Corners – Tanzania (MCT) invites qualified firms of certified public accountants to audit its financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020, with an option to extend the contract for up to two additional years.

The audit of Miracle Corners – Tanzania's financial statements must be performed in accordance with internationally accepted auditing standards (International Standards on Auditing).

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

MCT is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered under the Tanzanian Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children. MCT's mission is to contribute towards improving oral health and dental care through existing promotion, prevention, curative and rehabilitation services. The Organization aims to see communities throughout Tanzania live free from oral and dental diseases. MC-Tanzania is an affiliate of Miracle Corners of the World (MCW Global), a New York-based non for profit organization.

MCT currently conducts Oral Health Care programs in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Mbeya regions in collaboration with key stakeholders of Oral Health Care in Tanzania. The MCT annual budget for the year of the audit is \$ 95,999.

MCT is a Non-Governmental Organization that receives funding primarily from grants but also through other income-generating activities.

SUBMISSION

All proposals must include:

1. Evidence of the firm's qualifications to provide the above services;
2. Background and experience in nonprofit auditing clients;
3. The size and organizational structure of the auditor's firm;
4. A proposed timeline for fieldwork and final reporting;
5. The proposed fee structure for the proposal period;
6. Names of the partner, audit manager, senior auditor, and field staff who will be assigned to our audit and provide biographies; and
7. A copy of your firm's most recent license to conduct an audit in Tanzania.

Proposals should be submitted directly to MCT's Country Manager through mctanzania@mcwglobal.org no later than **January 7, 2021**. The audit work will be conducted and closed by the end of March 2021.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

MC-Tanzania is a locally registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with a mission to contribute towards improving oral health and dental care through existing promotion, prevention, curative and rehabilitation services. The Organization aims to see communities throughout Tanzania live free from oral and dental diseases. MC-Tanzania is an affiliate of Miracle Corners of the World (MCW Global), a New York-based non for profit organization.

MC-Tanzania is seeking to recruit a Finance & Administration Officer to be based in Dar es Salaam. This position is a full time, fixed term (renewable annually) and will report to the MC-Tanzania Country Manager.

Key duties and responsibilities:

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- Maintain up to date HR files for all employees.
- Coordinate the recruitment process.
- Carry out tasks to ensure compliance with development partners and government requirements.
- Ensuring the timely submission of statutory returns and annual registration requirements.
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- Maintain an up to date fixed asset register and inventory for all MC-Tanzania assets.
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- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field, CPA qualification is a must.
- At least three years of working experience in accounting, experience in Not for Profit settings is an added advantage.
- Excellent oral/written communication skills in English and Swahili.
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All interested candidates should send their CV and cover letter to mctanzania@mcwglobal.org

The closing date for receiving applications is **08th January 2021**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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Taking A New Look
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We need to rethink about protection of rights of the migrant workers

A MIGRANT worker is a person who either migrates within their home country or outside it to pursue work. Migrant workers usually do not have the intention to stay permanently in the country or region in which they work.

Migrant workers who work outside their home country are also called foreign workers. They may also be called expatriates or guest workers, especially when they have been sent for or invited to work in the host country before leaving the home country.

The International Labour Organisation estimated in 2014 there were 232 million international migrants worldwide who were outside their home country for at least 12 months and approximately half of them were estimated to be economically active (i.e. being employed or seeking employment). Some countries have millions of migrant workers. Some migrant workers are illegal immigrants. Some are slaves.

Each year on December 18, the United Nations, through the UN-related agency International Organisation for Migration (UN Migration), uses International Migrants Day to highlight the contributions made by the roughly 272 million migrants, including more than 41 million internally displaced persons, (IDPs) and the challenges they face.

This global event, supported by events organised by IOM's nearly 500 country offices and sub-offices as well as government-

tal, international and domestic civil society partners examines a wide range of migration themes, social cohesion, dignity, exploitation, solidarity to advocate for migration guided by the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

In 1997, Filipino and other Asian migrant organisations began celebrating and promoting 18 December as the International Day of Solidarity with Migrants. This date was chosen because it was on 18 December 1990 that the UN adopted the international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families.

Building on this initiative, 18 December with support from Migrant Rights International and the Steering Committee for the Global Campaign for Ratification of the International Convention on Migrants' Rights and many other organisations - began late 1999 campaigning online for the official UN designation of an International Migrant's Day, which was finally proclaimed on 4 December 2000.

The United Nations proclamation of the International Migrants Day is an important step, offering a rallying point for all those concerned with the protection of migrants. The UN invited all UN member states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to observe this day by disseminating information on human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, sharing experiences, and undertaking action to ensure the protection of migrants.

Multi billion foreign exchange industry key in developing sector

FOREX trading is increasingly becoming a popular venue across the world for people to earn a living. Few individual retail forex traders have been operating in online forex trading in Tanzania via International brokers for some time now.

The foreign exchange market (Forex, FX, or currency market) is a global decentralised or over-the-counter (OTC) market for the trading of currencies. This market determines foreign exchange rates for every currency. It includes all aspects of buying, selling and exchanging currencies at current or determined prices. In terms of trading volume, it is by far the largest market in the world, followed by the credit market.

The main participants in this market are the larger international banks. Financial centres around the world function as anchors of trading between a wide range of multiple types of buyers and sellers around the clock, with the exception of weekends. Since currencies are always traded in pairs, the foreign exchange market does not set a currency's absolute value but rather determines its relative value by setting the market price of one currency if paid for with another.

The foreign exchange market works through financial institutions and operates on several levels. Behind the scenes, banks turn to a smaller number of financial firms known as 'dealers', who are involved in large quantities of foreign exchange trading.

Most foreign exchange dealers are banks, so this behind-the-scenes market is sometimes called the 'interbank market' although a few insurance companies and other kinds of financial firms are involved. Trades between foreign exchange dealers can be

very large, involving hundreds of millions of dollars. Because of the sovereignty issue when involving two currencies.

The foreign exchange market assists international trade and investments by enabling currency conversion. It is the availability of internet access and leverage in the forex industry that has attracted many individual traders who could not otherwise get involved due to capital or infrastructure constraints.

The real forex trading should involve a trader actually trading currencies in the global financial markets via broker platforms.

Any other form such as networking marketing where individuals get paid by adding members in the chain using the name forex trading do not represent forex trading by forex trading we mean buying and selling of global currencies in anticipation of future increase or decrease in value of those currencies via brokers platforms with a view of making profits.

Online forex trading offers the following benefits-income generation for Tanzanian citizens once traders become profitable and start making money from the markets. Registered companies, investment funds and large corporate can also open margin accounts with brokers and start trading on their own funds and generate income for investors.

It provide employment opportunities for traders themselves but also staff who will be employed to work in new brokerage firms to be opened and in forex investment funds.

Tanzanians who are ready to learn and take risks in the financial markets through online forex trading regardless of their age, race or sex can be trained to trade for themselves.

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Brexit: Johnson heads for high noon with nobody coming to the rescue

By Peter Hain

EU leaders will never concede a deal that is more favourable to the UK than its remaining 27 members. And for one very good reason: Each one will start to unpick it in its own interest whereupon the biggest, richest and most successful single market in the world would collapse.

The "extra-extra-time" London-Brussels Brexit histrionics were only to be expected, because Boris Johnson and his right-wing Brexiteers have told British voters for years they would get something impossible: all the benefits we've enjoyed for decades within the EU with none of the obligations.

Most of the detailed legal text for a deal has been signed off, leaving the major sticking points, but plenty of confusion in Brussels at what Britain really wants.

The EU offer to the UK was a deal to continue to get full and "unfettered access" for trade if there is continued alignment with the standards of the Single Market Britain has been party to negotiating and respecting for decades.

However if in future, Britain diverges, Brussels will limit access or impose tariffs. At one point last week



when Boris Johnson was talking up a No Deal, he was choosing to have no access and full tariffs, understandably leaving Europe's leaders mystified.

The well-informed commentator Alex Andreou reported on Twitter:

"This has led people to split into two camps. There is one school of thought that Johnson really is utterly clueless. His behaviour at the Thursday Ursula von der Leyen [EU Commission President] dinner (a car crash, apparently), has fed that impression. This makes people not want to do business with this government.

The second school of thought is that Johnson negotiated in bad faith throughout. That his aim was always No Deal and he simply strung 27 coun-

tries along, at the expense of a huge amount of work, effort and expense. This makes them not want to do business with this government. Note that the conclusion is precisely the same under either theory - that whether idiot or fraudster, Johnson is best kept at arm's length. Polling in most EU27 shows that being tough with the UK yields a big favourability boost. So, I'm afraid, nobody is riding to our rescue."

Things changed afterwards when Johnson pulled back and expressed a willingness to keep talking which has since been happening. But even then, he and his Ministers trumpet that the EU has more to lose than the UK. Palpable nonsense since 50% of our trade is with Europe and just 10% of theirs is with us.

EU negotiators find their UK counterparts badly prepared and without any clear strategy except an obsession with not offending Tory Brexit zealots. And they genuinely don't want a deal because that would mean retaining EU ties and making concessions that offend their illusory dogma about "breaking free" and the UK returning to some sort of Imperial grandeur lost over a century ago.

The other Brexiteer myth is that the EU Single Market rules can be bent to fit the UK's needs at the expense of its remaining members. Which is simply not negotiable. EU leaders will never concede a deal that is more favourable to the UK than its remaining 27 members. And for one very good reason: each one will start to unpick it in its own interest whereupon the biggest, richest and most successful single market in the world would collapse.

Meanwhile, a senior German politician confided to a colleague of mine that Chancellor Merkel thought it best not to speak to Johnson last week "for fear of damaging British-German relations. It's like how she managed Trump, by not speaking to him". Both Merkel and Macron refused last week to take Johnson's calls. The ultimate Brexit humiliation - for now.

The talks have resumed after near-collapse last week with more positive smoke signals as I write. If they succeed, Boris Johnson will have a high-noon confrontation with the zealots who elected him Conservative leader. But the country will breathe a sigh of relief. That, all along, has been the problem.

Why investing in emerging market companies makes more of an impact than foreign aid

By Martin Soderberg

FOR decades, many have viewed foreign aid as the best way for rich, developed countries to help poor, developing countries. In fact, the value of international development aid reached a new peak of \$152.8bn in 2019, a slight increase over 2018, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Covid-19 and its associated lockdowns have, however, underscored the limitations of foreign aid.

In Uganda, for example, aid cuts have forced hundreds of thousands of people to the brink of starvation. Even outside such an extreme example, many believe that foreign aid only serves the interests of donor countries and that it either creates dependency or has too many destitution "traps" to be effective. There are also some who argue that most foreign aid is spent on Western consultants instead of the people it's supposed to help.

But if foreign aid is ineffective and we accept that wealthier countries should "do their bit" to help, how should they go about doing so?

A much better solution may be to invest in companies in these countries which have long-term commercial viability and which provide local solutions to local problems.

Foreign aid and missing incentives

One of the problems with foreign aid is that it doesn't provide the right incentives for donors or recipients.

For many public and private sector donors, the responsibility is over once whatever project they were funding is complete. Whether it's the construction of a well, a new school, or handing out mosquito nets, there's little reason for funders to stay invested in the long run. Certainly, some NGOs might play on their ability to demonstrate impact, but the best they can offer funders is a sense that their money's being well spent.

Similarly, the recipients of aid funding don't have any incentive to sustain a project if they don't have ownership of it. We've witnessed this first-hand, having been involved in funding a Zimbabwean dairy training centre.

Once the site was handed over to management, herd size began to shrink and feedstock was no longer managed properly. By June 2020, the herd had dropped to 21 head of cattle, down from 35 in August 2018. As of October 2020, there were 13 cattle, comprising 2 cows, one bull and 10 heifers. Many of the cattle were malnourished and we received reports that several had died while giving birth.

While such a vocational facility clearly has benefits for the people it serves, the incentives simply weren't strong enough for it to run sustainably.

Investment and ESG

Contrast that with the relationship between a business and an investor. When it's looking for an investment, a business will do

everything it can to prove that it's viable. And once it's made an investment, a good investor will do everything it can to ensure that the business succeeds.

This is especially true of private equity investors who typically restructure companies to give them the best chance of success.

And if the concern - as is the case with most foreign aid - is making a sustainable difference in emerging markets, then there are plenty of opportunities to invest in companies with a good environmental, sustainability and governance (ESG) record. There are also private equity funds who'll guide investors through the process.

Imagine what these funds could do with the \$60-billion spent on aid to Africa every year. Imagine what impact a growth explosion in tax-paying businesses could have on the continent's poverty, employment and development levels. And, all of that can happen while still providing investors with real returns.

Environmental education programme boosts pupils' performance, lives of surrounding communities

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

ECO-School Programme has brought in new positive changes to more than 447 pupils at Msufini Primary School 41 kilometer from Mvomero district, Morogoro Region in terms of providing opportunities for environmental education and getting young children thinking about environmental conservation early.

The main objective of the programme is to improve the school environment, improve academic performance of pupils and establish micro projects to overcome various challenges facing the school such as income and transfer knowledge to the community surrounding them.

Msufini Primary School is among 34 schools in Mvomero district that have benefited through Eco-schools programme with the support from the Danish Government through the danish outdoor council (DOC).

Msufini Primary School, Head Teacher, Jonas Mhoka says the programme was officially started at Msufini Primary School, Hembeti ward in November 2017 and so far the programme is being executed by Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG).

Highlighting on the achievement gained through eco-schools programme, he says "As school management, we are very glad for what we have achieved through Eco-school programme in terms of cash and academic performance," he said.

So far the school has been able to plant a total of 600 banana suckers in one acre of land for banana cultivation at school and be able to sell 250 bunches of bananas worth 1,280,000/- that was used to prepare meal for pupils at the school.

Furthermore, the school has been able to provide 250 banana suckers to Mpapa Primary School, 56 banana suckers to Anglican Church, 130 banana suckers to Kunke Primary School and 80 banana suckers to individual people to plant in their localities to earn cash and help feed pupils at schools.

Also academic performance has increased from 50 percent to 78 percent, the rate of pupils who were selected to join secondary schools has increased and reduced absenteeism something that wasn't there before.

Apart from that the school has been able to make 15 modern beehives to engage in honey production, the modern beehives has been hanging 1km from the school for honey production, each modern beehive has capacity to produce 20 litres of honey.

The money they get from selling banana was used to build two classrooms and right now the construction work is underway.

The school has been able to plant grass and trees in school compounds to protect biodiversity at school and prevent soil erosion and they are not allowed to burn waste at school.

The schoolteacher called on the government and other partners to help them build more classrooms for



Eco-School member at Msufini Primary School, Shukuru Sufiani (in a cap) hands-over a banana tree seedlings to a Standard five pupil Prisca Simon to plant it at home for meals and to transfer knowledge to the community. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

pupils to help them learn in a conducive environment that in turn will help them to get best academic results.

Msufini Primary School was officially established in 1975, so far the school has seven classrooms that accommodate 447 pupils, six pit latrine, 15 teachers, they still need two classrooms, one library and eleven pit latrines for pupils and teachers.

Furthermore, he called on the businessmen across the country to visit Msufini Primary School to purchase banana "We have a lot of banana in our farm but we don't have customers to purchase it, we need customers so that we can earn cash to implement our school development projects," he said.

Also he called on Tanzania Agricultural Research Institutes in all areas where they are to assist them get other banana suckers varieties for banana cultivation that will help the school to get more money to implement school's development projects.

On August or September next year, the school is also expecting to get new variety of banana suckers for banana cultivation to get more customers.

The rate of pupils who were selected to join secondary schools has increased and reduces absenteeism something that wasn't there before.

Highlighting on the academic results for pupils, he said in 2019, 59 pupils sat for standard seven national examinations,

and among those pupils, 36 pupils that is equivalent to 68 percent were selected to join secondary schools, among those 15 pupils were boys and 21 were girls.

In 2018, a total of 46 pupils, sat for standard seven national examinations, among those pupils, 36 pupils that is equivalent to 78.2 percent were selected to join secondary schools and among those 13 pupils were boys and 23 were girls.

He said in 2017, a total of 28 pupils sat for Standard Seven National Examinations, and among those pupils, 14 pupils that is equivalent to 50 percent were selected to join secondary schools, among those three pupils were boys and 11 were girls.

While in 2016, 43 pupils sat for standard seven national examinations, and among those pupils, 22 pupils that is equal to 51 percent were selected to join secondary schools, among those 15 pupils were girls and seven were boys.

This has been possible through school feeding programme that was introduced at school through Eco-schools programme that in turn has helped the pupils to get food at schools as well as help them to raise income through selling banana to different customers.

"Pupils become better in their studies when their bodies are well nourished and healthy, the incentive of getting a meal at school also reduces absenteeism. Most significantly, performance improves and

drop-out rates decrease," he says

Before eco-school programme intervention, drop out of school was very high in our school due to lack of food and other family and economic needs.

He said the main objective of the programme is to improve the school environment, establish micro projects to overcome various challenges facing the school such as income as well as improve academic performance of pupils," he said.

For his part, Eco-school committee member, Ali Bakwa expressed thanks to TFCG and Danish government because school dropout rate has declined while school attendance has increased to 90 percent because pupils get food at school. Furthermore "We now have a number of villagers who are coming at our school to learn on banana farming and later on actively engage in banana cultivation in their localities to earn cash, food and for commercial use," he said.

He called on teachers and pupils at the school to collaborate to make sure the project is continued well for the benefit of both pupils and communities surrounding them.

For his part, a standard six pupil Kasim Shaban noted that under eco-school programme, pupils were trained on modern banana farming and right now pupils are very competent on banana cultivation and are now transferring knowledge to their parents.

"As pupils we are very glad for the school feeding programme that we have in our school because it has helped us to get food at the school, improve our academic performance and reduces absenteeism something that wasn't there before," he said.

Right now concentration is very high for pupils from poor households who were forced to walking long distance (10km) from where they stay to school to get education who are now enjoying their studies because they get food at school and spent more hours to study, thanks to Danish Government and TFCG.

Right now the school is looking for customers who can purchase their banana to allow them access funds to improve school infrastructure that is very dilapidated as well as building teachers' office.

For his part, TFCG Eco-School Programme Officer, Judith Kilawe added that the programme was officially started in 2015 with 20 primary schools in Mvomero and expanded further in 2027 with an increase in coverage from 20 to 44 schools.

Currently the programme is being implemented by 70 schools in four districts in Kilosa, Mufindi, Morogoro and Mvomero districts.

"Eco-school's approach can be adopted at all levels of education from kindergarten to universities, we called on schools willing to participate in this programme in all areas where they are to visit our office, we will help them on how to implement it," she said.

According to her, eco-schools provide a framework for learning and action which affords a wealth of opportunities for linking education for sustainable development with the everyday curricular work undertaken by schools as well as enabling and encouraging closer links between schools and the communities around them.

"We called on different schools willing to participate in this programme to visit our office, we will help them on how to implement it for their own benefit and the community surrounding them.

Crisis of confidence in Benin deepens

BY DAVID ZOUNMENO

ON 27 November, the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) issued a decision calling for the annulment of the constitutional amendment enacted by the Benin government in November 2019.

The amendment allowed for, among other things, the creation of a vice-president position, suppression of the death sentence, the grouping of elections, the ratification of international conventions by the president and increased quotas of women in Parliament.

The matter was referred to the court by a citizen of Benin who claimed that passing the amendment at night by a Parliament controlled by the Progressist Union and Republican Bloc - the two ruling parties - violated the requirements of political consensus, citizens' participation and access to timely information.

For civil society and opposition leaders, any constitutional amendment must follow the prescribed procedure, which didn't occur in this case. A Benin government spokesperson said the ACHPR was overstepping its mandate by deliberating on issues beyond its jurisdiction.

The ACHPR decision reveals the depth of the political crisis brewing in Benin

Previous attempts in 2006, 2011 and 2017 to amend the

country's 1990 constitution, both under current and previous administrations, were met with popular resistance and dismissed by Benin's Constitutional Court. To circumvent this, the government appointed a new Constitutional Court president, who many believed was close to President Patrice Talon, having previously been his private lawyer.

Since Talon's election in 2016, a crisis of confidence has led many in the country to question Benin's checks and balances. This stems from the government's attempts to co-opt state institutions such as the Constitutional Court, Parliament and National Independent Electoral Commission by appointing allies into these bodies. Unilateral changes to existing legislation and electoral laws were also made. This has compelled citizens and opposition parties to turn to regional and international jurisdictions to challenge government decisions.

Opposition parties complain of an exclusive political space that favours the ruling coalition and is underpinned by an increasingly authoritarian executive. They also question the National Assembly's legitimacy, and the independence of the Constitutional Court and electoral commission.

What is now at stake in Benin is more than a constitutional amendment. The country is headed for presidential elections in April 2021 and the



The African Court's recent decision could see a political standoff ahead of presidential elections in April 2021. File photo

government is unlikely to abide by the ACHPR's ruling - and not for the first time. The court decision reveals the depth of the political crisis brewing in Benin.

The ACHPR has received at least 28 cases on Benin, including several linked to political processes

Reforms aimed at improving democratic governance are undoubtedly needed, but there is sharp disagreement about the non-consensual methods imposed by the government. The ACHPR has received at least 28 cases regarding Benin, including several linked to political processes.

In the case of the November 2019 constitutional changes, the court ruled that the amendments violated the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance to which Benin is a party. It noted the lack of political consensus and consultation through a referendum, and that the amendment was approved by a non-inclusive Parliament elected during the contested 2019 polls that excluded opposition parties. The ACHPR ordered the government to annul the amendment and revert to the preceding status quo.

The decision comes a few months before the April

2021 presidential elections which could be held without opposition parties because of the restrictions derived from the constitutional amendments and subsequent laws. The court ruling could lead to a political standoff and the kind of civil unrest that followed the 2019 legislative elections. Police and soldiers curbed these protests using live ammunition, leading to the death of four protesters and many others being injured.

Benin could follow the example of Mali in 2012 or Burkina Faso in 2014. Mali was deemed a model of democracy in West Africa until citizens lost trust in the government. Protests in both countries lead to the collapse of the governments and exile of their presidents. This scenario played out again recently in Mali when popular revolt led to a military coup in August 2020.

National sovereignty can't be used as an argument for not abiding by international treaties

It is unlikely that the Benin government will execute the court's decision. In April 2020, in a case related to opposition leaders being excluded from the May 2020 elections, the ACHPR called for the annulment of the process. That verdict angered Benin's government, prompting the filing of a notice of withdrawal from the court on 24 April. This hasn't nullified the cases before the ACHPR as Benin

remains a member until the withdrawal takes effect in April 2021. The country is heading into a turbulent electoral period. Without credible and trustworthy national institutions, the opposition and citizens who feel excluded might resort to violence against the government. If tensions aren't de-escalated, the situation could derail Benin's democratisation process, and reverse the country's hard-won stability.

Benin should reconnect with its tradition of political dialogue and inclusivity, which has frequently helped the country dispel tensions. Rather than being scorned, the court's verdict should be seen as an opportunity to preserve Benin's democratic gains, along with peace and security. The government's argument that national sovereignty is the reason for not abiding by international treaties doesn't hold up.

The ACHPR is essentially a judicial branch of the African Union (AU) that oversees the protection of human rights by member states as part of the continent's conflict prevention arrangements. States that ignore the court's rulings should be reminded by the AU to uphold their international obligations under the AU's Constitutive Act.

Biden faces uphill battle in breaking through Trump administration's political barriers

By J Brooks Spector

WE have now, finally, reached the point where the deluded and delusional forces of Donald Trump have only one vaguely legal avenue left to cast shade on the election of President-elect Joe Biden. That will come in the first week of January 2021, two weeks before the inauguration, when the electoral votes from the states are recorded by the newly elected House of Representatives.

Of course, the disparate "militias" and others of the tin foil hat-wearing armies may stage noisy, even unruly, demonstrations and protests, but that will be very different from achieving a real effect on the electoral results. Finally.

In theory, one or another of these already duly certified electoral votes for Joe Biden, already cast and certified in each of the respective state capitals in the confines of their state legislatures, all across the nation, could be challenged in Congress at the time of the final recording of the vote. But that would require a challenge concurrently from both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

But it will be a freezing cold, blizzard of a snowy day in the middle of summer deep in the Brazilian rainforest before Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi will allow any challenges from Republican members of the House to proceed from the House. (Such an effort is being muttered about by a few Republican Senators and congressmen, even after the certification of all electoral votes has taken place. This comes as the country's state and federal courts – including the Supreme Court – have given no succour to the Trump campaign on any front.) In fact, Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has been reported to be counselling his caucus not to try this either.

A sign of McConnell's return to planet Earth from the orbit of the intoxicating atmosphere on Trump's Planet Zenon has been his – rather belated – words of congratulations to Joe Biden on his 3 November victory.

It is also true that in offering those congratulatory words, he was actually beaten to the punch by Russia's Vladimir Putin and other remaining holdouts internationally such as Brazil and Mexico. Nevertheless, McConnell's new-found clarity of vision about the future may just speak to the hint of a possible chance for at least some very modest cooperation between the Republican-held Senate and the incoming administration.

Or, as AP Morning Wire editor at large Jerry Schwartz wrote, summarising the state of play, "More than a month after the election, some of America's highest-profile Republican holdouts have begun to embrace reality, coming to terms with the fact that Joe Biden will be president soon." Biden spoke with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who publicly congratulated the Democrat on his victory, Will Weisert reports. And Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close ally of President Donald Trump, says he's spoken with Biden and some of his Cabinet picks. There's still one very big holdout: Trump hasn't conceded.



US president-elect Joe Biden. File photo

"In the meantime, fending off a messy fight that could damage Republicans ahead of Georgia Senate runoffs, McConnell warned fellow GOP senators not to join Trump's extended assault on the Electoral College results."

Of course, speaking of the Senate, if the Democrats win both of those Senate special elections in Georgia on 5 January, McConnell's hold on control of the Senate will have just – barely – slipped from his grasp. Such a double victory would turn the party split in the Senate into a 50-50 tie, with all tie-breaking votes cast by the new vice president, Kamala Harris, including the holder of the title of Senate majority leader.

But even if the Republicans manage to hold on to one of the two seats (let alone both), the prime task for Democrats will always be in peeling off several Republican senators to support at least some measures proposed by the incoming president. Without such help, the chance for a major Biden legislative wave becomes extremely circumscribed, even in these tough times. The Republicans may also throw roadblocks on the way to confirmation of a couple of Biden's picks for executive posts that require Senate approval, such as his nomination of Neera Tanden to become head of the Office of Management and Budget.

Meanwhile, the president-elect continues to flesh out his cabinet and senior officials roster, most interestingly, perhaps, with the nomination of Pete Buttigieg as secretary of transportation. The 38-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and an unsuccessful but thoughtful, articulate contender for the 2020 presidential nomination, might reasonably have been interested in returning to Indiana to try

for a Senate seat there, in the future. But with that state's rock-solid Republican status overall, a seat at the big table in a Democratic administration may, just may, portend a bigger role for him, some years down the road, nationally. That could be the case if successful national infrastructure renovation actually becomes a concrete hallmark of the Biden administration – and one led by the ever-energetic, but ever-thoughtful Buttigieg.

At least at this point, several cabinet posts remain unnamed, most importantly those of attorney general, and the secretaries of labour, commerce, interior and education, as well as the director of the CIA – along with most of the nominees for deputy secretary and all those assistant secretaries in almost every department, and every ambassadorship, save for that of the US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, now back to cabinet rank.

For the Biden world, the president-elect is being barked at by various quarters of the Democratic Party universe as to whether his top leadership is sufficiently diverse, ethnically, racially, in gender terms and across the party's unruly ideological spectrum. In truth, the various diversity quotients of cabinet picks matter less than their respective levels of competence, bureaucratic nous, ability to work well together as a cohesive team and sympathy for the president's priorities.

That, in turn, depends substantially on the respective calibre and experience of the deputies, under-secretaries, assistant secretaries and of the congressional relations heads and budget specialists in the departments. But the discussion about diversity is about the recognition of the various parts of society that helped Biden cross the finish line and thus becomes important in keeping the broader array of Biden supporters, members of Congress, progressive political activists and sympathetic commentators happy – or at least mollified.

Meanwhile, there are huge, consequential matters that need congressional (and thus presidential) action to address, at the minimum, including a new Covid relief and stimulus package and the government budget. Government budget issues include a defence and security package that has controver-

sial elements such as relabelling military bases now named for Confederate generals and liability protections for various IT communications companies.

Reporters are increasingly optimistic on at least one of these. As Politico wrote on Wednesday, "If you are gambling or setting odds, there's a damn good chance that there will be a stimulus deal reached. It could be reached today – maybe! Theoretically! – given that Friday is the government funding deadline, all the leaders agree a Covid relief deal should be paired with government funding, they have said they won't leave town until a Covid deal is notched and passed, and the nation's top lawmakers are talking and optimistic. Things would have to get real sideways for this to fall apart."

Nobody in Congress wants to stick around over the Christmas/New Year's break and then return only to confront this pile of immediate must-dos when the newly elected Congress comes to Washington in the first week of January – and after various unemployment benefits have already expired. And, of course, right behind that there is a confused situation with Covid vaccines as, so far, at least, little federal money has been appropriated for the actual distribution of the vaccines to their intended arms, rather than simply getting the vials as far as the various state capitals or a few major cities. If things get messy over this, it will be Biden's problem.

In foreign relations, while American allies and friends are eagerly awaiting the beginning of the Biden administration, the waning Trump administration, now down to its last month and change, continues to carry out decisions that will only make it harder – or at least more complex – for the incoming president and his team.

Agreements such as the Trump administration's acceptance of the incorporation of Western Sahara into Morocco as a sweetener for that country's establishment of formal diplomatic ties with Israel; or the removal of Sudan from the terrorism list as an apparent sweetener for its new tie with Israel, among others, are bound to have repercussions in various ways, boxing in the freedom of movement by the new administration. US agreement to sell state-of-the-art military aircraft to the United Arab

Emirates has also added an uncertain dimension to the region.

Further, the recent revelations of a massive computer hack by Russia deep into the guts of American government agencies will complicate US relations with that nation. In addition, there is the low ebb in any US-China trade negotiations and China's ongoing military muscle-flexing in the South China Sea; the mutual jingoism between the US and Iran (especially after the killing of a leading Iranian nuclear scientist); and the void in US-North Korea progress after all those "love letters" all combine to comprise a troublesome in-box for a Biden administration. This will all be in addition to renegotiating re-entry to the Paris climate agreement and the six-party accord over Iran's nuclear circumstances.

Behind all of this will be the fact that US government policymakers must confront a world significantly different from the one this experienced Democratic team (since so many are returning from their extended tours of duty during the Obama administration). The global balance of power is shifting, new technologies are remaking old economic verities and the sudden effects of pandemics and other issues have upended much of what was once gospel about the virtues of globalisation.

Come January, we can expect the Biden administration to have a very short honeymoon from the media, politicians, and foreign nations, all.

AGENCIES

National multi-stakeholder forum key in improving Tanzania's water sector

By Eng. Anthony Sanga

EARLIER this month, stakeholders from across the Tanzanian water sector gathered in Dar es Salaam for the annual National Multi-Stakeholder Forum (NMSF) on Water Resources Management and Development.

Now in its 4th year, the event – which enhances collaboration, build synergies, and highlight opportunities for collective action in water resources management – has catalysed important improvements in our nation's water sector, helping to usher in improvements for Tanzanians and their communities.

Tanzania's progress in implementing Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) is now estimated to score 54 out of a possible 100,

an increase from a score of 50 just three years ago. This puts Tanzania in the Medium-High category of IWRM implementation according to the global scale developed by the United Nations.

My colleague, Dr George Lugomela, Director of Water Resources in the Ministry of Water, attributed Tanzania's progress, in part, to the work of this very forum.

"We have created forums. The national multi-sector programme on water resource management and water basin resources management understands that water resources are life," he has been quoted as stating.

Decisions about how to allocate and use water in an efficient, sustainable and equitable manner are fundamental to Tanzania's future, underscoring the importance



of platforms like the NMSF.

Most African countries – 71 per cent – are in the medium-low to very low categories of IWRM implementation, meaning that their capacity for effective implementation is largely inadequate, with

most IWRM-related activities undertaken on an ad hoc basis due to unsustainable financing.

Successfully implementing IWRM not only supports targets for water security, but also targets the wider

spectrum of sustainable development and use of water resources in various sectors including agriculture and energy production, sustainable and resilient towns and cities, health and gender equality, among others. Tanzania's improvement in the standings signals that the country has successfully promoted the co-ordinated development and management of water, land, and other related resources – essential to maximising economic and social welfare for all – without compromising the environment.

Led by the Ministry of Water (MoW) and supported by the 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG), the NMSF was officially adopted by the Government of Tanzania in 2017 following piloting that was carried out by the MoW and 2030 WRG between 2013 and

2016.

Following successful delivery of the first official NMSF in 2017, the MoW with support from partners initiated a process of establishing Basin Forums in all nine basins; with some basins cascading further the forums to catchment level. The NMSF has continued to successfully mobilize both financial and in-kind support, and it is currently working towards establishing effective operational working groups as part of an implementation strategy with the view to achieve water security for all.

This is impressive progress in a short amount of time, but challenges remain.

Sufficient and reliable supply of water will be necessary to expand the manufacturing sector, increase hydropower generation and intensify

agricultural production in line with the nation's goal of achieving middle-income status by 2025. Despite having abundant water resources, extreme hydrological variability means that during dry periods, demand for water exceeds available supply by 50 percent. Under a business-as-usual scenario and factoring in economic growth projections, demand will exceed supply twice over during dry periods come 2035.

I therefore call on water stakeholders, and fellow citizens to seize on the progress we have achieved and continue building momentum towards a more sustainable and water secure future, together.

Eng Anthony Sanga is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water

Dar retail runs raffles to reward festive season winners

By Guardian Reporter

A DAR ES SALAAM-based GSM Group, through its retail business, has awarded six winners of the first and second raffles of the festive season competition dubbed 'shop and win a trip to Ngorongoro' that commenced on 03/12/2020 in a bid to offer her customers a chance to celebrate the year-

ending festive season in style.

"Today, we ran the first and second raffles of the 'Shop and win a trip to Ngorongoro' competition where we have attained six winners of this contest. We expected to have these winners earlier, however, due to unforeseen circumstances we had to run the raffles today," said GSM's Concept Manager, Malick Masha.

In the first draw, NapeleKaisi (33) won the first prize of a prepaid journey to visit the Ngorongoro national park. The second winner was Ms Dora Kessy (28), who won a gift voucher worth 500,000/- and the third winner, Aisha Temu (37) won a gift voucher worth 250,000/-.

In the second draw, the first winner, FeminaPutwa (41) won the first prize of

a prepaid journey to visit Ngorongoro national park, followed by the second winner, Neema Mrema (36), who won a gift voucher worth 500,000/- and lastly, the third winner, Joel Kayombo (32) who won a gift voucher worth 250,000/-.

Speaking after calling the winners who are all residents of Dar es Salaam via mobile phone, Malick said, "I call

upon all Tanzanians to continue purchasing our products at a value of 50,000/- from all our GSM shops and the draw will end on 31 December."

"We are very excited for the number of entries that have been made thus far, this gives us more reasons to celebrate with our customers and they make their lives and those of their loved ones more exciting this year. We appreciate

the fact that after a very challenging starts of the year, we now have a great reason to thank GOD for this life and we can celebrate with our friends and families together," Mosha said.

In addition, he said, "This offer is still across all our stores in Dar, Arusha and Dodoma across all our fashion concepts namely, BabyShop, Splash, Max, ShoeExpress,

ANTA as well as HomeBox. We are also grateful for the increased footfall from our new stores that we recently launched at Capital City Mall in Dodoma (BabyShop and Splash).

"We have new arrivals across all the concepts and many more activities across our shops so please rush now to make your Christmas more memorable."

Energy firm wins accolades for strategic growth in region

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

DEPUTY Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson has applauded Oryx Gas Tanzania for their strategic growth, continuously initiative to satisfy and meet the consumers demand, whilst advocating environment preservation and creating more employment opportunities in Mbeya Region and southern highlands at large.

The remarks were made during the inauguration of Oryx Gas Tanzania, Mbeya depot held this week in Uyole, Mbeya.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Tulia Ackson the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Mbeya Member of Parliament, who was the guest of honour at the launch event hailed Oryx Gas Tanzania for their tremendous step.

"I am very grateful to Oryx Gas for the great investment you have made in Mbeya which will serve all southern highland regions you have mentioned some places like Songwe, Katavi and Sumbawanga."We are very grateful to you for choosing Mbeya and we are happy that you have invested as much money as you mentioned more than two million dollars, we congratulate you and we also thank you so much, said Dr Tulia

In order to make Oryx Gas accessible to consumer; in 2020 the company has invested 1.5 billion Tanzania shillings to gas cylinders serving close to one million consumers. They have increased the storage capacity of the depot to 110

tonnes. Allowing to produce 35 tonnes per 8 hours. This is to meet the extremely dynamic growth in the region where the market is growing at the level of 15 per cent yearly. Oryx Gas is extremely committed to the promotion in the area and educating consumers on how to use gas safely.

Dr Tulia, has also hailed Oryx Gas for creating employment in southern highlands regions and Mbeya specifically. According to Oryx Gas Tanzania Ltd, managing director Benoit Araman, Mbeya depot is supplying to four super dealers, two direct point of sales and 700 retailers. Estimates between indirect and direct jobs depending from Oryx Gas includes 800 jobs.

"It has been stated that you have created many jobs probably here in the depot you started with three jobs and so far you are talking about 10 people in the depot. Obviously out there the employees are many more because those who supplies Oryx gas must need drivers they and labourers, all of these people get employment opportunities from Oryx Gas Tanzania. You have done a very good job. Thank you very much," added Dr Tulia.

Benoit Araman says they have decided to invest massively in gas, because gas is the alternatively energy that can be used by Tanzania consumers in such a way it is transportable, accessible, affordable, environmental friendly and it helps to fight against deforestation and contribute in the improvement of the health of the consumers.

"We have invested massively since



Dr. Tulia Ackson, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (2nd R) and Oryx Gas Tanzania Ltd, Managing Director Benoit Araman (2nd L) cut a ribbon during inauguration of Oryx Gas Mbeya Depot held in Uyole on the outskirts of Mbeya City early this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

2015, a couple of dozens, million dollars, creating jobs, with 8 depots which are strategically allocated throughout the country so Mbeya is one of the depots, which is its current configuration is an investment of approximately 2 million USD, strategically located in Mbeya Region, helping the distribution of Oryx Gas in Mbeya, Songwe, Katavi, Rukwa." said the MD.

Dr Tulia appreciated the efforts made by Oryx Gas in the environment preservation, saying is a very good thing, in the sense that our environment is facing challenges because many people still use charcoal but now through this depot we believe we will be able to provide education on the usage of Oryx Gas to reduce environmental degradation and therefore they will stop cutting down trees.

"So I applaud you for helping us to take care of the environment in the sense of encouraging people to use gas and as much as gas is available at affordable prices and easily."

However Dr. Tulia called up on Oryx Gas to reach out the villages as the depot grows, as well as reaching out small business areas who would use gas, for example 'mama mtilie' through these women it is easier to deliver education practically.

The opening and expansion of this depot moves services far beyond your reach so we are very grateful for this great investment you have made.

Speaking during the inaugurated Monica Ndaki, Mbeya depot manager said the factory deals with the filling, storage and distribution of Oryx gas in the Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa and Katavi regions, based on

the quality of international standards. It also operates in compliance with all applicable state laws administered by state authorities such as OSHA, FIRE, NEMC, GCLA, WMA, TRA, and TBS and cooperate with the city of Mbeya by paying the appropriate taxes.

The factory has also invested in security infrastructure by setting up the following items: gas detectors that have a great ability to detect gas odors and mimic cataracts in times of danger, fire extinguishers over 20, water tank with a storage capacity of 250,000 liters, emergency alarms that make people gather assembly points in case of fire outbreak. There is also a generator capable of generating electricity to meet all our factory needs.

"We also have a workplace safety policy that governs safety, quality and environmental protection. However we are proud that the factory has never had any accidental explosion of mechanical gas or injuries in the factory area," says the depot manager.

All the improvements that Oryx has made have helped to grow our gas market from 15 tonnes per month in 2012 where the factory started to reach sales of 302 tonnes per month this year

These factory improvements are the catalyst for the development of Mbeya Region and neighbouring regions in environment preservation and employment opportunities. The investment that Oryx Gas has injected has placed the company in a good position to provide quality and reliable services to its customers for many years to come.

Israel-Africa agri-tech conference hears of huge opportunities

TEL AVIV, Israel

IMPROVATE's Israel-Africa International Agri-Tech Conference focused on the challenges faced by African nations in developing their agricultural sectors, and the solutions Israeli technology and innovation companies have to offer.

Ministers, diplomats and senior business representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Gabon and Kenya met with leading Israeli agri-tech companies at the conference held in Tel Aviv and online. Participants discussed the enormous potential of agriculture in Africa and how Israeli companies can help Africa improve yields and efficiency.

Joseph Antoine Kasonga Mukuta, Minister of Agriculture of the Democratic Republic of Congo said the DCR has plentiful arable land but could draw on Israel's experience of creating successful agriculture in challenging conditions in order to improve yields.

"If Israel can succeed in agriculture without good land, just think what we can do together with Israeli technology," he said.

Improvate Founder & Chair Irina Nevzlin said: "As I mentioned during the conference, IMPROVATE has a lot to offer. We focus on finding practical solutions and not on problems, and there are a lot of innovative products being developed every minute. Our goal is to make sure that as many people as possible can enjoy their benefits."

Reta Negu Alemu (pictured), Ambassador of Ethiopia to Israel: "We are telling Israeli investors to come to Africa. "We have high agricultural potential, but low productivity."

Job Masima, Ambassador of Tanzania said that Tanzania have

a lot of land, but low production: "We need proper use of seeds, proper use of fertilization and of irrigation and we have to look at the issue of post-harvest loss."

Wol Mayar Arie, Ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan in Israel said South Sudan presented huge potential for agricultural investment, in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

Israeli technology companies presenting at the conference: Metzger, an innovative water management company that develops drip irrigation systems for harsh topography and low-quality soil; Agrigo, an international leader in the design and construction of turnkey livestock, green-

house and aquaculture solutions; Keilot, a company that specializes in the assimilation and sale of technologies that provide clean and accessible electricity, water, heating, and energy to farmers and locals who live "off the grid"; Davik, a world leading adhesive solution provider, which has developed an adhesive solution for greenhouses to trap insects; Haifa Group, a pioneering developer of specialty fertilizers to provide balanced and precise plant nutrition; HomeBiogas develops and manufactures pre-fabricated biogas systems for households and small farms, providing access to clean, renewable energy around the globe. ISM - an aggregate that

supplies environmental solutions to the region, focusing on renewable energy and the establishment of green transportation. Saffron-Tech specializes in technological innovation for agriculture. The Company can produce a range of crops, in a controlled, economical, and efficient manner, regardless of environmental conditions.

Improvate CEO Ronit Hasin Hochman said: "We are happy to see a great response from African governments who are joining our conferences with the intention to bring Israeli innovation to their countries in order to improve agricultural yields and to provide food security to the population of the continent. Israel compa-

nies have developed a diverse range of incredible and creative solutions that can help African countries overcome the challenges they face."

The conference was also attended by business people and NGOs. Monsiapike Kajimbwa, Country Agribusiness Manager at the Clinton Development Initiative | Clinton Foundation, Tanzania said there is a lot that Israel can do to contribute to the African agricultural economy, especially in technology related to irrigation.

Hadija Jabiri, Founder and managing director, of GBRI business solutions (EAT-FRESH), Tanzania said that they are looking for all partners along the value chain from production to the mar-

Financing cost impedes agribusinesses in Africa

By Special Correspondent

ACCESS to finance has emerged as the greatest priority for agribusinesses in Africa and cost of finance cited as the biggest obstacle, a new survey has revealed. This is not surprising, given that across the continent less than five per cent of commercial bank lending goes to agribusinesses.

The inaugural 'Africa Agribusiness Outlook' has noted that the issue is not just about access to finance, it is about the cost of finance and availability of financial instruments that are adapted for the agricultural sector. "It is also about making agriculture attractive, viable and profitable rather than being looked at as a risky endeavour. Given the importance of the agricultural sector to many African economies, we believe this is an area that needs to be given urgent attention," the survey stated.

The survey, which is titled 'Agribusiness in unprecedented times: Challenges and opportunities for Chief Executives Officers in Africa', is an initiative by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and KPMG East Africa, in collaboration with the Partnership for Inclusive Agriculture Transformation in Africa (PIATA).

Although a lot of businesses are struggling, they are also determined to survive Covid-19 and emerge stronger. The survey, therefore, sought to understand the priorities, opportunities and constraints for businesses operating within the agricultural ecosystem in Africa, and to give voice not only to the private sector in Africa, but to outline potential pathways for actions that would result in a thriving agribusiness sector in Africa. According to the report, value chains in most African contexts are not complete since smallholder farmers, for instance, do not have a guaranteed market which makes it difficult to access bank loans.

Financial solutions available to some are small scale and some use digital platforms. Funding provided may not help them grow their agribusinesses as most use the funding for consumption purposes.

Financial institutions find it easier to lend to medium and large-scale farmers because they have collateral. They are also in closed value chains so banks are more comfortable with them as they are assured the payments will come in.

It emerged that available types of finance differ by providers, requirements, returns required and period of investment. Grants are limited but were noted to be very valuable for innovation and start-ups, and investment funds, including private equity and venture capital funds which have high rates of return required by investors, and they only invest in high growth businesses.

Lenders are risk averse and demand at least 120 per cent collateral.



Inside a military base in Ethiopia's Tigray: Soldiers decry betrayal by former comrades

ADDIS ABABA

REBELLIOUS soldiers used government tanks to attack their former comrades in a military base in the first chaotic days of Ethiopia's month-long war in the region of Tigray, according to two soldiers caught in what they described as a 10-day siege.

Forces still loyal to Tigray's former ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), surrounded the Sero base near the northern border with Eritrea on Nov. 4, according to the two men. Within days, food and water were running low, forcing those inside to ration supplies, they said.

They said the siege reached a climax on day 10 when TPLF reinforcements arrived with tanks, anti-aircraft guns and mortars to try to seize the base. They described a six-hour barrage in which some soldiers tried to escape from the back of the compound but were captured.

"Even after we surrendered, they stabbed one of our members for no reason," one of the soldiers, Takele Ambaye, said. He said he saw the bodies of 15 comrades, some with slash wounds, others who had been shot.

The description provided to Reuters by Takele and Molla Kassa, another soldier, supports government accounts of how the conflict started. It is also consistent with details given by a senior military officer at a news conference broadcast by state TV on Nov. 10.

However, the TPLF denies starting the conflict.

"We didn't initiate any attack," the group's leader, Debretsion Gebremichael, told Reuters in a text message last month, although he said some soldiers "joined us by rejecting [the] federal treatment to Tigray."

Reuters has been unable to reach TPLF officials for further comment.

Reuters also could not independently verify the two soldiers' accounts as communications to that part of Tigray are down, and the government restricts access to the region. Government and military officials did not respond to requests for comment.

The government says its forces are now back in control of major cities and towns, and a new transitional administration is working to restore order in Tigray.

But the experiences recounted by Molla and Takele help explain why bitter divisions remain.

"The cruelest thing is I stayed there (in Tigray) for 21 years. I stayed there longer than with my own mother who raised me," said Molla. "What kind of animals are they?"

Reuters spoke to Molla and Takele by phone this month, before an army spokesman announced a ban on soldiers speaking to the media. The men said that after their surrender, the TPLF held them captive in several locations before they were released with around 200 other soldiers from Sero, eventually reaching the town of Sekota in the neighbouring Amhara region.

Government officials have told Reuters that the TPLF trucked thousands of captive soldiers to the border with Amhara and released them. The officials have not specified whether soldiers from Sero were among them. Other soldiers were freed by federal forces as they advanced on the regional capital Mekelle, the government has said.



Members of the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) ride on their pickup truck as they head to mission in Sanja, Amhara region, near a border with Tigray, Ethiopia November 9, 2020. (File photo)

CONFLICT BEGINS

The government says fighters loyal to the TPLF attacked federal military bases at multiple locations in Tigray early on Nov. 4 after jamming communications. It says TPLF fighters took control of the headquarters of the military's Northern Command in Mekelle and raided federal armories.

A United Nations security report dated Nov. 6, seen by Reuters, said Tigrayan forces had seized heavy weapons from several depots.

The fighters included members of the national defense force, who killed fellow soldiers in their beds and seized their weapons, Redwan Hussein, spokesman for the government's emergency task force on Tigray, told Reuters previously.

At the Nov. 10 news conference, Lt. Gen. Bacha Debele said radio communications were cut at military bases across Tigray at 10:00 p.m. on Nov. 3. The next day, he said, a group of senior officers was kidnapped from a regular dinner with Tigrayan officials, while in other places, soldiers were surrounded.

"Many died on both sides," he said, without providing evidence. "They buried their militia while they stripped our soldiers' bodies of their uniforms and left them under the scorching sun...the dead were left to be devoured by vultures."

BITTER DIVISIONS

Molla and Takele said shots were fired at the Sero base, where 250-300 government troops were stationed, at around 5 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 4. Initially, the attackers retreated when government soldiers returned fire, they said.

They said they asked local residents who was behind the attack and were told by a TPLF official that army commanders had agreed to surrender their arms to the TPLF

and that soldiers inside the base should comply.

"We said we never received such commands from above and told them that we were not going to give up the arms. The arms belong to the nation," Molla said.

In the ensuing siege, as TPLF forces surrounded the base, those inside rationed food

to one meal of flour at midday to preserve supplies, but after eight days, the base ran out of food, they said.

"They ate us like a cat eats its child after giving birth," Molla said.

The two soldiers said the betrayal by former comrades had cemented their desire to avenge their comrades and capture the fugi-

tive TPLF leadership.

"We couldn't even bury our friends and brothers. They stopped us from burying them," Takele said. "I want to join my friends and fight."

Agencies



China's Generation Z becomes new pillar of domestic consumption

WHILE binge watching videos or listening to music, some Chinese people are more willing to pay fees to become members of online platforms, improving their user experience. When their idols endorse products, some may not hesitate to buy the commodities out of the sole purpose of supporting the idols.

These groups have gradually become the new pillar of domestic consumption, as they have a distinct personality and strong willingness to consume for their own sake. They are the Generation Z, which refers to young people born between 1995-2009.

Born in the Internet age, they are often influenced by the Internet, smart phones, tablets and other technological products. Growing up in a tech environment, this group of people are exerting a greater influence on the consumer market.

"Young people born after 1995 have an extremely low loyalty to brands," said Xu

Lei, chief executive officer of JD Retail, an online retailer in China, adding that young consumers' habit of quickly switching brands has created a large number of online brand sensations.

At the same time, Xu Lei said that "post-95" consumers have their own personality and a strong sense of loneliness, so they are more likely to fit into small circles and have special preferences, thus creating many market segments, bringing new opportunities for all kinds of developing brands.

"These young people have strong capabilities to pay for what they like," said Ji Xiachen, founder of Beijing Moviebook Technology, a digital media company, noting that the consumption habits of young people are completely different from those of the previous generations, as they live in the Internet era and have been accustomed to online payment and better living conditions.

According to a report of Suning Institute of Finance, Generation Z is willing to pay



Young customers shop at a duty-free store in Riyue Plaza of Haikou, capital of Hainan Province on November 23. (File photo)

for interests and is fond of user-generated content on online platforms; meanwhile, they prefer to stay at home more often.

As the culture and values advocated by Generation Z are more and more accepted by the public, their influence continues to rise.

Chen Fei, co-founder of Linmon Pictures, an entertainment studio, is the producer of this year's hit drama "Nothing but Thirty." In the study of this kind of entertainment going viral, she found that Generation Z has become the pillar of entertainment consumption, accounting for about 60 percent of the total.

Furthermore, Qu Fang, founder of Xiaohongshu, a lifestyle sharing platform, discovered that young people love sharing their life. Data indicates that over 100 million users are active on Xiaohongshu every month; 72 percent of them are post-90s users, and 50 percent of them belong to Generation Z.

Young people enjoy social networking and their consumer decision-making is more professional and rational. At the same time, they look forward to being more involved in brand building; these are the opportunities that companies should seize, Qu pointed out.

People's Daily

WORLD VISION CANADA CONSTRUCTS 90M/- CLASSROOMS, LATRINES AND STAFF ROOM IN LONGIDO

Gold bulls take heart from the Fed's resolve as dollar buckles

NEW YORK

Gold advanced after the Federal Reserve strengthened its commitment to supporting the recovery in the world's largest economy, and US lawmakers made progress in getting a fiscal stimulus deal over the line.

The precious metal is on course for a third weekly gain, with the Fed promising at its final policy meeting of 2020 to maintain its massive asset-purchase program until it sees "substantial further progress" in employment and inflation. Chair Jerome Powell said that the case for fiscal stimulus is "very, very strong." Gold's rise has been aided by a weaker dollar.

Bullion is set to cap 2020 with the biggest annual gain in a decade on the prospects of further stimulus and curbs in several parts of the world as the coronavirus continues to wreak havoc. The US reported another daily record of deaths on Wednesday, while Germany saw its biggest rise in fatalities since the pandemic began as Chancellor Angela Merkel hinted a hard lockdown will remain in force longer than planned. While vaccines have been developed, curbing some haven demand, challenges remain in immunising populations.

"The confluence of an ever-supportive Fed and the greenback trading softer has been the wind beneath the wings for gold," although the 50-day moving average is limiting further gains, said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG Asia Pte. "Added US fiscal support and the continued weak US dollar bias would stay supportive for gold in a seasonally positive month."

Spot gold added 0.4% to \$1,871.93 an ounce at 7:30 a.m. in London, after rising 0.6% on Wednesday. The precious metal is 23% higher this year after hitting a record above \$2,075 in August. Silver advanced 1.3%, platinum gained 1.4% and palladium rose 0.7%. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index fell 0.4% to the lowest since April 2018 and is on course for the eighth monthly drop in nine.

In the US, Congressional leaders are still haggling over the final details of nearly \$900 billion in coronavirus aid as staffers try to write the legislative language needed for House and Senate votes this week. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that he thinks "we're gonna get there."

By Property Watch Reporter

TWO classrooms, eight pit latrines and a staff room constructed at Engusero village with 90m/- funding from World Vision Canada, have been handed over to Longido District Commissioner, Frank Mwaisumbe earlier this week.

World Vision Tanzania Northern Zone Head, Mkama Nangu said during the handover ceremony that the organization and its foreign affiliates will continue supporting government efforts to improve delivery of education services in the country.

"We are especially going to continue supporting pastoralist communities in building their economic and social capacity because they are living in arid areas worst affected by climate change," Nangu said.

World Vision Ketumbeine 'AP' Project Coordinator, Peruth Daudi backed his boss' observation by saying that their presence in the district is to help improve living conditions of pastoralist communities through improving food security and household incomes.

"We are pursuing this project because of the wellbeing of children since by empowering families of households with donation of livestock, we improve nutrition and help families raise income to spend on other necessities," Daudi said.

He pointed out that poverty among pastoralist communities has worsened due to the impact of climate change as most households lost their livestock to droughts hence need assistance to rebuild their lives.

"Under the project we also assist in



Engusero villagers attending a handover ceremony of two classrooms, eight pit latrines and a staff room for a primary school in the area constructed by World Vision Tanzania earlier this week in Longido District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

improving social services infrastructure such as construction of schools, classroom, toilets and other facilities because that's what World Vision stands for," he added while commending the government for supporting such initiatives which align with its objectives. He also commended Engusero villagers for dedicating their time to volunteer both time and resources such as labour power to back such development work in their area.

In his remarks after receiving the buildings, Londigo DC Mwaisumbe commended World Vision for the support

saying the government appreciates the role being played by some not for profit organizations in improving social services.

Mwaisumbe warned parents and guardians who fail to take their children to school next year to join form one of consequences saying a record 1,939 students are expected to join form one. He warned pastoralist communities which will force their primary school leavers to become herd-men as risking jail term.

"Come January 15, 2021, any parent or guardian that fails to ensure that their school going children who is supposed to

join form one does not do so, the police will look for and prosecute them as per the country's legal provisions," Mwaisumbe warned saying the government has waived all fees to ensure that all school age going kids at both primary and secondary levels are not denied an education.

He commended Engusero Villagers for contributed towards the construction of the primary school saying next should be construction of a secondary school in the area. "But this area also need a health centre which as government we promise to work with you to get one," he promised.

New city bus park to have hotel and mini supermarket

NAIROBI

The soon-to-be completed Green Park bus terminus in Nairobi will boost modern amenities including a restaurant and a supermarket, Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) Director General Mohammed Badi has said.

The terminus, which is part of five new termini set to be constructed by NMS to aid in relocation of matatus from Nairobi city centre, will also have a police station and dispensary set within it. Major General Badi said that the terminus, which is now close to completion, besides having the other amenities, will be fitted with solar energy system to provide lighting at the terminal as well as garden beds set around the terminus.

He said the police station will be used to provide security to ensure safety of both commuters, matatu personnel and staff. The dispensary will offer medical assistance in cases of health emergencies at the stage.

"The dispensary is done and we are currently looking for funds to equip it. Once the terminus is launched, the



The upcoming Green Park bus terminus at Railways Club in down town Nairobi, Kenya.

dispensary will be running," said Mr Badi. The NMS boss said his administration has already advertised for the contract for the setting up of a modern restaurant and a mini-

supermarket.

The restaurant and mini-supermarket will serve hundreds of commuters and matatu personnel who will be using the terminus which will

serve public service vehicles (PSVs) plying Ngong Road and Lang'ata Road including those heading to Kawangware, Kikuyu, Kibera, Lang'ata, Rongai and Kiserian.

"Two modern abolition blocks will also be set up at Green Park, one at the drop-off point and another at the pick-up point. They will be set up in a manner that will be conducive for everyone including the physically challenged and children," he said. Maj-Gen Badi said they were to launch the terminus last Monday but it was postponed with construction still underway.

He said the work has been delayed due to infusion of modern designs, consultation with stakeholders in the transport sector as well as the time it took to pull down structures at the former lunar park consuming a lot of time. "When we entered the Lunar Park, some traders who were onsite had semi-permanent structures so we negotiated with them to bring down their own structures to avoid damage and they took their sweet time," said Mr Badi.

First phase complete on Entebbe research clinic



First phase of Entebbe research clinic.

KAMPALA

The first phase of construction of a \$1m research clinic in Entebbe has been completed by planning, design, architecture and engineering team FBW Group.

The clinic, a joint project involving the UK's Medical Research Council (MRC), The Wellcome Trust, the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), is the latest in a series of medical developments in which the FBW Group has been involved.

A cornerstone of its work is the

development and reconstruction of urban and rural hospitals, providing practical solutions, responding to the local conditions and at the same time creating healthy environments for patients.

The company is also working on a £9.5m project to deliver Malawi's first specialist postgraduate medical training centre. In Uganda, FBW has worked with Hospice Africa to deliver its clinic in Kampala and designed and master planned the Virika Hospital at Fort Portal. It was also the architect and master planner on the Nsambya Hospital's Chil-

dren's Burns Unit in Kampala.

In Tanzania it has worked on a range of hospital projects, including Mikumi Hospital, Peraminho Hospital, the Mtinko Health Centre and the Tabora Centre for Audiology and Speech. It is also currently working to help deliver a groundbreaking women's health project in Kigutu in Burundi. Construction work on the Entebbe clinic began last September, using locally available and sourced materials in the building. The clinic has natural ventilation and it will sit in a landscaped setting.

FORMER PWC CANADA CHIEF EXECUTIVE JOINS TANGOLD, PROMISES FIREWORKS

By Property Watch Reporter

FORMER PwC Canada Partner and Managing Director, Stephen Mullowney has joined Tanzanian Gold Corporation as CEO and has pledged to team up with his junior staff and deliver to shareholders who include State Mining Corporation.

Tangold which is a joint company between Stamico and Canadian investors, manages Gieta based Buckreef Gold Mine which commenced production mid this year.

"I am pleased and enthusiastic to join Tanzanian Gold Corporation as it moves from being a junior gold mining operation toward a large-scale commercial gold mining enterprise. I look forward to and welcome the opportunity to work with our corporate team, our strong technical team, and our Joint Venture partner, Stamico," Mullowney said in Dar es Salaam last week.

He said Tangold has significant and profitable prospects and opportunities hence accepted the new appointment eagerly and that he is purpose driven to continue, grow, and assist in propelling the company



Buckreef Gold Mine in Geita.

toward greater success.

"I look forward to using my skills and abilities in the achievement of our goals for success," Mullowney added saying his experience as PwC Canada chief will assist him accomplish his new assignment at the gold miner.

Commenting of Mullowney's

appointment, Tangold Executive Chairman, James Sinclair said Mullowney is the epitome of a great mining executive and stalwart financial leader. "Stephen has the background, experience, technical knowledge, and intrinsic know-how to lead our company. He is the consummate high achiever who manifests

successful results in every endeavour he undertakes," Sinclair said.

He further noted that the new CEO is esteemed for his ability to get things done, motivate others with an ever-present positive outlook, and goal oriented successful results. "His ability to understand interests

from within and outside of corporations, sovereign and business entities is a hallmark of his extensive career," he added.

"Our Buckreef Project is becoming a world class gold mine, and we need the best executives to lead us to that outcome. We heartily welcome Stephen as our new CEO and are thrilled, delighted and deeply gratified to have him onboard," Sinclair noted.

Mullowney is a former Partner and Managing Director of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) and PwC Canada's mining deal leader. Stephen has an extensive mining background, working with miners, governments, and institutional investors across the world and supporting them in making key strategic business, financing, and policy decisions. He is also said to have executed over 60 capital raise and mergers & acquisitions mandates with an aggregate value exceeding \$15 billion, as both an advisor and asset manager.



CLARIFICATION: In an article titled, 'Crunch time for retailers as Covid-19 affects festive season outings,' published in The Banker magazine yesterday, we mistakenly referred to the author, David Waithira who is a Manager in Marketing, Knowledge and Communication with KPMG Advisory Services Limited as Rose Muturi, Chief Digital Officer at HF Group. The error is regretted. Editor.

Govt allays fears over land takeover

KIGALI

The government has calmed fears raised by the general population over its announcement that it will take over ownership of land that will be unregistered by December 30 this year.

Addressing the fears raised by the general population over this decision, the Director General of Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority, Esperance Mukamana, said that the government will only temporarily take over the ownership of this land until the owners come forward and have it registered. By May this year, 86 per cent of the country's total number of plots of land had been registered. She said that this was aimed at cleaning up and updating the system that is currently being used.

"There is nothing that the government would gain from taking over anyone's land. What we want is for people to do the right thing and have their land registered. If you fail to do that, the government will temporarily take over the ownership and will only return it to you after you have had the land legally registered," she said. She said no fines would be imposed on those acquiring their land from the government.

Changes motivation Mukamana reminded that the land registration process kicked off in 2009 and was completed in 2013. She explained that at the time, the process was mostly aimed at creating a database of landowners because before



An aerial view of Kigali city captured from Gishushu.

that, land was owned through customary means.

At the time, modern registration of land using digitalized systems and practical Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were done and aerial pictures taken to design maps for all land partitions owned by both the government and the people. At the time, only slightly below 10 per cent of the country's land was

registered.

Mukamana said that after reviewing the results of the GIS and aerial view systems that had been used, it was discovered that not everyone had registered their land. She said that the push to have land registered is motivated by many factors but important among them was the fact that land registration had significantly cut down on the number of land disputes.

"It has done a great job of fixing wrangles where the number of cases in courts of law that are related to land have significantly reduced but besides that, the owners of this registered land can now use these papers to for example acquire bank loans," she said.

Some challenges Land registration has been successful. However, illegal subdivision as well as

informal transfer of plots, especially those less than one hectare in size, are a challenge that needs to be addressed. Stakeholders argue that the practice results in a mismatch between land-related information in the database and in reality.

Article 30 of the law governing land in Rwanda prohibits the subdivision of plots of land reserved for agriculture and animal resources if the result of such subdivision leads to parcels of land of less than a hectare.

Annie Kairaba, Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Initiative for Sustainable Development (RISD) - a civil society organisation - recently said that this article was intended to reduce the informal transactions and registrations of land. Before the land law was taken to competent organs for consideration, she said, a quick study that was done showed that over 60 per cent of Rwandans had 0.5 hectare land, especially in rural areas.

"Probably there is a need for more regulations on how to implement what the law provides because definitely, people who are subdividing informally have their land titles of one hectare and below, which is not allowed. So, it's about enforcement, otherwise, the legal framework is perfect," she said.

According to the land authority, 9,965,648 plots of land have been registered since 2009 when the land registration exercise began, and remaining ones without registration equal to 1,561,201 country-wide.

Urgent action, innovation needed for infrastructure recovery in SA

JOHANNESBURG

According to SRK Consulting partner and principal engineering technologist Steve Bartels, speed and ingenuity are now of the essence as South Africa's hopes of a economic recovery rely heavily on greater infrastructure investment.

"Government's establishment of Infrastructure South Africa to streamline project roll-out, and the recent prioritisation of strategic integrated projects, is a promising step," said Bartels. "But all this work needs a strong and capable construction sector - and years of decline are now being aggravated by the local impact of the pandemic."

He said the role of infrastructure investment in stimulating economic growth should not be underestimated, citing the creation of 8 million jobs by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration in the US after the Great Depression. He also pointed to the similar vision of another great US president, John F.

Kennedy, who once said: "It is not wealth that built our roads, but roads that built our wealth."

Transforming lives and communities

Bartels said: "If South Africa implemented a similar programme and managed it correctly, it could potentially be the key to the recovery of South Africa's economic fortunes." His involvement in poverty alleviation projects and labour-based projects for provincial government has given him first-hand experience of how this type of employment can transform lives and communities.

"I witnessed how local contractors and workers were lifted out of poverty by infrastructure projects in KwaZulu-Natal - and no longer relied on handouts to feed their children," he said. "A little done wisely goes a long way."

He said the construction sector had been under significant pressure in recent years as government spending on infrastructure declined, with a number of large contractors

closing doors or entering business rescue. During 2020, restrictions related to Covid-19 were expected to cause an 8.7% decline in the construction sector this year, and the loss of up to 100,000 jobs. This situation needed to be turned around as a matter of urgency to preserve the capability of the sector, he said.

While having to redirect funds to address Covid-19 impacts, government still plans to commit R100bn to its National Infrastructure Fund over the next decade - to help prepare and package projects and provide catalytic finance.

Utilising SA's scientific and engineering expertise "South Africa's future demands that we make full use of our scientific and engineering expertise to focus our development efforts and achieve more with the fewer resources at our disposal," he said. "The Covid-19 pandemic has reminded us that science-based decision-making is the only way out of the various crises we currently face."



A construction site in Durban.

Serena Hotels reopens beach hotel as bookings for Christmas holiday rise

NAIROBI

Serena Hotels has reopened its beach resort after eight-and-half months of Covid-enforced shutdown, looking to take advantage of the growing demand for accommodation at the Coast in the festive period. The Serena Beach Resort and Spa in Mombasa will operate 74 rooms initially, representing 45 percent of its capacity in compliance with Covid-19 protocols.

"The domestic market has been supportive, and we saw quite a demand for the Mara in July and August due to the migration," Serena Hotels East Africa regional sales and marketing director Rosemary Mugambi said. The room categories that will be opened include Garden Wing rooms, luxury suites, Superior sea view and Family Rooms, the Lamu and Zanzibar Suites.

"Serena Hotels wish to inform you that Serena Beach Resort and Spa is set to reopen on the December 15. The resort will be open with a new approach to its product, experiential and service delivery," said the hotel in a statement.

Kenya Association of Hotel Keepers executive officer at the Coast, Sammy Ikwaye, said the facilities are substantially recovering from the dip in bookings recorded during the Easter and August holidays.

The hotels are now projecting up to 50 per cent occupancy this month. The pandemic resulted in hotels scaling down operations or close down temporarily due to reduced bookings due to government restrictive measures imposed in April, travel restrictions and cancellation of flights globally to curb the spread of Covid-19.

CONSTRUCTION

The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

HONG KONG TOPS ANOTHER LIST OF GLOBAL RANKING MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES FOR EXPATS

BEIJING

Hong Kong has - once again - topped a ranking of the most expensive cities in the world for expatriates, despite a slide in rental prices attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing political uncertainty.

Tuesday's cost-of-living survey from research data firm ECA International - which compares data compiled in September 2019 and September 2020 - landed the city in first place globally, followed by Tokyo, New York, and Geneva.

A July ECA survey comparing data collected in March 2019 and March 2020 ranked Hong Kong sixth globally - and Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, top overall - though that edition did not take into account certain categories such as utilities.

While the latest report deemed the city expensive across many areas, Hong Kong's exceptionally high housing costs pushed it to the top spot, according to Lee Quane,



Hong Kong is the most expensive place in the world for overseas workers to live, according to an ECA International survey.

the firm's regional director for Asia.

"Hong Kong is the most expensive place in the world for overseas workers to live, in spite of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic," Lee said. "This is despite seeing some property prices falling in the past year in response to a drop in demand due to the pandemic and ongoing political uncertainty."

Singapore, Hong Kong's traditional regional rival, fell to 14th place from 12th due to the pandemic's impact on the local economy and a drop in trade owing to the global recession, which resulted in a weakened Singaporean dollar. Hong Kong falls two places to become sixth-most expensive city for expats

Meanwhile, first-tier cities in mainland China remained some of the most expensive in the world for overseas workers to live, with Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Beijing all making it to the global top 20, despite a weaker yuan and either low or negative inflation in many locations.

Among those cities, Shanghai ranked the highest, finishing in 11th place. The survey also noted that Australian cities had become more expensive for many expat workers in the past 12 months, resulting in every location in the country moving up the rankings and Sydney entering the global top 50.

But Mumbai, the most expensive city in India, plunged 30 places in this year's rankings, the biggest drop in Asia.

The researcher said a combination of a weak rupee and cheaper prices in the city's expatriate rental market contributed to the fall.

Conducted in March and September every year since 2005, the survey compares a basket of day-to-day consumer goods and services commonly bought by international assignees in more than 480 places across the world.

The items can include groceries, meat and fish, household items, recreational goods, clothing, motoring expenses and electrical goods. The latest survey compares year-on-year movements in data collected in September 2020 with those taken in the same month a year ago.

UK construction industry records highest growth in six years

LONDON

Britain's construction industry grew faster than expected in November, boosted by the strongest orders in six years amid a surge in house prices.

The IHS Markit/CIPS construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), considered a good gauge of the sector's health, rose to 54.7 in November from 53.1 in October, its strongest level since July with new orders the highest since November 2014. A reading above the 50.0 level indicates growth, while a figure below shows a contraction.

"UK construction output stayed on a recovery path in November and there were signs that the main growth driver has transitioned from catch-up work to new projects," said Tim Moore, IHS Markit's economics director.

"House building was once again the stand-out performer, while a return to growth for civil engineering contributed to the rise in the headline PMI during November. Commercial construction lagged behind the recovery seen elsewhere in the sector amid subdued demand for office space, retail developments and other corporate projects hit by the pandemic."

The situation was less rosy in the eurozone, where construction continued to decline with a PMI reading of 45.6 in November, up slightly from 44.9 in October. The decline in activity was widespread across the three largest eurozone economies, with French building firms recording the most marked contraction, as well as a strong fall in Germany. Output in Italy fell only fractionally in November.

"The eurozone construction sector continued to report a decline in activity during November, accompanied by a quicker fall in new orders, as steep contractions in France and Germany weighed on the region's performance," said Usamah Bhatti, economist at IHS Markit.

"Businesses in the bloc also lowered staffing levels for the ninth month in a row although the rate of job shedding eased in the latest survey period." Construction businesses in the bloc are pessimistic for the year ahead due to the second wave of Covid-19 and the lack of projects coming to tender over the coming months, IHS Markit said.

The more buoyant mood in Britain's equivalent sector was driven by a sharp rise in house



Cranes at a construction site close to the Berlin Town Hall in Germany. Construction activity declined in the eurozone in November with Germany recording a strong fall in output.

prices since the end of June, thanks to pent-up demand following the first lockdown and UK finance minister Rishi Sunak's Stamp Duty Land Tax Holiday, which runs until the end of March.

British house prices rose 6.5 per cent in November year-on-year, the fastest rate since January 2015, with the average house price now £229,721, according to the Nationwide House Price Index. Lenders have approved the most mortgages since 2007, as buyers upsize to larger homes in case of future lockdowns. In turn, this has spurred housebuilders to commit to more projects, and November also brought the first growth in civil engineering activity since July.

Official data showed Britain's monthly construction output almost halved in April during the first lockdown, and in September it was still 10 per cent below the level it hit a year earlier. While the November reading indicated a solid increase in total construction output, the rate of growth remained softer than the peak seen in July.

Employment in the sector also continued to fall as firms looked to reduce overheads, though by the smallest amount since February, and the disruption to supply chains

resulted in a sharp increase in average cost burdens.

"Despite this accelerated improvement overall, the employment picture remained cheerless. In a bid to dampen down the effects of the sharpest rise

in input costs since April 2019, builders were reducing headcounts to keep their own heads above water leading to another fall in job numbers," said Duncan Brock, group director at the Chartered Institute of Procure-

ment & Supply. Looking ahead, half of those polled in the survey expect a rise in UK business activity during the year ahead, the strongest degree of business optimism across the sector since January.



Al Hamra Village features an 18-hole championship golf course, a marina and yacht club, clubhouse, the Al Hamra Mall and luxury hotels.

Ras Al Khaimah developer offers 12-year visa and business licence to buyers

ABU DHABI

As part of the package, investors can also secure an additional partner visa and a flexi-desk. Other benefits include 100 per cent ownership of the business, 100 per cent repatriation of capital and profits, no corporate tax and zero personal tax, the developer said in a statement on Monday. The offer is being made in partnership with Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone.

"We are offering an extraordinary opportunity for investors to buy into Al Hamra as well as set up a company under their own business licence," said Benoy Kurien, group chief executive of Al Hamra. "The new package aims to attract entrepreneurs, freelancers, consultants and seniors, anyone looking to live and work in the UAE."

Currently, anyone who owns a property in the UAE worth more than Dh1 million is eligible for a two-year property visa, which can be renewed. Those who own property worth Dh5m or more are eligible for a five-year residency visa. The UAE government announced several initiatives this year to boost the local property market.

The country introduced retiree visas for those wishing to retire in the UAE. It grants non-Emiratis over the age of 55 the ability to stay in the country, provided that they have an investment property worth at least Dh2m, or financial savings of Dh1m, or an active monthly income of Dh20,000 or more.

The visa is valid for five years with the possibility of automatic renewal if the retirees still meet the eligibility criteria. The UAE also expanded the 10-year golden visa scheme - a move that is expected to support the property market.

Meanwhile, Dubai launched a remote-working programme to allow professionals to live in the emirate while employed by companies overseas. The price of a freehold apartment in Al Hamra Village and Bab Al Bahr starts from Dh292,000. Investors can make the payment over five years after paying 20 per cent of the property value upfront.

The developer said investors can expect to receive an estimated annual yield of up to 8 per cent on properties in Al Hamra. Al Hamra Village and Bab Al Bahr feature an 18-hole championship golf course, a marina and yacht club, clubhouse, the Al Hamra Mall and luxury hotels.

WORLD

Biden's Cabinet picks can lean into free markets

SAN FRANCISCO

Joe Biden's cabinet can benefit from leaning into the free market. Investors are flooding into companies that could bring both energy and transportation into a greener and more efficient future.

That should help the U.S. president-elect's nominees to lead those respective agencies, Jennifer Granholm and Pete Buttigieg, in their roles. That's assuming they can lift - not implement - red tape.

Biden (pictured) has gone for the Democratic crowd-pleasers to push the charge on a more sustainable future.

As governor of Michigan, Granholm successfully implemented a mandate for 10% of the state's energy to come from renewable sources by 2015. And as head of the state with America's auto businesses, she knows the ins and outs of the industry.

Meanwhile Buttigieg is credited with

revitalizing South Bend, Indiana while he was mayor, including a program to improve car and foot traffic.

Those backgrounds only partially prepare them to take on Biden's ambitious \$2 trillion push for clean energy and infrastructure.

He wants new roads and bridges, a carbon-pollution free power sector by 2035 and investments in battery technology for electric vehicles. It's a massive undertaking for the two federal government newbies.

The flush private sector, already headed in that direction, could lend a helping hand.

In 2019, infrastructure funds raised \$98 billion, pushing dry powder to \$212 billion, twice as much as 2015, according to Prequin. Meantime, renewable energy use is growing.

The International Energy Agency said last month that fuels used to generate renewable power should increase 7%



this year while global energy demand is set to decline 5%. Companies from oil giant BP to blank check firms are investing big in companies that depend on solar and wind-powered fuels.

State and local governments will have to be on board, too. For example, adding a subway line to the D.C. metro can take up to 25 years and involve officials from Maryland and Virginia.

States and cities also have different permitting processes for adding elec-

tric vehicle charging stations.

Still Granholm and Buttigieg will have sympathetic ears to work together to lift the red tape, which is a massive hurdle.

And a large part of Biden's plan depends on Congress, where there is bipartisan consensus for an infrastructure reboot but disagreements over how to pay for it. Private sector partnerships could appeal to Republicans who are concerned about spending while giving Biden's new administration a big, green win. **Agencies**

Reconciliation can't be achieved without reforms in S. Africa - Ramaphosa

JOHANNESBURG

RECONCILIATION would remain elusive in South Africa if the implementation of successful land and economic reforms were resisted, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Wednesday.

Delivering his address on Reconciliation Day, Ramaphosa said failing to address these important issues would be a stumbling block to true reconciliation.



President Cyril Ramaphosa

"We cannot build a truly caring society so long as the country's majority live in conditions of poverty, inequality and deprivation, while a minority exists in comfort and privilege," he noted.

The process of implementing the expropriation of land without compensation is underway, with the bill in parliament. The process was aimed at accelerating the distribution of land to redress the historical injustices of land dispossession under colonial-

ism and apartheid.

Ramaphosa said while racism was no longer legalized, South Africa was still faced with widespread racism. "The state of race relations in our country remains fragile," he noted.

The Day of Reconciliation was set aside to foster unity in the new South Africa after the end of apartheid regime. This year's event was aimed at focusing on issues of discrimination and violence against women. **Xinhua**

Experts hail Nigeria's decision to reopen borders ahead of AfCFTA implementation

ABUJA

NIGERIA'S decision to reopen its borders will facilitate implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, as well as stem the tide of growing prices of goods and services, said local experts.

The effective date for the AfCFTA agreement to come into force ought to have been July 2020, however, it was postponed to Jan. 1, 2021, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the reopening of the nation's land borders with neighbouring countries which were shut 16 months ago in a bid to curb smuggling, said Zainab Ahmed, the minister of finance, budget and national planning on Wednesday.

Briefing reporters after the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting, Ahmed listed those immediately opened as Some in the South-west, Mfun

in the South-south, Ilela and Maigatari borders in the North-west.

She said Buhari (pictured) also directed that the remaining land borders are to be reopened on or before Dec. 31.

According to experts, the decision to reopen the borders, ahead of the full implementation of the AfCFTA agreement, is a welcome development that will spur local businesses that depend on cross border trade.

Muda Yusuf, the director-general of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told Xinhua that the decision is in consonance with Nigeria's ratification of its membership of the AfCFTA, and a step forward for the most populous African country to prove its economic leadership in Africa.

"It is a welcome development and will be beneficial to the economy. Many small businesses depend on cross-border trade for a living and many manufacturers also leverage the ECOWAS Trade Liberali-



zation Scheme to boost their business," Yusuf said, noting the reopening of the borders is also in the favor of many businesses who source their raw materials from the subregion.

The Nigerian authorities shut the borders with West African neighbors in August 2019, citing the lack of adherence to the business ideals by various stakeholders, which was detrimental to Nigeria and its people.

While the borders are being reopened, Buhari also directed to maintain the import ban on rice, poultry, and other products, according to Ahmed.

With the reopening, Nigeria can now leverage on intra-Africa trade, as the country's large domestic market makes it an ideal gateway economy, said Charles Onunaiju, Director of the Center for China Studies in Abuja.

"We cannot keep a closed border when we have signed on to free continental trade. It will be a kind of contradiction," Onunaiju told Xinhua.

"We expected the border closure to be lifted as it will be ridiculous for you to sign on to the African free trade area and at the same time shutting your border. How do we build an economy of scale? How can Nigeria leverage AfCFTA?" he said.

Segun Ajayi-Kadir, the director-general of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, while hailing the government's decision also suggested a push for necessary frameworks to monitor the borders effectively, as a way of making Nigerian products competitive locally

and internationally.

"Going forward, the government should establish a joint border patrol with neighboring countries. The government must also provide necessary infrastructural facilities like reliable power supply, good road, and rail transportation networks, among others," he said.

Looking at the advantage of the reopening of the border to Nigeria, Timothy Olawale, the director-general of the Nigeria Employers Consultative Association, said the move will revive businesses and economic activities while generating revenue to government coffers.

Noting the closure had resulted in unemployment and brought untold hardship to many Nigerians, including those doing legitimate businesses across borders and a large number of the informal sector players in the country, Olawale said the reopening was long overdue. **Xinhua**

Vaccine blow prompts Australia rethink

By Karl Wilson in Sydney

UNSATISFACTORY results from trials of Australia's COVID-19 vaccine have forced the country to opt for buying vaccines from abroad.

The University of Queensland, or UQ, and global biotech company CSL confirmed on Friday that they had abandoned trials of an Australian COVID-19 vaccine after recipients generated HIV antibodies during phase one tests.

The development came as a blow to dozens of the country's leading scientists who have been working on the project for most of the year.

"This is a reminder of the stark reality of vaccine development," said Sanjaya Senanayake, a specialist in infectious diseases and associate professor of medicine at the Australian National University in Canberra.

"While it is disappointing, it is not surprising that one of the many COVID-19 vaccines has failed," he said, pointing out that around 90 percent of vaccines never make it to market.

"As a global community, we have been spoiled with the unprecedented swiftness and success with which the development of COVID-19 vaccines has taken place."

The decision to abandon the vaccine in its current form was decided in consultation with the Australian government and CSL on Dec 7.

The Australian government has since bought rights to 20 million additional vaccine doses from a partnership between Oxford University and drugmaker AstraZeneca and an additional 11 million doses from Novavax, according to the ABC.

During a media briefing on Friday, scientists said that at no time during the trial was there any possibility the vaccine caused HIV infection, and routine follow-up tests confirmed no HIV was present.

UQ vaccine co-lead Paul Young said fixing the vaccine would set development back another year.

Lack of confidence

Brendan Murphy, secretary of Australia's Department of Health, said: "It was likely to work. But we knew that we didn't want to have any issues with confidence, and this false-positive test may have caused some confusion and lack of confidence."

UQ-CSL researchers stressed there were no adverse health implications and no possibility that the candidate vaccine would cause HIV.

In a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange, CSL said that if the vaccine is to be released, it would require "significant changes" to HIV testing procedures.

Sarah Palmer, co-director of the Centre for Virus Research at The Westmead Institute for Medical Research and professor in the faculty of medicine at the University of Sydney, said the announcement was a setback in the search for a COVID-19 vaccine.

"Generating a false positive for HIV is entirely unexpected for this vaccine but underscores the critical necessity of testing the safety of newly developed vaccines in large numbers of volunteers," Palmer said.

Senanayake said the problem was that the innovative molecular clamp technology of the UQ vaccine had needed a protein from HIV.

"There was never any risk of participants in the trial getting HIV think of it as using a body part rather than a whole person but it did mean that some participants were testing positive to HIV even though they didn't have HIV," he said.

"This could have led to confusion and anxiety as people tested positive to HIV without actually having the infection." **Agencies**

South Sudan's Machar calls for start of healing, reconciliation process

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's First Vice President Riek Machar has called for the start of the healing and reconciliation process in order to unite people to support the parties to conclude pending tasks in the peace process.

Machar who leads the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In-Opposition (SPLM-IO) which is in a power-sharing arrangement with President Salva Kiir's SPLM on Wednesday said the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) will soon start the process of healing and reconciliation. "We must not allow peace spoilers to turn the clock back to violence. The RTGoNU is now kicking off the process of reconciliation, forgiveness and national healing by convening before the end of this month a conference for the people of Upper Nile state," said Machar in a statement issued in Juba. He disclosed that similar reconciliation conferences will also be conducted in other states.

Chapter Five of the 2018 peace deal signed by Kiir, Machar and other parties calls for healing and reconciliation, besides establishment of a hybrid court to try war crimes committed during the more than six years of conflict that broke out on Dec. 15, 2013. **Xinhua**

CHINA will ban all forms of imports of solid waste starting from Jan. 1, 2021, said Chinese authorities.

The dumping, stacking and disposal of waste products from overseas on Chinese territory will also be banned, according to a notice issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

Those who violate relevant regulations and import foreign solid waste into China will be ordered by the customs to return the waste and face fines in accordance with the Law on Prevention and Control of Environmen-

China to ban all imports of solid waste beginning 2021

tal Pollution by Solid Waste and other laws. Those who are convicted of a crime will also be held criminally liable.

Waste carriers will be jointly and severally liable with the importers for the return and disposal of solid waste.

The import licenses for restricted solid waste that can be used as raw materials approved and issued by the MEE remain valid only before 2021.

The newly revised Law on Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste, which took effect on Sept. 1, specifies the identification of suspected foreign solid waste as well as

the return and disposal of illegally imported solid waste, and has substantially enhanced penalties for violations, said Liu Youbin, a spokesperson of the MEE.

As China starts banning all solid waste imports the next year, the MEE will no longer accept and approve applications related to the import of solid waste, Liu added.

Solid waste refers to solid or semi-solid materials produced in the course of production, daily life and other activities that have lost their original use value or have not lost their use value but have been abandoned or discarded.

Solid waste were smuggled from overseas into China at first, so it's called "foreign garbage." It mainly includes waste plastics, paper, rubber products, as well as waste from rare metal smelting, slag and other types.

China's economy has flourished since the 1980s, and many industries including manufacturing have generated huge demands for raw materials. Due to the shortage of domestic resources, China started to import solid waste that could be used as raw materials.

For a certain period of time, imported solid waste replaced primary resources and facili-

tated the supply of secondary resources. It to some extent drove the country's economic growth.

As China's economy expands rapidly, the country has seen continuously growing volume of solid waste imports, which once peaked at nearly 60 million tonnes.

The pollution caused by the decomposition, treatment, and piling of such a large amount of solid waste has directly threatened the safety of the atmosphere, water, and soil, increasingly exerting negative impacts on the ecological environment and damaging people's health. **People's Daily**

China builds largest pool of MOOCs

CHINA has established the world's largest pool of massive open online courses (MOOCs), according to statistics released at the Global MOOC Conference.

The country now has over 34,000 MOOCs that have received 540 million views and gained credits for students 150 million times. It now ranks first in the world in the numbers of MOOCs and viewers, as well as the scale of application.

The conference was held at Tsinghua University, one of China's most prestigious universities, in Beijing from Dec. 9 to 11. With the theme of "Learning Revolution and Higher Education Transformation," it was the first international meeting on MOOCs.

During the conference, an alliance for global MOOC cooperation was initiated by Tsinghua University, which has been joined by 20 renowned universities and MOOC platforms from 14 countries.

Deng Yulin, academicien of the International Academy of Astronautics and professor with Beijing Institute of Technology, also launched an online course at the conference on Dec. 9. The course was viewed by students from South Korea's Woosong University and China's Yunnan University, seniors from a nursing home in Beijing's Daxing district, as well as guests attending the conference in person and remotely.

MOOCs were firstly launched in 2012 and became popular in China a year later. Since 2017, China's Ministry of Education has launched 1,875 online courses, 728 virtual experimental courses, and 868 courses calling for both online and offline attendance, which set an example for the construction and application of MOOCs.

Online education proved its value when COVID-19 ravaged the world earlier this year. All regular institutions of higher education in China launched online courses during the pandemic. A total of 1.1 million courses were offered online by 1.08 million teachers, and were viewed 3.5 billion times by 22.59 million college students.

"China's education has entered a new stage of high-quality development," said Chen Baosheng, China's Education Minister. MOOCs can help build a lifelong learning system for the people that is more flexible, resource-rich, and convenient, so that citizens can learn anytime and anywhere, he added. *People's Daily*

Mozambique weighs foreign help to fight Islamist insurgency

By Bloomberg

MOZAMBIQUE is considering offers from around the world to help fight an Islamist insurgency in the natural gas-rich north of the country, President Filipe Nyusi said, amid striking a cautious tone in accepting outside assistance.

The government has been working with some countries, but won't publicize its tactics and strategies, Nyusi told lawmakers Wednesday in his state-of-the-nation speech in Maputo, the capital.

Mozambique has for more than three years struggled to fend off an insurgency linked to Islamic State. The violence has left about 2,500 people dead and displaced at least 570,000.

Fighting may jeopardize progress in developing liquefied natural-gas projects, where companies including Total SE plan to spend as much as US\$60 billion. The projects, Africa's biggest investments yet, haven't suffered direct attacks, with logistical operations limited to maritime or air deliveries.

Nyusi has faced criticism for failing to accept offers for help, particularly from the Southern African Development Community regional bloc, as the violence drastically worsened this year and the insurgents occupied several major towns.

Nyusi said the government was aware of criticism that its taking too long to ask for help.

"What we do not do is speak publicly about the strategies that the country has to adopt," he said.

Nyusi said the government has received offers of support from countries in Europe, Asia, the US and the SADC.

"We Mozambicans need to develop our capabilities internally. We will be the ones who will be in the first line of defense of our homeland. Nobody will do it for us," he added.

Nyusi said the state largely managed to contain Islamist groups since they were formed in 2012 until 2017.

They created bases in the districts of Mocimboa da Praia, Nangade, Palma and Quissanga, all in Cabo Delgado province, he said.

FAO seeks 40 mln USD for anti-locust fight in East Africa, Yemen

NAIROBI

FOOD and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is seeking a further 4.46 billion shillings (40 million U.S. dollars) to intensify its anti-desert locust operations in East Africa and Yemen in 2021.

FAO Wednesday said the funds will enable it to increase surveillance and control activities in the most affected countries — Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. "Without additional funding, control efforts could slow down or halt from the end of January 2021, potentially allowing the numbers of the crop-devouring pest to surge in some places," FAO said in a statement.

It warned that farmers whose livelihoods have been impacted, require further support and national capacities in monitoring and responding to desert locust still need to be strengthened.

According to FAO, a new generation of desert locust swarms is threatening agricultural and pastoral livelihoods and the food security of millions of people in the Horn of Africa and Yemen despite intense efforts to control the pest throughout 2020.

It warned that new locust swarms are already forming and threatening to re-invade northern Kenya and breeding is also underway on both sides of the Red Sea, posing a new threat to Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen.

China, AU break ground on landmark project to advance Africa's public health

ADDIS ABABA

WITH China's help, Africa is expected to have a stronger public health agency to advance health initiatives and deal with disease threats in about two years.

Construction of the China-aided Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) headquarters commenced on Monday in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, in a landmark project that testifies to flourishing China-Africa cooperation.

Senior officials from the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Africa CDC, representatives of African countries, diplomats from the Chinese mission to the AU and high-level dignitaries witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony of the project on the southern outskirts of Addis Ababa.

The project, featuring modern offices, high-end laboratories and accessories, covers an area of 90,000-square-meter and is expected to be completed within 25 months.

STRONG PARTNERSHIP

The project's groundbreaking is a concrete example of China's support for Africa's health sector and solidarity with Africa in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 held in June, Chinese President Xi Jinping said China will start ahead of schedule the construction of the Africa CDC headquarters this year, work with Africa to fully deliver the health care initiative adopted at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Beijing Summit, and speed up the construction of China-Africa Friendship Hospitals and the cooperation between paired-up Chinese and African hospitals.

Amira Elfadil, AU commissioner for social affairs, hailed the project as the latest manifestation of the ever-growing and multifaceted China-Africa partnership. As the AU implements Africa's development blueprint, the Agenda 2063, Africa has been looking for partnerships and friends to support the continent, she said.

"We are looking for those who are serious about the future of this continent; and when we say strategic partners and mention strategic partnerships, China comes first and we appreciate this partnership very much," Elfadil added.

Echoing the sentiment, Liu Yuxi, head of the Chinese Mission to the AU, stressed that China "gives greater priority" to bilateral cooperation on public health.

The project will be a clear testimony of China-Africa solidarity against COVID-19, he added.

"Looking back this year, China and Africa supported each other and fight the COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder. China got valuable support from the African Union and African countries when it faced the hardest period," the Chinese envoy said.

"When the outbreak reached Africa, China sent medical expert teams to 16 African countries, carried out paired-up hospital cooperation with 42 African countries, offered urgent medical supplies to African Union and almost all African countries, and is committed to implementing the G20 Debt Relief Initiative. All



Ethiopian Health Minister Lia Tadesse (1st L, front), Liu Yuxi (3rd L, front), head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union and other guests attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the China-aided Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Dec. 14, 2020. (Xinhua)

of these are the best interpretation of a friend in need is a friend indeed," Liu said.

THE FUTURE

Africa, which has long been suffering from various infectious diseases, particularly the recurrent Ebola outbreaks and the raging COVID-19 pandemic, is in urgent need to improve its disease control system.

The total number of COVID-19 infections on the African continent exceeded 2.38 million as of Monday, while the death toll from the disease reached 56,360, according to the latest data from the Africa CDC.

The construction of the headquarters is expected to enable the Africa CDC to better play its role of coordination, mobilization and emergency management in public health across the continent.

Commending China's assistance in building a dedicated Africa CDC headquarters, Ethiopian Health Minister Lia Tadesse told Xinhua that the Chinese engagement serves as "another milestone to enhance China-Africa friendship while improving African people's



Chinese ophthalmologist Wang Feng (1st R) and interpreter Jia Fengying (1st L) work in an operating room in Yaounde, Cameroon, Aug. 8, 2019. (Xinhua)

France's Macron tests positive for COVID-19, self isolates

PARIS



President Emmanuel Macron

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron has tested positive for coronavirus, the French presidency said on Thursday, although it was not immediately clear where he had contracted the virus.

"The President of the Republic has been diagnosed positive for COVID-19 today," his office said in a statement. "This diagnosis was made following a PCR test performed at the onset of the first symptoms."

Macron's office said he would isolate for the next seven days and would continue to run the country remotely. A spokeswoman said that all his trips had been canceled, including an upcoming visit to Lebanon on Dec 22.

Brigitte Macron, Macron's wife, is self-isolating at present although she is not showing any symptoms of COVID-19, her office said on Thursday.

Prime Minister Jean Castex, who's considered "a contact case", "has been placed in isolation although he does not show any symptoms of the disease," according to the premier's office.

Macron's positive test comes just two days after France relaxed measures to curb a second wave of COVID-19, replacing

a nationwide lockdown with a curfew.

France's health authorities on Wednesday reported 17,615 new COVID-19 infections over the past 24 hours, the biggest single-day increase since Nov 21.

To date, the country has registered a total of 2,409,062 cases, while deaths caused by the respiratory illness rose by 289 within a day to 59,361.

On Wednesday, hospital admissions in France rose by 75 to 25,315, including 2,850 in resuscitation units.

France expects to receive 1.16 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine by Dec 30, Prime Minister Jean Castex said in a parliamentary debate.

He said France, in coordination with other European countries, will do "everything possible" to start vaccinating in the last week of the year. France is counting on a further delivery around Jan 5, and an additional 1.6 million doses in February.

Agencies

Russian Navy frigate to test-fire weapon systems in Sea of Japan after upgrade

MOSCOW



THE Pacific Fleet's modernized frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov has entered the Sea of Japan to test its missile and artillery armament, the press office of the Dalzavod Shipyard announced on Tuesday.

"The frigate will practice drop tests from missile systems to check the strength of the reinforcement of launchers and ensure the weapons' secure storage aboard," the press office said in a statement.

During the shipbuilders' sea trials, missile firings against naval and coastal targets are planned along with anti-aircraft artillery fire to practice air defense tasks. Electronic countermeasures equipment

will be tested along with the comprehensive tests of all communications systems, the statement says.

During its upgrade, the Project 1155 large anti-submarine warfare ship Marshal Shaposhnikov was converted into a multi-purpose frigate capable of fighting ground, naval and

underwater targets. The frigate received the latest Kalibr-NK and Uran strike missile systems and the most advanced artillery armament. Its firepower increased severalfold compared to its original designation.

The large anti-submarine warfare ship Marshal Shaposhnikov was laid down at the Yantar Shipyard in the Kaliningrad Region in 1983. The warship is currently at the final stage of its heavy upgrade at the Dalzavod Ship Repair Plant.

The project of such a scope is being implemented in Russia for the first time. The service life of the frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov will be extended by ten years.

Agencies

Amendments to Russian Constitution adopted at right time, Putin believes

MOSCOW

THE amendments to the Russian Constitution were adopted at a right time, when the situation became ripe, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during his annual press conference yesterday.

"Everything is good in due time. Fight against price spikes should be conducted in due time. The same goes for amendments to the basic law. It was impossible to do a lot of things earlier," Putin said, answering a question regarding why the Constitution was amended in 2020.

He added that the fundamentals of the Constitution remained unchanged.

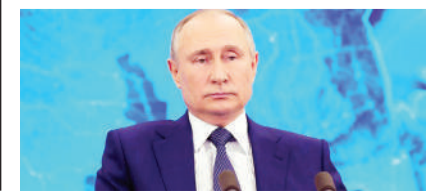
"The 1993 Constitution was adopted in difficult circumstances of civil standoff, during, to put it bluntly, armed hostilities in Moscow.

People were dying, automatic weapons were used, tanks were firing at the Parliament [building], these were the circumstances when the Constitution was adopted," the head of state underscored.

Meanwhile, Putin noted that the 1993 Constitution played a stabilizing role, helped to restore civil peace and laid the groundwork for political development.

According to the president, some things were impossible to do before, including cementing social guarantees in the Constitution. This includes indexation of pensions and equaling the minimum wage to the minimum subsistence level, according to the president.

"Now, we can cement all this in the basic law, the situation is ripe for that now. We did it and we did it on time," the president said.



The Guardian

SPORT



Kagiso Rabada

From bubble 'prisons' to BLM, cricket confronted reality

NEW DELHI

CRICKET lost a chunk of the year's fixtures, including a World Cup which had to be postponed, and players were banished to a life in "luxury prisons" when the game staggered back onto its feet still bearing the scars of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sweet sound of bat meeting ball fell silent in March when New Zealand were renewing their trans-Tasman rivalry in Australia and the Pakistan Super League Twenty20 competition was nearing its business end.

The novel coronavirus outbreak forced players indoors, leaving several cricket boards, including some of the more affluent ones, in the red.

Half a dozen test series could not be played, creating a calendar logjam and forcing a change to how the finalists for next year's World Test Championship (WTC) would be determined.

The women's Twenty20 World Cup, which Meg Lanning's Australia clinched on March 8 before a record 86,000-plus crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, had a narrow escape but the men's tournament was not so lucky.

Even as the pandemic raged on, the governing International Cricket Council (ICC) waited until July before postponing the Australia edition of the tournament to 2022.

While the game endured a rare four-month lull, boards introduced cost-cutting measures to deal with the pandemic's financial aftermath.

Several boards, including Cricket Australia, furloughed the lion's share of their workforce, while the England and Wales Cricket Board narrowly escaped what its chief executive Tom Harrison later described as "financial oblivion".

The ECB postponed the inaugural edition of The Hundred competition, while their players, men and women, accepted pay cuts.

International cricket finally resumed after a 117-day hiatus when England hosted West Indies in a three-test series in bio-secure venues at Southampton and Manchester in July.

This "new normal" of living in isolation and playing behind closed doors provided the game with a template to continue in extraordinary circumstances.

While the immediate reaction of the action-starved players was that of relief, the strain of bubble-life soon manifested itself.

BUBBLE FATIGUE

England all-rounder Tom Curran pulled out of the Big Bash League (BBL) in Australia citing bubble fatigue, days after compatriot Tom Banton withdrew from that Twenty20 tournament for the same reason.

"It can be quite tough," South Africa speedster Kagiso Rabada said after experiencing bubble life in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in the United Arab Emirates.

"You can't interact. You've basically lost your freedom. It's almost like luxury prisons," the 25-year-old said in a virtual news conference, another innovation forced by the pandemic.

India captain Virat Kohli said the toll that bubble-hopping takes on a player's mind should be considered when determining the length of cricket tours.

"These things have to be seriously thought about," said Kohli, who celebrated his 32nd birthday inside the IPL bubble.

The IPL, meanwhile, proved a resounding success despite being held in another country and outside its original window with a new title sponsor.

However, COVID-19 concerns earlier this month burst the biosecure bubble in South Africa, prompting England to return home after abandoning their ODI series.

Cricket also threw its weight behind the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, with several teams taking the knee.

The ICC, which elected New Zealander Greg Barclay as its new chairman in November, diluted its code of conduct to effectively approve such shows of solidarity for racial equality.

Australia began their summer of cricket with a 'barefoot circle' in Sydney in a powerful stand against racism and a recognition of indigenous Australians.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's relentless campaign to convince top teams to shed their security apprehensions and tour the country bore fruit with England, New Zealand and South Africa committing to visit in 2021.

REUTERS

Azam FC looks broken, George Lwandamina has his work cut out

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC's previous Vodacom Premier League game ended like the squad's four previous ones, frustration, deflation and a nagging feeling of déjà vu.

What was to be a fresh start under a new head coach, George Lwandamina, ended in a sense of disappointment after the final whistle in their 2-2 home draw to Namungo FC on Monday.

Azam FC made some interesting additions in pre-season, breaking the bank to buy Zimbabwean forward Prince Dube.

In addition, they added strength in depth in the form of central midfielder, Ally Niyonzima, Ayoub Lyanga and goalkeeper, David Kissu, arrived from Kenya's Gor Mahia.

Awesu Ally also joined following the conclusion of his contract at Kagera Sugar, where he spent two years playing regular football. There was also forward Thiery Akono who arrived from Cameroon.

At the start of the season, it appeared Azam FC had made significant additions to their squad to sustain a title race challenge. They won their seven opening games and were comfortably at the



Azam FC's head coach, George Lwandamina.

top. Then regression came swiftly with a defeat in the game against Mtibwa Sugar. It appears the loss affected all departments of the team.

Azam FC was beaten by Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC because the former's instincts were not there to react as quickly as sharp opponents who snaffled up rebounds.

They were later beaten by Yanga because they are painfully shy getting towards the goal themselves.

They had no shot on target in the 1-0 defeat against Yanga in the former's own backyard at Azam Complex.

All the confidence that Azam FC generated in the opening seven matches of the season

has dried up.

All the progress in making them harder to beat, more resilient, capable of seeing through a plan, has evaporated.

Azam are back to their most fragile. Perhaps it says much more about the team than the coach, they are paying the price for the years of cheap recruitment policy that coaches have had to deal with—structural weaknesses in the squad that cannot be solved by one marquee in Dube.

As encouraging as it is, Dube is exactly the type of player Azam FC needs, they need much more to compete with the power that is Simba SC and Yanga, who have a strong fan base behind them.

They sit a massive 11

points off league leaders Yanga and four points second-placed Simba who have two games in hand.

With two games before the season's halfway mark some have written Azam FC off the title race.

A season that started full of optimism has now descended into catastrophe.

Azam FC technical bench's current boss Lwandamina has a big job to do at the club. The Zambian ace was appointed as head coach following the decision to sack Romanian Aristica Cioaba last month.

Azam FC hosts Ruvo Shooting in a league match at Azam Complex tonight, a match pitting the former against a club who are difficult to beat.

Ruvo Shooting's players look re-energised this season under their new head coach Charles Boniface Mkwasa. Azam FC, meanwhile, looks as lethargic as the outfit was under Aristica Cioaba.

There will be no honeymoon period for Lwandamina, who has a hugely important list of issues to solve, starting with tonight's game. He has to set the goalkeeping issue.

Keeper Kissu kept his place between the sticks in the early season, and he did a very good job before mistakes permeated his game.

He was replaced by Benedicto Haule in the last two games. Haule was responsible for two goals Azam FC conceded in the tie against Namungo FC.

Without the injured Dube, Lwandamina needs to get the best out of Obrey Chirwa tonight while also looking for long term attacking solutions.

With Dube on the sidelines, Azam have looked disjointed to say the least in attack.

Richard Djodi is not a typical striker, Thierry Akono is taking too long to adapt to life in the Mainland Tanzania top flight. Will the club offload the two to buy a recognized goalscorer?



Tanzania's national amputee football team 'Tembo Warriors' players participate in training at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Namungo FC set to debut in Mapinduzi Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NAMUNGO FC has, for the first time, been selected to participate in the 2021 Mapinduzi Cup tournament, which is expected to start in Zanzibar from either January 1 or January 3.

The Vodacom Premier League outfit gets the chance to take part in this tournament, which is an annual feature, after putting solid performance in the previous season's top flight and successfully qualifying for this season's CAF Confederation Cup.

The side, popularly known as "Southern Killers", join Tanzania football giants, Simba, Yanga and Azam FC who will join four teams from the Isles in the race for Mapinduzi Cup tournament's silverware in early January, 2021.

Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar are the

showpiece's defending champions, they edged Simba 1-0 in the final, which also served as a climax of the celebrations which mark Zanzibar Revolution.

The official announcement from the tournament's organisers stated on Tuesday that the 2021 Mapinduzi Cup has drawn nine teams, five from Mainland Tanzania and four from the Isles.

The teams that have been listed to compete in the tournament are Mlandege, Malindi, Jamhuri and Chipukizi from the Isles while Mainland Tanzania will enter Simba SC, Yanga, Azam FC, Mtibwa Sugar and Namungo FC.

Speaking to reporters in Zanzibar, the Permanent Secretary in the Isles' Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Omar Hassan 'King', said the tournament is scheduled to

start on either January 1 or 3 next year.

The showpiece's accurate kick off date, he noted, will depend on the Vodacom Premier League and the CAF club competitions' fixtures, given Mainland Tanzania has two sides Simba SC and Namungo FC, which are playing in the continental tournaments.

He said Simba SC and Namungo FC, who are going to Zanzibar for the Mapinduzi Cup, are also engaged in CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup respectively.

He said Mapinduzi Cup is among the major activities carried out nationwide to mark the 57th anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution, whose official climax is January 12.

In retrospect, the organisers have unveiled 17-member committee

which will supervise the next year's Mapinduzi Cup. The members' function has been divided into three groups.

The committee, to be chaired by Khamis Abdalla Said, has Ayman Nduwe as the Secretary and Suleiman Pandu Kweleza as the Assistant Secretary.

The committee members include Khamis Mussa Omar, Hassan Abbas from Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Issa Mlingoti, who is Zanzibar Revolutionary Government's coordinator.

There is also Omar Singo, the Director of Sports in Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, the National Sports Council's Acting Secretary, Neema Msitha. Others are Fatma Hamad Rajab, Seif Kombo Pandu and Salum Ubwa.



Namungo FC

Why Brazilian club Corinthians continue to be huge fans of Taylor Swift

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

SUNDAY was a fairy tale for fans of Brazilian club Corinthians.

The last few years have not been easy for the giant club, probably the second most popular in the country. In 2012, they finally won the Copa Libertadores, South America's Champions League, and rounded off the year by beating Chelsea and becoming Club World Cup champions. A period of supremacy seemed assured.

This was the club of the new Brazilian establishment, counting on the fanatical support of former president Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva. And another dream was about to be fulfilled. Corinthians played in Pacaembu stadium -- well located near the heart of Sao Paulo, but municipally owned and often shared with Sao Paulo, Palmeiras and Santos. For decades, plans had been thwarted for Corinthians to get their own home, but thanks to the 2014 World Cup, the wait was over. A new ground was built in Itaquera, on the east of the city, and once Brazil '14 was over, it would belong to Corinthians. The good times were about to roll.

And there have been some good times. Corinthians won the Brazilian Championship in real style in 2015 -- a triumph that catapulted coach Tite into the Brazil national team job -- and repeated the feat in more pragmatic fashion two years later. They also won the local Sao Paulo title three years in a row between 2017-2019.

But their 'East Side Story' had run into problems. Having their own stadium was all very well. Paying for it, though, had become a massive headache. It proved a drain on the club's finances to such an extent that the mighty club have been forced to become a low-budget organisation, with obvious consequences on the field.

A few years ago, the idea of Corinthians in the middle of the league table would have been seen as a disaster. At the moment, though, it even comes as something of a relief. The club have been looking anxiously over their shoulder at the relegation zone in recent times.

To make matters worse, historic rivals Palmeiras have found a much better way to handle the transition into a new (in this case rebuilt) stadium. And backed by a wealthy sponsor, they have been able to assemble a deep squad and challenge for the top silverware. They were Brazilian champions in 2018, and are poised to make it to the semi-finals of the Copa Libertadores for the second time in three years.

Mourinho slams Klopp's touchline behaviour

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur boss Jose Mourinho hit out at the behaviour of Jurgen Klopp and his Liverpool coaches following their 2-1 victory in the Premier League on Wednesday.

The teams faced off in a top-of-the-table clash at Anfield that saw Liverpool score on a last-minute Roberto Firmino winner to move three points ahead of Spurs.

But Mourinho was upset at what he perceived to be pressure from the Liverpool technical area on the match officials and said it was to blame for him substituting Giovanni Lo Celso, who had set up Son Heung-Min's goal for Tottenham.

"We were playing to win, we were not playing to get a point," Mourinho said. "A point would have been quite a fair result, but we played to win and had the biggest chances to win it. The moment of the occasions and the reaction they had, they were in trouble.

"The game was always under control. I feel it was a very undeserved result, but that's football. At half-time we move a little bit the pieces, but overall the game was always under control and I am very pleased with the performance.

"The changes were to find counterattack situations, which we did immediately, but with [Lo Celso]'s yellow card and the incredible pressure these guys on the touchline put on the officials, I was afraid of the yellow card and I had to take him off.

"I am not the one to speak to my colleagues about their behaviour on the touchline."

Klopp played down his post-match conversation with Mourinho, adding: "Nothing serious, he said it himself so I don't have to repeat it. No argument."

But the Liverpool manager was more forthcoming in his praise of his team, claiming they dominated proceedings and that Spurs' goal shouldn't have stood.

"A good game against a counterattacking monster, the possession we had, we did incredibly well," Klopp said. "Yes, they have scored a goal, had two chances; apart from that we controlled the game and it is a massively deserved three points and I am happy.

"For me, it is offside [the Spurs goal]. They watch it 20 times, but when I saw it, it is offside. There is nobody to blame; the best way to defend Tottenham is to keep the ball all the time.

"It was just a really good game, and I am so happy we scored that goal because it felt like 70% of the ball against a top side," Klopp added. "Bobby [Firmino], what a header, I am over the moon for him. What a game he played, those movements, he opens up all the other gaps."

(Agencies)

Fine margins separate Liverpool, Spurs in title race that will be defined by them

LIVERPOOL, England

HERE were only 2,000 fans inside Anfield to celebrate Roberto Firmino's 90th-minute winner for Liverpool against Tottenham Hotspur, but the noise that the small crowd generated told you everything about the importance of the Brazilian forward's late header.

Firmino knew too, as his celebratory run deep into his own half attested, while manager Jurgen Klopp's traditional post-victory fist-pumping tribute in front of The Kop produced almost as much energy as the night he went crazy after that famous Champions League semifinal win against Barcelona.

The fans, Firmino and Klopp celebrated in a big way because they all knew that this 2-1 victory carried great significance in what is likely to be a much closer title race than Liverpool's procession to the championship last season.

It was a game decided by fine margins in a campaign that could see the title itself decided by such singular moments. The goal took Liverpool three points clear of Jose



Liverpool's Roberto Firmino scores their second goal against Tottenham Hotspur. (Agencies)

Mourinho's Spurs at the top of the table and emphasised their status as favourites to win back-to-back titles after finally ending the club's 30-year wait to be crowned champions of England earlier this year.

But while Mourinho will be criticised by the purists for his team's approach to the game -- Spurs were defensive, well organised and happy to use Son Heung-Min and Harry Kane as detached outlets -- Tottenham proved themselves to be genuine contenders against the best team in the country.

This was Tottenham's first Premier League defeat since the opening-day loss at home to Everton and that unbeaten run has

highlighted the progress the team has made since Mourinho took charge 13 months ago.

At Anfield, they underlined that progress by meeting the challenge of facing Liverpool. They frustrated Klopp's team, went close to taking the lead after Son had equalised Mohamed Salah's opening goal and generally gave as good as they got.

Yes, the statistics will show that Liverpool dominated possession and created more chances, but football is, thankfully, about more than numbers on a chart and Tottenham's disciplined and obdurate performance offered proof that they can sustain a title challenge this season.

"We were playing to

swashbuckling attacking play. They weren't as negative as the anti-Mourinho brigade will claim, however.

Klopp described Spurs as a "counter-attacking monster" before saying Liverpool "massively deserved the three points" and insisting Son's goal was offside. The German's comments hinted at his relief at getting the win rather than offer a genuine reflection of the game, but ultimately, his team were the one that claimed all three points and Liverpool will look back on this game as, perhaps, the night that their title defence really slipped into gear.

Yet it could quite easily have gone the other way. Both Kane and Bergwijn went tantalisingly close to putting Spurs 2-1 ahead before Firmino's late goal.

Tottenham's missed chances and Firmino's late goal are the fine details that decide winners and losers, though, and Liverpool have developed a habit in recent seasons of capitalising on the key moments. This was the third successive season that they had scored in the 90th minute or later against Spurs at home. Liverpool know how to take advantage when it mat-

ters, but that is a lesson that Spurs have still to learn. They have become a stronger and more confident side under Mourinho, however, and their performance at Anfield showcased their growing maturity under the former Chelsea and Manchester United manager.

The £15 million summer signing of Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg from Southampton could turn out to be one of the bargains of the season, with the midfielder offering a reliable buffer in front of the back four. Hojbjerg's tenacity makes him a perfect Mourinho player and his work rate enabled Spurs to defend deep and use Kane and Son on the counterattack.

On this occasion, Mourinho's game plan did not get the reward it deserved, but the two clubs meet again at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium at the end of January and Klopp will know that the game will be another major test of Liverpool's credentials. In that game, the fine margins could favour Tottenham and give them the title boost that this fixture has given to Liverpool.

ESPN

Arteta faces impossible task unless Arsenal's discipline improves

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta is still searching for a route out of Arsenal's malaise but keeping 11 men on the pitch might be a good place to start.

As Gabriel jogged off, after being shown a second yellow card in the 62nd minute, midfielder Dani Ceballos turned to the assistant referee and shouted in anger: "Every game the same."

He's right, of course, but the blame doesn't lie with the officials. The Gunners were left to salvage a point in this 1-1 draw with Southampton after receiving their seventh red card of Mikel Arteta's tenure.

The Spaniard has been in charge less than a year and Arsenal's tally in that time is over twice more than any other club (three). There have been three in the last five Premier League games and just as against Burnley four days earlier, the home side's indiscipline came precisely at a moment when they were just picking up steam. Just 10 minutes earlier, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had cancelled out Theo Walcott's 18th-minute opener to give Arsenal more belief than at any other stage during the match.

That belief quickly dissipated, however, as Gabriel earned two bookings in four minutes either side of the hour mark, the first for dissent and the second for a clumsy tackle as Walcott rolled him to launch a Southampton counter-attack.

The defender, 22, has been one of Arsenal's better performers in a turbulent season to date but he looked unsure from the off here, shaky



Gabriel was the latest Arsenal player to lose his head, joining Nicolas Pepe and Granit Xhaka as Arsenal players who have seen red this season. (Agencies)

in possession and positionally questionable throughout.

Arteta explained away Granit Xhaka's red card as a misplaced desire to do well and perhaps Gabriel could be classified in the same way if we are being generous. The less accommodating view is that the defender was worryingly panicked throughout, caught trying to win the ball too high up the pitch for Saints' opening goal and then sent off for a similarly misguided attempt in the second half.

Arteta is within his rights to expect better. Xhaka and Nicolas Pepe, sent off for a headbutt at Leeds, were fined for their indiscretions. Gabriel's dismissal was not due to undue truculence but no less reckless, a misjudgement which could easily have condemned Arsenal to a fifth consecutive home Premier League defeat.

"It is very difficult to compete in this league when you play for such a long period with 10 men," said Arteta. "And when you are struggling

for results, it makes it more complicated."

The Gunners, whose starting XI had an average age of just 24 years old, were edgy to a man early on. It is an impressive feat for a team to look more rigid in possession than out of it but the lack of confidence arising from four consecutive home defeats mixed with Arteta's acutely detailed instructions seemed to be contributing to a performance riddled with inhibition.

Saka's perseverance was a plus point throughout; his endeavour earlier had created Arsenal's equaliser with a jinking run before Eddie Nketiah slipped Aubameyang in for his first

The good news is, however, that they didn't give up. In fact, after Saints substitute Nathan Redmond hit the post, Arsenal almost snatched it in stoppage-time at the other end, Rob Holding's header from Bukayo Saka's free kick hitting the crossbar.

Saka's perseverance was a plus point throughout; his endeavour earlier had created Arsenal's equaliser with a jinking run before Eddie Nketiah slipped Aubameyang in for his first

goal since Nov. 1. Arteta claimed afterwards that ending that drought will "I'm sure take a lot of pressure off him."

It was also the Gunners first League goal from open play in more than 13 hours. Baby steps.

"At the end, if you lose the game again, it would have been a really difficult one to take. The players showed what we expect them to do, sometimes with more or less quality but at least the work is there," said the Arsenal manager.

"I saw all the players that weren't participating and they were in the stands shouting and being right behind the team, living the game with them which is a really strong signal as well."

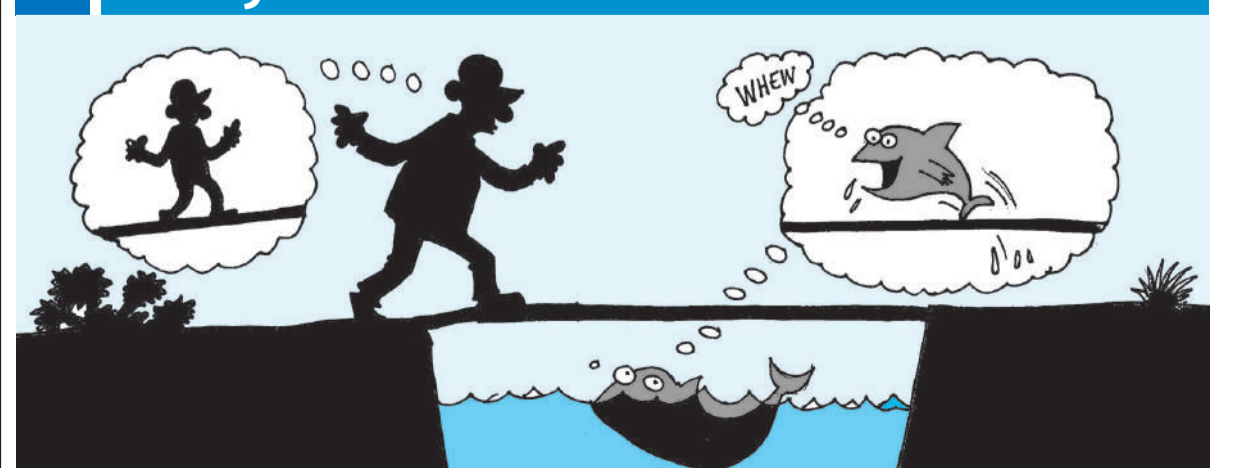
This was not a 'downed tools' performance that hastened the departure of Arteta's predecessor Unai Emery but nor was it one to suggest the path to brighter days is any clearer.

Arsenal's technical director Edu reiterated the club's unwavering support for Arteta earlier this week, impressed as they've been by his immediate impact and long-term vision. The problem remains the bit in between, as encapsulated by the sight of Edu in the stands shaking his head at another poor first half.

Arteta has to get more from these players in the weeks and months ahead to earn the right to shape the squad in his own image. A full complement of players for 90 minutes on a regular basis would make that task considerably easier.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Fine margins separate Liverpool, Spurs in title race that will be defined by them

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Simba SC's Sven Vandebroeck now not bothered by KMC FC penalty call



Simba SC midfielder, Francis Kahata (L), negotiates his way past Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC fullback, Kelvin Kijiri, in a Vodacom Premier League match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MEDDIE Kagere netted a controversial game-winning penalty kick for Simba SC against Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in a Vodacom Premier League duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday night.

The game's referee Elly Sassi awarded Simba the penalty in the second half, causing quite a storm on social media.

However, Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandebroeck, was not perturbed with this call, saying in the end all that mattered was his side getting a deserved victory in a tough game.

He disclosed: "Actually, I'm

very happy because before the game I said it is gonna be a tricky game. KMC FC is one of the better teams in

the league, playing technical football, good in possession. I think 90 minutes showed we had to give everything to

get that victory."

"Sometimes these victories when it is tough and you win 1-0, it makes you a champion. These bad games or 50/50, when you can win them, they take you far. The three changes we had to do were all because of injuries."

"The technical bench did everything they could today, and also my players did everything they could. We came from 23 degrees in Mbeya to more than 30, two days recoveries instead of four for KMC FC."

"After the game, five or six players were laying on the ground, dizzy and completely exhausted. That means they gave everything for the club today and for the victory. That's why I give my team a compliment and two days off."

"The past two games we rotated a few players. Some players had rest on Wednesday last week, a few on Sunday and then today again, maybe a stronger team."

"We set a target of six in six, we succeeded on that one. Maybe not two good games but at least we succeeded on the results that we targeted."

"I don't care, we win, if it was offside or not, penalty or not, we win. All the rest is talk for the media and you. I don't care today. I am happy with the 1-0 victory and the effort they made, all the rest is for tomorrow."

The results mean Simba have cut Vodacom Premier League leaders Yanga's advantage to eight points, but the former have two games in hand.

They will now turn their focus to the CAF Champions League's first round midweek tie against Zimbabwe's Plateau United.

5
EATV
FRIDAY

TONIGHT
@ 9:00



11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA !
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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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 Friday Night Live

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Mineral oil firm sponsors Arusha Football Club

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Arusha Football Club (AFC), which is essentially under the regional authorities, has just received the well needed support from Njiro-based Mineral Oil Corporation Limited, a boost of over 22.6m/-.

Presenting the giant bank cheque of the 22.6m/- to the AFC's Chairman, James Rugangila, the Marketing Manager for Mineral Oil Corporation, Chikila Msangi, revealed that the sponsorship is targeting to empower the club to become the most powerful club in the Northern Zone.

"We shall start with 12m/- for running the team's operations, then 10.6m/- for logistics including outfits, transport and footing other bills," Msangi stated.

Rugangila also expressed gratitude to Mineral Oil Corporation, adding that AFC have entered contract with the company and the firm has been supporting the club ever since.

Arusha Regional Commissioner, Idd Kimanta, who is also the AFC's patron, thanked the management of the Mineral Oil Corporation for the boost.

He said that even before the financial pledge, the company has been providing sporting gear and logistic support, including transport to the AFC.

"I'm determined to support all sporting activities in Arusha and, in three years' time, this precinct will top the nation as far as recreational activities are concerned," Kimanta noted.

Kimanta added that he has directed all District Commissioners around the region to ensure that sporting activities remain top priority in their daily tasks.

The AFC is currently playing in Group B of the First Division League (FDL), where the side is in the fifth position with 11 points.

Within the ongoing FDL match series, the club is scheduled to confront Fountain Gate FC at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha next weekend as per the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s time table.

Mineral Oil Corporation Limited, operating from Themi Industrial Area, is among the Arusha Sundries Group of companies.

The company is dealing with, among other products, registered brands, namely Endura and Lubex lubricants.

Simba SC head coach defends Morrison's offensive gesture

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's head coach Sven Vandebroeck has defended the side's midfielder, Bernard Morrison, for raising his middle finger to perceived critics.

In the incident's video released on social media, Morrison can be heard shouting: "Those who don't want me to succeed at Simba and who are always finding problems, I have the short message for you. To the haters, don't worry."

While the video caused another social media storm, coach Vandebroeck has defended the Ghanaian attacking midfielder by explaining while the player might have said it in a wrong way, he meant he wanted to show people he wants to succeed at the club.

The coach stated: "Sometimes a player does something in his free time out of club time. That is for me to judge it, of course the message has to be positive. I think he meant it as positive, he wanted to show that he wants to do everything for this club to succeed. Maybe how he told it was not the best way."

"I won't judge about it, I judge him on his behaviour when we are together as a team. I will judge him when I see him play. And all the rest outside, people have perceptions against you or for you. I know there are people against me, some people are for me."

"We cannot change the world but



Simba SC's midfielder, Bernard Morrison.

maybe be a bit more careful how we bring out the message can be smart."

Controversy seems to follow Morrison wherever he goes. He has had an eventful spell in Tanzania.

In less than one year since he landed in the country he has already played for both Simba SC and the club's rivals Yanga.

He joined Yanga in January and had

brief success that included scoring a match winning goal via a free kick in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash pitting Yanga against Simba SC in March before controversies took centre stage once again in his wandering career.

The ex-Orlando Pirates man stirred controversy when he stormed off the pitch and walked straight into the dressing room after his substitution in Yanga's 4-1 defeat to Simba in the Federation Cup semi-final match played in Dar es Salaam in July.

He was arrested by police in the same month before being bailed out later on. According to reports, he was obstructing police officers from inspecting his car.

He was dramatically announced as a Simba player on August 8, prompting Yanga to come out and dispute the signing, claiming that the talented-but-controversial player has an existing contract with them until 2022.

In October, he was caught live on TV punching an opponent in Simba's 1-0 loss to Ruvu Shooting. He was banned for three matches and fined and consequently missed Simba's VPL tie against Yanga on November 7, 2020.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

