



National Pg 3 Warehouse receipt system on crops



National Pg 4 UCSAF gives computers to schools



National Pg 5 Amendment of exploitative laws



This is all that remained of the government vehicle in which Tanzania Revenue Authority officials were travelling yesterday and which was involved in a road crash at Hanseketwa in Mbozi District, Songwe Region, leaving five of those on board dead. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Songwe accident claims lives of five TRA officers

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

FIVE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) officials died on the spot following a Landcruiser vehicle with Reg. STL 8825 they were travelling in rammed into the rear of a Fuso lorry with Reg. T. 586 ANE at Hanseketwa area in Mbozi District, Songwe Region.

The accident happened at dawn yesterday when the TRA officials were chasing another vehicle, that is yet to be identified, that was suspected to be carrying smuggled goods towards Mbeya.

Regional Police Commander Janeth Magomi confirmed the accident, saying the bodies of the deceased have been preserved



The law is blind. I call upon drivers, irrespective of driving government or private vehicles, to adhere to road traffic laws to avoid such accidents

at the Songwe Regional Referral Hospital in Vwawa Town.

Of the five deceased, four were workers at Mbeya TRA offices and one a TRA official from Songwe Region, she elaborated.

The deceased are the vehicle's driver Azaria Shifonike, Joel Mitondwa, Saidi 'Buddy' and Fahad Hassan, all TRA officials from Mbeya, as well as Bernard Mashingi, a TRA officer from the Tunduma border post.

"The cause of the accident was the Landcruiser's high speed in chasing the other vehicle and then rammed into the rear of a lorry," the RPC noted.

She urged drivers to observe road traffic

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Experts deny vaccine risks in pregnancy or lactation

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians of Tanzania (AGOTA) has cleared the air on the dilemma of Covid-19 vaccine provision on pregnant women and lactating mothers, recommending the jabs as safe.

This came at a time when women and their health care providers face the dilemma caused by evidence limits in clinical trials of the various vaccines.

In a statement issued yesterday, the association recommended that vaccination

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MPs chuck out shipping agency top management

Working capital increase totalling 6.5bn/- not found in account books

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

SENIOR officials from the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) were yesterday sent out of a meeting by the Public Accounts Committee of the legislature for failing to answer fundamental questions.

Speaking in an interview, PAC chairperson Nagenjwa Kaboyoka said that during interrogation on the CAG audit report on TASAC, it was revealed that the agency's board conducted 13 meetings and spent 815m/- on these activities.

"The law requires that they hold four meetings in a year and they can have two more but beyond that they need to have a special permission from the Treasury Registrar," she

said. TASAC officials failed to answer queries raised by the Controller and Auditor General which the committee levelled during the meeting, she stated, elaborating that the answers which those officials gave provoked committee members to dismiss them from the meeting.

"We have given them two weeks to come up with tangible answers," the chairperson declared, pointing out that the committee questioned the competence of the TASAC Director General "as he failed to answer questions on basic management issues."

Japhet Hasunga, the committee's vice chairman said the audit report showed that

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TCU unveils Phase Two first degree applications

By Guardian Reporter



THE Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) has launched Phase II of first degree enrolment for the 2021/22 academic year, with applicants for enrolment in the first phase increasing by 2,237 students.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TCU Executive Secretary Prof Charles Kihampa (pictured) said that in the first phase of enrolment a total of 92,809 students submitted their applications to join 74 universities authorised to conduct student enrolment.

In the 2020/21 academic year there were 90,572 applicants, registering an increase by over two thousand students this year, seeking to join a total of 724 programmes that the commission has approved, a sharp increase from 686 programmes approved for the 2020/2021 academic year, he elaborated.

There are 164,901 enrolment vacancies in universities this academic year compared to 157,770 the previous year, an increase of 7,131

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Glory of Christ Tanzania Church founder and head Bishop Gwajima (L), who is also CCM legislator for Dar es Salaam's Kawe constituency, seated before members of Parliamentary Privileges, Ethics and Powers Committee in Dodoma city yesterday. He was summoned there to respond to various allegations against him, one being that he had disparaged the legislative body. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Experts deny vaccine risks in pregnancy or lactation

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should be made available to pregnant and lactating women as the benefits of vaccination on the pregnant or lactating woman outweigh the potential risks, "and if no contra-indication are given on the specific vaccine."

All approved vaccines accepted by Ministry of Health in the country should be offered to all pregnant and lactating women, provided that guidelines are observed in priority as regards safeguards on pregnant and lactating women.

"AGOTA recommends that the decision to vaccinate or not should be based on individual choices, personal values, understanding the benefits in protecting against the risk of infection or morbidity and mortality from Covid-19, along with described risks of being vaccinated during pregnancy and in lactating," the statement asserted.

AGOTA said however that for now, there is no affirmative data to guide vaccine administration at a particular gestational age. Vaccination may be considered at any gestational age, including the first trimester of the pregnancy, it stated.

The professional body said pregnant and lactating women should be eligible to receive vaccination if they are in a group eligible to receive the vaccine. This is vital given the increased risk of morbidity from Covid-19 infections, it reiterated.

Explaining further on the safety of the vaccines, AGOTA cited the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines saying they are mRNA vaccines that are not based on an immunised live virus that would otherwise cause Covid-19.

"In addition, mRNA vaccines do not interact with a person's DNA or cause genetic changes because the mRNA does not enter the nucleus of the cell, which is where most of

our DNA is kept," the scientific body underlined.

"We have mitochondrial DNA as well, which is the basis of mitochondrial DNA replacement therapy," it elaborated.

"The J&J/Janssen Covid-19 vaccine is a viral vector vaccine, meaning it uses a modified version of a different virus (the vector) to deliver important instructions to our cells," he pointed out.

The vaccines that use the same viral vector have been given to pregnant women in all trimesters of pregnancy, including on a large-scale Ebola vaccination trial, the statement noted.

AGOTA affirmed that pregnant women were not specifically included in the phase three clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccines. However some pregnancies did occur inadvertently during trials of all vaccines that now have WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL), it stated.

Information issued is related specifically to those vaccines, which have also received WHO EUL citation, and is subject to change should new evidence arise, it said.

Recent studies have shown that pregnant women are at increased risk of severe Covid-19 associated illness in case of infection compared with non-pregnant women.

The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) said pregnant women with Covid-19 are at increased risk of preterm birth and might be at increased risk of other adverse pregnancy outcomes compared with pregnant women without Covid-19, the statement added.

"The J&J/Janssen Covid-19 vaccine is a viral vector vaccine, meaning it uses a modified version of a different virus (the vector) to deliver important instructions to our cells,"



Prisons officers escort opposition Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe to the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday for the hearing of his terrorism case. He was later led back to remand prison. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

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the corporation was required to collect 70bn/- but it didn't achieve the goal.

"We have seen a total of 38bn/- being in hands of people and institutions as debts. They have failed to collect debts; how are they going to operate efficiently," he queried.

He said that the law requires public entities to contribute 15 percent of gross revenue to the Consolidated Fund lodged with the Treasury but due to low collections, TASAC managed to contribute 8bn/- instead of 10bn/-.

MPs chuck out shipping agency top management

"The law also requires TASAC to ensure that 70 percent of its profits go to the Consolidated Fund, so with their low collections, you can see how they have contributed very little to the fund. So they have violated laws and regulations set by the government and they have to

bring clear answers," he stressed.

He similarly remarked that TASAC is required to issue a license annually to every shipping agent on all ports, a responsibility it has not carried out, also querying why TASAC operating capital has been raised with an addition of 6.5bn/- "but the

same is not found in the books."

"They have also failed to set up a database for registration of all ships, agencies and handling systems so as to improve their working efficiency and performance. So there is a huge problem within this corporation," he added.



Selemani Jafo (L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), updates journalists at Vuga in Zanzibar yesterday on the ongoing meeting of the joint committee secretariat involving members from the Union and Zanzibar governments. He is with the Minister of State in the Zanzibar First Vice President's Office, Dr Saada Mkuya Salum. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

US sanctions Eritrean official over abuse of rights in Tigray

WASHINGTON

The United States imposed sanctions yesterday on a senior Eritrean military leader for engaging in "serious human rights abuse" during the conflict in Tigray.

The US Treasury Department said forces under the command of General Filipos Woldeyohannes, chief of staff of the Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF), are responsible for "massacres, looting, and sexual assaults." "EDF troops have raped, tortured, and executed civilians;

they have also destroyed property and ransacked businesses," the department said in a statement.

"The EDF have purposely shot civilians in the street and carried out systematic house-to-house searches, executing men and boys, and have forcibly evicted Tigrayan families from their residences and taken over their houses and property."

The Treasury Department said any property or interests of Woldeyohannes in the United States would be frozen and US citizens are barred from conducting any

business with him.

"The Treasury Department will continue to take action against those involved in serious human rights abuse around the world, including in the Tigray region of Ethiopia," said Andrea Gacki, director of the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

"Such acts further exacerbate the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis," Gacki said in a statement.

"We urge Eritrea to immediately and permanently withdraw its forces from Ethiopia, and urge the parties

to the conflict to begin ceasefire negotiations and end human rights abuses," Gacki said.

The Treasury Department said the ongoing conflict in Tigray "has exacerbated a humanitarian crisis that threatens hundreds of thousands of lives." "Despite the Ethiopian government's June 28 unilateral ceasefire declaration, parties on all sides continue to escalate the conflict," it said. "These escalatory actions risk furthering a severe humanitarian crisis."

AGENCIES

TCU unveils Phase Two first degree applications

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vacancies or 4.5 per cent increase on average per programme for first degree enrolment, he stated.

In the first phase of enrolment about 68,019 applicants or about 73.2 per cent of applicants obtained enrolment in various universities, the don stated.

The pace of enrolment for the first phase for the past four years shows a big increase in the number of applicants, indicating a sharp rise in those graduating from high school and diploma holders, he stated.

The number of applicants in phase one of enrolment for the last four years has also been increasing, he affirmed

Prof Kihampa said applicants

who were enrolled in more than one university should confirm their enrolment in one of the universities accepting their application, from the moment of selection to September 6 (three weeks period).

To confirm enrolment in one of those universities, the commission has put up a password sent via SMS in their mobile phones or email address used when applying for enrolment, he explained, specifying that enrolment confirmation should be done via the accounts used when applying for enrolment.

TCU has thus extended opportunities for the second phase of enrolment to students qualified to join higher learning institutions, he added.

Songwe accident claims lives of five TRA officers

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signs to avoid accidents that can be prevented and save their own lives, and those of other road users.

"The law is blind. I call upon drivers, irrespective of driving government or private vehicles, to adhere to road traffic laws to avoid such accidents," she emphasised.

Songwe regional authorities and TRA officials who arrived at the referral hospital came to tears as they saw the bodies of the deceased at the mortuary.

Regional Commissioner Omary Mgumba conveyed his condolences to relatives of the deceased, urging them to remain calm as the government works on burial arrangements.

He appealed to drivers of government vehicles to abide by traffic laws and regulations, just as it is for drivers of private vehicles.

Meanwhile, Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has

expressed sorrow for the accident and fatalities, in a message to TRA Commissioner General Alphayo Kidata.

"The ministry has been saddened with the deaths of the staff. They were implementing their duties when the tragic incident happened; we pray that their souls rest in eternal peace," the minister said in a statement availed to the media yesterday, directing his grief to ministerial and TRA staff, the families, friends and relatives of the deceased to remain strong in this difficult moment.

...I call upon drivers, irrespective of driving government or private vehicles, to adhere to road traffic laws to avoid such accidents



Industry and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on investment opportunities available in once-privatised industries now back under government ownership. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Property rental 'luku' bills beginning to bite

By Correspondent Nimi Mweta

PAYMENTS of property taxes via electricity purchases has started to bite, with call ins to city radios showing that a broad segment of residents feels disturbed by the methods used.

A caller said he purchased power at around five thousand shillings and saw two thousand shillings being deducted for property rents, without further explanation.

Tenants have been bundled with the property rent payments of buildings in which they are occupants, with any remainders from the bills being returned to them by units on the basis of ordinary power purchases.

There was no prior explanation of the manner in which the rents would be deducted, if it is spread throughout the year and therefore friendly to the user, or it is rapidly deducted from power bills as in the case of the caller.

Rapid cuts from power bills complete the payments rapidly and are friendly to TANESCO as agents of property rents for local

governments, but it is also exposed to overcharging, as it is not easy to keep records of each power payment and the deduction.

Without such a record it isn't possible to set out how much power was purchased and what deductions were made for the building or a portion of it, and what formula is used in restoring the balance.

That stage has not been reached as in many cases tenants don't even know what is the property rate for the particular building, and aren't clear why the owner cannot be traced by the relevant authorities.

Some fear that the manner of tracing the relevant sums in the power bills might be complicated and the time used becomes another kind of charge, which is doubly punishing for tenants.

So far the method of paying property rents from electricity charges has only started being used and complaints coming up are scattered here and there, but in due course those affected by the method of property tax payments expect that TANESCO works to make the method more friendly to the user.



Some fear that the manner of tracing the relevant sums in the power bills might be complicated and the time used becomes another kind of charge, which is doubly punishing for tenants

Warehouse receipt system wins farmers 65bn/- from sesame, pigeon peas, soya

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE warehouse receipt system on crops has enabled farmers in Ruvuma Region earn more than 65bn/- from their sesame, pigeon peas and soya crops in three harvest seasons.

Ruvuma region assistant registrar of cooperative unions Bumi Masuba said in the last three harvest seasons beginning 2018/2019 to 2020/2021,

Ruvuma Region collected 27,664,631 kilogrammes of the crops earning them a total of 65bn/-.

"In 2020/2021 season alone a total of 29 auctions for sesame were conducted and a total of 8,326 kgs was sold, earning farmers a total of 17,221,852,087/-," said Masuba.

In regard to soya, Masuba said in the three harvest seasons beginning 2018/2019 to 2020/2021, a total of 4,963,088 kgs of soya was collected

and sold at an average of 3,375/- per kg and earned farmers a total of 5,234,096,169/-.

However, he said in 2020/2021 season alone a total of nine soya auctions were conducted that bought 1,090,199 kgs of the crop at an average of 1,327/- per kg earning farmers a total of 1,547,202,688/- and that buying continues.

Regarding pigeon peas, he said in the three harvest seasons beginning

2019/2020 to 2020/2021, 5,864,615 kgs of peas were collected and sold at an average of 2,491/- per kg, earning farmers 3,779,134,182/- in total.

He said in 2020/2021 harvest season alone, three pigeon peas auctions were conducted an a total of 808,295 kgs of the crop was sold at an average of 1,252/- per kg, earning farmers 1,011,711,013/- and the auction was still continuing.



BARRICK

NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Removal of Scrap, and Waste Oils and Grease for Offsite Recycling/Disposal

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following services:

Collection, Transportation and Offsite Recycling/Disposal of Scrap Materials, and Waste Oils and Grease

Pre-qualification Criteria

- (1) Collector must be registered by NEMC/Vice President's Office as approved scrap/waste materials and waste oils & grease collector in mainland Tanzania
- (2) Valid permits from NEMC/Vice President's Office to collect, transport and recycle waste/scrap materials and waste oils & grease
- (3) Availability of Collector's machinery and equipment – Means of Collection, Transportation and Disposal
- (4) Safety and Environmental Compliance – Site based EHS personnel, OSHA Compliance Certificate
- (5) A minimum of 5 years' experience and references for similar services rendered at any mine sites
- (6) Local Content Compliance

Expression of Interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com.


Applicants must quote the reference "NM Scrap, and Waste Oils and Grease Removal" in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI August 27, 2021

North Mara Gold Mine Limited.



BARRICK

NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

ESIA AND GEOTECHNICAL CHARACTERIZATION

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following services:

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Geotechnical Characterization.

Pre-qualification criteria

- (1) Current CVs of key personnel highlighting experience in relation to works stipulated.
- (2) The Project Manager and various principal consultants should have at least 10-years' experience of conducting mine related ESIA studies, and a MSc qualification.
- (3) The Project Sponsor/Lead needs 25 years or more experience in the mining and environmental field to assist in guiding the project to completion.
- (4) The Hydrogeologist must have a MSc qualification with a minimum of 10-years' experience as a Geohydrologist involved in mine water studies.
- (5) The Geochemist must have a MSc qualification with a minimum of 10-years' experience as a specialist in environmental geochemistry. Experience in geochemical modelling is critical and needs to be demonstrated.
- (6) Specialist Leads and Reviewers of the biophysical specialist studies require a MSc qualification and minimum of 10 years' experience in the field.
- (7) Other related Specialists or Team members must possess BSc degree in their relevant field of study with 3 years' experience conducting mine related studies.
- (8) Senior Reviewers of ESIA reports should have more than 20 years' experience in the industry.
- (9) Ability to demonstrate track record and evidence/references of at least 5 similar projects. (10) Demonstration of similar projects with other Barrick operations and sites will be an added advantage.
- (11) Demonstration of similar and relevant closure work including pit lake modelling.
- (12) Experience in the development of water management plans that also include passive treatment options needs to be demonstrated.

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com.

Applicants must quote the reference "NM ESIA and Geotechnical Characterization" in the subject line of the email.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI August 27, 2021

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

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EAC called on to establish regional youth, peace and security platform

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) joint sectoral council on inter-state security and foreign policy coordination has adopted a framework for establishing regional youth, peace and security platform.

In a meeting that sat over the weekend, chaired by Kenya's Chief Administrative Secretary for National Security, Peter Odoyo observed that the draft framework for establishing the youth's platform had been reviewed and finalised by partner state experts.

The council further directed the EAC secretariat and partner states to operationalise the platform and develop a peace and security communication strategy to facilitate awareness creation on the existing peace and security structures and promote coordinated and meaningful participation of youths at all levels in implementing the platform.

The meeting noted that the partner states' ministries responsible for EAC affairs should take an active role in coordination and implementation of the regional platform on youth, peace and security.

The ministers further noted that there was a need to develop a mechanism for mapping areas with potential insecurity that require youth intervention.

The Sectoral Council also adopted the Draft EAC Strategy and Implementation Plan for Youth Peace and Security (2021-2026).

The ministers directed the secretariat to undertake a baseline survey to establish the current state of the youth engagement and participation in the peace and security matters in the region, the gaps and challenges thereof.

In adopting the draft strategy, the ministers observed that document had already received inputs from partner states that have enriched the draft youth peace and security strategy document at both national and regional level.

The ministers observed that there was a need to popularise the EAC youth peace and security instruments and initiatives with key stakeholders in the region, adding that there was also a need to have a consistent definition of the youth with international, continental and regional instruments.

The meeting further noted that there was a need to establish a baseline on youth participation in EAC peace and security activities.

The Sectoral Council also approved the draft enabling institutional structure to support the council of ministers on peace and security matters and refer the same for consideration by the sectoral council on legal and judicial affairs for legal input in line with decision 33

of the 33rd meeting of the council of ministers.

The council directed the secretariat to constitute a multi sectoral experts working group to develop SOPs (including roles and responsibilities) for the team that will be providing technical support to the council of ministers on peace and security matters, and submit to the 11th joint meeting of sectoral councils on cooperation in defence, interstate security and foreign policy coordination for consideration.

They recommended to the EAC Council of ministers to prioritise the recruitment of staff under the directorate of peace and security.

While approving the "Draft Enabling Institution Framework", the ministers observed that the Protocol on Peace and Security, which operationalises the directorate of peace and security, had been ratified by all partner states hence the need to recruit staff under the directorate of peace and security to enhance coordination of the sectors.

The ministers further observed that there was a need to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Team that will be providing technical support to the council of ministers on peace and security matters.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Odoyo noted that the session provided an opportunity for partner states to deliberate on peace and security matters that are crucial to the enhancement of the EAC integration process.

Odoyo underlined the fact that in the COVID-19 pandemic scenario, "it is our actions that will make the difference," and urged the delegates and, by extension the people of East Africa, to always observe COVID-19 containment protocols.

EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki, briefed the ministers on his focus towards job and wealth creation as a panacea to the youth bulge in the region, which has a bearing on engaging idle youth in gainful employment and creation of a disincentive towards choice of criminal activities.

"As we move to the next level, it is my goal over the next five years to build on these gains and consolidate security by focusing on private sector development, which is critical to wealth and job creation, hence, provision of a promising future for our young people. Achievement in this realm will reduce the incentive for young people to engage in activities that prejudice security," said Dr Mathuki.

He further briefed the meeting on the ongoing process of implementing the Summit decision with respect to the entry of the DRC into the EAC and the opportunities it offers. He urged the sectors to identify appropriate entry points.

UCSAF gives computers, printers to two schools in Bariadi District

By Guardian Reporter, Simiyu

THE Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) has presented Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment to Dutwa and Nkololo secondary schools in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region.

The equipment, five computers and a printer to each schools were presented to the Bariadi Member of Parliament, who is also Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Eng Kundo Mathew who on his part handed them to the two schools at functions participated by the Bariadi District Commissioner, Lupakisyo Kapange.

"ICT participates in the world's economic growth and we, in Tanzania have decided not to be left behind in the use of ICT to ensure our youth learn the technology right from school," said Eng. Kundo.

The deputy minister appealed to the students of the two schools to study hard to get high marks in their national exams and pledged that as he had promised during the 2020 election campaign he would pay school fees for students who will score First Division with 7, 8, and 9 points.

He added that so far he has

already paid school fees for 18 Form V students who scored these points in their examinations.

For his part, UCSAF head of operations, Eng. Albert Richard said one of the Fund's responsibilities is to provide ICT equipment to public schools to spur use of the technology in the country.

Mekrina Bonifasi, teacher at Dutwa secondary school said the assistance will spur the urge for passing examinations among students, taking into consideration the fact that her school has 280 Form I students who have taken up computer subject and will do their Form IV national Examinations in 2022.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister was dismayed by the Nkololo Ward officials for failing to supervise the construction of a laboratory at Nkololo Secondary School while he had already provided them with 156 bags of cement and 50 roofing sheets since March this year and nothing has been done so far except the 1,500 bricks they made.

For his part, Bariadi DC Lupakisyo Kapange directed the district's executive director and his experts to move out of their offices and camp at the school to supervise the construction of the laboratory until it is completed.



Bank of Africa acting managing director Wasia Mushi pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend opening a business skills workshop meant to benefit SMEs supported by the bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Njombe

NJOMBE regional administrative secretary (RAS) Judica Omary has called on farmers to follow modern agronomic practices for high productivity and meet domestic and foreign market demands.

Omary was speaking over the weekend here during the inauguration of the One Acre Fund agricultural input store held in Igima ward in Wang'ombe District.

She said the government is determined to bring about major changes in the agricultural sector including timely access to inputs.

Omary said the government is continuing to improve extension services to ensure food and nutrition security is in line with ensuring all farmers have access to extension

Njombe farmers urged to use agronomic methods

inputs as well as focus on productive crop farming.

"We therefore strongly urge our farmers to join the cooperatives so that you can have a variety of opportunities," said Omary.

The official said the ministry of agriculture was ready to work with all agricultural stakeholders in developing the sector especially in the improvement and access to inputs, research, extension services, irrigation, infrastructure and marketing. She encouraged farmers should join and register with cooperatives in order to help them

reach out to more service providers available in agriculture.

She commended the One Acre Fund (OAF) for reducing the cost of levies in the provision of agricultural input loans to farmers from 19 percent to 10 percent at currently.

For her part, the director general of One Acre Fund Tanzania Jennifer Lindgren, said in the past eight years the organization has learned that smallholder farmers can overcome poverty if they follow the best practices of modern agriculture.

However, she said the mission of

the organisation is to help farmers so that they can be more productive by providing them with education on the best use of agricultural inputs.

"We are spending most of our time as a team to achieve our goal of getting farmers out of poverty," said Jennifer.

Beatus Malema, assistant director for crop promotion, Agricultural Inputs and Cooperatives in the Ministry of Agriculture, thanked the One Acre Fund for setting up shops that will go directly to farmers to facilitate access to inputs around their areas.



CCM officials in Arusha, including regional chairman Zelothe Stephen (R), regional publicity secretary Gerald Munisi and youth wing acting secretary Ibrahim Kijanga move bricks during a visit they made yesterday to the site of the construction of a Ngorongoro District hospital building. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Kenya receives first shipment of Moderna vaccines from the US

NAIROBI

OFFICIALS in Kenya converged at Jomo Kenyatta airport here yesterday to see the first donated doses of Moderna vaccines from the United States arrive, the first time the vaccine was received in the east African country.

Principal Secretary at the Kenya's Ministry of Health Susan Mochache said that 880,460 doses were delivered. She said the shipment is the first of 1.76 million doses donated by the US government through the

COVAX facility.

"With this donation of 880,460 doses of Moderna from United States government, Kenya will now, have received a total of 3.6 million doses of COVID 19 vaccines. Moderna is the second vaccine to be deployed in this country after we started administering AstraZeneca in March this year," Susan Mochache said.

Eric Kneeder, from US Embassy in Kenya said they were the same Moderna vaccines being used to vaccinate Americans in the US.

"The US government will continue

to work with the government of Kenya to bring additional life-saving vaccines to Kenya through COVAX and will continue to do all we can to build a world to be safer and more secure against the threat of infectious disease," Kneeder said.

The Moderna doses are set to boost Kenya's ongoing nationwide vaccination exercise, supporting the government's quest to get at least 10 million adult population vaccinated by December 25.

Mochache also announced the increase of vaccination centres from

the current 800 to 3,000 to offer one specific type of vaccine.

"We plan to allocate one vaccine type to each vaccination post. We do not want to have a cross mix of vaccines within facilities so that those designated to offer Pfizer will offer Pfizer, those designated to offer Moderna or AstraZeneca will do so. This will enable people to choose which post to be vaccinated at," she explained.

Approximately 2.9 per cent of the adult population in Kenya has since been fully vaccinated.



Zanzibar First Lady Mariam Mwynyi (L) pictured at Kizimkazi in Zanzibar yesterday gracing the launch of Kizimkazi Festival, which started with training for entrepreneurs from South Unguja. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Isles media stakeholders appeal to government to fast-track amendment of laws proved exploitative

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MEDIA stakeholders in Isles have appealed to their government to fast-track the amendment of some media laws to enable them to practice their duties professionally and report issues hindering community development.

Senior officer at Media Council of Tanzania in Zanzibar Shifaa Hassan said this over the weekend in the virtual stakeholder's consultative meeting about media freedom that was organised by TAMWA in collaboration with Internews.

She said currently, the government is in the process of amending the laws that aimed at cancelling the registration of News Agents, Newspapers and Books Act, 1988 and Act No.8 of 1997.

Said added that good laws will help journalists to work professionally and use the profession to report news of public interest.

"Journalists are aware that the government is in the process of amending the Registration of News Agents, Newspapers and Books (Amendments) Act, 1997 and it is our hope the new law will protect and improve journalists' rights," she said.

For her part, Zanzibar Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) director Dr Mzuri Issa urged journalists to work diligently and report news of public interest especially marginalized groups such as women, children and disabled.

Dr Issa further urged journalists to change, instead of reporting events about leaders directly they should focus on people's problems.

"While we are waiting for the new law, it is time to embark on reporting issues relating to the community directly, about challenges facing people's lives," she said.

Meanwhile, Ali Mbarouk from Pemba Press Club (PPC) called on journalists to report news that can improve people's solidarity and avoid news that can cause misunderstandings among the society.

Salum Vuai, a journalist working in Zanzibar called on the government to eliminate cumbersome processes and obstacles to people wishing to open media stations or newspapers publishing houses in the island.

"The new law will open doors and eliminate the cumbersome process of registering media stations and newspapers houses where up to date there is only one newspaper," he said.



Journalists are aware that the government is in the process of amending the Registration of News Agents, Newspapers and Books (Amendments) Act, 1997 and it is our hope the new law will protect and improve journalists' rights

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

Z'bar First Lady calls on SMEs to use their financial training for gain

ZANZIBAR'S First Lady, Mariyam Mwynyi has called on small and medium sized entrepreneurs (SMEs) to utilize well the education they received on issues of finance and loans because the knowledge is essential in bringing up positive changes in economic development.

The First Lady made the remarks as she was opening a training seminar for SMEs from Unguja South Region organised by the CRDB Bank as part of the Kizimkazi village festival, her home area.

She said the festival was an opportunity for development by empowering the SMEs in making sure their activities bear positive results.

She said the government was in

the process to merge facilitation funds to assist entrepreneurs.

The first Lady hailed CRDB Bank for sponsoring the festival and praised Kizimkazi residents for their creativity to establish it.

She also called on the CRDB Bank to assist the education sector in Unguja South Region by providing its schools with necessities to increase students' performance in examinations.

She also called on parents and guardians in the region to rear their children to be of good behaviour and encourage them to study hard.

For his part, CRDB Bank Director of Relations and Communications Tully Esther Mwambapa said the bank has vowed to transform the lives of Kizimkazi residents through its community social responsibility policy whereby each year the bank allocates one per cent of its profit to the community.

The CRDB Bank has also completed two development projects which will be handed over to the official guest, president Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Festival's apex on August 28 this year.

Meanwhile, Unguja South

Regional Commissioner, Rashid Hadid Rashid said this year's festival will be historic due to its being facilitated by the CRDB Bank that has become its big stakeholder since the festival was established as Samia Day in 2016.

Apart from other development activities regarding culture, arts and sports, people who will participate at the festival's apex will also get the opportunity to receive Covid-19 vaccination at Kizimkazi Dimbani Mji Mpya Grounds, the event that will be organised by the Zanzibar Health ministry.

Ratify treaties establishing EACJ and African court, govt advised

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THE government has been called upon to ratify treaties establishing the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), African court and other human rights systems vis a vis freedom of expression in order to be bound by them.

Former solicitor general of Tanzania Dr Clement Mashamba pleaded during a session to train human rights lawyers on Public Interest Litigation (PIL) last week in Zanzibar.

"Only 30 out of 55 African states have ratified the African Commission on People's and Human Rights (ACHPR) binding them to the commission's decisions," he stated.

He explained that African judiciary bodies: African court of justice and human rights (yet to be functional), African court on PHR, ACHPR, ACERWC are very vulnerable in terms of existence as states have discretion to decide to do anything with them.

"Lawyers should be watchful on this when approaching these bodies because states are the ones who select judges to sit in them," he warned.

Mashamba lamented that the human rights perpetuation aspects of the EACJ is not so straightforward, making it less accessible than other African justice mechanisms. "Though states parties can also

approach the courts against their states," he intoned mentioning the Banyamulenge case between the DRC and Rwanda as an example.

He underscored that any PIL case should have an end result, be it specific redress, law reforms or restitutions adding that considerations be given to whether it will result in positive outcomes for victims rather than just obtaining favourable judgments.

For his part, the National coordinator

of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THDRC) Onesmo Olunguruma elaborated on the difference between a PIL case and other types of cases like divorce cases which he said are usually of private interest adding that the purpose for PIL include law reforms and defending vulnerable groups.

"Though states parties can also approach the courts against their states,"



NOTICE OF THE 12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators (TI Arb) will be held at Luther House and virtually via Zoom, on 17th September 2021 from 10:00am – 12:00pm.

The agenda of the meeting is as follows:-

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Adoption of the Agenda;
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the:
 - 3.1. 11th AGM;
 - 3.2. 1st Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM);
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the:
 - 4.1. 11th AGM;
 - 4.2. 1st EGM;
5. President's Report 2020;
6. Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020;
7. Appointment of Auditors;
8. Any Other Business (AOB);
9. Closing of the meeting.

NB:-

- A link to the meeting will be sent to Members who wish to attend.
- Any AOB must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting.

Issued on 24th August 2021
On behalf of Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators (TI Arb)

Executive Secretary
info@tiarb.or.tz www.tiarb.or.tz
Mobile: 0753989737
4th Fl, NEDCO Building, Ali Hassan Mwynyi Rd,
P. O. Box 76890 DSM, Tanzania

21642007



UNITRANS TANZANIA LIMITED

Unitrans Tanzania Limited has the following exciting opportunity at Kilombero and Kilosa Districts, Morogoro Region where is contracted for various agricultural operations to the sugar industry.

We are currently looking for a suitably qualified, dynamic and experienced person for the following post.

SHEQ Officer (one post)

This position calls for a dynamic and qualified pro-active individual with strong background on Occupational Health Safety environment and Quality matters.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Identification and investigation of all potential areas that may influence risk and hazards.
- Monitor and supervise implementation of SHEQ programs on daily basis in operation sites.
- Recommend procedure to minimise the injury frequency rate.
- Conduct SHEQ toolbox talks, safety awareness and LFI to operation workers
- Reporting of infield incidents and accidents
- Conducting planned Task Observation to onsite workers
- Participate in any internal or safe audit
- Maintain compliance procedures to SHEQ in regards to OSHA, ISO, NOSA and other regulatory bodies / institutions.

Requirements

- Dedicated and efficient
- Ability to work under pressure and a team work player
- Degree in Environmental Science, Safety Management, or Risk Management
- Advanced Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety
- A minimum of 3 years' experience in the same or related field of operation
- Knowledge of OSH Act No. 5 of 2003 and its regulations, ISO/NOSA/NEMC
- Above average communication skills on English and Swahili
- Computer literate
- Driving license for motorcycle and LDV's

Interested candidates may apply and email their CV's to gaspary.mwakatuma@unitrans.africa later than Tuesday, 7th September 2021 or send through post mail

Human Resources Manager
Unitrans Tanzania Limited
C/O P.O.BOX 50
Kidatu

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

21642007

TANAPA, Zara Tours launch Uhuru Expedition this year

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) in collaboration with Zara Tours has launched a special campaign to climb Mount Kilimanjaro dubbed 'Uhuru Expedition 2021' to mark 60 Years of Tanzania's independence.

The campaign is scheduled to start from December 5 to December 12 and is open to Tanzanians and non-Tanzanians willing.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Moshi District Commissioner Saidi Mtanda hailed ZARA Tours for promoting tourism in Tanzania and abroad for sustainable conservation and tourism excellence.

Mtanda who was speaking behalf of the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Stephen Kagaigai said their contribution was vital for the regional and national development in general.

For her part Managing Director of ZARA Tanzania Adventures, Zainab Ansell explained that, her company in collaboration with TANAPA has arranged a special Mount Kilimanjaro climb to commemorate the 60 years since the independence of the Tanzania.

"We have much discounted rates that can be affordable for all who would like to join the cause, as we are going to charge only 850,000/- per person which will cater for two nights full accommodation at our hotel, park fees, 6-day mount Kilimanjaro climb to the highest peak of the mountain-Uhuru peak (5,895m ASL), salaries for the cooks, porters, and guides," she explained.

"Almost every year, retired Chief of the Tanzania Peoples Defense Forces (TPDF) Gen George Waitara leads Mount Kilimanjaro Uhuru Expedition to start scaling the snow-capped and the highest mountain in Africa.

The DC also promised to join the group that will participate in this

year's special Mount Kilimanjaro Uhuru Expedition by climbing to the mountains high peak-Uhuru peak (5,895 meters above the Sea levels), as well as emphasizing other civil servants under his office, his fellow district commissioners to join in the special national event.

The chief park warden (CPW) for Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA), Angela Nyaki, and the park's tourism warden, Charles Ng'endo applauded ZARA Tours for promoting tourism in Tanzania and abroad for sustainable conservation and tourism excellence, urging Tanzanians to use the special opportunity to enjoy the 'majesty' of Mount Kilimanjaro.

The event attracted various stakeholders including some heads of public and private institutions including lord mayor for Moshi Municipality Juma Raibu, Moshi Municipal Director Dr Rashidi Gembe, religious and political leaders and other local leaders, among many others.



Almost every year, retired Chief of the Tanzania Peoples Defense Forces (TPDF) Gen George Waitara leads Mount Kilimanjaro Uhuru Expedition to start scaling the snow-capped and the highest mountain in Africa



Moshi district commissioner Saidi Mtanda (L), Kilimanjaro National Park chief park warden Angela Nyaki (C) and ZARA Tanzania Adventures (Zara Tours) director Zainab Ansell applaud at the launch of a Mount Kilimanjaro climbing campaign dubbed Uhuru Expedition 2021. The event was held in Moshi municipality at the weekend as part of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Tanganyika's Independence - December 9. The climb is lined up for early December and is open to members of the public. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

By Guardian Correspondent, Rombo

HUNDREDS of Rombo District residents in Kilimanjaro Region on Sunday came out to say farewell to the body of their former Member of Parliament and former Finance minister Basil Mramba.

The event held at Rombo's Sabasaba grounds was officiated by Agriculture minister and current Rombo MP, Prof Adolf Mkenda who represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Mramba passed away on August 17 this year at the Regency Hospital in Dar es Salaam and later buried at his home village of Shimbi in Rombo District.

Conveying the message of condolences on behalf of president

Hundreds of Rombo residents bid farewell to their former MP

Samia, Prof Mkenda said the nation will remember Mramba for his patriotism and efforts in various positions he served, adding that he has left a huge legacy for the country.

He said the deceased has left indelible marks in his district, especially in regard of road infrastructures and banana and avocado farming, the main crops depended upon by the district's residents. "We, Rombo residents, will never forget Mramba for his big accomplishments since he became the MP for the area, at that time

there were only four secondary schools and at the time he finished his term there were more than 40 such schools," said Prof Mkenda.

He promised the people of the district that he will accomplish all that the late Mramba wanted to accomplish while an MP but could not.

CCM chairman for Kilimanjaro Region, Patrick Boniface said Mramba's death was a huge blow to Rombo residents and the nation in general as he was a man who served the nation and his constituency

affectionately.

Speaking during burial prayers, representative of Moshi Roman Catholic Diocese, Fr Deogratius Matiika said Mramba has written history in the constituency as well as to the Catholic Church and will be remembered for many accomplishments.

Mramba served in various ministerial positions including Finance and Industry and Trade and was the initiator of the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).



Empien Company Ltd managing director Mussa Ng'hwani speaks at a consultative meeting between National Irrigation Commission officials and private sector stakeholders from various regions in the country dealing with irrigation issues. It was held in Iringa last week. Under discussion were strategies to address challenges in the sector. The MD, whose firm is based in Nkasi District, Rukwa Region, pleaded with the government to tax-exempt irrigation technologies and equipment. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

By Special Correspondent

Stakeholders identify African Yam Bean as a panacea for malnutrition

EXPERTS and other stakeholders in agriculture and food sector have identified African Yam Bean (AYB) as a food security crop with numerous benefits, capable of tackling malnutrition in the country.

They made the assertion during an event organised by Peas'n Chips Entrepreneurs project; International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Agroimpact Projects and Empowerment Initiative, UI Women's Society.

The Peas'n Chips Entrepreneurs Project Stakeholder Networking Specialist, Dr. Sarafat Tijani, said

AYB provides excellent source of protein, especially for vegans and vegetarians.

Tijani said the crop could prevent diabetics, obesity and cancer because it is rich in flavonoid and antioxidant that prevents cancer.

The Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, UI, Prof. Stella Odeode, on her part, said AYB has lots of potential in promoting food security in Africa

and should be promoted.

Odeode pointed out that the crop is unique and the development could help to promote food and nutrition security in the country.

The Project Research Co-investigator IITA/UI, Dr Morufat Balogun, emphasised that AYB is a drought tolerant crop in which the bean and tubers are edible and increases food diversity.

Balogun, a geneticist, added that the crop was resilience because it could stand extreme weather conditions while improving soil fertility.

She said the crop could be used to alleviate malnutrition during food scarcity and could fill food, nutrition and livelihood gaps if policies are put in place to establish sustainable value chains and export markets of the crop.

Value good works of art, TSA advises Tanzanian youth

By Isack Yohana, TUDARCO

THE Tanzanian Sculptors Association (TSA) has called on young Tanzanians to valorize good work of arts that portrays the heritage of the nation.

TCA Secretary General Nassib Nassor made the call during an interview with 'The Guardian' over the weekend in Dar es Salaam.

He said it's high time for Tanzanians to inculcate a culture of encouraging arts works—a catalyst for cultural identity of any society.

Nassor mentioned that at the beginning, sculptures were used only as exhibitions and identities of the respective cultures, especially the Makonde culture.

"Works of arts were firstly made for special traditional purposes such as initiation rites and ceremonial dance in more than one hundred and twenty tribes, but later on, they turn into business after the coming of missionaries who began to use and translate these sculptors on their own sense," he explained.

He noted that the response of Tanzanians towards their works was still poor compared to foreigners who came to the country as big buyers of their art works.

"Most Tanzanians do not have awareness and if there is only about 10 per cent and this is due to lack of support from various institutions in the country as they are the ones who should be the first to give priority to our sculptural arts," he encouraged.

Nassor appealed for help from the government through the permanent secretary of the ministry of Information, Arts, Culture and sports Dr Abas Hassan to raise awareness among Tanzanians to value art.

Peter Elias, who is a sculpt vendor

at Mwenge sculpture market said that poor response of citizens gives him a hard time.

Another Dar es Salaam resident Grace Alfred said changes in technology has transformed the entire Tanzanian society from not being attracted to their local culture as they are intensively affected by the foreign culture and spend a lot of their time on social networks.

"You know nowadays Tanzanians as well as Africans have been highly affected by the new technologies where most of the youth are highly affected by social networks, so they find it difficult to visit the sculptors markets either for learning or supporting the arts since they perceive them as outdated," she mentioned.



Works of arts were firstly made for special traditional purposes such as initiation rites and ceremonial dance in more than one hundred and twenty tribes, but later on, they turn into business after the coming of missionaries who began to use and translate these sculptors on their own sense



Pangani district commissioner Ghalib Lingo (2nd-L) explains a point to Umy Nderiananga (2nd-R), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (People with Disabilities), during the latter's one-day official visit to the district at the weekend. Right is Pangani district administrative secretary Mwalimu Hassan Nyange. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Consider PwDs when installing Covid-19 protective equipment, Chakua tells govt

A LOBBY group for the rights of passengers in the country (Chakua) has called on the government to install hand washing equipment at regional bus terminals for protection against Covid-19, while taking into consideration the needs of people with disabilities.

Chakua spokesperson, Solomon Nkiggi made the call over the weekend when explaining issues on Covid-19 protective measures for passengers.

He said that despite the fact that the government has put in place Covid-19 protective measures on every major bus terminals the challenge is that most of the facilities in place are unfriendly to people with disabilities. The government through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children should provide

proper water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services," he said.

Citing examples, Nkiggi said a water tank is placed on a special pole making it difficult for PwDs to reach it, "that's why we're asking the government to look into the possibility of putting equipment for all groups."

According to him, Chakua has its supervisory officers in almost all regions that provide education to passengers to protect themselves from corona, where they have witnessed a lack of friendly infrastructure of such facilities for the disabled.

"The government has made efforts to protect its citizens against the virus by placing all services at the

main bus stands, but in Arusha there isn't a hand washing equipment that caters to the needs of passengers with disabilities," he said.

He said, some of the toiletries are not friendly to the disabled, as they cannot afford to wash them, due to their disability, and that if they were placed as accessible as they could, it would be a relief to them.

"Chakua has deployed superintendent officers in almost all regions who provide education to passengers to protect themselves from the disease, and they are aware of the real situation that some disabled people have been struggling with," he said.

He said they, as transport partners, have pledged to work

with the government to provide education in accordance with the corona control guidelines, recently issued by the health ministry, which prohibits buses from overcrowding.

"We support the government in the fight against Covid-19 by providing education and also directing bus owners to ensure all passengers and attendants wear masks and use hand sanitizers before boarding," he said.

Nkiggi said, in the process, they have identified the situation in which they are advising the government to ensure that the infrastructure becomes friendly to everyone who comes to the stand in search of transport or escort.

East Africa Day to become annual holiday in six states

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA will be joining Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and South-Sudan to celebrate the 20th East African Day on the 30th of November this year.

It is the first step towards making the date an official holiday to be observed annually in the six EAC Member States. The East Africa Day commemorates the launching of the community treaty which sailed in November 1999.

That came to light during discussion sessions between the Secretary General for the East African Community, Dr Peter Mathuki and journalists based in Arusha, at the community headquarters, where it was observed that the EAC Day which used to be observed by member states in the past, is somehow forgotten now.

Anna Nabasa from the East African Court of Justice stated that a special committee has been formed to organise the EAC Day 2021. The event will take place on the 30th of November this year, though the venue is yet to be announced.

"I want periodical updates on the issue," said the EAC Secretary General who was also on view that, the annual EAC Day, and joint Cultural and Sporting events like the East African Legislative Assembly Bonanza when held in public, were among the issues that will help make the community known to ordinary people.

Meanwhile, the East African Community Joint Sectoral Council on Inter-State Security and Foreign Policy Coordination has adopted a framework for establishing a Regional Youth Peace and Security Platform.

The Joint Sectoral Council further directed the EAC Secretariat and Partner States to operationalize the platform and develop a Peace and Security communication strategy to facilitate awareness creation on the existing Peace and Security structures and promote coordinated

and meaningful participation of youths at all levels in implementing the platform.

Chaired by Kenya's Chief Administrative Secretary for National Security, Peter Odoyo, the council observed that the draft framework for establishing the Regional Youth Peace and Security Platform had been reviewed and finalised by Partner State Experts. The ministers further noted that there was a need to develop a mechanism for mapping areas with potential insecurity that require youth intervention.

The meeting noted that the Partner States' Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs should take an active role in coordination and implementation of the Regional Platform on Youth, Peace and Security.

The Sectoral Council also adopted the Draft EAC Strategy and Implementation Plan for Youth Peace and Security (2021-2026).

The Sectoral Council also approved the draft enabling institutional structure to support the Council of Ministers on Peace and Security matters and refer the same for consideration by the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs for legal input in line with Decision 33 of the 33rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers.

They recommended to the EAC Council of Ministers to prioritize the recruitment of staff under the Directorate of Peace and Security.

Dr Mathuki said he focused towards job and wealth creation as a panacea to the youth bulge in the region, which has a bearing on engaging idle youth in gainful employment and creating a disincentive towards choice of criminal activities.

He further briefed the meeting on the ongoing process of implementing the summit decision with respect to the entry of the DRC into the EAC and the opportunities it offers. He urged the sectors to identify appropriate entry points.

By Special Correspondent

Africa coffee producers target youth to bolster drink uptake

A PAN-African coffee organisation-Inter-Africa Coffee Organisation (IACO) is working with member states towards the promotion of consumption of coffee by locals, saying the trade is highly reliant on the export market.

In the new project, IACO is targeting popularising consumption in military barracks, learning institutions, and petrol stations as new outlets that would cascade the beverage's consumption in the continent.

IACO Secretary-General Solomon Rutega, who has been visiting the country from Abidjan, regretted that out of 11 million bags of coffee produced in the continent, only one per cent was consumed within the continent.

He spoke at Kenyatta University when Agriculture Ministry's Chief Administrative Secretary Lawrence Omuhaka opened a modern coffee shop to promote consumption of the beverage locally, especially among the young population.

Consequently, he said, the IACO has developed a new initiative that will boost domestic consumption of coffee, aiming at improving revenue and livelihood to Africa's coffee farmers.

Rutega said the opening of the coffee outlets in learning institutions in Kenya was a boost for the project.

"In Kenya, of the annual production of 45 tonnes, 95 per cent

is shipped out to the foreign market," said Rutega, adding that only a fraction went through the value addition chain locally.

The project targets 1.3 billion people below age 35, majority of who are in learning institutions. The organisation said consumption in West Africa had shot up tremendously following the opening of more outlets, a trend that could also work in Eastern Africa.

He said Africa's 25 coffee-producing countries also had a substantial population of these below 35, and therefore had the

potential to make a large market for the beverage. "I'm delighted that the Kenya Coffee Directorate, through its marketing and Research department, led by Dr Benson Apuoyo, explored the partnership with local public and private universities towards establishing coffee shops in their institutions," he said.

At the KU coffee shop, out of the budget of Sh2.5 million, the continental coffee organisation injected Sh1.5 million. The coffee directorate pumped a further Sh974,984 in the project.

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



CLARIFICATION OF BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE

TENDER NO. TP/08/2021/NCB/S/009 PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS FOR PROVISION OF CLEARING AND FOWARDING SERVICES

24th August, 2021

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) hereby notifies the public and all prospective bidders that, the tender advertisement as per above subject was posted on the Guardian newspaper on Monday, 23rd August, 2021 with a typing error on the bid submission deadline.
2. TIPER hereby notifies the public that the date which was initially posted as bid submission deadline was **6th August, 2021 at 10.30 am local time**. However, the correct date for bid submission deadline is **6th September, 2021 at 10.30 am local time**.
3. TIPER notifies all prospective to adhere to correct bid submission deadline stated above (6th September, 2021 at 10.30 am local time) and request an apology for any inconvenience caused.

Secretary Tender Committee
Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd
P.O Box 2608, Kigamboni Depot site-1
Dar es Salaam-Tanzania

216420101

Advertisement
BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-08-02	TECHNICAL SUPERVISION FOR INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, PLC & HMI PROGRAMMING OF 1000KW CENTRIFUGAL VENTILATION HOWDEN FAN	i. Experience of installation of Centrifugal fans (minimum 500KW) or similar equipment's in last 3 years, certificates of work completion to be submitted ii. Highly skilled team, CV's to be submitted (Supervisors for Mechanical works, Supervisors for Electrical and Instrumentation works, Commissioning Engineer) iii. Team members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. Companies HSE policy to be submitted

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead referencing the work package reference number should your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA – Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Approved local content plan letter from the Mining Commissioner

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the **27 Aug 2021**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

216419401

TUESDAY 24 AUGUST 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Govt must do more on Dar's transport woes

THERE are no two ways about it, as conditions are at the moment, driving around Dar es Salaam is a nightmare at best of times.

It is further depressing that this uncomfortable situation is unlikely to ease any time soon, despite efforts in widening some of city roads to four or even eight lane carriageways, the construction rapid transit motorways or even flyovers at busy intersections.

And talking about rapid transport motorways (mwendokasi), the Kimara-Magogoni Ferry rapid transport system inaugurated five years ago is yet to show any tangible relief it has provided to the Dar commuters' transport woes.

In fact, at times the entire system becomes closed due to rains which flood the Jangwani stretch of the infrastructure due what was clearly poor workmanship in its planning.

However, it would be wrong to heap blame for all the Dar commuters' transport woes entirely on the Government, local or central.

It is true that Dar es Salaam's road network was never designed to accommodate the amount of vehicular traffic that plies the labyrinthine grid that makes the roads and streets of this large metropolis.

On the other hand, this hopeless situation is exacerbated by the very bad road manners one encounters in the city; regrettably by all types of road users. No pedestrian is ready to let a car pass when the two

encounter even on the straight road. It is by no means certain whether even the police know why motorists in this city punch the Highway Code on the nose.

Further, it would appear that the law enforcement forces are as well overwhelmed by the scale of wanton disregard of laws and simply the absence of good road manners.

Just imagine the audacity being displayed by our motorcyclists in wanton disregard of traffic lights at intersections - they just race away against red lights, right in front of a traffic cop. Their arrogance is unimaginable.

But while our upcountry roads continue to haunt those using them, passengers and pedestrians alike through loss of life and limb, those in the city of Dar es Salaam, apart from motorists' bad manners, inculcate their own version of anguish in traffic congestion.

The only difference between the two is the speed. In the former it's the vehicles' jet-speed that claim human lives while in the latter it's their snail pace that infuriates and inconveniences many motorists.

Also consider this truth among motorists: - why is it always that the driver behind you appears to be racing while the one in front is only sightseeing?

Surely, the human race is addicted to racing, but with callous consequences.

The spate of carnage on our roads in recent days must instill this question to any clear mind - what's wrong with our transport sector?

The climate crisis is a race the world can win

CLIMATE change is the defining crisis of our time and it is happening even more quickly than we feared.

But the good thing is, we are far from powerless in the face of this global threat, as UN Secretary-General António Guterres pointed late last year, "the climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win".

That means reducing global emissions of CO2 by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, and reducing coal use to almost zero and using up to seven million sq. km (2.7 million square miles) for land energy crops.

However, the world has never been united - there are forces that resist the gallant fight, including, of all countries, the United States - during the Administration of Donald Trump, who used to make it clear that he does not believe in the entire perception of climate change.

After saying so he moved to cease all participation in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, saying the entire protocol was unfair to his country. However, with a new man at the White House the country's reentry into the fold is yet to materialize due to the cumbersome procedure thereof.

The effects of climate change are not phenomena that can be hidden. Tanzania has had its share of the effects from extreme weather conditions associated with heavy rains and floods in various areas.

Last April the country had its biggest scare from the hurricane Jobo that was speeding towards

Tanzania, and had it not weakened before it made landfall, it would have brought devastating climatic catastrophe on Tanzanians never experienced before.

As we speak now, the US, the erstwhile denier of climate change, as is coping with two disasters both scientists say are the result of climate change - the raging forest fires in its western states and hurricanes in the north east, the phenomena that reappear almost every year.

In recent weeks we have also witnessed similar disaster in Turkey, Greece, Russia and France.

No corner of the globe is immune from the devastating consequences of climate change. Rising temperatures are fueling environmental degradation, natural disasters, weather extremes, food and water insecurity, economic disruption, conflict, and terrorism.

Glaciers and ice sheets in polar and mountain regions are already melting faster than ever, causing sea levels to rise.

Almost two-thirds of the world's cities with populations of over five million are located in areas at risk of sea level rise and almost 40 per cent of the world's population live within 100 km of a coast.

Global warming impacts everyone's food and water security. Climate change is a direct cause of soil degradation, which limits the amount of carbon the earth is able to contain.

Some 500 million people today live in areas affected by erosion, while up to 30 per cent of food is lost or wasted as a result.

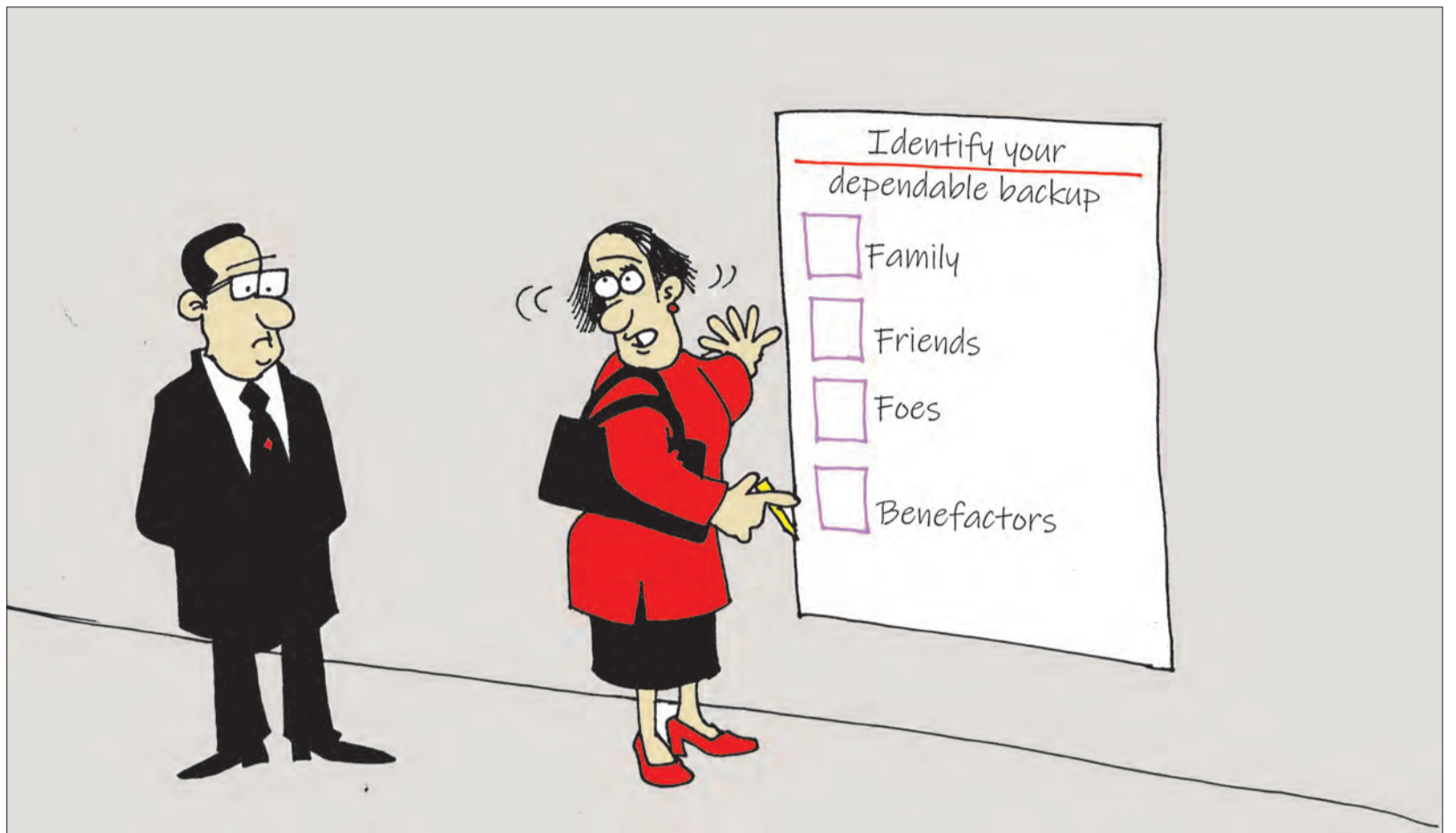
The Guardian Limited Key Contacts
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
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By Natale Labia

OVER the past year and a half all countries charged with managing that central question of politics and economics - how the state interacts with the individual - have had it reposed in unerringly challenging and chimerical ways. How best to coordinate the masses to get past this set of virological, political and moreover economic minefields?

Throughout this pandemic, there has been no shortage of attempts to discern which political systems or leaders are best or worst suited to deal with such a situation. One thing has become clear, however: there is no clear answer.

Those democratic leaders who started off well and were widely lauded for their handling of the initial stages of the pandemic - take Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand and Angela Merkel of Germany, for example - have both suffered recent flagging approval ratings owing to problems over vaccination campaigns. Meanwhile, the draconian approach of autocratic China may have worked in 2020 to get the virus under control, but problems - viral or otherwise - persist. In early August, Wuhan - the original epicentre of the pandemic - was ordered back into lockdown. Hong Kong, meanwhile, shuts down any newspaper offering a whiff of revolutionary dissent.

And what of Italy, the centre of the European pandemic, a country usually perceived as an administrative basket case? After suffering the ignominy of being the original "red zone" in early 2020, owing to a relentlessly efficient vaccination roll-out, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence last week welcomed back

Which systems of government have handled the COVID pandemic best?

its first visitors for months, while bars and restaurants across the traditional holiday spots of Sardinia and Sicily are back to pre-pandemic levels of freneticism. What was a vision of Old World apocalypse is now a narrative of sporting and social rebirth.

How to quantify this? Hervé Lemahieu, director of research at Australia's Lowy Institute, has done a fascinating piece of research on assessing the "Covid performance index" that tracks the rate of infections, tests and deaths in more than 100 countries and attempts to show if political systems, levels of economic development or other factors have affected nations' handling of the virus.

The answer thus far is simple, if beguilingly frustrating. Not one system, neither authoritarian autocracies nor liberal democracies, has been consistently more successful than any other. Whether it is the populist lunatic extremes at the fringe such as Brazil or the middling consensus-and-coalition Sweden - all have been fraught with differing phases of catastrophe over these testing months.

Democracy's ultimate virtue is seen as being that it operates as a vehicle for individuals to take responsibility for their own lives. And yet in the context of a pandemic, while this may be admirable, it can prove to be disastrously myopic. Sweden's stratospheric excess death count shows these risks all too clearly.

By contrast, current versions of populism may be bipolar yet have

been unflinching found wanting. Strongman regimes such as those of President Rodrigo Duterte - who warned Filipino vaccine dodgers that he would administer it personally "in your butt" - are essentially paternalistic. These can be clearly contrasted with right-wing libertarian liabilities such as ex-president Donald Trump or Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, who have overseen humanitarian catastrophes by essentially denying the threat. Neither approach has been less disastrous. The virus, as with so much else, transcends the specific lunacies of any particular demagogue.

Yet the research is instructive. Small countries (below 10 million people) have done better than bigger ones. Islands, perhaps self-evidently, have also been more effective at keeping out the pestilent virus than countries with numerous leaky land borders.

Lemahieu names three other variables that have seemed to correlate with successful outcomes: competent state institutions; smart political leadership allied with medical expertise; and governments that citizens trust enough to heed.

The past 18 months have enforced on our collective consciousness the importance of making systems resilient in the face of unforeseen threats.

This research is perhaps informative for discerning which characteristics may be critical for attaining that otherwise broadly nebulous concept of systemic

resilience.

Interestingly, a point that Lemahieu makes clear is that there has been an apparent "winner's curse" afflicting those countries that handled the initial stages of the pandemic well but then became complacent. Could we infer, therefore, that countries that have dealt with other pandemics and social stresses prior to the Covid-19 pandemic may indeed be more structurally and societally resilient?

For South African policymakers and indeed investors, on the surface this report makes for uneasy reading. South Africa is an uncomfortably large country with hollowed-out institutions, an economically desperate populace, essentially vacant political leadership, a desperately wanting public-health system and a deficit of basic political trust, which resulted in mass looting only a few weeks ago.

And yet, reading deeper, this report may be cause for reassurance. The recent pick-up in vaccinations is an example of how well South Africa can perform under pressure. In addition, owing to the travails of South Africa's recent and distant past there is an inherent social resilience "baked into the cake". It can be argued that South Africans are generally that much tougher at dealing with threats posed by a virus - and much besides - than many others.

While this pandemic has pushed all societies to breaking points, South Africa has not broken. That in itself is cause for hope.

Building water resilience needs a holistic approach

By James Sauramba

EVEN as COVID-19 ravages communities across the continent, climate change is widening the gap between those who have access to water and sanitation - key elements in fighting the pandemic.

We know that only about 61 per cent of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) population has access to safe drinking water and only 39 per cent has access to adequate sanitation facilities.

Climate change continues to widen those gaps in SADC communities where an estimated 44 million people are food insecure. Climate change may have been a looming disaster in the past, but it has now materialised, ravaging our communities in the COVID-19 pandemic. We are compelled to act prudently, fast and sustainably.

If strategies are not followed by implementation, then all our efforts would be futile. Sadly, we have seen a

regional trend where a lot of projects in SADC countries are piloted - and remain pilot projects, year after year. We cannot afford to have designs that gather dust.

This year's World Water Week, held from 23-27 August under the theme "Building Resilience Faster", recognises the need to find solutions to counter climate change and other water-related challenges.

The sustainable use of groundwater offers us a way to build resilience.

The majority of sub-Saharan Africans live in rural areas, and regionally, at least 70% of SADC inhabitants rely on groundwater. This calls for sustainable management of groundwater resources to protect vulnerable communities and strengthen them to build resilience during climate change.

However, there cannot be a silo response in our fight to build water resilience. Surface water talks to groundwater and vice versa. A holistic conjunctive approach to the utilisation of these co-existing

resources is indispensable to build resilience.

As you would know, when there's no surface water, you just see soil, but it does not mean that there is no more water. It just means the water has receded into groundwater. We can build resilience if we have well streamlined and robust strategies to manage these two water resources conjunctively.

Strategies are an integral part of realising our goals. However, if strategies are not followed by implementation, then all our efforts would be futile. Sadly, we have seen a regional trend where a lot of projects in SADC countries are piloted - and remain pilot projects, year after year.

We cannot afford to have designs that gather dust. We have pilots that demonstrate the viability of certain innovative principles and methodologies that have not reached the level of being upscaled or replicated.

This means that these innovations

do not reach the point of application where they could contribute to water security for the communities' livestock, industrial development and other human settlement activities that support people's livelihoods.

Yes, some challenges impede the successful implementation of projects including the lack of capacity and finances. However, the challenge of supporting the region's growing population of impoverished communities amidst dwindling resources is a daunting task that we need to overcome.

SADC-GMI has seen the tangible impact of safeguarding and uplifting communities through our pilot projects implemented at community level to provide groundwater. In Chimbiya Trading Centre, in the Dedza District, Malawi, a 100-metre deep borehole was drilled and equipped to supply potable water to about 15 000 people who benefit from the groundwater for their livelihood activities.

But...what's your greatest weakness?

LAST week, I attended a career boot camp and the greatest set back most job seekers faced was the interview Process and most so navigating around discussing their weaknesses with the interview panel.

First most importantly the interview session is just a regular meeting held by the employer and prospective employee with good intentions to better familiarize you as a job seeker with company.

With regard to this, an interview session should put at ease and not on edge, envision it as professional meeting that has your best interests at heart.

For the record, getting to the interview stage is already an achievement in itself isn't it?

Imagine how many of you applied for that exact position and couldn't even get a simple acknowledgement by receiving a shortlisted email? I am aware that you don't always think about that but you should.

Well, a large number of attendees reported to have struggled with this interview question: Your Weaknesses. It's at that moment an HR or department manager of the intended vacant position across the table keenly stares at you and utters that dreaded question: what's your greatest Weaknesses?

See, that must get you off guard but questions are given to be answered right? So well, you must go head on and face it and infact come up with a solution to this weaknesses.

Nevertheless, human is to error and having weaknesses is what completes our human nature although discussing your weakness in the interview room could be the most tricky and difficult situation for you as a candidate vying for a particular position.

The best way to handle this question is not to deal with the real weakness that would directly affect your job performance if disclosed in between the session.

First of all think don't think through your personal traits but instead recognise skills that you aren't well Conversant with and through those personal traits think through the efforts you have put to minimize and overcome those weakness before answering the question.

It is solely important that you demonstrate authenticity; being yourself. This is very significant so as to avoid exaggerating and appearing dumb.

In my personal job search journey, I encountered this question in almost two to three interviews and I had a scripted answer, "I am quite forgetful, and in order to minimize this weakness, I ensure I carry along a notebook and a pen or set up an alarm duty reminder" Diana, Procurement Officer, shared with me her encounter with the question.



Well, it's pretty clear how organized and strategic her response was where she begins recognising his weakness then the solution comes just after. Although its' not necessary that you have a scripted and memorable response but what's more significant is that you remain true to yourself while avoiding an answer that Will set a wall between you and your future career or make you appear a liar.

Always select a trait and come up with a solution to overcome it as the example from Diana above.

Avoid mentioning personality shortcomings such as being a people pleaser, being too judgmental or too

Critical amongst others instead focus on the professional angel of the question.

Talking about your weaknesses and how much you are willing to work towards eradicating and Improving yourself as an individual not only

makes you appear true to yourself but also a very attractive trait is showcased to the interview panel which is Confidence.

Acting composed and confident while admitting that you are human as humanity comes with Imperfections are never underestimated.

The hiring manager is going to be much more impressed with a candidate who has the self-awareness to realize they're not perfect and that they're actively taking the initiative needed to improve themselves.

Unlike an individual who appears perfect and with has less or no initiative to work on their Shortcomings.

While it may feel like your interviewer is just looking to come up with reasons not to hire you, but that's not the case there is many logical reasons why this question is posed. The significant amongst them is that they want to assess your per-

sonality and character so that in case they hire you, they already know what type of person they have on their team.


Well, unless you are especially lucky, it's very unlikely you'll survive the entire interview session without this Question being directed at you in one form or another, it's always best to remain prepared.



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Salima Hamisi

saly30@gmail.com
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In Loving Memory
20th Anniversary



Mzee Petro M. Swai
(5.5.1920 – 24.8.2001)

It has been twenty years since you left us. The memories are still in our hearts and they have never faded because a loved one is gone.

We miss your laughter's, jokes, kindness, moral values and your leadership. We loved you Dad but God loves you more. You will forever remain dear and treasured in our hearts.

Fondly remembered by your dear wife, children, grand children, great- grand child, friends and relatives.

Thanks giving memorial service will be held at KKKT - Boko Lutheran Church on 29th August, 2021 at 1000 am.

May you rest in eternal Peace.

In everything, Give thanks to the Lord.
1Thessalonians 4:14



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Eastern DRC under state of siege: A bitter pill in north Kivu

GOMA, NORTH KIVU

ON May 6, 2021, after a decision by President Félix Tshisekedi, a state of siege was established in Ituri and North Kivu, two provinces that are located in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and that are in the grip of endless violence.

Early this month the National Assembly voted on a fifth extension of the measure. Under the state of siege, local administration - including justice and security - is in the hands of military authorities, and local deputies are suspended from their duties.

Bunia, as well as Goma's airports, experienced enthusiasm and popular jubilation when the new military authorities arrived. Almost three months later, however, mistrust is growing.

"Three months after the declaration of a state of siege in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, the violence coming from negative armed groups and elements of the army has intensified, the rights of citizens are more and more trampled and the local administration is completely at a standstill, the citizens' movement Lucha, movement Lutte pour le changement, notes in a press release.

The pro-democracy movement indicates that since its establishment at least 533 people have been killed in the two provinces, an average of six civilians killed per day. A measure without expected results despite the financial efforts made.

The FARDC, the Congolese army, is still plagued by "businessism" and the consequent lack of logistical and financial support from the government. As a result, the army "only helplessly witness the killings of civilians which, to date, have spread to geographic areas that were once calm."

As it happened in town of Kalunguta, in the territory of Beni, which suffered its very first murderous attack on July 15, 2021, or the town of Beni, which was attacked again on 01 July 2021, after nearly 15 months of relative calm.

Among those who support the measure is Jordan, a student. "The province of North Kivu has been scarred for too long by politicians in need of opportunities. This has to be changed quickly. Putting aside politicians will mean a lot for restoring peace, and putting them aside will help the military to act in sovereignty and then restore peace," he says. Joseph Ombeni does not share this vision.



"We see how people are being killed in the town of Goma even during the state of siege. So far, I don't see any change on the security front. We must strengthen the local authorities for administrative and political affairs and then strengthen the military with the means to search for (criminals). The state of siege is just a waste of time for the country," he explains.

On July 22, the Study Group on Congo released a publication entitled: "State of siege or state of dysfunction in North Kivu." The think tank considers that "the relationship between the new executive and the suspended animators of the provinces is not no longer regulated.

The military officials, all from other provinces and sometimes without much knowledge of the environments in which they are assigned, are free to consult or not those they are temporarily replacing, and who

would normally have to take over the management of their respective entities at the end of the state of siege. The respected governor of North Kivu is reduced to a passive role of a 'mere notable' in the province. The suspended provincial deputies, now deprived of their immunities from prosecution, are more cautious."

Provincial deputies broke their silence. In an open letter to the President of the Republic, seventeen elected members of provincial authorities denounced the disregard of the state of siege and a plot against them by the government of Kinshasa:

"In view of the discourteous, humiliating and degrading remarks made towards the provincial deputies by the military governor, the latter seems to have come with heavy prejudices and presumption according to which the notabilities and social layers of North Kivu would be involved in the destabilization. Everything

suggests that there would be a plot against the provincial deputies of North Kivu." No military authority has received the deputies despite their multiple requests, according to the letter.

Several elected officials in the country hardly support the state of siege any more. Ayobangira Sanvura calls for the "return of the civil administration" and says that "the military [should] concentrate on the security aspect only" for more efficiency. The same applies to Jean-Batiste Kasekwa, elected from the city of Goma.

In a video that went viral, one of the officials responsible for customs declarant people in North Kivu decried the abuse of the new authorities: "We have a blatant case today. Five vehicles that were collected from Bunagana. This merchandise was taken care of to be transferred to the customs of Goma ... to be cleared in Goma where the economic operator is located. The customs declarant who was responsible for this commodity began to be worried by the military administrator of Rutshuru. The administrator changed the destination of the goods to Rutshuru territory. This is a serious customs violation," he said.

"Now is not the time to say that (the state of siege) has succeeded or failed. Rather, now it is the time to make recommendations and exercise maximum vigilance so that the state of siege does not distract those in power and start to become something else," said Hubert Furuguta, the national deputy elected from Goma.

The fifth extension, voted on last week, was preceded by an assessment demanded by the deputies of the two provinces. According to them, everything is in place to ensure that the state of siege achieves the expected objectives. However, it emerged that despite the efforts made, several security, administrative, and financial problems persist.

Responding to the criticism, Brigadier General Sylvain Ekenge highlighted, to the local press, the work that the army has carried out. Above all, he admitted that the state of siege will not end a conflict that has lasted for over three decades. "Do you think that it is with the state of siege that we will put an end to all the insecurity? No," conceded the general. "The state of siege will reduce violence, and the army and the police will continue their action for stabilization and achieve total pacification of the country. The state of siege has been put in place so that the violence is reduced as much as possible."

Top-level talks and strategic coordination lacking prior to troops' arrival in Mozambique

By Liesl Louw-Vaudran

IN early August, citizens of Mozambican towns along the main routes to northernmost Cabo Delgado province witnessed military convoys that many had not seen in their lifetime.

First Rwandans, then troops from three of the five countries making up the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in Mozambique (Samim) - Botswana, South Africa and Lesotho - travelled to the conflict-ridden province to join the fight against violent extremists. Civilians were seen on video cheering on the African forces coming to help combat the insurgency that has killed up to 3,000 and displaced more than 800,000.

The Samim, which also includes Angolan and Tanzanian troops, arrived four months after SADC's April decision to send them - quite speedily compared to similar deployments. The action prevented the risk of non-African solutions in the southern African region where lucrative natural resources prompted

fears of what some called the "Iraqification of Mozambique."

However, while the mission was mobilised relatively quickly and with considerable resources, SADC's arrival came a few weeks after Rwanda had deployed 1,000 troops and police at the invitation of Mozambique's government. The move wasn't coordinated through SADC or the African Union (AU). Its timing, ahead of SADC's arrival, was described as "unfortunate" by Dr Stergomena Tax, SADC's outgoing executive secretary.

As the AU's Peace and Security Council (PSC) prepares to discuss the relationship between regional economic communities (Recs) and the AU on 26 August, it should consider the Mozambique situation. The current Mozambique intervention should prompt the PSC to look at ways to better coordinate conflict responses. Mozambique and Rwanda didn't coordinate their actions with SADC, and the regional body also failed to consult with the AU.

There's been no formal co-



A large group of insurgents - presumed to be from the Isis-affiliated Al Sunnah wa Jama'a (ASWJ) group, attacked the town of Mocimboa da Praia in the northernmost province of Cabo Delgado in March 2020.

operation or help from the AU's Peace Support Operations division to Samim, say AU sources. However, Tax confirmed to the Institute for Security Studies' PSC Report that SADC had informed the AU, even though her organisation wasn't legally obliged to do so.

Significantly, there has also to date been no PSC discussion about the current situation in Mozambique. The issue was tabled for talks in May, but was later withdrawn at Mozambique's insistence

that this was a SADC matter. Sources indicate such a debate might take place in the next few months.

As the highest AU decision-making body on peace and security between summits, the PSC could discuss any support to Samim, especially if it goes beyond the planned three months, which is likely.

The AU's African Standby Force (ASF) is coordinated from Addis Ababa, and logically the regional standby forces should rely on AU Commission support and

convening power. However, questions have been asked for some time about the ASF's role in dealing with fast-changing and complex situations.

Increasingly, AU officials call for ad hoc assistance from African countries to solve crises on the continent, especially violent extremism as seen in Mozambique. Deployments against al-Shabaab in Somalia (the AU Mission in Somalia), Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin (the Multinational Joint Task Force) and jihadis in

the Sahel (G5-Sahel) weren't conducted by Recs. This was because United Nations involvement was needed, or countries responding to the threat were from different Recs.

Such arrangements play a key early response role while Recs reach consensus on deployment. They are a stopgap to be encouraged if it serves the continental peace and security goal.

AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and other officials recently asked African countries outside the Sahel to help combat terrorism, but there was little uptake. The African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises was another example of calls for voluntary contributions to fight threats across regional boundaries. The initiative failed, not due to a lack of volunteers but to states' resistance to foreign intervention, albeit from other African countries.

Lately, ad hoc deployments from countries such as Rwanda seem to be a favoured solution. Before

Mozambique, Rwanda also intervened in the Central African Republic to stall the advance of rebels to the capital Bangui. This was not part of any AU or regional force. Some saw it as a propaganda coup for Rwandan President Paul Kagame, who wishes to project himself as the leader of one of Africa's military big powers.

It is in SADC's interests to ensure long-term peace and stability in southern Africa. This means helping Mozambique ensure security - long after Rwanda has left - and commit to a holistic plan for Cabo Delgado that addresses the humanitarian crisis.

SADC's actions show it is conscious of the economic imperatives of restoring peace to the area. After several summit meetings during 2020 and early 2021, the decision to deploy the standby force was prompted by a deadly attack on Palma in March this year. This led to the suspension of a multimillion-dollar investment by French company Total Energy, the main investor in liquid natural gas in Cabo Delgado. **DM**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Assemble Insurance, NBTS partner volunteering to donate blood and providing health services for free

By Guardian Reporter

ASSEMBLE Insurance Company Limited in partnership with the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) has organised a blood donation exercise at the Dar es Salaam's Buguruni area to further support the national blood bank in serving the needy.

Apart from blood donation, the institutions also provided free medical screening services to residents in the area.

Speaking to reporters shortly after the exercise, Assemble Insurance Company head of sales, Hamida Rashid said that this is part of the institution's commitment to complement the government's strides in improving public health.

It is also part of the organisation's corporate social responsibility to assist the needy in the country.

"We are aware of the country's high demand for safe blood and that as key players in the health sector we are dedicated to practically participating in blood donation in collaboration with NBTS to rescue lives of people who are in need of blood," said Hamida.

She said the institutions have also provided other health services in-

cluding medical advice to residents of Buguruni-Chama drilling them with adequate education on how to protect themselves from diseases both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Blood Donor Recruiter from the National Blood Transfusion Service, Mariam Juma said donating enough blood would help overcome shortage of blood in the country. Annual blood demand ranges between 500,000 and 550,000 units.

She said apart from donating blood, the institutions used the opportunity to educate the public on living a healthy life as well as on benefits of donating blood to serve those in need.

Mariam called on local and public firms to donate blood to the needy so as to save lives and improve the economy of the country.

"We request public and private companies and individuals to join in the campaign to donate blood which would save millions of lives of Tanzanians," she concluded.

Abdallah Goboka, a Buguruni resident commended the institutions for conducting the exercise as apart from collecting blood and medical screening, they have also left the community with correct education



Dar es Salaam residents donate blood at an event organised by Assemble Insurance in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Service to help the needy in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

concerning blood donation.

Currently NBTS operates a network of seven blood centers countrywide. Since its establishment, NBTS has achieved to increase blood collection from Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donors (VNRBDs) from 52,000 (2006) to 196,735 units (2017). Blood units collected in 2017. In 2019/2020 blood units collected was 312,714 this shows that there is an increase of VNRBDs.

Current blood demand in Tanzania stands at 600,000 units per year and the main consumers of blood collected are children under five years (42 per cent), women during pregnancy and bleeding post-delivery (21 per cent), accident victims and surgery (7 per cent) and 30 percent by complications caused by cancer and other diseases.

Assemble Insurance, formerly known as AAR Insurance, is amongst the largest and

most successful private Insurance companies in East Africa with operations spanning from Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. Our services extend to Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan through our affiliate partners.

Assemble Tanzania has offices in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Zanzibar, and Dodoma. Over 300,000 members are covered by Assemble Insurance across the region with more than 40,000 of these members based in Tanzania.

Malawi President pledges to intervene in fertiliser prices

BLANTYRE

MALAWI President Lazarus Chakwera says he will take steps to mitigate the steep rise of fertilizer prices which have doubled in the last year. He says about 80 percent of Malawi farmers can no longer afford to buy fertilizer.

Farmers in Malawi say the rise in fertilizer prices is likely to affect production in this agro-based southern Africa country.

Jacob Nyirongo is Chief Executive Officer for Farmers Union of Malawi.

"Most farmers in Malawi are poor and it's quite a struggle

for farmers to access fertilizer even at the prices that they were like last year. So, the increase that we have seen this year means it is pushing more farmers to a bracket where most farmers won't be able to access fertilizer," he said.

Fertilizer prices have hit an all-time high in Malawi with a bag weighing 50 kilogram now selling between \$40 and \$50 dollars. This is almost double the prices of last year.

Agriculture experts say this would likely lead to higher costs for government subsidized fertilizers under the Affordable Inputs Program, in which ultra-poor farmers buy

at \$6 dollars per 50 kilograms bag.

But in his national televised address Saturday, President Chakwera vowed to keep the prices low.

He said the price hike is the result of actions by a cartel, which he did not name, and accused it of trying to undermine his Affordable Inputs Program.

He says "But what I want you to know is that I and my government cannot allow someone to kill agriculture in this country. Whether one likes it or not, farmers will buy fertilizer at a cheaper price this year."

He, however, said the prices might be slightly higher than



last year's but not as exorbitant as they are now.

But the Fertilizer Importers

Association in Malawi, a group of fertilizer importers justifies the current price rise.

Speaking in Malawi Parliament Wednesday, the group said the rise is dictated by the international market which is facing the rise in fertilizer's raw materials like phosphate.

In response to the rise in fertilizer prices, the Ministry of Agriculture announced in July that it has trimmed the number of beneficiaries of the subsidized farm input program this year from 3.7 million to 2.7 million. But Chakwera has reversed that decision.

"I will not allow anyone to remove any family or village from

the list of beneficiaries of the cheap fertilizer. This is taking the government for granted. If there are people I vowed to fight for, they are the farmers," he said. Dr. Betchani Tchereni is a lecturer in Economics at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences.

He says farmers should do organic farming which largely relies on manure.

"This organic way of farming is the way to go. We just need to propagate it to make sure that everyone understands the best way of doing it. Once we do that, I think issues of biodiversity will come in and I am very sure that at the end of the

day, we are going to benefit as a country economically and also in terms of our own health," he said. But Farmers Union's Nyirongo, also an agronomist, says manure cannot stand alone.

"So what we have seen as farmers is that if you use manure, you improve the health of the soil. And you enable the soil to utilize the fertilizer that you apply to a crop. So, if for example, you combine manure with inorganic fertilizer, you get the best yield," he said.

Nyirongo says for now, farmers are keeping their fingers crossed on President Chakwera's pledge to help control the overpricing of fertilizer.

App launched to help African farmers defeat crop pests, says team

By Special Correspondent

A mobile phone app has been launched by an international team of scientists - will support farmers across Africa to adopt environmentally friendly ways of protecting their crops from pests.

African smallholder farmers face major challenges from weeds such as striga and insect pests such as fall armyworm. Fall armyworm is a serious threat to food security and livelihoods and already affects at least 400,000 hectares, causing crop losses worth an estimated \$3 billion a year.

But a solution exists - 'push-pull technology' - and it avoids the need to use harmful and expensive chemical pesticides.

Push-pull technology is a scientific method of planting crops such as maize and sorghum alongside particular species of forage grasses and legumes, which repel pests and suppress weeds.

A field of crops shows maize planted using the push-pull method, with other plants alongside it.

The method was developed by scientists at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya with partners and is designed to protect the plants against devastating pests like the fall armyworm and the striga weed, with the companion plants also improving soil fertility. But a major challenge is how to communicate advice and information about this crop management technique to millions of

smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. To help address this challenge, a new mobile phone app - called Push-Pull - has been launched by Agape Innovations Ltd, in collaboration with a team of scientists from the University of Leeds, Keele University and ICIPE.

The app is part of a larger project called 'Scaling up Biocontrol Innovations in Africa' funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), which seeks to understand how biocontrol methods have been used across Africa and to encourage their uptake. The project involves a cluster of previous GCRF-funded research programmes, including the Leeds-led AFRICAP project.

Principal Investigator Dr Steve Sait, from Leeds' School of Biology, said: "The push-pull method of pest control is decades old and is used successfully by thousands of smallholder farmers across Africa.

"We hope that this collaboration, and this new app, can help us extend knowledge of this technique to potentially millions of other farmers who could be benefitting from it. Compared to chemical pesticides, push-pull costs less money to the farmer, results in less damage to their crops, and it avoids harming other insect species that play valuable roles in the ecosystem.

"We consulted widely with farmers in Kenya and I'm excited to see how their contribution has made



The push-pull method pictured in action

the app user friendly and could lead to more uptake of push-pull farming."

Research by the scientists behind the push-pull technique has proven that odours released by the companion plants can effectively repel fall armyworm and protect crops against the pest.

Early adopter farmers have had great success with the technique, reporting five times less fall armyworm damage and a doubling or even tripling of crop yield, showing the huge potential this has for farmers and crop-producing smallholders. It also reduces the environmental impact of farming by protecting against pests

without using pesticides, as well as improving soil quality without inorganic fertilisers.

Improving food security

The Push-Pull app, which has been developed by Agape Innovations and is available on Android phones. It has been designed to work on the basic smartphones that are being increasingly used by smallholder farmers in Africa. It gives farmers information they need to get started with push-pull farming, and is not only free but will work offline, meaning a lack of internet connection in rural regions will not affect its function.

The ultimate goal is to provide a resource for farmers that is informed by science, protects their crops and improves their harvest, which they can access any time of day from anywhere in the world.

Paul Mugisha, CEO of Agape Innovations Ltd, said: "With the world going digital and uncertainties like Covid-19 amplifying the challenges of physical interactions, ICT is so vital in today and tomorrow's agriculture.

"At Agape, we built the Push-Pull app as a global tool to equip a farmer with all that is needed for a successful push-pull garden. Embedded with audio, visual and graphical expressions we are cer-

tain that the Push-Pull app will be relevant to maize and sorghum farmers worldwide for both today and tomorrow in controlling fall armyworm, striga and maize stalk borer."

Professor Toby Bruce, from Keele University's School of Life Sciences, said: "We are excited to see if this app can serve as a vehicle for taking practical information to the farmer. It is designed to share key details about how to get started with push-pull. We hope this will increase the number of farmers taking up this innovative approach that provides real benefits by improving crop protection and food security."

Southern African migrants excluded as COVID-19 pandemic grows

JOHANNESBURG

MIGRANTS across the Southern Africa region are massively disadvantaged as they find themselves excluded from vaccine programmes - even when the global vaccine initiative COVAX often funds these programmes.

This is the latest in a long list of struggles migrants have experienced since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Migrant is a catch-all word that includes a diverse set of people, including non-citizens, asylum seekers, refugees and those who have acquired permission to dwell in the country they have settled.

However, vaccines are just one of the issues faced by migrants. Border shutdowns, travel restrictions and lockdowns have severely restricted large swathes of the region's economic activities. Relationships between friends, family and social, religious, and other groups have also suffered.

Experts believe that ending the pandemic can only be achieved if vaccines are available in all countries - to all populations, including refugees and displaced people fleeing conflict and other crises - but this regional cooperation is not yet on the region's agenda.

"In terms of the Southern African region, we are currently not seeing a conversation in place around a regional response," Public health researcher and Associate Professor and Director of the African Centre for Migration & Society at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, Jo Vearey told IPS.

"In a region of such high levels of population mobility, we need to ensure that our response to COVID-19, in access to vaccinations and testing and other related issues, can reflect the forms of movement that people undertake in the region."

The Southern African Nationality Network ("SANN") has called on

governments in the South African Development Community (SADC) region to ensure all have access to vaccines. The group advocates for equitable treatment for vulnerable groups such as refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, undocumented persons, and stateless persons. They also asked authorities to "enable irregular migrants, undocumented persons and stateless persons to access health care without fear and risk of arrest or detention".

Vearey agrees, saying that "if a person is in a location other than their normal place of residence, we need to ensure that they can access vaccines easily and safely regardless of documentation status. We need firewalls to be in place - where the firewall acts as a legal provision so that undocumented people have no fear of penalty should they be accessing COVID services".

She says extraordinary measures were needed. National departments of health, home affairs, foreign affairs, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) should ensure a smooth and inclusive rollout.

"There are, however, questions about the capacity of the SADC structures," Vearey says.

"There are also issues around how we respond appropriately to the myths and assumptions around the movement of people. We know foreign nationals tend to be scapegoated and blamed for various issues. There is also the issue of giving out numbers of foreign nationals in a given country, particularly South Africa, often inflated. We know that immigration, in particular, is a heavily politicised issue. Some political leaders make use of rhetoric to blame foreign nationals for failures in delivery by the state."

It was time to set aside differences, and there was no place in this pandemic for xenophobia.

"This is a pandemic, it affects everyone, and obviously, a pandemic by definition doesn't respect borders, doesn't care who someone is. It works by moving from person to person. Unless we effectively break that train of transmission, we won't get a grip on the pandemic and will probably see more variants emerge, which will lead to more ill-health and fatalities," Vearey says.

"It will also mean a further impact on people's livelihoods because of more lockdowns and restrictions. Migrant labour is so important in the region through various forms of employment, both formal and informal.



There are calls to include migrants and other vulnerable groups in the vaccine rollout programmes in the Southern Africa region.

Particularly in the sectors of mining, agriculture and construction work. The sooner we can get everyone vaccinated, the sooner we will return to some semblance of normality."

Traditional forms of migrant labour in the region were established during the minerals super boom in South Africa during the colonial era. Kicked off by the discovery of diamonds (1867), a handful of mining magnates accumulated enough capital to develop deep level gold mining on the Witwatersrand (1886) which is now part of modern-day Gauteng province. This history still

exerts massive influence and attracts people with expectations of jobs and business opportunities.

Covid 19 has interfered significantly with these economic crosscurrents.

Senior economist at Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), Dr Neva Makgetla, former lead economist for the Development Planning and Implementation Division at the Development Bank of Southern Africa, among many other roles, told IPS significant impacts of the pandemic were on tourism and mining.

"International and regional tourism has collapsed, and mining has seen a run-up in prices. According to the World Bank, tourism accounted for 9% of South African export revenues in 2018, which is a real blow.

"The recovery will depend above all on the rollout of vaccinations, which has made good progress but is expected to reach the majority of adults only toward the end of 2021," Makgetla said.

"The loss of tourism revenues has, however, to date been offset by mining prices, which rose to 2011 levels this year. The question, of course, is how long they will remain so high; the answer depends in part on monetary policy in the global North, and in part on Chinese growth prospects."

Down at street level, Mira Gaspar, a single mother (originally from Mozambique but now, after many years of struggle, has a South African permanent resident status), tells of her earth-shattering experiences since the COVID-19 Tsunami hit the world and her neck of the woods.

"I had managed to open up a hair salon in a part of Kempton Park where I did not have too much competition. I basically had a reasonably sized area where I was the nearest salon. It was not easy to establish the business, but I did manage to build a steady clientele of women and girls and even went into men's hair. I added to my income by working with a close friend to import and export items between Johannesburg and Maputo," Gaspar said.

She sold hair extensions - and even prawns from Mozambique to make a living.

"It was hard, but it worked. COVID wrecked it. The big lockdown took my salon. The border closures took my import-export business. Now I am slowly trying to pick up the pieces, but I have used any money I had for my daughter and me to survive during this time. It is hard, but God will help us through this time."

IPS

Parliamentarians determined to reach ICPD 25 goals

Johannesburg.

POLITICIANS from Asia and Africa shared activism anecdotes demonstrating their determination to meet ICPD 25 commitments. They were speaking at a hybrid conference held simultaneously in Kampala, Uganda, and online.

Ugandan MP Kabahenda Flavia dramatically told the conference that women parliamentarians in her country "stampeded the budget process" to ensure there was potential to recruit midwives and nurses at health centres. Another told of a breastfeeding lawmaker who brought her child to parliament, forcing it to create inclusive facilities for new mothers.

Yet, despite these displays of determination, there was consensus at the meeting, organised by the Asian Population and Development Parliamentarians Forum of Food Security, Population and Development, that the COVID-19 pandemic

had set the ICPD25 programme of action back, and it needed to be addressed.

In his opening remarks, former Prime Minister of Japan and chair of the APDA, Yasuo Fukuda, commented that the pandemic had "dramatically changed the world. It has exposed enormous challenges faced by African and Asian countries, which lack sufficient infrastructure in health and medical services."

With only nine years until 2030 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Fukuda told parliamentarians they needed to respond to the swift pace of global change.

His sentiments were echoed by Ugandan MP Marie Rose Nguini Effa, who said in Africa, the pandemic had "affected the lives of many people, including the aged, youth and women. Many young people lost their jobs while girls' and young women's access to integrated sexual and reproductive health information, education and

services have plunged."

Addressing how parliamentarians can make a difference, Pakistani MP Romina Khurshid Alam intimated legislation was not the only route.

Other actions were needed to achieve SDGs, especially those relating to women. For example, the act of paying women the same as their male counterparts would more than compensate for the estimated \$264 billion costs over ten years of achieving SDG 5 on gender equality.

Alam, who is also the chair of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians forum, quoted figures from the World Economic Forum, which had looked at the benefits of pay equity. Each year the discrimination "takes \$16 trillion off the table".

"If we just started paying women the same amount of money that we pay men for the same job. Your country will generate that GDP. We will not have to beg anyone for that money," she said.

The 'shadow pandemic' also threatens to destroy any progress made on agenda 2030, Alam said.

People were put into lockdown to prevent the spread of the disease - but not all people live in three-bedroom houses. Overcrowding in poor areas, the stress of lockdowns led to a 300 percent increase in violence.

Flavia said in Uganda, women's issues were taken extremely seriously - their role, she said, should not be underestimated.

"Women don't only give birth. They are the backbone of most economies," she noted, adding that more than 80 percent of the informal sector is made up of women. She listed various laws created to ensure women are accorded full and equal dignity, including article 33 of the Ugandan constitution, which enshrined this.

Women parliamentarians saw their role as custodians of the ICPD 25 programme as action - and were prepared to act if their demands were not taken seriously,

including holding up the budgeting process until critical health posts were funded.

Constatino Kanyasu, an MP from Tanzania, called for collective action.

"Developing countries should merge those efforts with other issues, by addressing Covid-19 together with ICPD+25 commitments horizontally," she said.

In a presentation shared at the conference, Jyoti Tewari, UNFPA for East and South African regions, showed some progress indices since the ICPD conference, including a 49 percent decrease in maternal mortality before the pandemic.

However, he said there was still a long way to go, with 80 000 women dying from preventable deaths during pregnancy. However, the lockdowns during the two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic had prolonged disruptions to SRHR services.

It was necessary to "sustain evidence-based advocacy to prompt-

ly detect changes to service delivery and utilization, and support countries to implement mitigation strategies," Tewari said.

Ugandan Deputy Speaker Anita Annet Among expressed concern that one in five adolescent girls falls pregnant in Africa - many of whom drop out of school. With schools closed, the situation had worsened.

She called on parliamentarians to be the voice of the voiceless and ensure "you make strong laws that protect the women and youth. Ensure the appropriation of monies that support these marginalized people."

A declaration following the meeting included advocating for increased budgets to meet the ICPD 25 commitments, including sexual and reproductive health services for all and contributing to the three zeros - preventable maternal deaths, unmet family planning needs, and eliminating gender-based violence. IPS

RADIO One RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Economic guru warns Treasury on meeting mobile money levy target

By Francis Kajubi

TREASURY has been warned against attaining its target of collecting 1.254trn/- during the current fiscal year in the wake of a public backlash against a hiked levy.

Economist guru, Professor Samuel Wangwe said in Dar es Salaam that the initial revenue collected in the first month of the exercise means that mobile money users are refraining from using the services because of its hiked cost.

Prof Wangwe said the 48bn/- collection announced by Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba this month, means that for the next 11 months the amount will not reach the target.

"In order to attain the 1.254trn/-, the government should have collected at least 100bn/- during the first month and maintain the sum for the next 11 months," he argued saying it is very likely that the amount will reduce further in the coming months.

According to him, it is a responsibility for the people to pay taxes to Treasury but hinted that new taxes or increased amounts should be preceded by research or surveys on consumer response prior to introduction.

"The government should have opted either to levy the transactions from the senders or those withdrawing the money and not both ways," the former Repoa and ESRF CEO argued while stressing that levying the same transaction twice is counterproductive.

He suggested that going forward, the government should consider reviewing the levying mode by deciding to tax once per transaction to encourage the public use mobile money services. "There should be a win-win situation between the telcos and the government. One should be levying the sender and the other levying the receiver," Prof Wangwe noted.

He recalled that when President Samia Suluhu Hassan met with members of Tanzania National Business Council earlier this year, she pledged to review the country's business enabling laws and policies with focus on taxation.

Giving an update on collection of the controversial



One of the country's economic gurus, Prof Samuel Wangwe.

levy, Dr Nchemba argued that despite the collected 48.4bn/- in the first month, the number of transaction remained constant despite the public backlash. "In the first four weeks of the levy execution period about 9.9 million transactions were made, this has no big difference to the figures prior to the levy where the transactions ranged between 10 and 11 million a month," he charged apparently shaken by

the backlash.

According to him, from the collected amount, 22.5bn/- shall be allocated to the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities to finance 90 health centers while about 15bn/- will be allocated for construction of another 60 health centers.

Earlier this month, Legal and Human Rights Cent-

er filed a case at the High Court challenging the levy. In case No. 11 of 2021, LHRC wants the High Court's review of the National Payments System Act Cap 437 and its regulations that facilitated amendments to the Electronic and Postal Communication Act Cap 306 that has imposed a hefty levy on all mobile money transactions.

Capital markets director calls upon investors to back 'Sukuk' products

By Correspondent James Kandoya

INVESTORS in stock market products have been urged to exploit opportunities provided in Islamic financing segment including products such as 'Sukuk.' A Sukuk is an Islamic financial certificate, similar to a bond in Western finance, that complies with Islamic religious law commonly known as Sharia.

Acting Director of Research and Planning at Capital Market and Security Authority, Alfred Mkombo said in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a function to award certificates to investors of 'Sukuk Wakala' worth 2.72bn/- issued by Imaan Finance Limited.

Mkombo said Islamic financing is growing faster globally hence an important vehicle for investors. He said the 'Sukuk Wakala' issued by the Imaan

Finance raised 2.7bn/- was oversubscribed by 136 percent because the target was 2bn/-. Mkombo explained that investments in Islamic financing will also help to mobilize and channel financial resources into formal productive sectors and spur rapid economic growth in the country.

He noted that the key to success was the ability to offer innovative demand driven products that attract all sizes of business enterprises to issue and list in markets. According to him, Islamic financing sector is estimated to grow at an annual rate of between 15-20 percent, with over U \$ two trillion assets under management globally.

He said the level of subscription that 'Sukuk Wakala' has received is an indication of the potential that exists in the market for Sharia compliant prod-

ucts in the country and globally. "Islamic finance provides a huge opportunity for financial Sharia compliant development projects, in the public and private sectors, therefore the public should utilise it," he added.

Speaking at the event, Imaan Finance Ltd's CEO, Faiz Arab said the company's balance sheet has grown to over 23bn/- saying investors have supported them massively. Arab said it would not have been possible without the 23 investors who backed the 'Sukuk Wakala' certificate which enabled the product to be oversubscribed by 136 percent.

"We at Imaan would not be here today celebrating this success without the support that we have received from regulators and those who invested in this issue and our service providers all of who supported us in the launch this maiden 'Sukuk Wakala' product," he said.



Imaan Finance Limited CEO, Faiz Arab

Malware attacks in Africa reach 85 million in 6 months

LAGOS

ACCORDING to research done by Kasp, malware is rife across Africa with various countries exhibiting strong growth in all malware types in the first half of 2021 when compared to the same period last year.

This is a 5% increase in the region, as cybercriminals and hackers continue to focus on African countries considering digital transformation advancements and the increase in remote working resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Overall, four countries account for 85 million attacks, with South Africa being the most targeted - 32 million attacks, followed by Kenya (28.3 million), Nigeria (16.7 million) and Ethiopia (8 million). All countries but Kenya saw the relative growth of all malware at-

tacks. Ethiopia and Nigeria have seen an increase of 20% and 23% respectively and South Africa an increase of 14%, while Kenya's number of attacks decreased by 13%.

Even though the scourge of malware has always been of concern, the past 12-months have highlighted how hackers are refocusing their efforts to compromise consumer and corporate systems and gain access to critical data and information.

Given the growth of digital transformation across Africa since last year, the continent has become an attractive target for those looking to exploit a lack of user education and cybersecurity understanding. This has contributed to a large number of personal devices still not having any form of cybersecurity software installed," says Bethwel Opil, enterprise sales manag-



er at Kaspersky in Africa.

"Malware can get onto a device in several ways. For example, clicking on an infected link or advert, opening an attachment in a spam email, or downloading a compromised app. This means proactive malware protection is essential to safeguard individual users and corporates against these threats," adds Opil.

There are several best practices to consider when it comes to malware protection. Kaspersky recommends the following: Install anti-virus software on every device that connects to the internet; Only download applications from trusted sites. Even then, always check the app permissions and, if certain things do not make sense, do not install the programme; Never click on unverified links, especially when coming from suspected spam emails, messages, or suspicious-looking websites; Keeping operation systems and applications always updated with the latest patches; and Be wary of using free Wi-Fi at coffee shops, restaurants, and other places as hackers can snoop for unprotected devices.

Cigarette manufacturer pays 30bn/- dividend on its sixtieth anniversary

By Smart Money Reporter

THE country's main cigarettes manufacturer, Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company (TCC Plc) paid 30bn/- in dividend to shareholders who include Treasury last year as the company turns 60 this year.

As a result of the good performance, the board of directors approved an interim ordinary gross dividend of 250/- per share as well as a special dividend of 250/- per share. The dividends will be paid in October and the shares will trade cum-dividend until September 07, 2021.

TCC which was privatised in late 1990s, defied the coronavirus outbreak by posting a gross profit of 84.4bn/- being an increase of 15.2 percent for the year ending June 2020. TCC which was officially launched in December 1961 by the country's founding President Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, commands a lion's share of the local market.

In a half year unaudited results for the year ended June 2021, TCC Plc's Board Chairman, Paul Makanza said performance remained solid compared to the first half of 2020. "Operating costs remained flat, reflecting operational efficiencies in all business areas and the need to preserve cash in uncertain times," Makanza said.

He revealed that the cigarettes maker generated 43.2bn/- in operating cash flow during the period of which 12.7bn/- was paid to Treasury as corporate income tax while 30bn/- was paid as final gross dividend for the year ended December 31, 2020.

According to the report, gross revenue grew by 11 percent to 263.8bn/- from 237.5bn/- registered in June 2020 while gross profit increased by 15.2 percent to 84.4bn/- from 73.3bn/- during the period. The report also stated that net profit increased by 10.5 percent to 23.9bn/- from 21.6bn/- during the period under review. "This was driven by volume growth and cost efficiencies," the report said.

On domestic and export volumes, TCC Plc's report stated that it grew by 16.5 percent and 3.7 percent respectively while overall volume increased by 12.5 percent, reflecting the strength of their revised domestic distribution model and a return to normal trading conditions after demand and supply chain disruptions in the first



TCC Plc general manager Michal Bachan.

half of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the results, TCC Plc's General Manager, Michal Bachan said the company has its optimistic of better performance in the second half to December 30, 2021. "Sustainability of these great results will depend on continued relentless drive of the team to push our business forward as well as various factors including continued improvements in the business environment, effectiveness of recently announced measures to spur economic growth and address the Covid-19 pandemic effectively," Bachan said.

He said as the company marks 60 years of operations, his management will continue to be a responsible and business partner of choice

in the country while contributing to economic growth as well as invest in community projects.

"Our community investment programs focus on people, arts and culture and natural environment. We have in the past year donated wheelchairs, white walking canes, crutches, and tricycles worth over 130m/- to various groups of people with disabilities," said the GM.

In support to government's efforts in poverty alleviation, TCC Plc has donated over 100 sewing machines to women groups in various regions. "Beginning next year, TCC in partnership with the Embassy of Japan, will support a master's scholarship program to qualified Tanzanian students who wish to pursue full-time courses at Japanese universities," he added.

Biometric solutions launched to tackle Africa's growing cybercrime problem



MoData CEO Darren Turnbull.

JOHANNESBURG

FINTECH specialist MoData has partnered with BioCatch, a leader in behavioural biometrics, to roll out solutions to MoData clients across Africa.

The companies are targeting the technology to help combat fraud through digital behaviour tracking. They claim the rapid growth in digitisation - spurred on by the COVID-19 pandemic - has left many banks, financial institutions and their customers at risk from cybercriminals.

Through this partnership, MoData clients will have access to BioCatch's AI-driven platform which transforms digital behaviour into powerful insights to deliver advanced fraud protection without compromising the user experience. It does this by collecting thousands of interactions per session and analysing them against global historical profiles. These actionable insights will enable MoData clients to act in real time to mitigate risk, improve their customer experience and ultimately accelerate business growth.

"This partnership underscores MoData's commitment to delivering innovative solutions to its clients, by continually adapting and growing its product and service offerings to meet the needs of organisations in the ever-changing digital

landscape," says MoData CEO Darren Turnbull. "This leading-edge solution, combined with MoData's expertise, will enhance digital transformation and enable our clients to build trust and safety into their digital banking platforms."

As well protecting financial institutions and their customers from automated account takeover attacks such as Remote Access Attacks (RATs), BOT attacks, Device Emulators and Malware, BioCatch protects vulnerable customers by detecting social engineering scams such as One Time Pin (OTP) vishing and Authorised Push Payment (APP) scams that have become increasingly prevalent in the region.

The risk of fraud during digital customer on-boarding through the use of stolen credentials and synthetic identities to open up mule accounts is also significantly reduced thus protecting the bank and its customers throughout the online customer journey.

BioCatch CRO Mike Keating adds: "BioCatch is pleased to partner with MoData and provide best-in-class behavioural biometric technology to MoData customers allowing financial institutions to protect their most vulnerable clients and enhance digital user experiences. Strong fraud protection and seamless customer experiences are equally critical in today's digital age. We see great opportunity for innovating alongside MoData's customers in Africa."

Africa's Business Heroes prize contest unveils top 20 for 2021

LAGOS

AFRICA'S Business Heroes (ABH) prize competition, a flagship philanthropic program established by the Jack Ma Foundation, just announced its top 20 semi-finalists for 2021. These 20 entrepreneurs are one step closer to becoming a Top 10 hero with a chance to pitch at the grand finale and gain a share of the US\$1.5 million prize pool.

Of the Top 20, 45% of the entrepreneurs are female and the average age of the group is 34. They represent key sectors and industries of the African economy such as agriculture, beauty, education, energy, financial services, healthcare, logistics, manufacturing, media & entertainment, and retail. They represent 11 countries from Africa - Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda. 10% are from Francophone countries and 55% operate in rural areas.

The semi-final stage of the competition will comprise a thorough due diligence process and a pitch before a prestigious panel of judges. The panel will test each entrepreneur's motivation and vision, business plan, and ability to clearly articulate how their businesses can generate a positive impact for their communities.

The 2021 semi-final judges include leading entrepreneurs, VCs and start-

up accelerators, and distinguished public figures in Africa such as: Fatoumata Ba - Founder of Janngo; Marième Diop - Investment Manager at Orange Digital Ventures; Hasan Haider - Managing Partner of 500 StartUps, MENA Region; Rene Parker - Director at R Labs; Nicolas Pompiagne-Mognard - Founder and Chairman of APO Group; and Fred Swaniker - Founder of ALU.

12,000 applicants from across Africa applied to the Africa's Business Heroes competition this year. From there, 50 outstanding entrepreneurs were chosen to progress to the next stage of the competition for further judging.

The top 50 engaged in virtual boot camps to learn from business leaders as well as previous Africa's Business Heroes winners in preparation for their second-round interviews. The Round 2 interviews consisted of more than 75 hours of interviews with 48 judges from Africa and around the world representing 21 different industry sectors.

The Top 10 heroes will be announced in October and the competition will culminate in a grand finale show later this year where the Top 10 will take the stage to pitch live to global business legends. To see the final pitches of the Top 10 from 2020, tune into CNBC Africa and StarTimes where a four-episode series on the journey of the 2020 Africa's Business Heroes competition is airing.



Africa's Business Heroes' top 20 list which also includes Tanzanian, Lucy Odiwa.

Kenyan tea still accessing Afghan market despite Taliban takeover

NAIROBI

THE East African Tea Traders Association (Eatta) said Afghanistan is still getting the bulk of the beverage from Pakistan, which is the leading buyer of Kenya's tea. Eatta managing director Edward Mudibo added that there were no reports of payment problems and that tea trade with Pakistan remains smooth despite the melee in next door Afghanistan.

"There have been no disruptions at all on our exports to Afghanistan because exporters are getting their payments well and Kabul itself can get tea from Pakistan because of the open border," he said. Afghanistan purchased tea worth about Sh2 billion last year to rank among the top 15 buyers of Kenyan tea. The commodity accounts for more than 50 percent of Kenya's exports to the Asian country.

Kenya's exports to Afghanistan have been falling steadily from highs of Sh14 billion in 2012 to Sh3.6 billion last year, mainly on uncertainty after the US and its Western allies gradually ceded control of the country's security systems to the governments of Afghanistan's two post-Taliban presidents, Hamid Karzai, and Ashraf Ghani.

The retaking of the Afghan capital Kabul by the Taliban a week ago - 20 years since they were toppled from power by US-led forces in 2001 - is projected to negatively impact trade with Kenya. Kenya's other exports to Afghanistan include coffee, mate, spices, pharmaceuticals, rubber, textile, edible vegetables, and machinery.

The decline in Kenya's overall exports to Afghanistan coincided with an atmosphere of uncertainty regarding difficult security, political, and economic transitions which pervaded the country since the beginning of 2013.



Dodging bullets: Controversy as a marketing strategy tool

By Alley Mtatya

CONTROVERSY is a tactic whereby a brand intentionally provokes or upsets or surprises its audience by violating the norms of social and personal values and morals, with the aim of generating an argument, discussion and subsequent buzz around the brand. "Well who doesn't like enough spice in their food?" Without spices the meal wouldn't bring that buzz.

Case in point: How many brands (businesses, people or services) do you know that have caused disruptions to our normal lives? But it is very fascinating how we still follow or engage in that disruption. In reality, numbers are triggered, trends are set, publicity is given and fame is established. We may love it or hate it but it got us talking and spreading the word.

Content with my safe zone

If you're running a business or a brand which is fierce and cunning, then by now you are not a stranger to controversy. Your brand lives and breathes around this everyday and provoking the market is the daily habit. The brand lives, eats, sleeps and breathes controversy everyday while also looking to escalate its next agenda. This for them (business/brand) acquires extreme publicity, generates high social media numbers and in the process lots of money is made.

Whether you like it or not, I'll get you talking

I'm content on playing it safe. "The risk is too high and my reputation is at stake," said no man who succeeded. Provocative marketing stunts are a huge gamble. But as the business saying: the higher the risk, the higher the reward. The secret is to find the sweet spot between being edgy and decisive. You need to back up your campaign with sense and substance, so that you're not provoking people for no good reason.

I remember an ex-foreign diplomat to Tanzania once said, "While living in Tanzania, I saw that Tanzanians never took controversy serious but they often loved to turn controversy into jokes," and he found that amusing, as he giggled slightly. Expressing a darker sense of humour during tense situations to get a positive reaction most often lightens the mood and taunts people's attention.

Indeed we as Tanzanians live by humour even during intense times, this maybe a good stress reliever and an omen of a long life to be lived. Whether it's marketing, politics, science, business etc., controversy mixed with humour sets the right ambiance for anything to trend, in short. Majority of those that have stepped out of their comfort zone and



took the risk have embodied successful brands.

When sweet turns sour, dodging bullets

Well it did backfire and you did not take my advice. When is a risk too risky and playing safe not too risky? When you do not live on the edge and fear going above and beyond your creative talent or maximum brand exposure?

The late Dr Benjamin Mays who was a Baptist minister and an American civil rights leader once said, "The tragedy of life is not found in failure but in complacency, not in you doing too much but doing too little, not in you living above your means but below your capacity. It's not failure but aiming too low is life's greatest tragedy."

Yes one needs to check-in now and again to see if your being true to yourself, work hard and don't be complacent. The moment you put in less than your best that is when you fail. If you recall well the Euro 2020 football press conference, Cristiano Ronaldo pushed aside two Coke bottles while urging people to drink water instead. Coke was one of the sponsors of that event. That move cost Coke about US \$4 billion. But if you ask me about the PR versus the US\$4 billion hit, "I would tell you that the brand visibility was worth more than that hit." Despite their shares dropping, their publicity was of the charts. Even my grandmother and mother who never watch football saw that clip.

Sour is good at times when it is trending globally. Well they did want brand visibility in

the end and good accidents do happen. "And they got it!" Shocking to say the least, but what a shocking publicity stunt? Beyond that, Coke is a big brand and in the long run the damage was little visa vie the publicity received.

The sour taste of a sweet watermelon

Controversial marketing is about being in beast mode strategizing on the possible outcome both short and long term but most important playing within the legal frame work. Playing safe is also good but will lose out to those taking the risk, this is a general connotation that applies to everything in life.

A lemon can taste just as sweet as a water melon. Many brands have understood this concept and hence it is nothing but their daily strategy to disrupt the market but they still trend and they are still loved. "Well, ironically in an ever evolving world, playing it safe is one of the riskiest things one can do." I can't believe I said that, but either way you will still take a risk. I'll leave it here, it's debatable but ask yourself: What is the riskiest strategy that you have ever played for your brand? The answer will define your style of play and level of risk. A shocking topic indeed.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is marketing coordinator at Access Microfinance Bank Tanzania. He can be reached through: HYPERLINK "mailto:alley962003@gmail.com" t "_blank" alley962003@gmail.com

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Digital wallets give rise to African 'super apps'

JOHANNESBURG

ALTHOUGH Africa remains the home of mobile money, the shift to digital wallets is in full swing in countries with high smartphone penetration.

This is according to a white paper published by market analyst firm Omdia and commissioned by CR2, which discusses the rise of digital wallets and how mobile wallets have successfully targeted the underserved banking population.

The market analyst firm notes the adoption of digital wallets has been steadily growing for several years, but the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the trend for online and in-store payments, as merchants' priorities shifted to increasing acceptance of new payment tools (such as digital wallets).

In some regions, it says, digital wallets have evolved into so-called "super apps", which have diversified beyond money management into restaurant bookings, taxi-hailing, food delivery and even gaming.

In SA, mobile operators like Vodacom announced the VodaPay Super App, a mobile payments solution that has been customised to meet the specific lifestyle and payment needs of consumers, businesses and tech developers, says the mobile operator.

Big-four bank Nedbank also has its own super app, known as Avo. According to the financial institution, Avo garnered over 250 000 South African users in 12 months, as the bank accelerated the use of digital solutions.

Omdia believes digital wallets could lead to super apps that provide banks with the opportunity to offer products and services beyond banking. The market analyst firm explains that digital wallets have become an entry point for consumers to engage with financial services, and thereby create new opportunities to target the underserved banking population.

It points out that consumers in the Middle East and Africa region are embracing digital payments and subsequently using digital wallets as smartphones become more widely available. Omdia expects smartphone penetration in Kenya to reach 60% in 2021 and forecasts it to rise to over 80% by 2025.

M-Pesa, the Kenyan mobile money service owned by telecommunications operator Safaricom, is looking to capitalise on this trend, having launched its own super app in June. M-Pesa's new app enables users to book bus or train tickets, purchase insurance and buy tickets for various events, with more services to be added in the future.

According to Omdia, M-Pesa is taking inspiration from Asia and is looking to emulate the success of WeChat and AliPay, which between them account for more than 90% of digital payments in China. WeChat started life as a messaging app and sought to add gaming, shopping and payments to its portfolio as an incentive for users to stay in its ecosystem.

The analyst firm says e-commerce services such as Alibaba and Amazon set up their own digital wallets to make it easier to make payments on their own sites before they recognised the benefits of extending this to third-party websites.

QR code boost

It explains that while digital wallets have largely benefited from the growth of e-commerce, the introduction of QR codes was the fundamental reason behind the success of digital wallets as an in-store payment method in Asia. They are beginning to become more prevalent in other regions too, particularly as the world adjusts to a post-COVID-19 environment.

Omdia points out that Ghana was the first African country to introduce a universal QR code, and South Africa is in the process of standardising QR codes across the sector as adoption of alternative payment methods continues to rise.

"Digital wallets provide an incentive for new customers to sign up and in turn will boost potential revenue, as they encourage users to open other banking services, such as savings and loans," the firm says.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the shift to digital payments, with numerous studies showing unprecedented adoption rates for digital payments across Africa. This was seen with the launch of Apple Pay in South Africa in March 2021."

Malware attacks in Middle East jump 17pc to 161 million in first half of 2021

ABU DHABI

MALWARE attacks in the Middle East increased almost 17 per cent on an annual basis to 161 million in the first half of this year amid a rapid digital transformation of the region, a new report has found.

Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt and Qatar are among the countries that have reported a sharp rise in malware attacks, cybersecurity company Kaspersky said in the report. Oman recorded the biggest increase of attacks at 67 per cent, followed by Kuwait (64 per cent), Bahrain (45 per cent), Egypt (32 per cent) and Qatar (16 per cent). But the UAE - the second biggest Arab economy - recorded a mere 7 per cent rise in attacks.

Malware is malicious software designed by cyber criminals to damage a computer, server or an entire online network. It can get into a device in several ways, including by a user clicking on an infected link or advertisement, opening an attachment in a spam email or by downloading a malicious app.

The Middle East has become a target for cyber criminals amid a rise in remote working owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and rapid digital transformation of

the region's economies, according to the Moscow-based company, which did not disclose the methodology of its report.

Cyber criminals are trying to exploit the "lack of user education or cyber security understanding", said Maher Yamout, senior security researcher for the Middle East, Turkey and Africa at Kaspersky. "Even though the scourge of malware has always been of concern, the past 12 months have highlighted how hackers are refocusing their efforts to compromise consumer and corporate systems and gain access to critical data and information," he said.

Turkey, which registered 44 million malware attacks between January and June - nearly a quarter of all malware attacks in the region. It recorded a drop of 4.4 per cent in the first six months of the year.

Egypt, the most populous Arab country, registered 42 million attacks, the UAE (34 million), Oman (14 million), Kuwait (11 million) and Bahrain (five million), the report found. Victims of cyber crime worldwide lose \$318 billion each year, according to UK technology comparison website Comparitech.

About 71.1 million people in the world fall victim to cyber crime annually - which equates to nearly 900 victims for every



Maher Yamout, researcher for the Middle East, Turkey and Africa at Kaspersky.

100,000 people. The average victim's loss is \$4,476 for every cyber crime, Comparitech found. Moorfields Eye Hospital Dubai is among the recent victims of cyber criminals in the region. The hospital has started an investigation after hackers targeted some of its servers, it said on Monday.

Hackers have become more targeted with their attack strategies, focusing on advanced persistent threat-type attacks that are intended to steal sensitive data, Kaspersky said. With so many people working remotely and accessing corporate networks from their personal devices, the companies must identify the rapidly expanding attack surface, Mr Yamout said.

"These devices might not have an adequate level of protection, meaning that once they are compromised and an employee logs into the network, hackers can potentially get access to sensitive data and cripple the organisation," he said.

WORLD

Kamala Harris says US focus on Afghanistan evacuations

SINGAPORE

US Vice President Kamala Harris said yesterday during a visit to Singapore that the United States was focusing on evacuation efforts taking place in Afghanistan and that there would be plenty of time to analyse the context of the troop withdrawal.

Harris met Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and President Halimah Yacob during a trip aimed at bolstering ties with partners in the region as part of Washington's efforts to counter China's growing economic and security influence. "There is going to be plenty of time to analyse what has happened and what has taken place in the context of the withdrawal from Afghanistan," Harris said during a joint news conference with Singapore's prime minister.

"But right now we are singularly focused on evacuating American citizens, Afghans who have worked with us and Afghans who are vulnerable, including women and children and that is our singular focus at this time," said Harris.

US President Joe Biden has faced criti-

cism at home and abroad over his handling of the withdrawal of US forces and the chaotic evacuation after the lightning takeover by the Taliban.

"We hope Afghanistan does not become an epicentre for terrorism again," said Lee, adding that Singapore had offered transport aircraft to help with evacuations.

Part of Harris's task during the trip will be convincing leaders in Singapore and Vietnam that Washington's commitment to Southeast Asia is firm and not a parallel to Afghanistan.

"Today, we are in Singapore to stress and reaffirm our enduring relationship to this country and in this region, and to reinforce a shared vision of a free and open Indo Pacific region," Harris said.

Singapore's Lee said that perceptions of US resolve and commitment to the region would be determined by "what the US does going forward, how it repositions itself in the region, how it engages its broad range of friends and partners and allies..."

Singapore is not a US treaty ally, but remains one of its strongest security partners in the region with deep trade ties.



US Vice President Kamala Harris

However, it also seeks to balance its relationships with the United States and China by not taking sides.

The country is home to the biggest port in Southeast Asia, and supports continued free navigation in the area, where China is growing increasingly assertive - a concern US officials plan to address during Harris' visit to the region, which also includes a trip to Vietnam.

"I reaffirmed in our meeting the United States' commitment to working with our allies and partners around the Indo Pacific to uphold the rules based international order, and freedom of navigation, including in the South China Sea," said Harris.

The disputed South China Sea, a strategic waterway with potential oil and gas riches, has competing claims by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

SECURITY, CYBER AGREEMENTS

The United States and Singapore reached security agreements on Monday that reaffirm America's presence in the region through "rotational deployments of US P-8 aircraft and littoral combat ships to Singapore," according to a fact sheet of the meeting shared by the White House.

The United States and Singapore also

agreed to expand cybersecurity cooperation in the financial sector, the military and enhance information exchange on cyber threats, according to details shared by the White House.

Cybersecurity has risen to the top of the agenda for the Biden administration after a series of high-profile attacks that affected fuel and food supplies in parts of the United States.

Other initiatives include starting a US-Singapore dialogue on building supply chains.

The Biden White House is tackling a severe supply shortage of semiconductor chips in the United States that has seriously hurt car manufacturers and contributed to inflation.

The countries also struck a partnership to fight COVID-19 and prepare for the next pandemic and agreed to tackle the global climate crisis, promote smart cities and green building standards throughout ASEAN.

Harris will also visit Singapore's Changi Naval Base and tour the USS Tulsa combat ship during the trip to Singapore.

Agencies

'Wuhan lab leak theory more about politics than science'

LONDON

THE Wuhan lab leak theory is more about politics than science, The Guardian newspaper reported on Sunday.

Whatever this week's Biden review on the virus' origins finds, the cause of the pandemic lies in the destruction of animal habitats. As for the "lab leak" theory of the disease, scientists refuted the idea in the paper.

Sir Jeremy Farrar, head of the Wellcome Trust, made clear in his recent book that he changed

his mind after intense consultations with other researchers, though initially he believed that COVID-19 escaped from a virus research center, said an article in the paper.

"As things currently stand, the evidence strongly suggests that COVID-19 arose after a natural spillover event," Farrar was quoted as saying.

Farrar's point is backed by Professor James Wood, of Cambridge University.

"I think there is very strong evidence for this being caused



A woman takes the COVID-19 booster shot at the Tournament House in Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California, the United States, on Thursday. (Xinhua)

by natural spillovers but that argument simply does not suit some political groups.

They promote the idea that COVID-19 was caused by a lab leak because such a claim deflects attention from increasing evidence that indicates biodiversity loss, deforestation and wildlife trade - which increase the dangers of natural spillovers - are the real dangers that we face from pandemics," said Wood.

Xinhua

COVID-19 booster shots should be delayed, says WHO chief

THE roll out of a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine has sparked debate on ethical and political grounds, since a large swath of the human population is yet to receive any inoculation. But the case for boosters on scientific grounds is building.

The reason is Delta. The most-infectious coronavirus variant to emerge so far is in a race with the human immune system, and there's mounting evidence that Delta is winning - at least initially.

Fully vaccinated individuals infected with the variant have peak virus levels in the upper airways as high as those lack-

ing immunity, a large study from the UK showed last week.

That suggests people with Delta-induced breakthrough infections also may be capable of transmitting the virus, frustrating efforts to curb the COVID-19 pandemic.

Waning antibody levels in some highly vaccinated populations such as Israel have prompted calls to offer boosters to blunt fresh waves of hospitalizations.

"The science is the boosters work, and they will definitely help," said Shane Crotty, a virologist and professor at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology's Center for Infectious Dis-

ease and Vaccine Research in California.

In fully vaccinated, healthy adults, booster shots from Moderna Inc as well as Pfizer Inc and its partner BioNTech SE cause antibodies to rebound to peak levels, if not well beyond, Crotty said in a Zoom interview Friday.

Those antibodies are also likely to be more durable and adept at fighting a wider range of SARS-CoV-2 strains, he said.

People infected with Delta were also found to have significantly higher amounts of virus in their upper airways compared with infections caused by other strains.

"It's inherently tougher to stop with antibodies because there's more of it and it's a tougher challenge for the immune system," Crotty said.

Bolstering antibody levels with an extra dose of vaccine may enable the immune system to swiftly block Delta on its arrival in the nose and throat, preventing the coronavirus from not only infecting cells and causing illness, but also stopping it from spreading, he said.

A slower antibody response, on the other hand, may increase infectiousness and worsen symptoms.

"It's a race between the

virus and your immune system," Crotty said. The faster the virus replicates, the less time antibodies have to block an infection.

Still, even when a delayed antibody response does lead to infection, immunity generated by either vaccination or a natural infection is usually enough to prevent it causing severe illness in an otherwise healthy person, he said.

Virus particles from Delta-infected individuals are much less likely to be infectious if they're emitted from fully vaccinated people, researchers in the Netherlands showed in a study released ahead of pub-

BRI fulfills UN Charter spirit, says expert

NEW YORK

THERE is a fulfillment of the United Nations (UN) Charter spirit in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), said a long-time member of the Schiller Institute, a Germany-based political and economic think tank.

The UN Charter affirms the equal rights of all nations, no matter big or small, said Richard A. Black (pictured), the Schiller Institute's representative at the United Nations.

The BRI is an exemplar of the way in which a big nation like China can cooperate with "nations across Southeast Asia, South America, Africa, and treat them as equal partners, because the process is win-win," Black told Xinhua in an interview on Friday.

Black also sees the BRI as the great up-lifter of nations out of poverty in the 21st century while the Article 55 of UN Charter outlines that the "conditions of stability and well-being" among nations demand "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development."

China's complete victory against absolute poverty is an astounding achievement for mankind and "it is one that I think is not appreciated enough at the UN organization," said Black.

Black noted that the Maritime Silk Road, one of the two arms of the BRI, is extremely important for world peace.

In the last weeks of tremendous turmoil and transition in Afghanistan, fertilizer has been coming into the port of Gwadar of Pakistan along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and making its way safely to farmers in Afghanistan, said Black.

"When we look at the Maritime Silk Road, it is a way of connecting the world land bridge through all the continents, a key component, and it is functioning quite well," Black said.

Chinese rebound in exports from the hit of the COVID-19 pandemic benefits from China's foresight in taking the long term approach embodied in BRI, according to Black.

The ability of China to bounce back so quickly after the horrendous pandemic, said Black, "was not only its very wise and strict public health measures applied universally to the population, but (also) that the basis of the BRI is very, very wise," said Black.

China's goods trade with countries and regions along the Belt and Road surged by 37.9 percent in the first half of 2021 year on year to reach 824.55 billion U.S. dollars, according to data issued by China's National Development and Reform Commission.

China has understood that the key to continued prosperity is advanced, energy-intensive infrastructure, which transforms the entire economic process, added Black.

Swedish PM says to step down in November

STOCKHOLM

SWEDISH Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said on Sunday that he will step down in November as party leader and prime minister.

The unexpected announcement by the leader of the Social Democratic Party was made during his annual summer speech.

"I have been party chairman for ten years, and prime minister for seven," he was quoted by local media as saying, adding: "But everything has an end, and I want to give my successor the very best conditions."

In July, Lofven (pictured) became prime minister for the third consecutive term shortly after becoming the first Swedish prime minister to be forced to resign following a no-confidence vote.

Following his unexpected announcement on Sunday, he told Swedish Television that until recently he was set on continuing for the next mandate period and that he only made the decision to step down during the summer.

He said his decision is meant to give his party better chances in the next general election scheduled for September 2022.

It was not yet clear who would replace Lofven. Xinhua



China completes phased goals of battle for pollution prevention and control

CHINA has overfulfilled the nine eco-environmental binding indicators outlined in its 13th Five-Year Plan and the phased goals of the battle for pollution prevention and control, Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu told a press conference on Aug. 18.

Across-the-board improvements have been achieved in China's eco-environment, the minister added.

Chinese cities at and above the prefecture level enjoyed good air quality on 87 percent of days in 2020, 5.8 percentage points higher than that in 2015, and 2.5 percentage points higher than the target set in the 13th Five-Year Plan.

In these cities, the average concen-

tration of PM2.5 dropped to 37 micrograms per cubic meter, down by 28.8 percent from 2015, and surpassing the goal in the 13th Five-Year Plan by 10.8 percentage points.

The proportion of surface water with fairly good quality increased from 66 percent in 2015 to 83.4 percent in 2020, exceeding the target set in the 13th Five-Year Plan by 13.4 percentage points, while the proportion of surface water below Grade V, the lowest level, decreased from 9.7 percent in 2015 to 0.6 percent in 2020, 4.4 percentage points lower than what's required in the 13th Five-Year Plan.

Over 90 percent of the polluted farm-

land can be utilized safely and over 90 percent of the contaminated land is able to be used safely as required by the 13th Five-Year Plan.

In 2020, 23.04 percent of China's territory was covered by forests, and national nature reserves and natural protected areas with various functions and types accounted for 18 percent of the country's land mass.

On top of that, carbon dioxide emission per unit of GDP reduced by 18.8 percent compared with that in 2015, achieving the 13th Five-Year Plan goal.

Huang said 89.5 percent of Chinese citizens were satisfied with China's eco-environment in 2020, up 10.7 per-

centage points compared with that in 2017, according to a survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics. It indicated strong public recognition of the phased achievements of the battle for pollution prevention and control, he added.

China's eco-environment kept getting better in the first half of 2021. The average concentration of PM2.5 went down by 2.9 percent from a year ago, and the proportion of excellent surface water was up 1.1 percentage points year on year.

China started barring all solid waste imports at the end of 2020 as scheduled, and won broad admiration both

at home and abroad, said Huang, adding that the time when China was like a dumping site for developed countries has gone forever.

According to him, China's imports of solid waste dropped from 42.27 million metric tons in 2017 to 8.79 million metric tons last year, and were completely banned starting from the very first day of 2021.

The country launched a special law enforcement campaign to fight illegal imports of solid waste. From 2017 to 2020, it made over 2,300 inspections into relevant enterprises and ordered more than 1,100 punishments. Besides, to overhaul the waste

plastic processing and other relevant industries, the country has straightened out 194 distribution centers and shut down over 8,800 small, poorly-managed, and heavily-polluting enterprises.

While banning the imports of foreign waste, the Chinese government has been working to improve the country's recycling system of solid waste. It supported domestic enterprises of solid waste recycling and reutilization, and accelerated garbage sorting in both rural and urban areas, so as to constantly improve the recycling rate of renewable resources.

People's Daily

Biden says troops deployment in Afghanistan beyond August 31 under discussion

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Sunday that extending troops deployment for the evacuation mission in Afghanistan beyond the Aug. 31 deadline has been under discussion.

Biden gave updated remarks about the on-going evacuation at the White House Sunday afternoon. "There are discussions going on among us and the military about extending, our hope is we will not have to extend," said Biden when asked about the Aug. 31 deadline.

"But there are going to be discussions, I suspect, on how far along we are in the process." Biden in July ordered the U.S. military to end its mission in Afghanistan by the end of this month.

The United States has been scrambling to evacuate Americans and its Afghan partners from the country since the Taliban entered the capital Kabul on Aug. 15.

The U.S. military had moved approximately 3,900 personnel out of Afghanistan over the last 24 hours, and the U.S. and coalition aircraft have evacuated about 28,000 people since Aug. 14, said Biden.

He said the United States is executing a plan to move Americans to the Kabul airport compound and had extended access and the safe zone around the airport.

The president also noted the security environment is changing rapidly on the ground. "We know that terrorists may seek to exploit the situation and target innocent Afghans or American troops," he said, pointing to potential terrorist threats from ISIS-K, the local affiliate of the Islamic State.

Earlier in the day, the Pentagon ordered commercial airlines to support the evacuation missions. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin had ordered the Commander of U.S. Transportation Command "to activate Stage 1 of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF)," which provides the Pentagon access to commercial air mobility resources to support evacuation from Afghanistan, Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said in a statement.

The statement added that the commercial planes would not fly into Kabul airport. U.S. Military aircraft will focus on operations in and out of Kabul, and commercial planes "will be used for the onward movement of passengers from temporary safe havens and interim staging bases."

This is the third time in history the U.S. military has activated the CRAF, according to the Pentagon. The first was for the Gulf War and the second for the Iraq War.

Xinhua

Hunger looms in Madagascar with worst famine since 1981

BRAZZAVILLE

SOUTHERN Madagascar is on the brink of a severe humanitarian crisis as hundreds of thousands struggle with the impact of a prolonged drought, according to United Nations officials.

"The hunger season is coming," Issa Sanogo, the UN resident coordinator on the Indian Ocean island nation said on Saturday. People may be left "without the means to eat, without money to pay for health services, or to send their children to school, to get clean water, and even to get seeds to plant for the next agricultural season," he said.

Insufficient rains since 2019 in the Grand Sud or the Big South of Madagascar have caused the most severe drought since 1981.

People have resorted to desperate survival measures such as "eating locusts, raw red cactus fruits or wild leaves" according to ReliefWeb, an information service provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Madagascar is the world's largest grower of vanilla, most of which is produced in the northeast of the world's fourth-largest island. Citizens in the south rely on subsistence agriculture from small landholdings, according to reports from the World Bank.

"The south is vulnerable because it's dry, while the north has tropical rain-forests" said Shelley Thakral, a spokeswoman for the United Nations World Food Programme, which is looking to raise US\$78.6 million in emergency aid to feed people in the region. Residents haven't managed to produce crops and with the "start of the lean season approaching" the situation can get worse, she said.

A report published this month stated that more than 500,000 children younger than five years of age face the risk of malnutrition between May 2021 and April 2022.

"The drought has gone on for longer than expected, and the funds received are insufficient to cover current and future needs," Sanogo said. "We must act now: annual crops are a problem that will probably become a new crisis in the next agricultural season." Agencies



In this file photo taken on April 24, 2020, a man carries a child along a deserted and shuttered street after Malagasy authorities decreed a total lockdown in the capital Antananarivo, to avoid the proliferation of COVID-19. AFP

South Sudan, Sudan to reopen four border crossing points

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan and Sudan have agreed to reopen four border crossing points in October.

"The two countries engaged in extensive meetings and candid discussions on all aspects and fields of co-operation."

The talks were carried out in a positive atmosphere underpinned by strong political will that enabled the two sides to reach agreements on the following that includes, reviewing and following up the implementation of all agreements of cooperation through timed roadmap by the ministries of foreign affairs of the two countries," said Barnaba Marial Benjamin (pictured), South Sudan's Minister of Presidential Affairs in Juba over the weekend.

He revealed that President Salva Kiir and Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok had reached an agreement on the reopening of the border crossings following a recent meeting between the two countries.

The reopening slated to take place on October 1 at Jelebeen will see the reopening of four border crossing points that include Jelebeen-Renk, Meiram, Buram-Tumsah and Kharsana-Panakuacis.

The two countries agreed to continue discussing agreements on trade and economic free zone and transit arrangements, in addition to resumption of cargo and passenger movement by land transport, river



transport and railway.

Khartoum and Juba signed the 2012 Cooperation Agreement that includes a wide range of issues from border demarcation, oil transit fees, trade and movement of goods and people across their common border.

The two countries have disputes over ownership of areas along

their common border which is being handled by an ad-hoc committee of the African Union.

Marial added that the two countries have decided to remove all barriers hindering bank transactions and opening up bank branches in their respective territories.

Both sides also agreed to resume technical cooperation between the two foreign ministries that include training South Sudanese diplomats at the Center for Diplomatic Studies at the ministry of foreign affairs in Khartoum.

The two parties also reached an agreement on the necessity of South Sudan continuing to be the guarantor of the peace agreement in Sudan signed in Juba between the Sudan transitional government and various former rebel groups in October 2020.

In addition, the two sides also affirmed their commitment to regional peace and stability, and the role of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in ensuring regional cooperation and promoting efforts to address the current challenges facing the region.

Xinhua

1 bln children live in 'extremely high-risk' countries of climate impacts - UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS

ABOUT 1 billion children -- nearly half the world's 2.2 billion children -- live in 33 countries classified as "extremely high-risk" of the impacts of climate change, according to a report of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched on Friday.

These children face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental shocks with a high vulnerability due to inadequate essential services, such as water and sanitation, health care, and education, says the report.

Children living in the Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau are the most at risk, threatening their health, education, and protection, and exposing

them to deadly diseases, it says. Launched in collaboration with Fridays for Future, also known as School Strike for Climate, the report is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child's perspective.

It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.

"For the first time, we have a complete picture of where and how children are vulnerable to climate change, and that picture is almost unimaginably dire.

Climate and environmental shocks are undermining the

complete spectrum of children's rights, from access to clean air, food, and safe water; to education, housing, freedom from exploitation, and even their right to survive.

Virtually no child's life will be unaffected," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF executive director.

The report finds that 240 million children are highly exposed to coastal flooding; 330 million children are highly exposed to riverine flooding; 400 million children are highly exposed to cyclones; 600 million children are highly exposed to vector-borne diseases; 815 million children are highly exposed to lead pollution; 820 million children are highly exposed to heatwaves;

920 million children are highly exposed to water scarcity; 1 billion children are highly exposed to exceedingly high levels of air pollution.

While nearly every child around the world is at risk from at least one of these climate and environmental hazards, the data reveal the worst-affected countries face multiple and often overlapping shocks that threaten to erode development progress and deepen child deprivations.

An estimated 850 million children -- one in three worldwide -- live in areas where at least four of these climate and environmental shocks overlap. As many as 330 million children -- one in seven worldwide -- live in areas affected by at

least five major shocks.

The report also reveals a disconnect between where greenhouse gas emissions are generated and where children are enduring the most significant climate-driven impacts.

The 33 "extremely high-risk" countries collectively emit just 9 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions. Conversely, the 10 highest emitting countries collectively account for nearly 70 percent of global emissions. Only one of these countries is ranked as "extremely high-risk."

"Climate change is deeply inequitable. While no child is responsible for rising global temperatures, they will pay the highest costs.

Xinhua

E. China's Jiangxi reaps benefits of green development

AS East China's Jiangxi province has pushed ahead green development, Nanliao River, which originates in Fengxin county, Yichun city of the province, has become much clearer. Birds flutter over the river frequently, and people are often seen angling leisurely by the river.

Many reaches of the Liaohe River, whose main stream is Nanliao River, have seen their water quality climb by two levels to the third highest grade in China's five-tier water quality system and become hospitable for fish and shrimp over the past five years, said Yi Deming, secretary of the Communist Party of China committee in Chi'an township, Fengxin county. Yi has also been designated as the steward, or "chief" of a section of the Liaohe River under China's river chief scheme launched to combat water pollution.

The implementation of policies on ecological and environmental protection is a key factor behind the improving ecological environment of the Liaohe River, according to Yi, who patrols his section of the river every day.

"After China carried out the scheme to appoint government officials as river chiefs, breeding bases, sand quarries, and chemical plants near the river have gradually been shut down," Yi said, adding that over 50 sand quarries have been removed.

To maintain water quality, Jiangxi province, which is home to more than 2,400 rivers, has continuously explored a long-term governance mechanism that encourages areas in river basins to share both the costs of and benefits in improving water quality and join hands to control water pollution.

As of the end of 2020, over 80 percent of the county-level areas in Jiangxi had established a horizontal ecological protection compensation system, which uses financial incentives to promote ecological protection, and 90 horizontal ecological protection compensation agreements concerning river basins had been signed across the province. In this way, the province has basically formed a river governance pattern that features the collaboration of upstream and downstream areas.

Chen Hepeng, a worker at Yadong ecological park in Ruichang city, a county-level city of Jiujiang city, Jiangxi province, has witnessed how



Photo taken on August 8, 2021, shows a park transformed from an abandoned mine in Ruichang city, east China's Jiangxi province. File photo

the ecological park, which covers an area of over 10 hectares, has transformed from a mining area into a beautiful ecological park where a wide variety of vegetables flourish.

"There was nothing on this land before. In the past, dust would swirl in the air whenever a car passed, and the whole place would be dotted with puddles in rainy days," recalled Chen who used to collect earth in the mining area.

Since 2017, Yadong cement plant, owner of the mining area, invested over 55 million yuan (\$8.46 million) in several eco-friendly projects, including the construction of the ecological park and a smart mine, significantly simplifying the collection of earth.

Chen, who was really concerned that he might be left jobless at first, became a gardener at the ecological park in January 2018.

Today, the once excessively exploited mountains are covered with trees, mining practice in the area becomes safe, green and efficient after closed-off management, and the introduction of level-settling pond helps the smart mine realize conservation of water and soil, sand cleaning, recycling of water, and zero discharge of wastewater.

Changes in the mining area epitomize the fruits of the endeavor of Jiujiang city, a pillar of mining industry in Jiangxi, to build green mines with the mindset of systemic governance.

People's Daily

Risks of party revolt grow for Japan's PM after local poll loss

TOKYO

UNPOPULAR Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga looks increasingly vulnerable to a challenge from within his party for the nation's top job after an ally's defeat in a local election on Sunday seen as a referendum on Suga's COVID-19 response.

If Suga (pictured) loses, he would join a long list of short-term premiers. He took over in September after Abe quit, citing ill health and ending a rare lengthy term of nearly eight years.

Suga, whose term as ruling Liberal Democratic Party leader ends next month, has seen his support slide from highs of about 70 percent to below 30 percent, with a weekend poll by ANN News putting support at 25.8 percent as Japan battles an explosive surge of COVID-19 infections.

On Monday, domestic media reported that former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida is likely to run in the LDP's leadership race.

The defeat of Hachiro Okonogi, son of Suga's political mentor and a former cabinet minister, in Sunday's election for Yokohama city mayor, will most likely amplify calls to replace Suga ahead of a lower house election that must be held by November.

Opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan candidate Takeharu Yamanaka, a former professor of public health, won by a landslide in Suga's constituency near Tokyo.

"The LDP is being severely criticised in my constituency, so it's very hard to fight under Suga," said a junior LDP lawmaker from a conservative rural district, who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Such views are expected to spread. "For certain, voices saying they can't fight the general election under Suga will grow louder," said political analyst Atsuo Ito. "The chances of multiple candidates (in the LDP race) will increase."

Still, uncertainty remains. Suga told reporters on Monday there was no change in his plan to run in the LDP poll. No party bosses who backed Suga last year have publicly withdrawn support.

"We should not change the ship's captain in the midst of a storm," one senior LDP lawmaker said ahead of the mayoral vote.

Election track record

Scenarios include Suga losing the LDP race to a rival, bowing out early, or winning the party vote and keeping his job if LDP losses in the lower house poll are limited.

Suga's election track record isn't good. Abe led his coalition to victory in six national elections, but Suga has seen defeats in by-elections and a lacklustre showing in a Tokyo local poll.

Lower house members' four-year terms end on Oct 21. An election for the chamber must be held by Nov. 28 but is expected sooner.

Agencies

SPORT



The DTB Bank basketball team's player, Englebert Machumu (2nd L), negotiates his way past Ukonga Warriors' counterpart when the squads locked horns in this season's clash at the Harbours court in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar side out to impress in 2021 RBA League

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM'S DTB Bank Basketball Club head coach, Faraja Jima, has said their target is to finish at the top of this season's Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League. Jima issued the comments after the DTB Bank team cruised to 76-56 victory against Ukonga Warriors to record a third consecutive victory in the ongoing league.

Before beating Ukonga Warriors, the DTB Bank squad recorded 63-43 victory against Oilers in the opening match and later won 60-43 against a famous team, Vijana Basketball Club 'City Bulls'.

The DTB squad is now placed fourth in the showdown's standing with six points from three matches the team has taken part in.

Vijana outfit is placed at the top with nine points from five matches, followed by Kurasini Heat with eight points from five matches, and Savio in

the third spot with seven points from four matches.

Jima explained that they have chances to top the league standings if they will play the next two matches in Eastern Conference.

"In the last season, we did not reach the final, but the current standing in the new playing format, we need to stretch our muscles to do well and clinch the title," the tactician noted.

DTB Bank squad will play its fourth game on Saturday against Savio. The encounter will take place at Upanga's Don Bosco court. The team will also face Kurasini Heat on Sunday at the Harbours court.

Meanwhile, Englebert Machumu of the DTB Bank squad was the top scorer for the team in the encounter against Ukonga Warriors after scoring 21 points.

Apart from Machumu, the team's famous player, Alex Mbwana, scored 12 points and Cornelius Peter added 11 points respectively.

Jima disclosed: "My players did well in the encounter and managed to overshadow Ukonga Warriors counterparts in the encounter."

"It was not an easy match as our opponents started with a quick pace and led in the first quarter. We had to change the pattern of the game and manage to equalize and later took command of the game. Thanks to my players for the best commitment," he said.

POEM: Everyone matters

By Pauline Julius, SJMC

THERE must be a revolution in our times,
Change coming yes that's why it's an acronym
for silence

Everybody has a voice don't you dare stay silent

Cus if you say nothing, you're an accessory to violence

Let these words dry the tears of the people who are crying,

We can bring back hope and not the people who are dying.

This is what happens when the people ask for a change in a country that they have built but the system has ignored and denied it.

This is for every single family affected by bad government and police brutality that has intervened and destroyed

A couple of bad cops can't define all you others

So every good cop needs to stand up and make some noise.

Either black, white, or Asian, it doesn't matter cause we can avoid the people who believe that racism makes sense in a country that was built up in slavery work and deployment.

Nobody is born racist, it's something you learn deep-rooted in your brain from the day of your birth.

Let's all come together and let love from our hearts into the problem we have turned.

That's the only way we'll ever find peace on earth.

Change is what we need.

Cut me open, cut you open, red is the color every human being bleeds.

So let's come together in rally season in between rights for everybody in humanity.

Black, blue, white, green, playing for the same team

I am not okay but it does not mean I can't dream

Black lives mattering shouldn't anger you and make you scream

All lives matter cause we aren't treated equally.

I remember when we are kids and didn't see color and we played in kindergarten and I called you my brother and then we grew up and we were told we should hate on each other even though we were from the same womb and all came from our mothers.

I hope you all now understand this is not a trait it was learned.

Equality is the quality that we need inside this earth,

Cause we can hardly breathe. We are being killed!

We are crying for help!

We are crying for help!

SPORTS

Déjà vu as our Olympics curse rears its ugly head once again

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT was a most telling case of déjà vu. I am alluding of course to the woefully embarrassing failure of our three-man contingent to the Tokyo Olympics to return home from their sporting labours shamefully bereft of even a measly single medal.

Indeed, it was as if we were all watching in helpless frustration the re-run of the same old horror movie, one in which our abysmal failures in a sporting sense were glaringly apparent.

In the wake of our distinctly shoddy showing, different sporting figures who enjoy prominence on our domestic sporting radar sought to pass the buck as is usually the case in these wearying and profoundly exasperating circumstances.

One such figure revealed that we had not invested enough in our preps for us to reap our desired reward, a reward which, of course only turned out to be a mirage.

There was also some more infuriating chatter voiced by a few other sporting figures about our Olympics debacle.

However, as I mused about this weighty matter, one thought surfaced to the fore which easily dwarfed all of my other ruminations and this thought can be perfectly summed up in a brief phrase, a gross lack of accountability.

To be brutally honest, who should be held culpably responsible for our seemingly perpetual failure to be anything other than also-rans at the world's biggest sporting event?

It is an interesting question, isn't it? Because, in the past, this issue of accountability has been a decidedly blurry one to satisfactorily fathom out.

Indeed, in the past, various sporting actors would say this and that but there was never one head honcho or even a few sports associations who were held accountable at the end of the day for our humiliating displays.

And, in my book, therein lies a massive chunk of our curious Olympic malaise of failure upon failure, we have had no accountability for donkey years.

No one or no sporting body has ever been justly singled out to bear the brunt of the public's wrath over our deeply regret-



Marathoner, Felix Simbu, is one of Tanzania's three athletes, who took part in the Tokyo Olympics in Japan.

table displays at countless Olympic Games stretching back to yesteryear.

In a bid, then, to right our enormously embattled Olympic ship, I humbly propose that one sports body should be entrusted with the admittedly sober task of preparing our athletes for the forthcoming Olympic Games.

The point being, of course, that in the event of our athletes colossally failing at future Olympics, this sports body in question will be made to feel the full dreaded force of the public's anger and immense frustration.

Fingers crossed then that if this proposal is welcomed by the powers-that-be, perhaps we

may yet be able to take a sharp U-turn towards the right direction where our fruitless quest to date to frequently win a haul of medals is concerned.

Let us turn our attention now to the new English Premier League (EPL) season, which is already up and running.

It is an ill-kept secret that the EPL is incontestably the most popular European top tier league on the continent and Tanzania is no exception.

Perhaps a solid reason for the EPL's sky-high popularity on the continent is the pertinent fact that there are some highly touted African football protagonists plying their trade in England whose exalted skills are true to be savoured.

Where Liverpool has the predatory Senegalese forward Sadio Mane and his fellow Egyptian marksman Mohammed Salah, Everton FC has the increasingly influential Nigerian midfielder, Alex Iwobi.

Let us not forget, the beleaguered Arsenal FC has two dynamic and lethal African attackers on their books, the ascendant Ivorian Pepe and the talismanic Gabonese fulcrum of the Gunners' attack, Pierre Emerick Aubameyang.

So, Dear Reader, if perchance, you are an ardent fan of the EPL, you should get comfy on the sofa, preferably with a bowl of popcorn, and ready yourself for a real treat!

K&P Constructions cricketers clobber Alaf Aces B squad in Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM'S K&P Constructions cricketers have stepped up their quest for clinching this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League (MNML) Division B 30 Overs title after cruising to a 30-run win over Alaf Aces B outfit in the city on Sunday.

The victory has helped the K&P Constructions team, which has been put in Group B, put pressure on group leaders, Dar Cricket Club (DCC) A.

The K&P Constructions cricketers are positioned second in Group B following the win, given they have notched a victory in two games and lost as many clashes.

In the Sunday duel, the K&P Constructions team recorded 166 runs all out in 28.1 overs once they went in to bat first, thanks mostly to opener Naga Gurijala exploits at the crease.

With the K&P Constructions squad facing an early blow in the form of opener Hema Suryakant Mullapudi's dismissal, it was up to fellow opening batsman, Gurijala, to steady the ship.

Mullapudi was sent for an early shower with four runs, as he was caught by Alaf Aces B's Muaaz Abdulkarim from Ravi Kumar delivery.

Gurijala proved his worth at the crease, given the player cracked 50 runs consisting of six boundaries and a six.

Significant contributions with the bat also came from other batsmen, Nassoro Zahoro, skipper Lakshminanth Sukavasi, and Nageswara Ila Rao.

Zahoro sought to flex his muscles, registering 24 runs which consisted of a boundary. Rao chipped in with 18 runs, as was the case for Sukavasi that stepped at the crease as low order batsman.

Bogineni Prasad sought to make his presence count with 11 runs, clearing the boundary on two occasions.

Experienced cricketer Raza Baloch had a stellar showing during Alaf Aces B's bowling stint, given he took four wickets and a 4.67 economy rate.

Baloch was ably assisted by equally experienced cricketer, Ravi Kumar, in which the latter ended with two wickets and an 8.77 economy rate.



The K&P Constructions Club's Naga Gurijala poses for a picture with the best player of the match's prize that he won for his scintillating showing when his squad faced Alaf Aces B squad in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League (MNML) Division B 30 Overs duel recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR ES SALAAM

In Baloch's bowling exploits, the player took prized wickets of K&P Constructions' Zahoro and Suman Emuru.

Emuru, as a result, experienced a short stint and made his way back with paltry six runs. Needing 167 runs to come out victorious, gave their all with the bat, only to falter with 136 runs, dropping seven wickets in 30 overs.

Experienced all-rounder, Intiyaz Yusuf, deployed at number three, was the top run-getter given the cricket notched 32 runs which included a four.

Six batsmen also made their way back with two-digit scores, which nevertheless failed to bail their outfit out.

Opener Baloch scored 20 runs, seeking to see to it the outfit was hardly affected by an early blow, which came about because of Raj Jatan's early exit.

Promising cricketer Jaffary Kanyita

posted 13 runs, as was the case for Ajith Shetty, as well as Imran Khan who posted unbeaten 13 runs.

Youthful cricketer Acrey Paschal who was deployed as a low order batsman posted 12 runs.

The other low-order batsman, Kumar, made his way back with the bat in hand given the cricketer notched unbeaten six runs. Venkateswararao Katru, Bogineni Prasad, and Harish Munuganti had impressive stints, when the K&P Constructions squad fielded, the cricketers notched two wickets each.

The match's best player prize went to the eventual match winners' player, Gurijala, thanks to his batting exploits.

The loss has seen Alaf Aces B outfit placed second from bottom of the group, given the side has yet to post victory in two fixtures.

Ole: Football like 'rugby' with new fouls rules

LONDON

MANCHESTER United coach Ole Gunnar Solskjær has said the Premier League might start to resemble rugby rather than football regarding fouls if referees continue to show leniency after his side drew 1-1 at Southampton on Sunday.

Solskjær claimed that Bruno Fernandes was fouled by Saints' Jack Stephens in the build-up to the home side's opener in the first half, which was given as an own goal by Fred.

Mason Greenwood levelled for United after the break although Southampton had the best opportunities to win.

"It's a foul, he [Stephens] goes straight through Bruno, with his arm and his hip across him. We can't go from one extreme of volleyball or basketball last season to rugby now," Solskjær told a news conference.

"I like the more lenient way, it's more men's football, but, still, that's a foul."

Solskjær's comments come a day after Liverpool coach Jürgen Klopp criticised the refereeing in his side's 2-0 home win over Burnley, likening Sean Dyche's team's physical play to wrestling.

Officials in England's top flight have been encouraged to have a higher threshold for fouls this season, with referees' chief Mike Riley saying earlier this month that the changes were designed to "allow the Premier League game to flow."

"I thought it was a foul but it's the referee's [Craig Pawson's] decision at the end of the day and

we can't dwell on it," said United forward Greenwood.

"I understand they're going to let more challenges go so the game keeps flowing, which is a good idea, but if there's a foul there's a foul."

Southampton boss Ralph Hasenhüttl said he welcomed the approach, adding that English football used to be renowned for its end-to-end style.

"I was always a big fan of letting the game run a little bit more. This is why I liked English football to be honest. This is why the English football is different to other leagues because of this situation," he said.

The Austrian coach also lamented the fact his side had not been able to take all three points after striker Adam Armstrong was denied by a fine late save from United keeper David De Gea.

"It is a pity, we also had a few chances after the equaliser to win the game, but a fantastic performance from our side," he said. "We changed the shape completely in the second half and I have not seen so many chances for Manchester United. The important thing is the first point of the season and absolutely deserved."

Solskjær added: "It's a game that they can win, we can win."

"We could have and should have scored a few. When they scored we lost our heads a bit. After half-time we were good again until we scored, and then in the last 15-20 we lost momentum and lost our shape."

ESPN

Manny Pacquiao ponders ring retirement, political plans after loss

LAS VEGAS

MANNY Pacquiao sounded like a fighter on his way out and a politician on his way up.

He might have concealed his battered face behind big sunglasses, but Pacquiao didn't hide behind excuses or denial after a discouraging unanimous-decision loss to Yordenis Ugás on Saturday night.

Yes, Pacquiao disclosed that his legs cramped throughout the fight on the Vegas Strip, depriving him of the mobility that has always made his power so dangerous.

The eight-division world champion still acknowledged the larger fact that was obvious even to most of his devoted fans around the world: He deserved his loss to Ugás, a talented opponent who probably wouldn't have been much trouble for prime Pacman.

And that might be a good reason to walk away.

"This sport is my passion," Pacquiao said. "That's why I'm still here fighting at the age of 42. I'm enjoying it, but sometimes you have to think about the response of your body. ... My mind, my heart, it's 100%. But my legs were cramping."

In the moments after he returned from a two-year ring absence with the loss to the rangy, resilient Ugás, Pacquiao repeatedly hinted he is planning to retire from boxing.

He is still alongside Canelo Alvarez as the two biggest active stars in the sport, yet Pacquiao (67-8-2) has never spoken so frankly about leaving behind 26 years in the pro fight game.

"I've done a lot for boxing, and boxing has done a lot for me," Pacquiao said. "I look forward to spending a lot of time thinking about my future in boxing."

Pacquiao's postfight comments included a sprinkling of such catchy, pre-written phrases – sort of like a stump speech by a politician.

Indeed, the Filipino senator's next fight is probably in the political ring: He is widely expected to enter the presidential race in the Philippines next month ahead of the May 2022 election.

"In my heart, I want to continue to fight," Pacquiao said. "But the

thing is, I also have to consider my body. I've put it through a lot of things. Especially back in my country, there's a lot of things that I need to accomplish to help people. I want to be an inspiration to the Philippine people inside and outside the ring."

Countless athletes have struggled mightily to find worthwhile ways to fill their time after retirement. That wouldn't be a problem for Pacquiao: His chaotic life won't get less busy, but it could be a bit more focused with only one career to consider.

If Pacquiao retires, he leaves boxing as one of the greats of his generation. Along with his stunning array of championship belts and his groundbreaking mobility across the sport's weight classes, Pacquiao will be remembered for his utter fearlessness in taking on countless larger foes without blinking.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's devoted trainer for most of the past two decades, acknowledged being "a little worried" about the champ.

"He's boxed for a long time, and he's the best guy I've ever had," Roach said. "The best guy, the best fighter. I hate to see the day when he retires, but this could be it. We'll see what Manny decides."

Another scenario seems equally plausible at this point: Pacquiao doesn't win the presidency in nine months – he is behind several candidates in early polling – and he subsequently gets a highly lucrative opportunity to return to the ring late next year, when he will be nearly 44.

Given Pacquiao's competitive nature and his relatively expensive lifestyle, his self-awareness could be overcome by the rewards of the fight game.

But in the moments after this cramping, frustrated great lost for the first time in four years, Pacquiao was thinking deeply about both his current state and future priorities.

"This situation might finish my career in boxing," Pacquiao said. "But this is my statement to all the boxing fans all over the world: The most important thing is how we can help each other, especially in this pandemic."

AP

Pressure's on Arteta to deliver success after busy summer of big signings

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

SPENDING money is one thing, but spending it wisely is another matter entirely. Arsenal's much-maligned owners have stepped up to the plate this summer, perhaps more than anticipated, backing Mikel Arteta with more than £130 million of new talent in a bid to bridge the gap between the Gunners and the Premier League's leading contenders. Now it is time for Arteta to deliver.

It remains too early to judge him on the signings Arsenal have made this summer – defender Ben White, a permanent deal for Martin Odegaard, a new goalkeeper in Aaron Ramsdale, among others – but Arteta has been given the component parts and the responsibility of moulding them into a team rests squarely on his shoulders.

It's worth remembering that Arsenal actually promoted Arteta from "head coach" to "manager" in September 2020, symbolic of the greater influence he would now have over vast swathes of the club's operations, not least transfer policy. The Spaniard had won the FA Cup a month earlier, but it felt at the time like a leap of faith in a thirty-something embarking on his first managerial role. The decision was in part founded on his clear vision for the path ahead and huge promise as a coach, honed during three years under Pep Guardiola at Manchester City, but Arsenal now need to see that on the pitch.

It was almost painfully predictable how Romelu Lukaku bullied Arsenal's makeshift back-line, and it could have been worse had Pablo Mari earned a second yellow card for hauling down Lukaku at the end of a torrid afternoon. Referee Paul Tierney opted against it, although a sending off may have been the greater mercy in the circumstances.

It was a metaphor for the two teams as a whole: one that is expectant, purposeful and powerful, the other desperately clinging on for dear life, never convincing and ultimately outclassed.

Lukaku marked his second Chelsea debut – 3,648 days after his first – with an all-action display, encapsulated by the opening goal. He didn't score in 15 appearances between 2011 and 2014, but having returned as a £97.5 million signing, he needed just 15 minutes to open his account on Sunday. After holding off Mari with ease, he laid the ball off to Mateo Kovacic, who fed Reece James in acres of space on the Chelsea right. Lukaku's instinct after passing was to drive into the box, where he met James' delivery to side-foot the visitors in front from close range.

The mood among a home crowd at maximum capacity – aside from a smattering of empty seats – for the first time since the start of the

Nice-Marseille abandoned as fans rush field

PARIS

THE Ligue 1 clash between Nice and Marseille was abandoned in the second half at the Allianz Riviera on Sunday after Marseille players clashed with home fans, who pelted them with objects and went onto the pitch.

Nice supporters threw water bottles at Marseille forward Dimitri Payet when he was about to take a corner, and after the forward hurled one back at them, a full-scale brawl ensued when some of the fans rushed onto the pitch.

Both teams retreated to the tunnel, and play was held up for over an hour before Nice president Jean-Pierre Rivere appealed to home supporters over the sound system for calm and their players returned to the pitch to warm up. But Marseille players did not return.

Marseille president Pablo Longoria said the club had decided not to continue with the match despite a decision by the football authorities that play should resume.

"The League decided that the match should continue, but we de-



Arteta, middle, has been given new players this summer and now must show he's the right coach to shape them, and Arsenal, into a winning team again. (Agencies)

coronavirus pandemic in March last year had been one of fervent support, but that began to dissipate as it dawned on them there was little to rally behind.

James doubled Chelsea's lead 10 minutes before the break, and although Arsenal improved a little after half-time, they were unable to put Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy under any sustained pressure. In fact, Lukaku could have extended the Blues' advantage with a close-range header but Bernd Leno saved superbly, just one of several dangerous moments Chelsea failed to capitalise on.

It was too easy for them. Lukaku has proved to be an elite striker during two years at Inter Milan and his acquisition, while expensive, does feel as close to a guarantee of success as is possible, especially given his personal motivation and greater maturity now aged 28. Chelsea are under much less financial pressure to make every penny count, but afternoons like this underline how smart they have been in the market in comparison to many of their rivals.

On the other side, Arteta was without a host of first-team players. White, his £50m centre-back, was unwell, Gabriel has a knee injury, Thomas Partey is battling an ankle problem, Hector Bellerin sustained a "tight thigh" according to the club, Martin Odegaard could not be registered in time following his arrival from Real Madrid, Alexandre Lacazette and Willian had not sufficiently recovered from testing positive for Covid-19 and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was only fit enough a 29-minute cameo off the bench. A lack of cohesion was therefore understandable to some extent, but one of the most damning aspects for the second weekend running was how it remains difficult to discern how Arsenal were trying to get back into the game.

The Gunners managed six shots in 90 minutes; Lukaku had eight on his own. Arteta's side had just three shots on target, and the last came in the 63rd minutes as Aubameyang tried his luck from the edge of the box. It must be noted that Chelsea are European champion, operating with loftier aims than Arsenal at present, but Tuchel arrived in mid-season and organised a team that had become ragged under Frank Lampard, quickly establishing an identity that's delivered immediate success.

Arteta, meanwhile, has been dealt a difficult hand, but he has to prove he knows how to play the game. Last season ended in these parts with fan protests at Kroenke Sports Enterprises as Arsenal's involvement in the failed Super League project reignited longstanding antipathy towards the club's owners. That hostility

remains, but the focus will soon shift to the dugout if Arteta cannot find a serious amount of improvement in the coming weeks.

At least they've only got a trip to Manchester City away next.

Meanwhile, Mikel Arteta believes Arsenal's injury crisis forced him into picking a team "unprecedented in the history of this club" but urged his players not to feel sorry for themselves after a 2-0 defeat to Chelsea.

Arsenal are 19th in the Premier League table after two weeks, suffering a second consecutive loss as Romelu Lukaku marked his return to Chelsea with the opening goal at Emirates Stadium before Reece James doubled their lead.

Arteta was without nine first-team players as Ben White (illness), Gabriel (knee), Thomas Partey (ankle), Hector Bellerin (thigh), and Eddie Nketiah (ankle) joined Alexandre Lacazette, Willian and Alex Runarsson on the sidelines after the latter trio tested positive for Covid-19.

Captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was only able to manage a 29-minute cameo from the bench.

"It is really challenging," he said. "At the moment we are missing nine players and the majority of them are big senior players."

"It is what we have. We put out there a team that it would probably be unprecedented in the history of this football club."

"But credit to the boys, how they are trying, the passion they are bringing to the team. They are playing with a lot of courage in this situation, which is tough."

"They are trying their best and at the moment it is not enough to win football matches."

Arsenal have a Carabao Cup tie against West Bromwich Albion on Wednesday (stream live on ESPN+ at 3 p.m. ET in U.S.) before a daunting trip to Manchester City next weekend. Asked how he will rally his squad ahead of facing the current Premier League champions, Arteta said: "We try to give them confidence and the tools and belief that football changes really quickly."

"The league and the table is not going to be decided in August. I don't want to see anybody feeling sorry for themselves or for the squad, or for the team because that's not going to help us."

"I want a team and individuals who want to fight, that want to face the challenge that is ahead of us. Normally when you do that, at some stage you are going to get the rewards and that's what I'm going to try to do with them."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Pressure's on Arteta to deliver success after busy summer of big signings



Azam FC players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the next season's Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC travels to Zambia for pre-season training

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC squad yesterday headed to Zambia for a pre-season camp to prepare for the new Premier League season, Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup.

The outfit left early in the morning for Ndola where the team's players and tacticians will be there until the beginning of September.

Azam FC's head coach, George Lwandamina, is said to be a major catalyst for his squad to set up camp in Ndola, Zambia.

The club's management has already announced the schedule of international friendly matches for their squad while they participate in drills in the camp.

Azam FC will play four international friendly matches against Zambia's Red Arrows FC on August 25, Zanaco on August 29, Forest DC on September 2, and Zesco FC on September 3.

Azam FC will take part in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup, which officially kicks off on September 15, with the club set to lock horns with Somalia's Horseed FC in the preliminary stage.

If Azam FC qualifies for the next stage the squad will face Egypt giants, Pyramids FC, who enters the tournament as strong favourites to win the title.

The Egyptian outfit had lost the final of the 2020 edition and, in the previous season, it lost to Morocco's Raja Casablanca in the semi-finals.

Azam FC begins the pre-season after finishing in this season's CECAFA Kagame Cup semi-final stage, in which it was knocked out by Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets FC.

Zanzibar's KMKM, later on, notched a 1-0 win over Azam FC in a third-place playoff to end third and relegate the latter to the fourth spot.

Meanwhile, Azam FC Information Officer, Thabit Zakaria, said they had canceled a special day seeking to open a new season, known as the 'Azam festival', which was to be held recently because the schedule was too tight.

With Azam FC seeking to keep pace with the daily market changes, the side last week introduced Jonas Tiboroha as the outfit's director of sports.

The title was previously vacant within the club and Azam FC has been the first to advertise the post which no other team in Tanzania has.

His job is to oversee all matters about football within the club - a position that is second only to the club's chief executive officer and others to follow, including the technical director.

“

Azam FC begins the pre-season after finishing in this season's CECAFA Kagame Cup semi-final stage, in which it was knocked out by Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets FC.

Boucher apologises for offensive songs, nicknames during playing days

PRETORIA

MARK Boucher, South Africa's head coach, has admitted the national team culture in his playing days was exclusionary and blamed it on a lack of "maturity and consciousness," in the immediate post-apartheid era.

He apologised for his role in causing any offense to or discriminating against teammates and committed to creating a more inclusive space going forward.

Boucher submitted a 14-page affidavit to Cricket South Africa's Social Justice and Nation-Building committee containing "general response," to implications of being involved in racial discrimination.

He intends to submit a second supplementary affidavit dealing with specific issues after the hearings. He has also made himself available for one-on-one discussions with former teammates in a bid to mend relationships.

While Boucher's submission dealt with broad issues of team culture, he went into detail about the allegations made by Paul Adams, who told the SJA he was nicknamed brown s*** by his team-mates in the late 1990s.

Boucher explained that the nickname was used at fines' meetings - team celebrations after series win - but that he 'can categorically say that did not give Mr. Adams the name 'brown s***' and 'does not know who gave him the name'.

However, Boucher conceded that he was part of a group of players that sang a song in which Adams' was called "brown s***" and that some of what took place at those post-match celebrations was "totally inappropriate, unacceptable and in retrospect, understandably offensive."

He said Boucher said he "deeply regrets and apologizes for the part I played in joining in with my teammates in singing offensive songs or using offensive nicknames."

Adams' testimony, and that of other players including Roger Telemachus, Loots Bosman, and Ashwell Prince, spoke of a team culture that made them feel unwelcome and where issues of the country's segregated past were undiscussed.

Boucher echoed that and provided the view that the formerly privileged, white players were unprepared for post-Apartheid challenges.

"We were not only naive but were also ill-equipped to deal with the new environment in which we found ourselves," Boucher's statement read. "To my certain knowledge, there had not been any briefing or discussion by CSA as to how we deal with the legacy of Apartheid, how players and management should deal with the additional pressures placed on them by the country and the media, how we ensure that there is equality, respect, empathy and inclusiveness in the team."

"There was no guidance, no culture discussions, no open fora and no one appointed by CSA to deal with awkwardness or questions or pressures that were being experienced by the players and, in particular, by the players of colour."

Boucher noted that this had changed in the last few years and especially since the revival of the Black Lives Matter movement last year. In his time as a coach, Boucher said he had been involved in "intense and meaningful workshops and discussions about how to create an atmosphere of inclusiveness and a culture of respect and empathy between all players."

Earlier on Monday, white-ball captain Temba Bavuma said the team of 2021 is "very different to the early 2000s," and that he is trying to create an environment of "belonging," which stands in stark contrast to the culture Bosman, Telemachus, Adams, and Prince described.

All four spoke about a clique of white players who controlled the team and while they did not name anyone, it was implied that Boucher formed part of this select group. Boucher acknowledged that close friendships were formed in the team by "players of the same age, or with shared in-

Yanga now suspends pre-season camp in Morocco



Yanga's midfielder, Deus Kaseke (2nd R), and forward, Ditram Nchimbi, take part in training with their teammates in Morocco on Tuesday to shape up for the next season's local and continental tournaments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Nassir Nchimbi

MAINLAND Premier League giants Yanga has suspended its pre-season camp in Morocco and instead it will return to train in the country.

Hersi Said, one of Yanga officials that accompanied the squad to the camp, stated that the historic Tanzanian football champions had been forced to suspend the pre-season camp in Morocco.

According to Said, they have been forced to cancel their camp schedule in Morocco for reasons beyond their control, so part of their preparations will be completed here in the country.

He said various reasons led them to make the decision but the main reason is that their eight players are required to join their respective countries' national teams for African qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup.

The Jangwani Street outfit was expected to return to the country on Friday, ready for the climax of a week of social activities that are regularly organized by the outfit, known as 'Mwananchi Week', at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Reliable sources in Morocco say 14 Yanga players have been diagnosed

with COVID-19 infection and will remain in quarantine in Morocco to comply with the disease protocols in the country.

One group of uninfected players returns today and another will return later after completing the quarantine or the infection is over.

Yanga was previously expected to return on August 27 and, later, take part in 'Mwananchi Week'.

Yanga officials have opted out of making the information known but they have been discussing it under cover.

Meanwhile, Yanga's head coach, Tunisian Mohamed Nasreddine Nabi, has asked fans and members of the club to stop putting pressure on his players.

Coach Nabi, who is currently on a trip from Morocco, said the team's members and fans should give their players time, and not compelling them to do what they want in the short term.

He said towards next season he hopes to have a strong and competitive team, despite having little time to prepare due to the late conclusion of Premier League season.

The tactician noted: "We have a lot of new players but if you look at the

league it was too late to end."

Nabi revealed: "Preparation time has been short, soon players will go to their respective countries national teams for World Cup qualifiers."

"When they return we will have a few days before the start of the CAF Champions League preliminary round. Fans should not put pressure on the players, they should wait within 90 days, they will see something different."

Yanga's age-old rival, Simba SC, was the country's other prominent club that traveled to Morocco for pre-season camp.

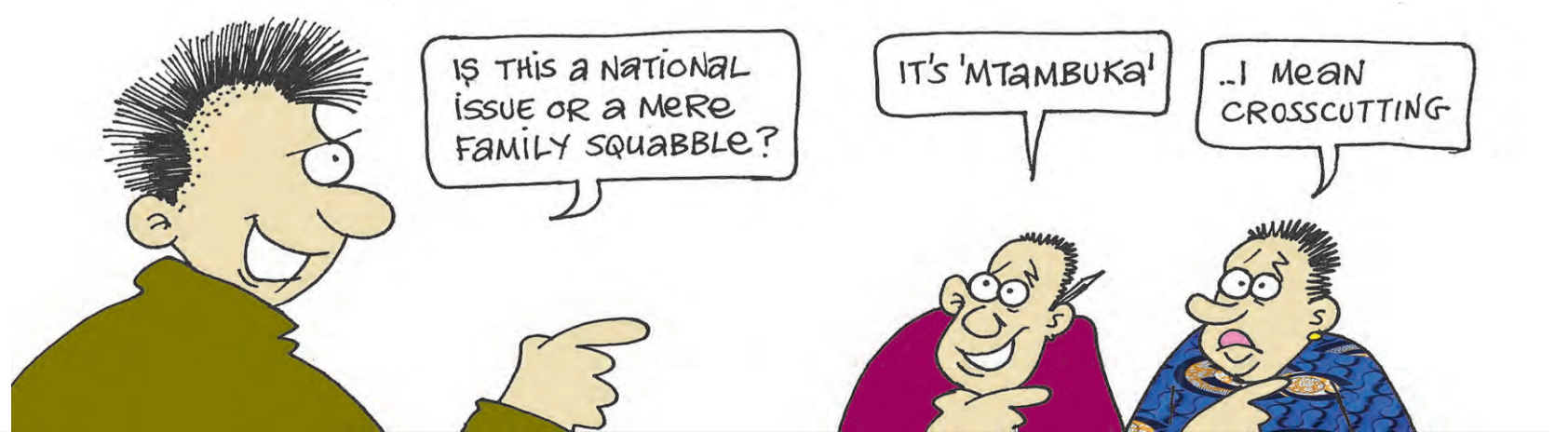
Simba SC head coach, Didier Gomes, has also lamented the absence of his players, who have earned call-ups to their respective countries national teams.

He said the absence will affect the team preparations for the coming season.

"With many of our players called for their national teams, our preparations will be affected but all in all we will continue with the preparations," he said.

While in Morocco Simba has played an international friendly tie against Morocco's FAR Rabat, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM