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MV Victoria, MV Butiama resume services

National Pg 5
Livestock, fisheries sectors see big progress

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Geita mineral expo goes international

SMART MONEY

Angolan envoy touts Dar to Lobito Port transit corridor to boost trade

Mobile technology making potable water accessible to Dodoma, Singida rural folk

HNA's Swissport lends \$354m from creditors to fight Covid-19

Excitement as passenger train arrives for trial run

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

IN ongoing efforts to revive the northern railway Service, a passenger train from Moshi, docked at Arusha Station amid excitement in the afternoon yesterday, signaling the resumption of this mode of transport that was stymied for decades.

Passenger wagons stopped being pulled here by locomotives in the late 1980s, with a few cargo carriages continuing to trickle on the Moshi-Arusha line but with longer durations between arrivals, to as late as year 2003 then trains stopped altogether.

The train made an en-route stopover at Usa-River, where President John Magufuli wired

a phone call to the management of Tanzania Railways Ltd, praising the team for their successful railway line reviving efforts.

People born in the late 1980s and subsequently never saw passenger trains coming to Arusha and many flocked at the railway station to get a glimpse of the engine plus its wagons, with some getting into the carriages for the unique experience.

Railway tracks with their metallic planks still bearing the embossed 'EAR' letters (abbreviating East African Railways), were overgrown with shrubs and segments of the line being vandalized by scrap metal hunters.

Arusha is the final destination for the once

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Arusha regional commissioner Iddi Kimanta signals yesterday to confirm that the railway was clear and safe enough for trains to enter Arusha Region again, as trial runs began on the northern line began, pending resumption - a whole three decades since services were suspended. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya



TCCIA investment firm targeting diversification

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Investment Co. Ltd (TICL), an investment arm of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) has unveiled strategies aimed at increasing its income by nearly 70 percent by 2022.

The company intends to secure a loan from a bank as part of initiatives to facilitate the new strategies by the firm with an income of 1.78bn/- as of 2019 end.

Firm's chief executive officer Peter Kifunguomali (pictured) made these remarks at an annual meeting over the weekend, elaborating that the company

was now expanding its investment portfolio by venturing into fixed income financial instruments.

"We are sure that investing in such instruments offers good outcomes. Our plans for 2020 and beyond focus on increasing shareholder return," he said.

The company's investment portfolio comprises government securities, corporate bonds, bank deposits, equity stock and investment in properties.

At the shareholders' AGM, the proposed dividend of six percent share for the 2019 financial year was approved, an increase from 2.54-percent approved in 2018.

By the end of the year the company had purchased 20-year and 15-year Treasury bonds valued at 5.43bn/-. This was supported by a 3bn/- loan from CRDB Bank Plc, the meeting was told.

This boosted the TICL annual investment portfolio by 6.7 percent to 29.53bn/- from 27.68bn/- as of 2018, the financial report affirmed.

TICL board chairman Fortunatus Magambo said that an rising volume of investments and higher investment

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Govt sets aside 874m/- for technological innovations

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has earmarked 874m/- for assisted development of innovators in various technological fields during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Prof James Mdoe, the Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, told a technology training seminar here yesterday that this initiative is a continuation of government efforts to identify and develop technology innovators.

So far 231 technology inputs created by local innovators especially the youth have been recognized and entered into the national

“ Their innovations should target available economic opportunities for themselves as well as contributing to economic growth

technological database, he said.

The seminar on technological development and innovation issues was intended for community development officers and school-based quality controllers from across the country.

In developing innovators, particularly in the 2019/2020 financial year, the government identified and supported 1,066 technology innovators, with 130 further assisted to facilitate market entrance for their innovations, he said.

"Their innovations should target available economic opportunities for themselves as well as contributing to economic growth," said the top ministerial official, elaborating that in the financial year that ended June 2020, the government had

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TCAA: Drone operators must register this week

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) has directed owners of remotely piloted aircraft systems (drones) to ensure that they are registered by the end of this week.

TCAA said in a statement yesterday that the order affects drones already registered and yet to be registered ones, in accordance with the Civil Aviation (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System) Regulations, 2018, (Government Notice number 758).

"Owners are required to register at TCAA headquarters, Banana-Ukongu in Dar es Salaam or at zonal offices in Arusha, Dodoma, Iringa, Mwanza, Mtwara, Mbeya, Moshi, Kigoma, Songea, Tabora,



Tanga, and Zanzibar," the statement affirmed.

It warned that whoever will be found in violation of the set out procedure will face serious legal consequences, as together with the police TCAA has put in place a task force that will make sure the law is followed.

Alongside other requirements the regulations require owners to apply for permits from TCAA before ordering or seeking to register drones for use in the country's airspace.

Owners must apply for permits from TCAA and seek permission from the police and local authorities in the area where the equipment is to be used.

Late 2018 the government introduced new rules for the special aircraft known as drones, with each such plane requiring registration.

From then on, importing a drone requires a permit from TCAA. Each drone must be registered before being allowed to be flown. For this purpose, a form is to be completed, which is available in the appendix of the regulations schedule.

The law demands that anyone operating a drone

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SIDO trains 45 entrepreneurs in Dodoma on book-keeping

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

SMALL Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) has provided training on book-keeping and self-employment to 45 youth from various groups of entrepreneur in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region.

SIDO provided the four-day training seminar in collaboration with Dodoma Environmental Network (DONET).

Speaking at the seminar, Dodoma SIDO commercial development officer Chrispin Kapinga said the aim of the training was to teach the youth on book keeping, including how to employ themselves without waiting for government employment.

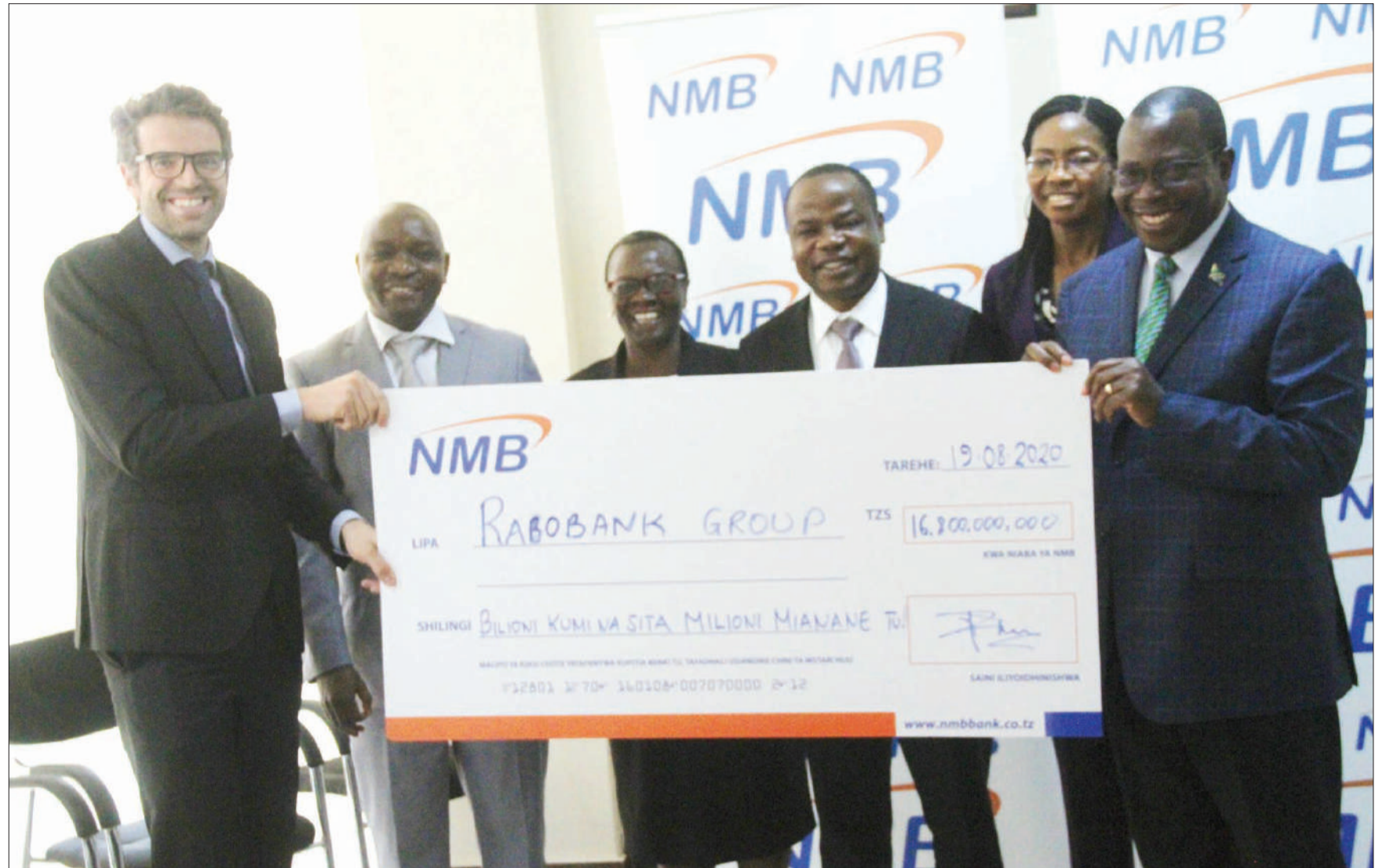
He said the aim to see the youth at the forefront in bringing development to the nation especially now when the country has attained middle income status.

"The youth need to grab the opportunities now that the country has attained middle income status because it needs hard working young people," he said, adding that they like to see every young man attains great success through self-employment.

DONET's coordinator Emmanuel James said the training have been beneficial to the entrepreneurs as it will assist in their various businesses.

He said as for now the nation was moving fast due to the fifth phase government's agenda and that is why they try their level best to provide trainings to the youth so that they should not remain idle.

Emmy Godfrey from Upendo entrepreneurial group said they have benefited from the training, saying that he will put it into practice all that he had learnt.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (R) pictured in Dodoma city at the weekend presenting a dummy cheque for 16.8bn/- to Dutch Embassy First Secretary (Economic Affairs) Mathijs van Eeuwen (L) which NMB Bank Plc issued to the Rabobank Group. Others are Treasurer Registrar Athumani Mbutuka (2nd-L), NMB board member Margaret Ikongo (3rd-L), NMB board chairman Dr Edwin Mhede (3rd-R) and NMB managing director and CEO Ruth Zaipuna. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCAA: Drone operators must register this week

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requires proof of possession of the drone (for example, a receipt) and pay a registration fee of US\$ 100.

The regulations also direct that

anyone flying drones for commercial purposes needs an operator certificate and permits for the flights. Aerial photographs must be prior announced and, where appropriate, approved by security authorities.

TCCIA investment firm targeting diversification

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returns relate to improved internal processes

At the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) the company market's share

price is currently at 350/- per share with equity capital of 25.58bn/-.

The firm also disposed shares worth 1.88bn/- to raise more funds to pursue the company's diversification strategy, he added.

Excitement as passenger train arrives for trial run

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famous Tanga line (earlier known as Usambara Railway as it was the most important economic zone until the mid-1960s), built from 1911 to 1926.

With the maiden passenger train voyage, politics chipped in, with Humphrey Polepole the publicity secretary of the ruling party, joining the travelers on board, who used the platform to remind residents of the looming election campaigns starting

tomorrow, justly.

The rail distance from Arusha to Tanga and to Dar es Salaam is 437 kilometers and 644 kilometers respectively, while the part which connects Arusha to Moshi stretches to 86.1 kilometers.

The northern regions being the country's top tourism circuit, tour operators feel that the railway line can help boost the leisure travel industry, including providing a leisurely link between Arusha and Moshi growing

urban centres to the Kilimanjaro International Airport.

At one time the train engine repairing hangar was reduced to a drinking joint, while a second hand clothes bazaar sprung up at the place, encroaching a considerable portion of the Arusha Railway Station. This was how the vacuum signaled by the end of trains in the budding metropolitan area was filled.

In 2018 and 2019 the railway line rehabilitation was in full swing at a

cost of more than 5.7bn/-, such that from mid last year, cargo trains started travelling from Dar-es-salaam to Moshi and by December, passenger wagons were brought on board, easing the Christmas season rush.

With improved roads and modern passenger busses, few residents saw the urgent need of railway transport, but promising cheaper travel charges, a more relaxed ride and breathtaking scenery, trains may soon harvest new types of travelers up north.



Sabiri Virji (gesturing), owner of a meat processing plant undergoing construction in Arusha Region's Longido District, briefs Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina (C, to Virji's right) at the weekend on the project. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

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allocated 750m/- for development of technology innovators.

The government has continued to improve monitoring and procedures for recognition as well as development of innovators in various fields, he asserted, noting that the government is responsible for recognition of youth talents and in promoting applications of technology, science and mathematics.

"This training seminar has one aim - to capacitate you so that we can

Govt sets aside 874m/- for technological innovations

work together towards promotion and mobilization of science and technology utilization. We need to embrace innovation for our country's development," he emphasized.

Prof Mdoe informed participants that

there are still challenges in collection of data from young innovators at village and ward level, a situation which arises from a poor grasp of the whole concept of technology and innovation.

Prof Maullilio Kipanyula, director

of the Science, Technology and Innovation Department at MESTVT said the training was organized to simplify the process of identifying innovators so that they are developed accordingly.

World Vision Tanzania donates sunflower oil processing plant and warehouse villagers

By Guardian Reporter

WORLD Vision Tanzania has handed over a sunflower oil processing plant and a warehouse to villagers in Simbo ward in Igunga District, Tabora Region.

The plant which was handed over to the Tabora Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati is meant to stimulate development in the surrounding villages and the region at large.

Speaking during the handover event, the organisation's director of programmes John Masenza called on the authorities and the residents to protect the projects for sustainable benefits.

"World Vision Tanzania has implemented a number of projects ranging from agriculture, education, water, health, livestock and economy which has in-turn produced positive impacts to the society. It is better now we all make sure that we protect these projects for them to benefit the present and future generation," he said.

In his remarks, RC Sengati commended World Vision for its contribution in improving people's livelihood.

"The community is ready to complement the stakeholder's support by making sure that they work hard and make good use of the donated machines and warehouse to improve their income and fight poverty," he said.

Dr Sengati instructed the Igunga District Executive Director (DED) Revocatus Kuuli to supervise and make sure that the equipment and infrastructures are well-kept so as to last long and benefit the majority of Simbo residents.

"We really appreciate World Vision for also training our entrepreneurs in

the fields of agriculture and enabling them to adopt modern farming methods for more yields, in this a total of 12,320 small scale entrepreneurs have been capacitated with essential skills on sustainable farming," he added.

He further said that the organisation has also supported the establishment of 15 saving groups which have 496 members in total who have also benefited from various training provided by the organisation.

The Igunga DED, Revocatus Kuuli assured the regional commissioner that his office will supervise to ensure that all the projects implemented by World Vision are well protected.

"We will also make sure that the area is surveyed and given a titled deed because it is important considering that the value of land increases every day," Kuuli said.



The community is ready to complement the stakeholder's support by making sure that they work hard and make good use of the donated machines and warehouse to improve their income and fight poverty



Kibiti district commissioner Gulamhussein Shaban Kifu (2nd-R) and TPB Bank Plc CEO Sabasaba Moshingi unveil a plaque at Ikwiriri at the weekend to launch classrooms, desks and teachers offices worth a total of 57.8m/- donated by the bank to Kilale Primary School. Looking on is TPB director of marketing Deo Kwiyukwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Forum calls for equal participation of PWDs

By Guardian Reporter

AS the country prepares for the forthcoming October general election, the Tanzania Constitutional Forum (Jukata) has challenged electoral bodies and political parties to ensure participation and support to aspirants with disabilities and those from special groups.

Jukata is currently working towards formalisation of an Inclusive Policy for Women, Youth and People with Disabilities (PWDs) in electoral processes as well as in top decision making positions within the government and political parties.

According to Jukata there is no equal representation at political parties' top management positions with PWDs being left aside. "It is time for Tanzanians to start considering people with disabilities and those from special groups as capable of leading others, and that they deserve to be elected at different posts at all the levels," said Deus Kibamba, facilitator of a capacity building seminar to media practitioners held in Dar es Salaam recently.

He however highlighted the deficit of youth in decision making positions. He said about 75 percent of the country's population are youth and 51 percent women, but yet they are poorly presented at top posts within political parties as well as the government. "This new policy suggests for a fair representation at all the positions, we are proposing for women representation at political parties' management posts. We also want

parties to give priority to women contestants as 2010/2015 statistics indicate that 60 percent of women candidates were elected in the general election," he said.

He said the situation is different in Zanzibar whereas the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) has already developed Gender and Social Inclusion Policy to promote the participation of women, youth and persons living with disabilities in electoral processes.

The Policy provides an overall framework and guidance to address the barriers faced by the groups.

Kibamba called upon the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to also come up with similar policy so that political parties ensure equal representation in decision making positions and when nominating candidates for various posts during elections.

In June this year, the Registrar of Political Parties Judge Francis Mutungi underlined the need for civil society organizations to promote mindset change over participation of women, youth and special groups in general elections.

He added that changing the mindsets of people will enable voters to elect leaders in accordance with leadership capabilities and not otherwise. He said both women and people with disabilities can be elected depending on their competences.

He urged that civil society organizations must select the best personnel to represent their ideas to government officials as well as to the targeted audience.

TABOA appeals for review of new electronic ticketing system

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Bus Owners Association (TABOA) says there is a need for the government, in collaboration with the stakeholders to review regulations on transport laws in order to remove levies that increase operation costs in regard to passenger transport.

As for now, the new system calls for electronic ticketing for all passengers, the procedure that will remove inconveniences and fraud.

TABOA aired their complaints at the weekend during a joint sitting between the association and Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), TRA and National Internet Data Centre (NIDC).

TABOA ag. secretary general Joseph John, said it would be better for the authorities to make in depth follow up on operational costs by LATRA.

He said TABOA submitted to them contractors who were ready to do the job at 0.7 per cent charge on the price of ticket, the offer that was rejected, causing the operational burden.

He said another issue was the payment via T-Pesa in which a bus owner is required to inject sum of money into Point of Sale (POS) machine for selling tickets to passengers. John said it would be better if the authorities explained how they are mobilised in regard to legal rationalisation in operating the system to avoid the possibility for transporters being

penalised twice for one offence.

"Here we have two authorities, each with different legal responsibilities, TRA wants a transporter to ensure he issues a receipt, the same with LATRA. Hence it is time we build up strong arguments to the authorities to review the system," he said.

Another complaint raised by the transporters was the 0.5 percentage levy charged by LATRA on ticket sales through the system, saying it was not right because LATRA does not provide any services to them as their basic duty is in the control.

TABOA also complained for not being involved in the process for the procurement of the contractor to operate the ticketing system, including suspension

of bus licenses if they do not join the system. They said it would be better if there was some compromise on the issue among the stakeholders.

After long discussions, the transporters unanimously resolved not to recognise the contractor sought by LATRA without their involvement. They also decided that Electrical Fiscal Devices (EFD) machines should be used for ticketing in case no agreement is reached on the issue and called for LATRA to exit themselves from the system.

The transporters also called for the postponement of the date to start using the new electronic ticketing system to give time for its application by them and the people in general.

JAMUHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA MAMBO YA NDANI YA NCHI
IDAYA YA UHAMIAJI

OMBI LA URAIA WA TANZANIA

Mimi Violet Muke Ang'anda mzaliwa wa Kakamega County nchini Kenya naomba uraia wa Tanzania kupitia Wizara ya Mambo ya Ndani, nimeishi hapa nchini tangu Oktoba mwaka 2016 hivyo yoyote mwenye pingamizi alpeleke kwa kamishna wa Uhamiaji Makao Makuu.

Signature of Applicant

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION
RFQ No. RFQ NO: PIT/RK/O1/FY21
CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF SCHOOL WASH FACILITIES IN NKASI, KALAMBO AND SUMBAWANGA DISTRICTS IN RUKWA REGION

- Plan International Tanzania has received grant from NORAD. The funds are geared to work in collaboration between government, civil society organizations and private sector to address the problem of child early and forced marriage. This will be done through three main approaches: First, keeping children in schools until they are 18 Second, empowering children transition into adulthood with ASRH knowledge and economic potentials, and third, promoting norm change through working with gate-keepers and men. Plan International intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to implement **School Water Sanitation Hygiene improvement initiatives** for which this invitation for quotation is issued
- Plan Tanzania now invites price quotation from eligible contractors for construction and rehabilitation of school wash facilities in Nkasi, Kalambo and

Lot No.	General description	Site Location
1	28 Construction of 8 latrines blocks (4 for boys and 4 for girls) with 9 stances each including change room for girls and urinals for boys.	Kate Secondary school, Swaila and Milundikwa Primary Schools in Nkasi. Miangalua Secondary school in Sumbawanga District
	29 Construction of 3 rain water harvesting systems with one 25 Cubic meter ferrocement storage tank for each school and rehabilitation of WSS at Kate Secondary school	Swaila and Milundikwa Primary Schools, Kate Secondary school in Nkasi District. Miangalua Secondary school in Sumbawanga District
2	1. Rehabilitation of 6 latrines blocks (3 for boys and 3 for girls) in 3 schools.	Kasanga Secondary school, Kisumba Primary School and Kanyeke Secondary school- Kalambo District
	2. Construction of 3 rain water harvesting systems with one 25 Cubic meter ferrocement storage tank for each school	Kasanga Secondary school, Kisumba Primary School and Kanyeke Secondary school- Kalambo District
3	11. Rehabilitation of existing water supply systems in 7 school.	Kalambo District: Matai Secondary school, Kisumba Primary School, Mwimbi Primary school, Kanyeke Secondary school, Mwimbi secondary school and Mwazyze Secondary School. Kate Secondary school -Nkasi District
	12. Construction of 7 rain water harvesting systems with one 25 Cubic meter ferrocement storage tank for each school	Kalambo District: Kanyeke Secondary school, Matai Secondary school, Mwazyze Secondary school, Katazi Secondary School, Zengwa Secondary, Mwimbi secondary school, Kilewani Primary

Bidders may quote for one, two or all lots, but for each lot, bidders must quote for all items and quantities. Bids not quoting for all items and quantities in a lot will be considered non-responsive and rejected for that lot. Bidders are encouraged to visit the construction sites for familiarization and see the real situation prior submission of their bids.

- Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org attn. Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
- All quotations in one original, properly filled in, and marked the description of the Lot number applied for and RFQ number PIT/RK/O1/FY21, must be scanned and submitted electronically to: electronic.bids@plan-international.org before 10AM Monday, 14th September 2020. Late bids will be rejected, not evaluated.

The Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technology Building (CT House)
Off New Bagamoyo Rd Next to TBC & NECTA
Plot No. 96 Mikochei Light Industrial Area
Box 3517, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania

215869401

WAKULIMA TEA COMPANY LTD

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. 22/08/2020

Position: Financial Accountant (1 Post),
Reporting to: Group Financial Controller
Term of the Contract: Permanent

Wakulima Tea Company Ltd; the Largest Smallholder Tea Company in Tanzania; supporting over 12000 Smallholder farmers and with 2 factories one in Tukuyu-Rungwe, and the second one is in Mwakaleli- Busokelo District, wishes to recruit well qualified, high caliber, **Financial Accountant**.

Successful applicants will be required to manage all duties and responsibilities, which will be invested on them, major ones will be as follows: -

Responsibilities:

1. Prepare and maintain Cash flows, Monthly Management accounts
2. Manage Annual budgets including Preparation
3. Prepare Year-end Financial statements, manage and assist End of the year audit
4. Supervise Financial Assistant and other employees in the facilitation of the day to day operations including management of the financial data
5. Ensure that, all the company's financial practices are in line with the statutory regulations and legislation
6. Recommend cost reducing solutions
7. Ensure operational compliances and policies are up to date
8. Reconcile monthly bank accounts and General ledgers
9. Liaising with auditors, banks, tax authorities and other external parties depending on the requirement.
10. Managing of the Company Assets including handling of Insurance of the same
11. Any other duties and when assigned by the Senior Management from time to Time.

Education and Qualification
Minimum qualification: CPA (T)
Degree: Bachelor in Corporate Finance/Accounting/Business Administration and any other related field
Experience Level: Management Level
Experience Length: Minimum 4 years as an External Auditor, preferably in agriculture Sector

APPLICATION AND DEADLINE.
The closing date for applications is **28th August 2020**. Only shortlisted will receive the calls from the company.

Application including a covering letter, curriculum vitae, relevant testimonials, e-mails, cellular contacts and two references should be sent with confidence through email or postal address as shown below
fa.wtc2020@gmail.com OR

Managing Director,
Wakulima Tea Company Ltd
P.O. Box 700
Tukuyu.

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Shinyanga regional commissioner Zainab Telack addresses residents of Mondo village in Kahama District yesterday shortly after laying the foundation stone for a water project. Photo: Correspondent Neema Sawaka

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA District Council authorities have said they will give priority for employment to teachers who volunteer to teach in various secondary schools in the district for free in case vacancies for employment come up.

This was revealed by the district's secondary education officer Aliko Mbuba during the projects implementation week of a group of volunteer teachers in government secondary schools in the district dubbed COFAPS.

He said in case employment opportunities for teachers arise, the names of the volunteer teachers will be sent to the regional administrative

Mbeya district council to give priority to volunteer teachers

officer and the Office of the President, Regional Administration and Local Government for them to be employed.

He said the district is faced with the shortage of teachers hence the existence of the volunteer teachers has helped in alleviating that gap especially in regard to science subjects.

He said the volunteer teachers have shown a great spirit of patriotism hence they will receive priority whenever

vacancies occur.

Presenting his report on COFAPS, its secretary Calory Mirambo said the group was established in 2017 with seven teachers who were degree graduates from various universities in the country and its name COFAPS an acronym derived from their names.

"As for now COFAPS has 41 members in various government secondary schools, but there are also 19 teachers who are waiting to be called," Mirambo

said.

He said the group has covered five wards out of six which were targeted, including Bonde la Usongwe, Utengule -Usongwe Nsalala, Iwindi and Kata Ijombe wards and that Igale Ward is yet to be covered.

He said eight schools are in the wards including Ilunga, Iwindi, Mwaselela, Usongwe, Songwe, Malama, Iwalanje and Nsongwi Juu secondary schools.

Residents hail rehabilitation of MV Victoria and Butiama

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

RESIDENTS in Lake Zone regions have hailed the government for reviving Mv. Victoria and Mv. Butiama ships, a move that will significantly help to improve transport services and thus stimulate economic development in the areas.

Mv. Victoria that plies between Mwanza and Bukoba and Mv. Butiama between Mwanza and Ukerewe on Lake Victoria had stopped operations for a couple of years after they developed mechanical defects.

The residents told The Guardian in separate interviews that operations of the vessels have started to provide relief to passengers' fares and costs of cargo transportation.

Sebastian Mutayoba, a trader and resident of Mwanza noted that when Mv. Victoria stopped operations, business people had to use trucks to transport bananas from Bukoba to Mwanza paying relatively higher costs than that now charged by the vessel.

With the resume of ships, businesspersons can now save money they could use for transportation of cargo between the two points and get more profits, Mutayoba said.

"So the ferries will not only save costs in transportation of cargo but rather enable passengers to save money for other use as the fare is affordable," he said.

Magabala Magesa a resident of Ukerewe said that operations of Mv. Butiama has made transport between Mwanza city and Ukerewe Island

be more reliable unlike in the past few years when passengers mostly depended on privately-owned vessels which are eventually costly.

"With all these, we actually commend the government for its efforts it has been doing to improve transport conditions between the two points and other areas on Lake Victoria on the country's side," Magesa said.

Commenting on it, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of state-owned Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL), Eric Hamissi appealed to people to make utilize well the presence of the vessels by transporting business cargo and thus improve their livelihoods

He noted that state-owned vessels charge cheaper fare as well as costs for transportation of cargo than privately-owned ships to enable as many people as possible to afford costs.

Mv. Victoria-Hapa Kazi Tu has a carrying capacity of 1,200 passengers and 200 tonnes of cargo while the Mv. Butiama has the capacity to carry 200 passengers and 100 tonnes of cargo.



So the ferries will not only save costs in transportation of cargo but rather enable passengers to save money for other use as the fare is affordable

DC suspends sand mining in two villages over land dispute

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

Mvomero

AUTHORITIES in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region have suspended sand mining activities in Lumbungo and Sanganga villages following a land dispute between the two villages.

Mvomero District Commissioner, Albinus Mugonya announced the suspension of sand mining at Lumbungo village located along the Iringa road to allow district officials to work on the ten-year land conflict.

Addressing villagers from the two villages, DC Mugonya accused village leaders over lack of transparency in dealing with the matter.

He said village leaders were not sharing information with the villagers on steps made in finding a solution to the problem.

The DC said that the law requires village leaders to inform citizens on land ownership procedures as well as what to do to acquire mining licences.

He said sometimes such conflicts are due to poor understanding of the laws.

Mugonya said that sand extraction will resume after the Morogoro Regional Commissioner is satisfied with the re-demarcation of the villages.

"It is important for local leaders to involve the villagers when setting up the boundaries, this will help to end the long existing conflict between Lumbungo and Sanganga villages," he said.

Sand mining activities at the area started in 2008, according to the DC.

DC Mugonya pledged to take the

matter to the Regional Commissioner's office since he is new in the area. He said the government was aware that some villagers depend on sand extraction to raise incomes, but the village government also gets money through the activities.

One of the sand miners from Sangasanga village, Yusuph Mohammed pointed fingers at local leaders, saying they had for years failed to resolve the conflict, calling leaders to agree on the boundaries of each village so that villagers continue with mining.

He also accused some village leaders for being bias when it comes to issuance of mining licences.

Mohammed said that only a few people had managed to get the licences, the thing that fuels land conflicts in the area.



It is important for local leaders to involve the villagers when setting up the boundaries, this will help to end the long existing conflict between Lumbungo and Sanganga villages



The expansion of the stretch of Morogoro Road to eight lanes between Dar es Salaam and Kibaha in Coast Region is well in progress, including the construction of this flyover at Mbezi Mwisho just outside the city, as captured by Correspondent Sabato Kasika yesterday.

Moravian church bishop urges Tanzanians to exercise their voting right in elections

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

TANZANIANS have been urged to come out in big numbers to cast their votes during the General Election on October 28, this year to elect leaders who will bring development to them.

The call was made at the weekend by

Bishop Kenan Panja of the Moravian Church of Tanzania, South Rungwe Diocese in Mbeya Region during a fundraising event for the construction of the Moravian Church, Kyela Parish.

Bishop Panja said voting is a constitutional right of every Tanzanian hence called on them to exercise this

right in deeds. He called on fellow clerics to continue mobilizing people to vote as the exercise is the correct interpretation of democracy.

The Church's retired chairman Clement Mwaitebele said President John Magufuli has done great work in teaching Tanzanians economic self-

reliance and refuse depending on assistance with strings attached.

He said even the churches have started learning how to depend on themselves, different to what it used to be in the past when many denominations were depending on foreign assistance, some with difficult

conditions attached thereto.

The chairman of the church's construction committee Sem Mwakaje said he called the fundraising for the completion of construction work without any foreign assistance.

He said they anticipate to raise 40m/- and called upon church followers to

continue giving assistance.

The project's initiator, Musa Rev. Mwakabele said since the start of the church's construction, they had expected to receive assistance from Europeans but due to harsh conditions attached thereto, they abandoned the idea and turned to their followers.



State House Comptroller Ngusa Samike pictured yesterday presenting to Chamwino District Sheikh Suleiman Abdallah Matitu (R) money collected at a fundraiser held at the request of President John Magufuli at a Chamwino Catholic church on Sunday for the construction of a mosque. Photo: State House

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

Over 100 traders in Mwanza to benefit from revamped market

MORE than 100 traders are expected to benefit from the refurbished Kiloleli market in Ilemela Municipality, Mwanza Region. The market is furnished with a special breastfeeding and resting centre.

This was revealed here yesterday when the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr John Jingu who visited the renovated market.

He said that the market will build themselves economically and be able to improve family care and thus bringing joy to majority of women.

He urged non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to work closely with the government and support it fulfill its development goals which include solving various challenges in society.

"I will be your ambassador from now, and wherever I go I will encourage others to emulate and constrict a market like this, this is a very big thing," he said.

He said that the government is now focusing on three areas which include women, children and NGOs by ensuring that it puts conducive

policies and laws to favor the groups.

Jingu assured traders that the government will continue putting conducive business environment to ensure that they conduct their activities smoothly and contribute to the country's economic development.

Yasin Ally, executive director of Kivulini organisation said that they decided to implement the project so as to rescue and support women especially those who are breastfeeding to have more relaxable and privacy rooms to take care of their children.

He said that construction and renovation of the infrastructures has spent 152m/- which include a breastfeeding building, modern toilets to serve both normal and People with Disabilities (PwDs) and bus stations.

For his part, community development officer Raphael Mphuru said that both formal and informal traders are set to benefit from the newly

refurbish market as it is going to register new traders who are currently operating in informal areas.

Speaking on behalf of the Ilemela Municipal Director, the development officer of the municipality Sitta Singibala commended the organisation for its support saying that they will continue collaborating with the organisation to bring more positive impacts to the society.

Some of the traders hailed the organisation saying that the revamp of the market will benefit majority of traders who have been encountering losses from their businesses because they conduct their activities in informal places.

"We are so happy to have this beautiful market now, we were previously facing a number of challenges especially during rain, we really thank Kivulini for constructing the bus station also as we will now take only one car to the market," said Mariam Silas, one of the traders.

State's determination to raise livestock and fisheries productivity has born fruit - Mpina

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister Luhaga Mpina has said that the country's livestock and fisheries output has gone up progressively in the last five years as a result of government's bold determination to revamp the sector.

Mpina said in his report that the achievement is a result of strong determination of the fifth phase governance to reform the two sectors, which employ millions of people—directly and indirectly.

According to him, the reforms targeted to ensure the two sectors assume an important role in income, employment and food security.

The minister said the government has been able to repeal over 50 laws, rules and regulations and further reduced a total of 85 charges with the view to boost productivity and competitiveness.

The reforms, according to Mpina, have helped increase revenue collections from 21bn/- in 2015/16 to 72bn/- in 2019/20.

It is estimated that the fisheries sector, grew at a compounding annual growth rate of 9.2 per cent, accounting by over 1.71 per cent of GDP in 2019/20.

The data indicates that the population of Nile perch, for instance, rose by 95 per cent from 417,936 tonnes in 2014/15 to 816,964 tonnes in 2019/20. This also includes an increment in the population of Nile perch length from 16cm to 25.2 cm.

Report also shows that species which were on the verge of extinction, considering that the population of Nile perch with a length of between 50-85cm and that of over 85cm was only 3.3 per cent and 0.4 per cent in the 2017 survey.

But, the minister told reporters that such species had increased to 32 per cent and 5.2 per cent in 2019 respectively.

He also revealed that fishing production increased from 362,645 tonnes or worth over 1.48trn/- in 2015/16 to 497,567 tonnes worth over 2.34trn/- in 2019/20.

"We have also reduced importation of fish from 56.12bn/- worth fisheries in 2016/17 to 1.6bn/- in 2018/19. Also export of fish rose to 692bn/- in 2018/19 from 379.25bn/-," he said, noting that such development helped the government increase collections from 17.8bn/- to 37.7bn/-.

The minister attested that the government is investing in deep sea fishing activities

and is seeking financial back-up from Japan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to procure large-scale fishing sheep.

Fighting illegal fishing in both freshwaters and in the Indian Ocean is another area the government has been working on, according to the minister.

The campaign had reduced activities by over 80 per cent and 100 per cent respectively.

During the campaigns, the minister said a total of seven patrol zones were established and helped seize 1.267million illegal fishing gears, 4,583 grenades as well as arresting some 14,384 illegal fishermen.

On livestock, Mpina said the government's reforms had increased the livestock population from 25.8million cows in 2015/16 to 34.4million in 2019/20. The number of goats is currently 21.2million, up from 17.1million. Sheep and chicken also increased to 5.8million and 83.28million from 4.8million and 37million respectively.

The revenue generated in the sector has increased substantially from 12.6bn/- to 44.9bn/- as a result of an increase in production and exports.

He cited for instance dairy products rose from 2.1billion litres to 3billion litres between 2015 and 2020. Meat and leather production increased from 636,556 tonnes and 15.4 million kilogrammes to 701,676 tonnes and 18 million kilogrammes respectively.

"This is all a result of changes in the legislations in which cost of vaccination for instance, was reduced by 51 per cent from 482bn/- to 237bn/-," he said. He went on to explain that the government had also revamped its research units and charges with the view of improving productivity.

He announced that at least five mid and large scale livestock by-products are expecting to begin production this October, the plan which will increase jobs and income among the farmers and ordinary people.

"We are building at least 23 slaughterhouses. This will provide quality and affordable leather needed in processing factories across the country," he said. One of the slaughterhouses include the 15bn/- worth Vingunguti.

Dairy processing factories have increased to 32 from 20 and the government is allocating additional 3.6million hectares of pasture land for pastoralists from only 1.4million hectares.

Cleric tells youth: Peace is in your hands

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

DEPUTY Mufti in Zanzibar, Mahmoud Mussa Wadi, has called on youth to maintain peace ahead of the October General Election.

Speaking during youth forum on peace and stability held at the Gombani in Chake Chake, Sheikh Wadi wanted the young to ensure that they contribute immensely to promote peace and harmony.

"We are heading towards a good but also difficult period of election, and during this period young people have a very big role to play so as to ensure that peace is maintained throughout the period, we all know that without peace, there is no development," he said.

According to him, educating and reminding young people on the importance of promoting peace is vital for the country's development.

For his part, Sheikh Said Ahmad Mohamed, one of the presenters at the forum said that it is better to be thankful for the grace of peace that

God has blessed us with.

"Let me call upon young people in the country to refrain from groups which are not patriotic, it is better for the young people to know their positions and work tirelessly to promote peace," he added.

He also said that religious leaders also have a role to play through ensuring that they bring their followers tighter and educate them on the importance of having a peaceful country.

The Chake Chake Officer Commanding District (OCD) Mfaume Mussa said that there are several indicators of peace breakage especially in this period of election but they are working hard to fight all the signs.

"Let us work together to protect our peace, let us not leave the police force alone on this duty, we should all together make sure we are ambassadors of peace and by reporting anyone who will be seen violating the law," he said.

One of the participants, Arif Mohamed called on the police force to protect those who are going to the stations to report crime incidents.

"It is not we don't have the information, no, we have them but sometimes fear to come to report to the police station due to privacy protection challenges, I remember I sent a report at Chake Chake but before reaching home the suspect got informed that I am the one who went to report him, this shows that there is no privacy," Mohamed lamented.

An Anglican bishop at Vitongoji Benjamin Kisanga commended the organisers of the forum calling on the participants to go and preach peace wherever they go.

Earlier, the representative of the forum's organisers Jamaly Ally Hussein said that the aim of the forum was to bring together young people, capacitate them with more information and skills to help them promote and strengthen peace in the country.

"The peace programme commenced in November 2019 and expected to be completed in December, this year. The project is under the Anglican Church of Tanzania with funds from European Union (EU)," Hussein said.



Dr John Jingu, Permanent Secretary for the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, spends time with children cared for at Nyerere Centre at Igombe in Mwanza Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE CLARIFICATION ON THE REQUIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES' TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) FOR PAY AS YOU EARN (PAYE) RETURNS

Tanzania Revenue Authority ("TRA" or "the Authority") wishes to clarify on the requirement for employees to submit their Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TIN) as follows:-

That following the launch of the **e-filing system** on 6th August 2020, the system among other tax returns, includes returns on withholding taxes on Pay As You Earn (PAYE).

As a result of this development, from now on it shall be mandatory for employers to indicate TIN of employees associated with PAYE deducted from each one of them. For employees that already have TIN, the employers will simply include them in the PAYE returns.

For employees who, at present, do not have TIN, but are in possession of the National Identity Card (NID)—issued by the National Identification Authority (NIDA)—and those who have the National Identification Number (NIN), will have to apply for TIN through our **Online TIN Registration System** which is available through the TRA website (www.tra.go.tz).

However, for employees who have neither NID nor NIN will have to visit TRA offices, which are widespread across the country, so that their pictures and biometric information may be astutely captured and the TIN issued immediately.

Employers are advised that during this transition period, where an employee does not have TIN, they should use the dummy TIN **999 999 999** to process the salaries of the respective employees.

In addition to the explanation above, the transition period for those who do not have TIN will end on **31st December 2020**. Thereafter, there will be no further extension whatsoever. So we kindly urge all employers and employees to do their best to fulfil their glorious obligations in this aspect within the prescribed time taking into account the legal requirement of taxpayers to having TIN stand out categorically in **Section 22 of Tax Administration Act of 2015, CAP. 438, R.E 2019**.

For more information, please visit the nearest TRA Offices. Also, you may visit our website (www.tra.go.tz) or call us on our toll free numbers **0800 750 075** or **0800 780 078**, or send us WhatsApp messages on **0744 23 33 33** or write to us email through services@tra.go.tz.

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Issued by;

THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXPAYER SERVICES AND EDUCATION
TRA HQ, DAR ES SALAAM

Minerals expo in Geita set to go international come next September

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFTER running for two consecutive years the Geita Gold exhibition moves into third installment next month while also transforming itself from the former national entity into an international Mineral Expo.

The Geita Gold Exhibition which is now revolving into an International Minerals and Mining Trade Fair, is expected to run from the 17th to the 27th of September 2020, this time focusing on responsible and environment friendly methods deployed in global extractive industries.

"The Geita Gold Exhibition itself isn't new, in fact this year's 2020 version is the third installment in the series that has been running annually since 2018, this time however the event is taking international approach," stated Apolinary Modest, the Executive Director for Geita Municipal Council.

He explained that Minerals Minister, Dotto Biteko has undertaken the responsibility of sending invitations to other countries through their embassies in Dar-es-Salaam and Nairobi, so that they could participate in the next September Gold Expo.

"Already all the 26 regions of Tanzania have confirmed to participate in the International Gold Exhibition and Minerals Expo which will take place in Geita next September," said Modest when speaking to The Guardian over the phone on Monday.

The event, according to the director will bring the world to Tanzania and open investment doors to Geita, the upcoming new region, famous for its abundant minerals and agriculture.

Geita has already established a 24/7 export processing zone, the first in East Africa to operate around the clock, which comprises an economic and export zone as well as a gold trading center.

Recent Parliamentary Committee findings revealed that Buzwagi and Bulyanhulu gold mines in the Lake Zone alone might be producing 223 metric tonnes of gold annually, said to

be the highest in Africa and enough to put Tanzania on the map of top global gold producers.

A decade ago, a special probe committee led by retired Judge, Justice Mark Bomani reported that Tanzania had reserves of 2,222 metric tonnes of gold, waiting to be exploited.

China has been the leader in annual gold production, averaging 450 metric tonnes a year, followed by Australia with the capacity of 270 metric tonnes, according to the recent data released by the World Gold Council.

South Africa is the only country ranked, at position nine among the top 10 gold producers. Johannesburg, despite its famed mineral trade lags behind Tanzania in gold production with an annual production capacity of 140 metric tonnes.

Authorities are planning to map the precinct into a global gold trading hub, similar to what Arusha is currently doing with its rare Tanzanite gemstones.

Geita Township located in the country's north-western direction some 90 kilometers from Mwanza, has a population of more than 50,000 residents. The town is in the center of a gold mining area and serves as the administrative headquarters of Geita Region in the Lake Victoria Zone.

In December 2018, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa flagged off the construction of a commodity market facility covering 7700 square meters of land and upon completion later this year it will house nearly 300 traders. The auxiliary corresponding facility coming up next year may boost the area into nearly 15,000 square meters of space.

"Already all the 26 regions of Tanzania have confirmed to participate in the International Gold Exhibition and Minerals Expo which will take place in Geita next September"



Ezra Mutagwaba, a deputy director in the Livestock and Fisheries ministry, speaks at a meeting involving sardine and seaweed stakeholders held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is with the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Rashid Tamatamah (C) and SWAOFish coordinator Daniel Nkondola (R). Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

WFT appeals to media houses to prioritise women contesting elective posts in 2020 General Election

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

WOMEN Fund Tanzania (WFT) has appealed to media houses in the country to give priority to women contesting various elective positions in the coming General Election.

Speaking here while presenting a paper during a meeting organised by the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF), Bernadetha Kapolo from WFT noted that women and girl children are always being sidelined by the media during the campaigns and election.

"As a network we asked ourselves what happened in 2015 general elections where 53 percent of the

voters were women, this means if women take more leadership positions in health, education among others they can empower more women," she said.

She argues that women agenda should be given priority in this year's elections and not just mere talks that women are the mothers of all people in the country.

Bernadetha said that as a network they would like to see many women voted in various national leadership positions for the voice of fellow women in the country to be heard, adding that the number of women who won ward and parliamentary

seats was not big.

She said if editors decide to broadcast or publish a lot of issues concerning women they can bring a lot of changes, stating that currently only women who have names are more publicized. Bernadetha added that once regularly publicized, an idea can be well understood by the public.

She cited a scenario whereby the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Anna Mghwira, while campaigning for the last presidential election under ACT ticket, reached at a certain area and was shocked when people asked about Zitto Kabwe, believing that

women cannot take top leadership positions.

According to the WFT member, media should work without favouritism saying media fraternity should ask, "As media what have we done to empower women or what are the plans to cover women campaigners in the coming polls?"

Uhuru Group Media, Dodoma Zonal Editor, Kiondo Mshana observed that editors should remain objective and adhere to ethics and laws governing elections in their coverage. He cautioned them to avoid abusive languages even if used by contenders on public platforms.



Said Chiguma, chairman of an association for people originally from Suguti village in Musoma Rural constituency but now living in various parts of Tanzania, addresses a meeting held in Dar es Salaam at the week. It was called to discuss ways to support development projects in their home village. Left is deputy chairman Kusaga Gombanila and second-right is secretary Joseph Jandwa. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TADIO challenged to offer solutions to communities' problems

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

THE Network of Community Media in Tanzania (TADIO) has been called upon to make decisions that will solve its members' problems.

A facilitator from Empower Limited Amani Shayo made the call recently during a capacity building session on management development and leadership skills to TADIO's secretariat staff and board members.

"The decisions you make will have an impact and those who come with solutions are those we look for as leaders. As you solve problems and decide on behalf of your people,

you need also to resolve conflicts. Leadership cannot be taught, it has to be experienced," said Shayo.

For his part, Prosper Kwizize TADIO's Board Chairperson said the capacity building on management development and leadership had come timely to address TADIO's needs.

"Each community radio has its own behaviour, ambition and strategy to serve the community. As leaders, we have a great responsibility to control behaviours of our member community radios. Lack of flow of information is what creates conflict. The capacity building should improve our communication skills," stressed the

chairperson.

Among the topics taught during the session were the difference between a manager and a leader, their attributes, conflict resolution, team building as well as stress management.

In Tanzania, UNESCO through funding from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) supports 25 community radios and the Network of Community Media in Tanzania (TADIO) an entity with 35 members comprising of 34 community radios and Pemba Press Club.

The support is meant to ensure that people in Tanzania, especially the poor, women and girls, have the capacity to

make informed decisions on issues that affect their daily lives based on access to relevant, culturally appropriate, gender responsive accurate information and knowledge.

The coverage of Community radio stations under the network is 74 percent of the United Republic of Tanzania, with a total estimated population of 33 million people.

The capacity building session is the third for the year, where UNESCO has contracted Empower Limited to build institutional capacity of TADIO.

Other sessions conducted were on communication and visibility as well as resource mobilisation.

'Contradicting issues in AU's charter on democracy make Tanzania delay ratification'

By Guardian Reporter

INDEPENDENT candidates and challenging presidential poll results in court are some of the contradicting issues contained in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) that make Tanzania delay to seal and endorse the Africa Union (AU) document.

This was revealed at a one-day workshop in Dar es Salaam, which was organised by the Tanzania Youth Vision Association (TYVA).

Aimed at reflecting the 2020 October General Election, the meeting brought on board human rights activists from different CSOs, and representatives from Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), Office of the Attorney General, and Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

Speaking at the meeting, a senior State Attorney in the Attorney General (AG) chambers, Beatrice Mpangala said that the charter advocates for independent candidates and challenging presidential poll results in court, something, she said is contrary to what is stipulated in Tanzania's Constitution.

As of June 28, 2019, out of 55 African Union (AU) member states, five - Tanzania, Libya,

Morocco, Egypt and Eritrea - had neither signed nor ratified the charter.

According to Mpangala, signing the document would endorse independent candidates and petitioning against presidential election results contrary to Articles 41 and 42 of the Union Constitution, leading to serious legal contradictions.

According to her, stakeholders' debate and comprehensive research are required to establish the best way forward for the country.

"Signing and ratifying the document

under the present status would be celebrated by the global community, but creating troubles in the country," she said.

She said Tanzania withdrew its membership with the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR) making implementation of the recent ruling in advocate Jebra Kambole's case on ACDEG difficult.

Mpangala said signing the charter under reservation was the only available alternative, therefore calling for stakeholders' patience as the government was working on the issue.

"To me as a lawyer, the charter has nothing wrong, except the two issues when compared with the United Republic of Tanzania constitution," she said.

Statistics show that 46 AU member states have signed the charter; while 34 others had signed and ratified the document by June last year.

For his part, PCCB official, Matai Kilumbi said that ACDEG stresses the fight against corruption and wise use of public resources and Tanzania has been working on that "and this year, we're prepared to ensure elections are free from corruption."

"PCCB believe that corruption derails democracy and free and fair election," Kilumbi said.



To me as a lawyer, the charter has nothing wrong, except the two issues when compared with the United Republic of Tanzania constitution



Residents of Emeirete village in Monduli Juu, Arusha Region, collect stones at the weekend for use in improving their houses under a project initiated by Monduli Community Development College. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

By Guardian Reporter

'Africa could become world's next automotive industry powerhouse'

DELOITTE in partnership with the African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM) have organised the first Africa Automotive Forum to find solutions to the challenges hampering initiatives to promote the automotive industry and automotive industrialisation in Africa.

The virtual forum which will bring together some of the industry's greatest minds and expert stakeholders from across the world have been themed: 'The Africa Automotive Forum: Jumpstarting the industry through insight, dialogue and debate'.

Dr Martyn Davies, Managing Director of Emerging Markets and Africa at Deloitte said: "The opportunities for growth are there, but there are still challenges across Africa. This conference is about unpacking those issues, finding solutions, and lighting the way to ensure our shared vision for the continent is achieved."

He added: "Not every African country is able to grow and industrialise a fully-fledged automotive industry sector. So, beyond these hubs, we need to build a hub and spoke model, where a hub such as Kenya, for example, can be supported by a supply spoke from neighbouring countries."

He noted that lack of political will can be the death knell for any industry, hence the need for the automotive sector across the continent to push for legislative change, much like what has recently been seen in Ghana.

The Ghana Automotive Development Policy, through its Ministry of Trade and Industry has already laid the way for the country to become a fully integrated and competitive industrial hub in West Africa.

However, other countries are failing to realise the potential benefits, and are focusing more on the imported, used vehicle industry.

"The political will to support the

significant medium-term economic and good job creation benefits of an effective auto industry is often overshadowed by the short term gains of customs revenue for imported used vehicles - when duty is actually paid. To create a cross-continental industry, getting governments on board to support legislation that elicits investor confidence is paramount," he said.

The pending African Continental Free Trade Agreement could hold much promise for deeper value chain creation for the automotive value chain creation going forward, said Davies.

"Prices are also inflated by bad infrastructure and taxation, so the first step is to reduce this dramatically - as we've seen in Ghana. The importation of pre-owned, dumped and unroadworthy vehicles, needs to be controlled through legislation that protects the consumer and the local economy," said Davies.

African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM) CEO, Dave Coffey said the solution to imported used vehicles is to develop a pan-African automotive sector with the establishment of assembly nodes/hubs in the South, West, East and North of Africa and a spread of value adding activity such as component manufactures in neighbouring economies based on their resources or comparative industrial advantages.

"Partnerships between countries have been key to the development of auto industries across the world; this facilitates scale which is necessary in this globally competitive industry," said Coffey.

He said: "Creating vehicle demand is about affordability, because for many Africans consumers, the high cost of new vehicles is the main obstacle to

ownership. Poor infrastructure and high logistics costs do not support a competitive value chain, but this can be changed with enough political will. This could include effective policies for financial institutions that supports affordable asset-based vehicle financing and alternate mobility solutions that stimulate demand."

Interest rates on new vehicles also remain an obstacle for prospective buyers, he said.

"In Africa, you generally have interest rates above 20 percent, and that's not affordable. It is important that we explore solutions with governments. The question is, how can we work with financial institutions and the value chain to offer interest rates of 10 percent or less? That is fundamental to driving affordability," said Coffey.

Africa has the potential to become the world's next automotive industry powerhouse. The opportunities are there - with a young, growing population and rapid urbanisation across the continent.

Some forum presenters include, Alan Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry, Ghana who will give a keynote address and Mike Whitfield, AAAM President, Chairman of Nissan Group of Africa and Managing Director of Nissan Egypt will lead a discussion on enabling government policy with automotive industry practitioners.

Others are Masa Sugano, Deputy Executive Director, Africa Region of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Mike Mabasa, Chief Executive Officer of National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA), and Anthony Black, Professor in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town.

Tanzania to restore green urban spaces

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA is waking up to restore green spaces in urban areas, which over the past many years have given way to buildings and infrastructure.

Like many other cities in the world, Africa's fast-growing metropolis Dar es Salaam has lost most of its green cover to concrete jungles.

With the help of the World Bank, Tanzania has launched an ambitious project worth \$330 to rekindle the old glory of Dar es Salaam to identify and restore green spaces.

The project entails coherent strategies to build a clean and efficient city that is resilient to natural disasters and to create competitive economies that provide jobs to the majority of the city dwellers.

The commercial port city Dar es Salaam, which contributes over 40% of the country's GDP, is highly susceptible to climate change risks, including flooding, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, water scarcity, and insect-borne diseases.

World Bank's Urban Specialist Erick Dickson, said the objective of the project is not only to upgrade the identified open spaces but also to

raise awareness about the value of public space in the urban development agenda.

"With the city of Dar es Salaam growing as quickly as it is, the Tanzanian government and the World Bank are planting the seeds for continued engagement to grow a more balanced city with spaces for all," he said.

A 2017 World Bank report had concluded that urbanising in Africa is rapidly degrading the environmental assets of its cities.

"Protecting those assets can increase the productivity and livability of these cities, improve tourism opportunities, and enhance resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events," the report said.

"The scale of environmental destruction in this city is very big. Even the patches that still appear green, will soon disappear," said a 67-year-old Salim Ali who lives at Magomeni area in Dar es Salaam.

The Msimbazi River that flows across the city, from the higher areas of Kisarawe in the coastal region and discharges into the Indian Ocean is severely degraded and its adjoining wetland is infested with wastes and contaminated.

Thousands of informal settlements in Dar es Salaam are located close to river banks including the flood plains of the river system.

Despite rules that restrict the construction of human settlements at least 60 meters on either side of all rivers in the city, the government has virtually failed to enforce the law.

"We don't have a clear-cut policy and strong laws on urban planning and environment, that's why city fathers give priority to affluent developers at the expense of environmental," said Wilbard Kombe professor of Urban Land Management at Ardhi University.

He is confident that recent amendments made to the city master plan will greatly improve its performance on environmental protection and climate change adaptation. "Rapid population growth and poor urban planning are serious problems that need attention," he said.

Local urban planners say commercial investments have taken huge spaces, which have narrowed the pavements thus blocking natural movement patterns.

"We need clear cut policies and laws that strictly prohibit any investments in protected open spaces," said Kombe.

200 local and foreign exhibitors to participate in Mwanza's EATF

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

OVER 200 local and foreign exhibitors are expected to take part in this year's East African Trade Fair in Mwanza, scheduled to kick off on August 28 to September 26.

According to the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) executive officer for Mwanza Hassan Karambi, the event will be officiated by the Minister for Trade and Industries Innocent Bashingwa at the Mwanza Rock City Mall Ground.

"So far more than 150 companies from various areas in East Africa have confirmed their participation and the target is to have over 250 participants," Karambi said in an interview.

He said that the trade fair is one of the core activities of TCCIA in promoting business in the country and

this occasion is being held annually to fulfill that objective. It is special for EAC Member States with a view to boost business in the region endowed with a lot of economic potentials of different kinds.

"We are currently finalising preparations at the showcase grounds and we expect that by tomorrow everything will be ready for participants to start bringing and arranging their products. The event will also provide an opportunity for

"So far more than 150 companies from various areas in East Africa have confirmed their participation and the target is to have over 250 participants"

companies to enhance their brands and corporate images," he added.

Karambi said that the exhibition will involve various items ranging from agriculture, food and beverages, textiles and handcrafts, cosmetics as well as machineries. There will also be cultural activities, wildlife animals and different entertainment groups throughout the occasion.

He has called for business people and companies in the country to utilise the opportunity to promote their products and thus attract new markets in the East African Region.

Karambi further emphasized that the trade fair is important in promoting business therefore people should tap the opportunity in advancing themselves economically as the exhibitions are being improved every year.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT - FOR FACILITATION OF COUNTRY PROCESS, DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT OF CMYP 2021 – 2024 (NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION STRATEGY, NIS)

Background:

Tanzania continues to use the cMYP to drive immunization programme advancement and investment requirement. As the current cMYP (2016 – 2020) comes to a close, it is imperative that a new immunization strategic framework to cover the period 2021 – 2024, be developed that will not only ensure sustenance of vaccination coverage (DPT3 98% and MCV 99%) but will also provide a comprehensive environment to make sure the population continue to enjoy the benefit of new vaccines and technologies as they become available.

The global vaccination agenda entering a new decade with the "Immunization Agenda 2030 – A Global Strategy to Leave No One Behind" (IA2030) replacing the Global Vaccination Action Plan (GVAP) to address key challenges in immunization over the next decade. Furthermore, the renewal of the call for a more integrated primary health care system as the best and most affordable way to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3.8 of achieving universal health coverage by 2030 has made the development of new Tanzania immunization strategic plan to reflect contemporary thinking more imperative.

Based on the need to adapt, partners working in immunization have collaborated to produce this new document, the "National Immunization Strategy – Guidance Document" (NIS Guidance) for countries. The guidance document is ready for pilot. Tanzania desires to develop the new immunization strategic plan with the benefit of the NIS guidance (see attached draft National Immunization Guidance Document)

Tanzania Immunization Programme will require the services of a facilitator to assure that as the new NIS is developed critical principles, steps and philosophy as enunciated in the draft NIS guidance are adhered to.

Consequently, this ToR is put together for the facilitator.

Under the supervision of the EPI manager who has the responsibility for the successful initiation, planning, design, execution, monitoring, controlling and approval of the cMYP/ NIS:

The facilitator shall:

- Facilitate collation and preparation of background materials for the working groups and the respective stakeholders to support substantive discussions at every stage of the cMYP/NIS development.
- Facilitate the conduct of situation analysis (including root cause analysis) – from documents and consultations – to identify strengths and challenges, bottlenecks of current / past investment in immunization.
- Facilitate in-country stakeholders' engagement and the development of NIS implementation principles for the road map/strategy.
- Support summarization of outputs of consultations and documentation of the decisions made.
- Facilitate the collection and costing of the resource requirement estimates for implementing the selected roadmap/strategy.
- Facilitate write-up for the various sections of the NIS document.
- Support the adaptation of draft NIS document to the government template in preparation for endorsement by the government.

Major output from facilitator:

- Produce a summary document from input of the various TWG and other task groups/individuals to be shared with all the stakeholders at every stage of development of the NIS and as required to finalize the document.
- Facilitate the coordination and contributions from partners and stakeholders throughout the process.
- Engender country ownership and effective MoH leadership during the process.
- Ensure alignment to the national health sector strategies and plans, and monitoring frameworks.
- Facilitate consensus, political commitment and technical collaboration on NIS by stakeholders and partners.

Consultancy Requirements:

Education:

The facilitator should normally have the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in Public Health, Health Economics, Health Services Management or related field.

Experience:

- At least 10 years working in health sector development preferably Africa;
- Good understanding of the Tanzania health system;
- Good understanding of immunization services;
- Excellent understanding of Health sector governance and management issues;
- Considerable experience in health systems analysis;
- In-depth understanding of cost and budgeting of health sector interventions;
- Experience in working with multiple health sector stakeholders;
- Excellent writing and presentation skills;
- In-depth understanding of the Expanded Program on Immunisation is a distinct advantage;
- Demonstrated ability to motivate people of diverse background to resolving problems while promoting effective team work.

Duration of Support:

The duration of support of the facilitator shall be from inception of the NIS process up to the final presentation of document for Government approval/endorsement. This is expected to be 4 months starting from September 2020.

Fees:

The facilitator shall be contracted under WHO Agreement for Performance of work (with lumpsum negotiated amount of TZS 34,500,000/= payable in installments).

Payment Schedule:

- First instalment payment would be done only at satisfactory completion of the situation analysis and submission of a situation analysis (report to be shared with all stakeholders).
- Second instalment payment would be done only at satisfactory completion of the strategy formulation and submission of report (that can be reviewed by all stakeholders).
- Third instalment payment would be done only at satisfactory completion of budget negotiation and strategy revision including the M&E framework with a draft report.
- Fourth and final payment would be done only at satisfactory submission of the NIS report with all components (ready for processing for internal government approval).

1. HOW TO APPLY

Interested individual should send cover letter and comprehensive resume outlining similar work/assignments to the following email address afwcotzremite@who.int, by **Monday 31 August 2020, 13:00pm**.

Africa's cassava production: Turning minors into majors

CASSAVA is one of the most popular and widely consumed food crops in Africa. Because it is such an important food in the region and an extremely versatile crop, it is commonly referred to as cornerstone of food security in Africa. The competing needs for cassava cuts across both human and animal consumption. It is fast becoming a popular raw material in industrial production and is now a preferred material for making biofuels. As Africa's population continues to grow rapidly, the demand for food staples like cassava has increased.

Africa is yet to fully exploit the huge returns from the global cassava trade. However, the price of cassava and its derivatives have increased sharply in the past few years. The population explosion in Africa has made it difficult to produce enough cassava to feed many 'common' Africans. In addition, the raging economic growth of China has made it the largest buyer of African cassava, which it uses to feed livestock (cattle, pigs etc.). China is currently responsible for more than 60 percent of global cassava consumption, and is still buying more from Africa.

Cassava is cultivated in around 40 African countries. Major producers include Nigeria, the Congo and Tanzania according to IFAD and FAO report of 2000.

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

Speaking ahead of the launch of the Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System (BASICS) programme, Dr Nteranya Sanginga, Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), said the programme provides a window of opportunity for cassava farmers to create new lines of income while at the same time catalyzing the diffusion of new varieties.

In June, this programme benefited from a new investment of \$4.3 million by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to consolidate and expand this work in both

Nigeria and Tanzania under the project name of BASICS-II.

The goal of the project is to provide farmers with access to affordable, quality-assured seeds of the cassava varieties in demand by local food and processor markets through the establishment of a commercially viable seed value chain operating across breeder, foundation, and commercial seed levels.

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

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

Over the years, IITA and its national partners have developed over 40 cassava varieties but the diffusion and adoption of these varieties have been low due to the absence of a functional seed system to incentivize their multiplication, distribution, and sales.

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

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

Locusts posing a major threat to food security and livelihoods

THE Horn of Africa is facing the worst locust invasion in 70 years, threatening regional food security, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The swarms threaten to put 4.9 million people at risk of starvation, according to the International Rescue Committee.

The 2019-20 locust infestation, is a pest outbreak of desert locusts which is threatening the food supply across the region. The outbreak is the worst in 70 years in Kenya and the worst in 25 years in Ethiopia, Somalia and India. The plague began in June 2019 and has continued through 2020.

The current outbreak began when Cyclone Mekunu in 2018 produced heavy rains in the Rub' al Khali of the Arabian Peninsula, in Spring 2019, swarms spread from these areas, and by June 2019, the locusts spread north to Iran, Pakistan, and India and south to East Africa, particularly the Horn of Africa. By the end of 2019, there were swarms in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Oman, Iran, India, and Pakistan. By June 2020, another swarm appeared in South America, affecting Paraguay and Argentina.

As of April 2020, efforts to control the locusts are being hampered by ongoing restrictions in travel and shipping due to the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the global coronavirus food crisis.

The Horn of Africa is facing the worst locust invasion in 70 years, threatening regional food security, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The swarms threaten to put 4.9 million people at risk of starvation, according to the International Rescue Committee. And despite governmental intervention to slow crop loss, FAO expects the damage to continue.

The locust can be found in more than 30 countries and swarms are familiar to farmers around the globe. Outbreaks

typically occur in arid and semi-arid regions during periods of heavy rainfall. But the current outbreak is of particular concern.

Increased rainfall near the Horn of Africa, coupled with warmer weather, is creating ideal breeding conditions, contributing to the large size of this year's swarms.

Insecticide spraying is the most efficient mitigation strategy. Effective spraying needs large scale deployment, like aerial or widely coordinated backpack spraying, which needs a government or big organisations to coordinate.

But new technology can offer hope to farmers. Geographic Information Systems can monitor swarms and warn communities of their approach. By gathering information about locust lifespan, the speed of migration, mating patterns, and land destruction, researchers can pinpoint areas of highest concern.

Several African governments hope that this information will help create a more efficient and coordinated plan for spraying areas impacted by swarms. Christensen explains that tracking swarms not only enables swift action, it can also reduce unnecessary insecticide spraying, which can harm the earth.

The combination of research and technology, Christensen says will ultimately be key to reducing locust invasions and protecting food security.

FAO said containing the plague will cost at least \$138 million. So far, donors have pledged \$52 million as of April 2020, \$10m of which has come from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Failure means more hunger in a region already battered by conflict and climate shocks. Aerial and ground spraying combined with constant tracking of the swarms are viewed as the most effective strategies. But the travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic have hindered the preventive measures.

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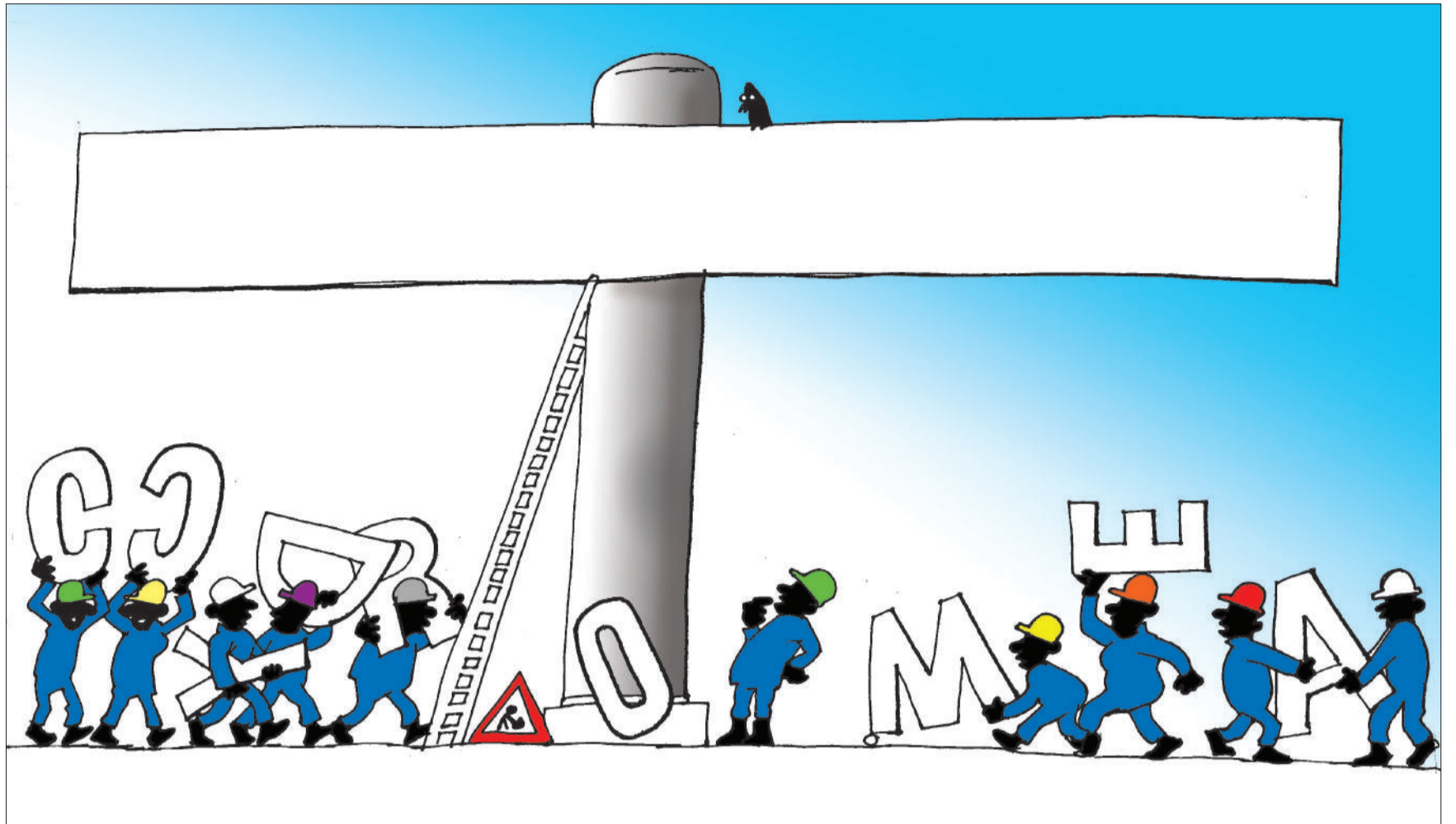
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Obsession with race impedes the progress and emancipation of black people in Africa

By Bonginkosi Madikizela

SOUTH Africans need to confront their fears, bite the bullet and try something different. What is there to lose?

When the country made the transition to a democratic dispensation in 1994, South Africans had high hopes for a better life as promised by the ANC. Many South Africans, black people in particular, had endured years of suffering, discrimination and economic exclusion under the apartheid government. But since 1994, we have watched the ANC crush those dreams.

Today, more South Africans, particularly black people, are excluded from the mainstream economy and are poorer and more marginalised. The dream of a better life has become a nightmare because leaders of this ANC government have turned their backs on their people, looting state resources for their own benefit and those close to them. Only 28% of eligible voters and 38% of registered voters voted for the ANC in 2019, it is not impossible to vote them out.

South Africans have given this government more than 26 years of their trust, only to be repeatedly disappointed by leadership that has destroyed our economy through corruption and incompetence. People are always reminded about houses, electricity, water, etc that this government has provided them, as if it was a favour, when much more could have, and should have, been done to empower them.

Many black South Africans are still trapped and imprisoned by the politics of race. They are emotionally blackmailed by being reminded about the past and to vote for the ANC in every election. The people have done so without fail, digging the hole they are in deeper every time they do. People seem to be looking for South African solutions from a party with only a black leader - this is the biggest impediment for Africa. Black people should stop believing this hogwash that it is only a government under a black leader that can look after their interest.

Enough is enough. It is time to take a bold step and vote the ANC out of power. For once South Africans must confront their fears, bite the bullet and try something different. You have



nothing more to lose that you haven't lost already. We have rights that are protected in our Constitution. It is only ANC propaganda that says the Democratic Alliance (DA) will bring back apartheid.

I call upon all South Africans to give the DA a chance. The DA has proven to be a diverse party of good and clean governance. It is not perfect, it has made many mistakes, but the DA is the only party who takes voters and taxpayers seriously. Year after year, the Auditor General's reports and many other institutions confirm this. We want a competent government, not a black or a white government. As Nelson Mandela once said: "I don't care if the cat is black or white, as long as it catches the mice."

The DA doesn't steal your money through corruption, and where the allegations of corruption are reported, it doesn't waste time in dealing with it. The DA has delivered more jobs and

more basic services despite massive immigration to the Western Cape. The shenanigans on how personal protective equipment money was squandered during this pandemic should send a loud message - the ANC does not care and black lives do not matter to them.

It is time to unite all people of South Africa and address race divisions which is only ANC propaganda that has been used for years to divide us. To portray the DA as a racist party is a wit gevaar tactic that has kept the ANC in power despite its spectacular failures. LET'S NOT FALL FOR IT.

After liberation, most African countries under black leaders have worsened economically because of greed and corruption and they have killed their own people to remain in power using race as a scapegoat.

Racism and many other "isms" are problems the world is still grappling with. Racists, homophobes, rapists and

abusers are part of our society. Some are even part of the DA, and denying that would be disingenuous. Therefore, the DA is part of the society that is grappling with these problems, and so are other parties. It is misleading to label the DA as the only party faced with these challenges. Many black South Africans do not vote for the DA because they fear it will bring back apartheid, but the ANC government is doing that already.

We want a country that is run by competent people, it doesn't matter what the colour of their skin is. We must build investor confidence, economic growth, job creation and empowerment of small businesses based on their competence, not their political connections. That is how you build a country and empower its people.

The obsession with race is the reason our country is collapsing right under our feet.

Tanzania researchers develop chemical-free organic repellent and fertiliser products

By Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIA agricultural researchers have developed chemical free organic repellent and fertilisers products to promote organic farming and develop sustainable farming for increased productivity. Our reporter GERALD KITABU caught up with Principal Agricultural Research Officer who is also the agronomist responsible for quality of plant products, Dr ANDREW NGEREZA and here he explains on the chemical free organic products produced locally at one of the local industries in Bagamoyo. Excerpts:

QUESTION: Briefly explain about these organic products.

ANSWER: As I said earlier on, these are chemical free Organic repellent, Organic fertilizer and Bio-slurry with the brand name 'soil king' promotes organic agriculture, which is very useful for developing sustainable farming and training farmers to convert for a better future and outcome to society.

They are; Mbolea Halisi (Organic fertilizer); this is fluid containing microorganisms (Nitrogen-fixers, Phosphate fixers, and Decomposer fungus and organic matter) in vast numbers for the improvement of soil fertility. Slari asilia; the digested slurry a nutritional booster to crops, containing vitamins, growth enhancing hormones and other essential micro and macro nutrients. 'Dawa asilia ya wadudu'; the bio-repellent is botanical extracts, which is not favourable for harmful insects.

Q: Where did you conduct trials to determine their usefulness?

A: After long time of research and trials at farmers' field, we applied them

at TARI DAKAWA in different various horticulture crops. These chemical free product improves and promotes sustainable agriculture have shown high level of efficacy. The Organic fertilizer and Bio-Slurry are Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) registered and bio-repellent is under registration process. These chemical free products are broad spectrum plant pesticide derived from animal products and plant extracts. They are in form of liquid formulation.

Q: How do they work to improve crop production?

A: The Bio-repellent promotes a pest free environment conducive for crop production. The organic fertilizer increases beneficial microorganisms and other organic matters in the soil to promote plant growth. On the other hand, the Bio-slurry which is rich in NPK and trace elements feeds the soil microorganisms and the crops with the required nutrients and hence, crop production is promoted in a sustainable manner.

Q: By the way how do you explain organic agriculture?

A: Actually in recent decade, organic farming activities across East Africa and more so Tanzania as a country have shown a consistent growth, this can be attributed mainly to the positive impact organic farming system has on the environment, the farms, human health and higher returns realized on the organic produce. Despite the rapid adoption of Organic Farming world-wide, farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa continue to experience several setbacks in their organic agriculture. There are many challenges such as unavailability or inadequacy of superior, effective and affordable organic pesticides in the African market.

To address this drawback, agricultural researchers in collaboration with other

stakeholders (companies) have conducted scientific researches and experimental trials in the country and released a superior organic pesticide, fertilizer and bio-slurry under the Brand name Soil King.

Q: How does this organic pesticide work?

A: Soil king pesticide is botanical pesticide or botanical repellent and contains various type of phytochemicals, for example neem leaves (Azadirachtin) which is not favourable for sucking insect, aphid and mites etc. This technology borrowed from successful indigenous Indian Farming Plant Protection Practices (ITK) suitable for control of tropical pests, thus making the organic pesticide tried and tested. In fact these pests are threatens crops thus damage plants by inserting their mouthparts into plant tissues and removing juices. Heavily infested plants become yellow, wilted, deformed or stunted, and may eventually die. Some sapsucking insects inject toxic materials into the plant while feeding, and some transmit disease organisms. Biting and chewing insects eat plant parts thus reducing area for photosynthetic processing in addition to exposing the plant to pathogenic attacks. Finally it may lead to decline in crop quality and eventual crop yield and economic losses.

Q: For how long do they last?

A: After purchasing these chemical free organic products, the farmer has to use them within six months. Thereafter, he or she has to purchase another stock for better results.

Q: We are talking about industrial economy. What contribution do these organic products have to enhance this drive?

A: First of all the products are pro-



Principal Agricultural Research officer Dr Andrew Ngerenza explains how the chemical-free organic products work. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

duced locally, I mean within the country, a situation which reduces the cost of production for the farmers. These products are also packed in different forms and if the farmer takes them in huge quantity the price will be even much lower. Again, we don't need foreign currency to import them, we just use our local currency to get and purchase them.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: Future plans are to widen the distribution of these chemical free organic products to reach a wider range of the farmers. Currently we did exhibitions in few zones but

as time goes on, expansion process is also underway.

Q: What is your call to the farmers and other stakeholders?

A: We need to protect our environment by using chemical free substances which has low hazards to the human nutrition and plant health. So, these are very safe not only to the environment but also for human health. Normally pollution of our food stuffs may result clinical problems such as Kidney failure and other diseases, so it is better to avoid such problems by using organic products.

Efforts to balance modern medicine with traditional treatments getting it all wrong

By Vidya Krishnan

SOON after the Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan tweeted that he had tested positive for Covid-19 and been admitted to a Mumbai hospital, the authorities declared his palatial residence in India's business capital a "containment zone", and several members of the his family were announced to have also tested positive.

Bachchan is one of the world's most recognisable actors, a celebrity with no peer in India, and his health was an issue of national concern. Ultimately, his case was a light one, and he was eventually discharged, allowed to quarantine at home.

Yet, while the narrow facts of his case appear straightforward, the episode nevertheless spotlights a much broader problem in India: the country's coronavirus caseload appears to only be worsening, hamstrung by decades of underinvestment in public health, poor medical infrastructure and, more recently, a troubling official tolerance of pseudoscience - as well as a growing politicisation of healthcare.

The mere fact that Bachchan tested positive - that he was tested at all - will focus minds in India on the coronavirus pandemic, which has been slowly but surely gathering pace in the country.

More than 1.8 million people have so far tested positive, upwards of 48,000 are known to have died of Covid-19, and infections show little sign of abating.

Arguably India's most recognisable celebrity, Bachchan has starred in movies for decades, as have his wife, son and daughter-in-law, and his high-profile announcement may spur many who were skeptical of getting tested to do so - if they are able - and to take greater precautions.

The reasons for this are that he is quite literally cinematic royalty, some combination of Tom Hanks and Prince Charles - both of whose diagnoses made the virus very real for Americans and Britons, respectively.

Bachchan's diagnosis is markedly different from Hanks' - though perhaps not so much Charles' - in one significant respect, however. And this is that in the months leading up to his infection, including during India's draconian lockdown, the Bollywood star promoted homeopathic and pseudoscientific remedies for the coronavirus.

His comments on the subject attracted the ire of medical experts on social media, where he was mocked for being anti-science and for potentially, given his outside influence - he has nearly 80 million followers on Twitter and Facebook combined - encouraging other Indians to turn away from modern medicine in search of treatments for Covid-19.

Still, pointing the finger solely at Bachchan - who deleted some of his posts but nevertheless tapped into the issue of the use of long-

standing alternative medicines - for publicising these practices stands to miss both their complex historical and political context and the more urgent problem of the Indian government's willingness to suggest that so-called traditional medicine can address the coronavirus.

Alternative and traditional medicines exist on the same spectrum of treatments, and India is not unique in its use of them. Many countries that trace their history to ancient civilisations allow systems of treatment rooted in those bygone eras to be practised today. Traditional Chinese medicine dates to about 3,000 years ago, whereas India's own Ayurvedic tradition stretches back more than 5,000 years.

These traditional systems have made significant contributions to modern medicine. Ancient Egypt, for example, is known to have influenced the Greek physician Hippocrates of Kos - considered the father of modern Western medicine, and the person after whom the Hippocratic Oath was named.

Ancient Egyptians used dried myrtle leaves

to treat aches and pains, and Hippocrates prescribed an extract of willow bark for fevers long before European scientists synthesized the active ingredient in both - salicylic acid.

That helped lead to the development of one of the oldest, most effective scientifically proven drugs in human history, one that continues to be a popular pharmaceutical product today: aspirin.

And though traditional medicines have often been caricatured in the West as fringe or universally harmful, many countries - with the support of the World Health Organisation - continue to use them.

In one of its last year's reports, the global health agency said that 179 countries - nearly 90 per cent of its member states - acknowledged relying on traditional medicine in some form.

Back in 2014, WHO outlined a strategy to help nations validate these practices. "Traditional medicine is an important and often underestimated part of healthcare," Margaret Chan, the organisation's then-director general, said at the time.

"It is found in almost every country in the world and the demand for its services is increasing," she noted, adding that the strategy sought to formulate clearly defined national policies that ensured safety, quality and regulation.

Chan then floated a pledge to the effect that the WHO would help countries develop standards that validated traditional remedies while integrating them with modern medicine, seeing them as affordable, low-tech interventions in underserved areas.

India offers an example of precisely this integration. Whereas homeopathy and traditional medicine are sometimes seen from afar as hawking in the shadows, in India they have offered an antidote to the rising cost of healthcare and the severe shortage of treatment facilities in rural and semi-urban areas.

In the mid-1990s, India's government formed a department within the Health ministry to regulate traditional medicine, including homeopathy.

Though often lumped in with traditional remedies and associated most closely with India, homeopathy was in fact founded by the German physician Samuel Hahnemann in the 18th century, and introduced in India - then a British colony - by a doctor known as John Martin Honigberger.

Homeopathy was legalised in 1948 and had backing from intellectual giants such as Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi. In all, six different types of traditional medicine are institutionalised in India - and taught in more than 500 medical colleges.

As of January 2018, nearly 800,000 traditional-medicine doctors were registered with India's Health ministry, compared with 1.1 million allopathic doctors. Even Indian medical professionals trained in Western-style programmes will often prescribe homeopathic treatments, illustrating how bound together traditional and modern medicine can be in the country.

Yet in my 17 years of experience covering health and science in India, including as health editor of the Hindu newspaper, I've seen good-faith attempts at reviving traditional medicine get overtaken by Hindu nationalist rhetoric of restoring India to some past glory.

With that, opportunities to prove the credibility of traditional medicines and use them as affordable medical interventions in India's villages have been lost.

In the years since Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in 2014, a system based around modern science, with traditional branches of medicine serving limited and supplementary roles, has markedly shifted, leaving little room for scientific temper.

Ministers in Modi's government have repeatedly proclaimed the superiority of Indian systems over modern medicine; the depart-

ment overseeing traditional treatments has been upgraded to a full ministry; and godmen running multibillion-dollar empires sell unproven Ayurvedic products.

The authorities have tolerated, if not encouraged, unscientific thinking - and made a virtue of anti-intellectualism. And they have more actively linked traditional medicine with religiosity, determined to reclaim yoga's Hindu provenance and using traditional systems as a vehicle for the promotion of a Hindu nationalist ideology.

Even in normal times, these would be troubling developments, particularly in a country that spends far less than the recommended proportion of its GDP on healthcare, and where several diseases that have largely been defeated elsewhere remain prevalent.

But faced with a pandemic in which tens of thousands have already died in India alone, with little sign of the pace of infection abating, this science denialism is having a profound effect.

Take, for example, the reorganisation of the government apparatus: within three months of becoming prime minister, Modi transformed the department in the Health ministry responsible for traditional medicine into a full-fledged ministry - Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy, or AYUSH.

One of the reconstituted ministry's first decisions - shelved after uproar in the medical community - was to permit AYUSH doctors to conduct non-invasive abortions.

In 2018, the government proposed - and later enacted - laws allowing certified AYUSH practitioners to prescribe allopathic medicines after a newly approved six-month "bridge course" in modern medicine. Although this was ostensibly done to address India's shortage of doctors, experts nevertheless worry that the new system might create a generation of quacks.

Then came Covid-19. On January 29, the day before India reported its first confirmed case of the coronavirus, the AYUSH ministry issued a health advisory recommending the homeopathic medicine Arsenicum Album 30 as a prophylactic to prevent contraction of the virus.

In the northern state of Punjab, the ministry has been actively distributing that very medicine. Lower-level administrators loyal to Modi's BJP have taken a similar tack. In May, when Mumbai was in the beginnings of a worsening Covid-19 crisis, two BJP officials in the city gave out thousands of bottles of homeopathic pills in their respective districts.

Similar actions have been reported elsewhere in India, including in states such as Telangana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and Karnataka.

Other forms of traditional and non-scientific treatments have also been promoted. One BJP activist was arrested when someone fell ill after attending a party he organised in March that reportedly advocated the drinking of cow urine as a treatment for the coronavirus.

And, despite recommendations from the WHO to the contrary, the Modi government has revised its national guidelines to recommend hydroxychloroquine as a preventive medication for asymptomatic healthcare workers, frontline staff working in coronavirus containment zones, and some paramilitary and police personnel.

This embrace of traditional - and untested - treatments is evident in the private sector too. In June, as coronavirus cases spiked, Baba Ramdev, an instantly recognisable face in India who has made a fortune selling health supplements, launched what he claimed was an Ayurvedic cure for the coronavirus.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a meeting of the National Disaster Management Authority in New Delhi. Photo: Indian Government Handout/Anadolu Agency via Getty

Ways to rebuild Africa and strengthen its resilience against future economic shocks

By Charles Leyeka Lufumpa

AFTER demonstrating its resilience during the Ebola outbreak and the global financial crisis, Africa is once again facing a severe test of its strength and agility owing to the coronavirus pandemic. The good news is that the continent has entered this crisis in reasonably good shape following decades of progression in health, education and economic outcomes.

As of early this year, macroeconomic fundamentals in Africa were improving, with investments, rather than consumption, accounting for more than half of the region's growth.

Inflation was falling and Africa was making impressive strides towards accomplishing the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The continent must build on the momentum and strive to prevent Covid-19 from reversing the gains of the past 20 years.

Admittedly, that's easier said than done: despite their best efforts, many countries still struggle with fragile health systems, high debt levels, weak external balances as well as high rates of poverty and unemployment.

The African Development Bank now projects that the continent will fall into a recession this year with economic growth contracting by at least 1.7 per cent. In a worst-case-scenario, this figure could turn out as high as 3.4 per cent.

Cumulative losses in gross domestic product (GDP) across the continent could range between \$173.1 billion and \$236.7 billion this year and next year.

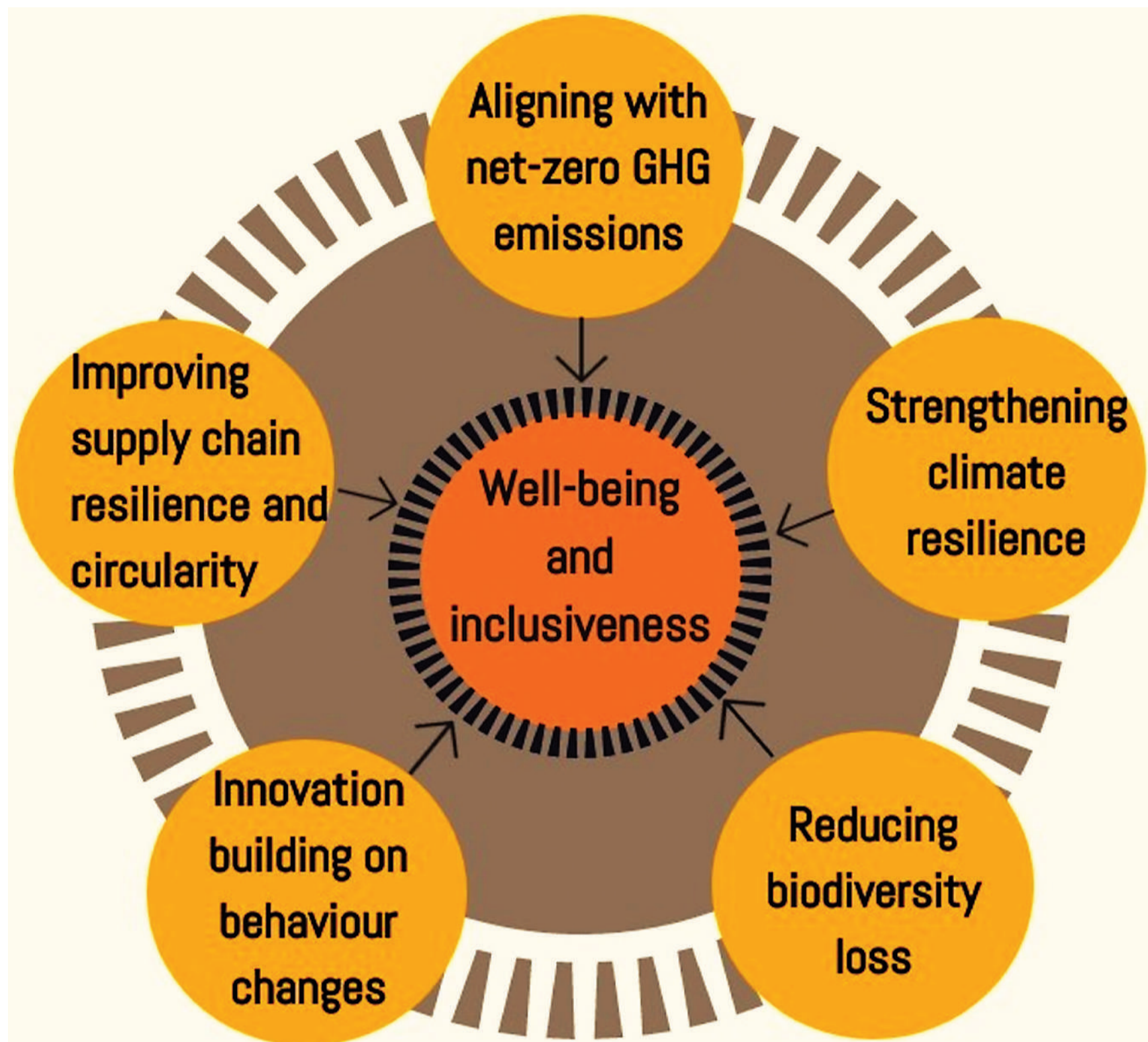
The coronavirus pandemic threatens to increase the debt burden of African countries from 60 per cent to 70 per cent of gross domestic product, heightening the likelihood of a sovereign debt crisis. The additional financing required to cushion the consequences of the crisis could be in excess of \$150 billion.

In a part of the world where 85 per cent of the population earn their living in the informal sector, unemployment as a direct result of the pandemic could push an additional 28 to 49 million people into extreme poverty.

Moreover, if we fail to take adequate action, the impact of the crisis on food insecurity and malnutrition may be even worse than anticipated.

Supporting national economies

To counter the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, Africa needs robust



policy responses from every country on the continent, paired with strong support from Africa's development partners.

In the short term, African countries should prioritise healthcare spending for the provision of essential personal protective equipment (PPE) and materials as well as acceleration of local production of medical supplies including PPE and vaccine and drug discovery.

Targeted cash transfers and subsidies for vulnerable households as well as subsidies and tax relief for businesses should be high on the agenda. Central banks must inject liquidity into the economy, turning to unconventional policy tools such as quantitative easing if necessary.

In the longer term, countries should seize the imperative of building resilience to future crises. As good times return and economies get back on track, it should become a priority to build domestic and external buffers against any potential exogenous shocks.

More money should be earmarked for scientific, economic and

social research. Countries should pursue global and continental partnerships to prepare for eventualities. Private sector growth and the revamping of education and labour markets for the future of work are also crucial.

Role of development partners

At the onset of the coronavirus pan-

dem, multilateral development institutions took immediate action to help Africa's poorest countries navigate the crisis and help them on the road to recovery.

The African Development Bank is playing its part through its USD 10 billion Covid-19 Rapid Response Facility (CRF). The CRF offers immediate relief to African countries to address the crisis by providing additional resources for public health interventions, social protection programmes and liquidity and budget support to affected sectors of their economies.

Civil society and think-tanks have a useful role to play by helping to build trust, solidarity and the uptake of Covid-19 prevention and containment measures. They can also help to ensure that Covid-19 interventions are carried out equitably and that governments are held accountable for their policies and actions.

The African Development Bank stands ready to work with other multilateral financial institutions and wealthier nations to alleviate the impact of the pandemic on African countries. For example, we welcome partnerships to establish dedicated donor-financed Covid-19 trust funds. We also urge G20 nations to consider debt forgiveness for low-income countries.

Reasons to remain optimistic

The continent's youthful and innovative population, its growing middle class, its value addition to the abundant natural resources and its ever-improving governance systems give us plenty of reason to be confident that Africa will overcome the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic.

This year marks the first time the continent has entered a recession in more than half a century. Over the past two decades, Africa has boasted some of the highest growth rates in the world, setting the region up as the next investment frontier in a post-Covid-19 world.

The level of cooperation in Africa has been encouraging. But beyond the crisis, we need to continue working together to help rebuild our economies and prepare them for the future. Africa will emerge from this episode stronger and more resilient than ever before.

Leyeka Lufumpa is acting Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management at the African Development Bank Group.

Postponing HKSAR LegCo election ensures efforts of COVID-19 response

CHINESE lawmakers on August 11, voted to adopt a decision for the sixth Legislative Council (LegCo) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to continue performing duties for no less than a year until the term of the seventh LegCo starts.

The decision was passed at the 21st session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

The decision fully demonstrates the Chinese central government's care for the safety, lives and health of Hong Kong citizens, and its support for Hong Kong's victory over the COVID-19 epidemic, economic recovery and livelihood improvement. It also eliminates the worries of the HKSAR government and the Hong Kong society in fighting the virus, injecting strong confidence.

At present, COVID-19 is still rampant around the world. Facts have repeatedly proved that to control the virus is an urgent task to ensure people's health and lives, as well as a premise for the normal economic and social functioning. Hong Kong encountered a fresh COVID-19 outbreak this July, facing severe situation of epidemic control.

HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced in late July to postpone the election of the seventh-term LegCo, which was originally scheduled for Sept. 6, 2020, for one year due to the epidemic. The arrangement made by the Standing Committee of the NPC concerning the vacancy of the LegCo not only conforms to the Constitution, but also contributes to Hong Kong's efforts to contain COVID-19.

Based on global experiences of fight COVID-19, only by putting people's lives in the first place can the world achieve a final victory over the virus and restore economic and social orders.

If the election of the seventh-term LegCo started on original schedule, there would be over 3 million citizens voting, which would pose a high risk of cross infection given the current epidemic situation in the special administrative region. This would no doubt cause unexpected troubles and pressure for Hong Kong's COVID-19 control, as well as direct threats against the lives and health of Hong Kong residents.

Under such background, to postpone the seventh-term LegCo election and have the sixth LegCo continue performing its duties conforms to the need of science-based epidemic control and helps uphold justice and equity of the LegCo election. It shows the high responsibility of the government in protecting the lives and health of the Hong Kong residents.

Matters must be dealt with in an order of priority. At present, Hong Kong is confronted with a complicated situation where the fresh outbreak is intertwined with economic and livelihood issues. The anti-extradition bill movement taking place



View of the Victoria Harbor, Hong Kong. (File photo)

in June last year has already plunged Hong Kong's economy into a recession, and the COVID-19 epidemic is making the situation even worse. According to statistics, Hong Kong's economy in the second quarter of 2020 contracted 9 percent over a year earlier, and its private consumption expenditure decreased 14.5 percent in real terms in the same period. The HKSAR will face even bigger pressure in autumn if its COVID-19 situation couldn't be well controlled, let alone economic stability. Therefore, only by concentrating on COVID-19 control can the government restore normal social order and facilitate the special administrative region's

economic recovery and livelihood improvement.

Hong Kong belongs to the Chinese family, and the central government and the Chinese mainland will always be the largest backer of it as they are committed to protecting the lives and health of Hong Kong compatriots.

As early as the COVID-19 epidemic just broke out, the central government has timely coordinated the supply of anti-epidemic materials and daily necessities for the HKSAR, and helped evacuate Hong Kong citizens stranded in the Chinese mainland and overseas back to Hong Kong.

Facing the new round of COVID-19 outbreak, the central government has dispatched a medical team from Guangdong province to Hong

Kong, offered medical materials such as masks and protective suits, and provided free nucleic acid testing for Hong Kong citizens. It is trying its best to help the HKSAR contain the epidemic and protect the lives and health of Hong Kong residents.

Therefore, to postpone the timely decision made by the Standing Committee of the NPC not only is the optimal solution to the vacancy of the LegCo, but also will offer strong support for Hong Kong's efforts to contain the epidemic.

People's lives come first amid COVID-19. To concentrate on combating the virus and ensure the lives and

health of the citizens is a priority that comes before everything in Hong Kong. All sectors in Hong Kong must work together and shelve differences to defeat the virus under the leadership of the HKSAR government, and bring the Hong Kong society back to normal.

We believe that under the firm supports of the central government, as well as the generous assistance from the Chinese mainland, the HKSAR government will definitely bring an early win over the virus and usher in a brighter future of the special administrative region.

People's Daily

How women-led agribusinesses are boosting nutrition in Africa

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe

OLUWASEUN Sangoleye's son developed rickets after rejecting baby formula. So she started a business to make natural baby cereal from locally-sourced ingredients in Nigeria.

"My personal experience opened me up to the dearth of nutrient dense, affordable meal solutions for infants and young children," Sangoleye said.

Baby Grubz products are targeted at low and middle-income women with children aged six months to three years.

Sangoleye is one of a small but growing number of women who are heading up agribusinesses in Africa, some of which are producing innovative products to combat malnutrition.

While there are no conclusive figures on the number of women participating in agribusinesses across the continent, the African Women in Agribusiness Network (AWAN) states it works in 42 African countries, linking 1,600 women's networks in different sectors.

In the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) says healthy diets, including fruits, vegetables and protein-rich foods cost more than \$1.90 a day – the global poverty threshold. Estimates show that more than three billion people cannot afford a healthy diet and in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, 57 percent of the population is affected.

Since opening Shais Foods in 2014, Mirriam Nalomba has sought to transform grain-based mono-diets in Zambia by offering baby cereals from millet, sorghum, cassava, soya bean and Vitamin A orange maize.

"We cannot use imported foods to combat malnutrition; locally-grown crops will produce nutritious foods," said Nalomba.

The Food Sustainability Index (FSI) developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit and the Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition (BCFN), shows that Zambia has high prevalence of malnutrition and stunting for children under five years of age as scored under nutritional challenges, one of the three pillars of the FSI.

Chronic malnutrition affects 39 percent of children under five years in Zambia, according to the FAO.

Nalomba's business model of using locally-grown crops has proved foresightful as COVID-19 lockdowns have disrupted markets across the continent. But she lamented that COVID-19 restrictions have affected her plans of expanding her market. Nalomba has started selling her products online.

Sangoleye said that while the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to access quality raw materials, she had gained more customers during the lockdown. It's also led her to start innovating in other areas of packaging.

"One of our distributors shared an emotional story of how three women bought a jar of Grubz and shared it into three equal parts for their babies to augment their breast milk," Sangoleye said.

"This has challenged us to start looking into the production of smaller packs that are more affordable and guarantee food safety for the children with compliance to physical distancing."

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a 10 percent decrease in sales for Sanavita, a Tanzanian social enterprise, which supports more than 1,000 smallholder farmers growing Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP), provitamin A maize, and iron and zinc-fortified beans, which are processed into nutritious flours.

Sanavita sells about 1,000 kg of flour each month and estimates that it has about 10,000 customers.

"We are aiming to end hidden hunger in Tanzania and this means growth for us," Sanavita founder Jolenta Joseph said. In October, the FAO listed Tanzania as one of the African countries to be hardest-hit by adverse weather in the coming years. The low-income country is currently listed by the U.N. agency as not having achieved its hunger target of halving the proportion of the chronically undernourished with "lack of progress

of deterioration".

Malnutrition on the rise but COVID-19 will make it worse

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fragility of current food systems and has amplified poverty, inequalities and food insecurity, according to the BCFN, which has outlined 10 bold interdisciplinary actions for the transformation of food systems.

Dr. Marta Antonelli, head of research at BCFN, and Katarzyna Dembska, a researcher at BCFN, said the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the ability of those who are food insecure to buy food. As a result there is a risk in the decline of dietary quality as a result of compromise employment and the revocation of schemes such as school feeding programmes and shock as a result of the breakdown of food markets.

COVID-19 has impacted on food systems, increased food prices have a direct impact on the quality of diets, preventing access to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as dairy, meat and fish as a result of people failing to reach wholesale and retail markets, the researchers said.

Debisi Araba, a public policy and strategy specialist and managing director at the Alliance for a Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), said humanity has been innovating for a long time to ensure people are nourished. It is important to promote agriculture innovation in technologies, processes, programmes and systems in private enterprise and public policy.

With the current COVID-19 crisis, health and nutrition is suffering from multiple shocks, Lawrence Haddad, executive director of Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), he said.

"SMEs across Africa and Asia are vital in the pandemic response but their ability to operate is being put under increasing strain," Haddad said, adding that SMEs need continued support and investment to adapt and innovate.

Investing in agriculture innovation

But COVID-19 has not been the only obstacle to the growth of these women-led agribusinesses.

Amandla Ooko-Ombaka, economist and associate partner at global management firm McKinsey, said that women face a combination of challenges in starting and running an agribusiness because of their disproportionate access to information and technology to access agronomic advice and payments. She added that women consistently have less access to capital to increase their productivity and are 50 percent less likely than men to own their land.

In sub-Saharan Africa, women constitute the highest average agriculture labour force participation rate in the world of more than 50 percent in many countries, especially in West Africa, according to the FAO.

"Food systems worldwide are decades behind other sectors in adopting digital technology and innovation," Ooko-Ombaka added.

"The growth of mobile access has been an important unlock for innovation in African agriculture for most of our countries 70-90 percent of land is held by smallholder farmers. If we cannot reach them, the impact in the sector is muted," Ooko-Ombaka said.

Ooko-Ombaka said in sub-Saharan Africa about 400 digital agriculture solutions have come to market – 60 percent of which came to market only in the last two years – serving user needs, including financial services, market linkages, supply chain management, advisory and information and business intelligence.

An analysis by McKinsey notes that the COVID-19 crisis has disrupted food systems in Africa but continues to open the gap for innovation.

Ooko-Ombaka says the agriculture value chain can benefit from innovation, particularly in the COVID-19 era where profound shifts are projected around marketplaces, making it critical for farmers to have access to markets.

"With restrictions on movement, interacting with farmers and value-chain partners



A small but growing number of women are heading up agribusinesses in Africa, some of which are producing innovative products to combat malnutrition

digitally may become more important," Ooko-Ombaka said, predicting that food-distribution chains, particularly in urban areas, are very likely to become more digitised.

Farmers may increasingly seek e-advice, digital savings products, or access to government subsidies that might be offered through digital wallets, she said adding that agricultural players can explore digital services, including marketing, extension to farmers, financial products

and supply chain tracking.

Determination and perseverance needed Despite the obstacles the women are positive and committed to their work.

"It is not easy running a woman-led business, but hard work, passion, commitment and the ability to plan and set priorities are keys for success," Sanavita founder Joseph said.

Maame Akua Manful, founder of a Ghanaian social enterprise Fieldswite Co. Ltd, which

makes OFSP yoghurt, concurs that running a woman-led agribusiness comes with a lot of sacrifice and spontaneous decision-making.

"It is not easy learning how to manage a team of men and communicate in a way that they would understand, but I feel that with determination and perseverance every woman can bring out that entrepreneurial ability in her to make things work," she said.



Vitamin A orange maize provides highly-nutritious food that combats malnutrition.

AfDB 2020 annual meetings: Building Africa back better after the COVID-19 pandemic

By Special Correspondent, Abidjan

FOR the first time in the history of the African Development Bank (AfDB), its annual meetings will be held virtually to comply with the COVID-19 pandemic-related social-distancing guidelines.

The governors' dialogue and the election of a president will be top of the agenda of the upcoming Meetings scheduled for 26-27 August 2020.

This year, which marks the

55th meeting of the bank's board of governors and the 46th annual meeting of the African Development Fund, the bank's concessional arm, has the added significance of being an election year for the Bank's president. The incumbent, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, is running as the sole candidate for a new five-year term.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the continent's shores in early March, over 1,000,000 confirmed cases of the virus have

been recorded in Africa. The pandemic has hit the region's economies hard in the wake of falling commodity prices and containment measures by governments that have led to country lockdowns.

For several months, the Bank has been extending support to regional member countries in cushioning their economies, health systems, and citizens' livelihoods from parallel health and economic impacts from COVID-19.

In April 2020, The Bank established a COVID-19 Response Facility of up to \$10 billion to extend flexible support to African sovereign and non-sovereign operations. As of August 20, \$2.29 billion in CRF funding had been approved for ADB member countries.

A further \$1.186 billion has been disbursed to ADF member countries, with approvals ongoing.

In March, the bank also raised a record \$3 billion with

a COVID-19 social bond floated on the London Stock Exchange.

The institution reached some major milestones during the trying times of lockdown with both Fitch and Standard & Poor credit rating agencies reaffirming the Bank's AAA rating with a stable outlook.

During the meetings, governors are expected to receive updates on a range of bank developments since the previous annual meetings held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in

June 2019. This will include the bank's seventh general capital increase, which the board of governors approved in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire on October 31, 2019, and which increased the bank's capital base by a historic \$115 billion to \$208 billion.

In December 2019, African development fund donors pledged \$7.6 billion, the fifteenth such replenishment, to help Africa's poorest countries. The governors will vote on

August 27 to elect the eighth president of the Bank. Dr. Adesina, the first Nigerian to hold the post, was elected for a five-year term on May 28, 2015, by the bank's board of governors during that year's annual meetings held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Bank governors are typically the finance and economy ministers or central bank governors of the 54 African regional member countries and 27 non-regional member countries.

Covid-19 could change the way we make vaccines

By Emily Mullin

IN September 1992, Deborah Fuller travelled from Wisconsin to New York for a scientific conference at the non-profit Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory, brimming with anticipation. She was there to present early but promising research on a completely new vaccine approach that she had been working on.

It turned out to be a fortuitous meeting. "I go there thinking I'm going to be the only one with this new idea, and there were half a dozen other people all presenting this concept," says Fuller, PhD, now a professor of microbiology at the University of Washington School of Medicine in St. Louis working on a coronavirus vaccine. If other labs were getting the same results, it meant her research wasn't just a fluke.

The organisers of the conference were riveted by the new idea. They reshuffled the meeting schedule so that Fuller and the others could present their research during the same session - on the last day of the meeting.

Scientists who planned to leave the conference early scrambled to reschedule their flights home so that they could stick around to hear about it.

The idea was elegant: deliver a set of instructions that tell the body's own cells to make a vaccine. It was a complete departure from the way vaccines were being made - and largely still are - which involves a complex and costly process.

This new approach, by contrast, could be quickly adapted to virtually any infectious disease and promised to drastically shorten the timeline it took to bring a vaccine to market. "It was a revolution in the sense of vaccines at the time," Fuller says, adding: "We immediately recognised its potential for fighting against future pandemics."

Now, 30 years later, none of these so-called genetic vaccines has ever been approved for human diseases. But a handful of labs and companies have kept at it, steadily improving the technology.

And the coronavirus pandemic has presented itself as an opportunity to put the experimental technology to the ultimate test. Now, several genetic vaccines for Covid-19 are advancing through clinical trials and have emerged as front-runners. Moderna, Inovio Pharmaceuticals and Pfizer are all pursuing genetic vaccines.

Critics point out that neither Moderna nor Inovio has ever brought a drug or vaccine to market before. And before the coronavirus, genetic vaccines hadn't been tested in large-scale clinical trials for infectious diseases.

If the technology works for Covid-19, it could pave the way for more of these vaccines for other diseases, including new pathogens (disease-causing organisms) that emerge in the future. When the next infectious disease outbreak comes, governments could be better prepared with a safe and effective vaccine technology to quickly test, manufacture and scale up.

"It may actually change how other vaccines are produced. We may be at the cusp of very much a new tech-

nology," Rahul Gupta, MD, senior vice president and chief medical and health officer at the March of Dimes, told reporters during a National Press Foundation briefing on August 7. But he warns that if it fails, it could be a major setback for stemming the tide of the deadly coronavirus.

All vaccines work by essentially tricking the body into "thinking" that it has been infected. The immune system kicks into gear and registers the invader's characteristics so that if it ever encounters the real version - later on - it is primed to attack.

Traditional vaccines spur this immune response by injecting either a weakened - or killed - version of the pathogen into the body. Many of the vaccines we currently use are made this way, including those for chickenpox, polio, flu and rabies as well as measles, mumps and rubella.

Weakened, or attenuated, vaccines elicit a strong and long-lasting immune response because they're so similar to the natural infection. But because of this, people who are immunocompromised are vulnerable to get sick from attenuated vaccines - and can't use them.

Killed or inactivated vaccines, on the other hand, don't produce as strong of an immune response and sometimes require a booster shot.

The tried-and-true method of making vaccines involves growing a pathogen in chicken eggs or animal cells, then extracting it so that it can be killed or weakened. Finally, the vaccine is purified and undergoes several safety tests.

The process is laborious. The flu vaccine, for instance, requires millions of eggs every year and can take six months to make. Other vaccines can take years to make and test for safety. Genetic vaccines promise to be faster and simpler.

"Most of our vaccine development is really mired in the past. Our ways of generating vaccines go back to the 1930s," says William Klimstra, PhD, a professor of immunology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Some vaccines are now made with just a piece of a pathogen - a protein or two - that best stimulates the immune system, instead of the whole germ. The hepatitis B and human papillomavirus vaccines are made with this approach.

These vaccines can be safer since they only contain part of a pathogen but often have to be combined with adjuvants, substances that boost the immune response. Sometimes a second dose is needed.

Starting in the late 1980s to 1990s, vaccine developers started to use genetic engineering to make synthetic versions of these proteins instead of using the real thing. That's when genetic vaccines entered the scene.

"We were starting to think about a simpler way to go about making vaccines. What if we didn't have to depend on all this complicated machinery?" says David Weiner, PhD, executive vice president of the Wistar Institute, a non-profit biomedical research institute in Philadelphia and founder of Inovio, where he is still on the scientific advisory board. The in-

stitute is collaborating with Inovio on its DNA vaccine for Covid-19.

Weiner was among the handful of scientists who pioneered the idea of genetic vaccines at the Cold Spring Harbour meeting back in 1992.

Genetic vaccines don't contain any part of the actual pathogen. Instead, they use a small piece of genetic material - either DNA or RNA - that temporarily instructs a person's own cells to make a piece of a pathogen.

"They encode information. What we're delivering is information that encodes something that, in this case, looks like a viral protein," Weiner explains.

For SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, scientists have zeroed in on the "spike" protein, which is found on the virus's surface and gives it a crown-like appearance. The virus uses the spike protein to attach to and get inside human cells.

Genetic vaccines for Covid-19 carry a code that tells cells to make this protein. The hope is that the body will recognise it as foreign and mount an immune response against it.

The allure of DNA and RNA vaccines - and what captured the imaginations of scientists at that 1992 meeting - is their adaptability. The piece of genetic code can be easily swapped out depending on the disease you want to make a vaccine for. You don't need the actual pathogen; you just need to know its genetic code.

"I kind of liken it to, once you discover the recipe for ice cream, you



can make different flavours of ice cream very easily," says Margaret Liu, MD, chairman of the board of the International Society of Vaccines. She presented early work on genetic vaccines at the 1992 meeting and helped establish the field.

Another potential advantage is that DNA and RNA can be manufactured more quickly than traditional vaccines, and a smaller amount of genetic material is needed for each dose.

"Production is certainly faster with genetic vaccines," says Roxana Rustomjee, PhD, senior vice president of research and development at the non-profit Sabin Vaccine Institute in Washington, DC.

"But scientifically, I would say the advantages are still unclear. We're still on the fence as to whether the immune response that will develop is going to be significant enough to offer protection," notes Rustomjee.

The idea behind genetic vaccines seemed straightforward, but getting them to work in people was another thing. Once Fuller, Weiner and the others got home from that 1992 meeting, they raced to file patents on their technology and publish their work. But Weiner says that getting those early papers accepted to scientific journals wasn't easy. He explains that when he tried to submit his findings, reviewers were doubtful that the approach would work. But eventually, he and others were able to get their papers published.

In animals, genetic vaccines seemed to work perfectly. In 1997, Weiner and his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania reported that a DNA vaccine they made successfully protected two chimpanzees from HIV. But the first human trials of genetic vaccines were a flop. People didn't mount the immune response needed to protect them against disease.

"It was a complete and utter failure," Fuller says. It's a common problem in biomedical research. Often, a drug or vaccine works in animals but isn't effective in people.

A key problem to overcome was figuring out how to get the DNA or RNA into cells. Both presented their own challenges that took years to work out. By then, much of the initial excitement for genetic vaccines had fizzled out, and many companies that had gotten into the field left after early trial failures.

Fuller, Weiner and some others kept at it, focusing first on DNA. They knew that DNA is more stable than RNA, which helps preserve genetic information.

But cells don't take up DNA readily, so scientists needed to devise gadgets to deliver DNA vaccine particles. One of those, created by John Sanford at Cornell University, is called a gene gun. Originally made for ex-

periments on plants, the gun uses helium and gold particles to propel genetic material through cell walls.

Meanwhile, Weiner and Inovio developed an electrical device that zaps the skin and opens up cells so that the DNA vaccine particles can be taken up. Inovio's Covid-19 vaccine uses the device to deliver the vaccine to a person's skin.

Talking to the New York Times, a volunteer in Inovio's trial said getting zapped didn't hurt, but "it just feels strange". The small, hand-held device will be scaled up using \$71 million from the US Department of Defense.

The difficulty with RNA is that it breaks rapidly once it's injected into the body. Scientists couldn't get RNA vaccines to work until immunologist Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, at the University of Pennsylvania, figured out how to stabilise RNA by packaging it into tiny fatty nanoparticles.

Weissman's technology was so intriguing that a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based biotech company called Moderna ended up licensing it.

Though no DNA or RNA vaccines are on the market yet for human use, a veterinary DNA vaccine to protect horses from West Nile virus was approved in 2005. Liu gives that as proof that the approach can work beyond just lab animals.

In mid-January, shortly after a mysterious respiratory virus emerged in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, Chinese researchers posted the draft genome of the virus online. Companies like Moderna and Inovio were able to start making a genetic vaccine once they had this blueprint.

Scientists immediately realised that the novel virus looked a lot like two they had seen before: the ones that cause SARS and MERS, both of which have a similar spike protein. They knew that people who recovered from being infected with those viruses made antibodies to the spike protein. They reasoned that a vaccine that targets the spike protein could induce an immune response strong enough to protect against disease.

Inovio, Moderna, and German firm BioNTech, the latter of which partnered with pharma giant Pfizer, were already working on medicines that involve DNA and RNA, so they were able to change gears quickly.

In just six weeks, Moderna designed, manufactured and shipped a vaccine to the US National Institutes of Health for an initial human safety trial - which began in mid-March.

Inovio and German firm BioNTech, which partnered with Pfizer, meanwhile rapidly designed their own genetic vaccines and started testing them on people in April.

Now, Moderna and Pfizer are beginning large-scale trials to test vac-

cine efficacy. To get approved for use, a vaccine for the coronavirus will need to be at least 50 per cent effective, according to the US Food and Drug Administration.

Early results show that these vaccines look safe and produce an immune response, but there's reason to be skeptical. Moderna, historically a secretive startup, doesn't have a track record of commercialising drugs.

And over the years, Inovio has made rosy announcements about many of its vaccines - from Zika to cancer - but the company has yet to get one approved and on the market.

Weiner defends the company he created, saying vaccine development just takes a long time. And that's true; the typical timeline is a decade or more.

Despite the skepticism, all eyes are on the Covid-19 vaccine race. If genetic vaccines fail to work now, they'll fail in a big way on the world stage.

Much as people like Weiner and Liu are hopeful about the vaccine technology they helped spearhead, they're also realistic about the fact that this first round of genetic vaccines might not be the most effective ones against the coronavirus.

Weiner says no one can say for sure that the fastest one out of the gate will make it or that it will be the best vaccine, and maybe that's okay. A first vaccine can still make an impact and then later ones can be better.

For instance, the first vaccine for shingles, approved in 2006, reduced the risk of infection by about 51 per cent. However, a better vaccine came on the market in 2017 that's more than 90 per cent effective.

Different vaccines might be better suited to different populations, too. Weiner points to the example of polio to illustrate one potential future for a Covid-19 vaccine landscape.

Jonas Salk is known for developing the first effective polio vaccine, which uses a killed or inactivated virus, in 1952. Salk's rival, Albert Sabin, meanwhile went on to develop an oral polio vaccine, which uses a weakened or attenuated form of the virus and became available in 1961.

While the Salk vaccine is one of the safest vaccines used today - and is arguably more famous - Sabin's oral vaccine is widely used in developing countries because it's easier to give to children than the inactivated injectable vaccine. Together, though, both are used to keep polio at bay.

"I think that's a very important lesson. Having more vaccine options will benefit all of us," Weiner says.

Emily Mullin is a staff writer at OneZero, a Medium publication about tech and science, covering biotechnology and Covid-19.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 128 00--

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

3 Letters: ASS,
4 Letters: YULE, MASS, OMEN, WASH, PASS, SPAN, REEF, HEED, TRAP,
5 Letters: MONEY, SKILL, DAILY, MAYOR, HAMAS, WATER, SHADE
6 Letters: MOSCOW, NOISES, UGANDA, SHARES, ASMARA, CAREER, REMAIN
7 Letters: SANGOMA, ENGLISH,

WORD-FIT

SOLUTIONS

ASS
YULE
MASS
OMEN
WASH
PASS
SPAN
REEF
HEED
TRAP
MONEY
SKILL
DAILY
MAYOR
HAMAS
WATER
SHADE
MOSCOW
NOISES
UGANDA
SHARES
ASMARA
CAREER
REMAIN
SANGOMA
ENGLISH

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

- Tanzania's Capital
- Nation created in 1948
- Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Christ
- turn away
- Second largest city in Tanzania
- step in a process
- mischievous person
- skilful
- large round citrus fruit
- sell goods by going from place to place
- utter words

Down:

- images seen while you sleep
- a place far away
- the mixture of gases surrounding the earth
- personal, secret
- beloved
- consisting protein that is produced by a living organism
- an off break bowled with an apparent leg-break action
- a surface which is higher on one side than the other
- keep away from someone
- demonstrate by evidence
- a donkey



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Eurobonds, kwacha slump after Zambia's central bank governor fired

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SBL's responsible drinking campaign goes online, targeting thousands

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Angolan envoy touts closer bilateral economic relations with Tanzania

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Angolan envoy touts Dar to Lobito Port transit corridor to boost trade

By Smart Money Reporter

INVESTMENT in railway and road networks between Dar es Salaam Port on the Indian Ocean coastline and Angola's Lobito Port on Atlantic Ocean will help boost intra-African region trade and speed up integration.

Angola's Ambassador to Tanzania, Sandro de Oliveira said in Dar es Salaam during an interview to mark his first anniversary since his appointment last year, said the two countries share a lot in their history but also as members of African Union.

Ambassador Oliveira the two countries have a lot of potential to speed up economic integration of African because between Dar and Lobito Ports, a lot of landlocked countries will be served if both rail and road networks are improved.

"Angola is currently taking new dynamism in engaging internationally and since last year we have submitted various bilateral agreements to different domains aimed at promoting our cultural proximity, free movement of people and goods. Our two countries can therefore open up to each other's new markets with focus on investment and trade involving the business communities," Ambassador Oliveira said.

He noted that his government believes that after leading Sub Sahara Africa's liberalization struggle from colonialism, Tanzania remains



Ambassador Sandro de Oliveira (C) greets Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, whom he paid a courtesy call at Sate House in Zanzibar earlier this year. File photo.

to be a continental leader to advance integration and boost intra-regional trade.

"We believe that there is also a big interest from Tanzanians to have our bilateral agreement concluded in the shortest period of time, so that we turn things into reality to the benefit of our people," he stated noting that Luanda has submitted a bilateral agreement proposals to Dodoma which it hopes will soon be concluded.

"We are proposing free movement of people and goods between our two countries which will enable rapid growth of bilateral trade with investment in adequate communication infrastructure as a pre-requisite. Currently, the majority of cargo is transported by roads which remain poor to some extent and impassable especially during the rainy season. In that perspective, we will give priority to infrastructure projects that aim to resolve challenges facing road transport," he stressed.

In addition, Ambassador Oliveira said Angola is also seeking to create a Tanzania-Angola Business Forum that will boost involvement of the private sector and that a meeting scheduled for April this year was not possible due to the coronavirus outbreak.

"The largest trade events in Angola and Tanzania that we intend to utilise to foster our trade ties and which involves the private sector are the International Fair of Luanda (FILDA) and the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) respectively," he added.

Ambassador Oliveira's full interview is on page 15.

Mobile technology making potable water accessible to Dodoma, Singida rural folks

By Smart Money Reporter

THOUSANDS of rural folks in Dodoma and Singida Regions will have access to clean water supply thanks to a government awarding of a tender to UK based RSKeWATER services to install 650 solar powered eWaterPay 'pay as you go' water meters.

In a statement, RSKeWATER said eWATER which employ low-cost pay as you go water system using mobile technology that is already serving 110,000 families across Gambia, Ghana and Tanzania, has dispensed over 260 million litres of affordable, accessible clean water to rural communities. The deep mobile penetration across the country which include M-Pesa, has helped the unbanked, who eWATER seeks to help access clean water.

Water shortage is a big challenge in Africa, observes Nick Leason, Director of Projects and Public Affairs, eWATER services. "Many rural communities across Africa are plagued with water systems installed with good intent by global charities and NGOs but with little thought to the sustainability of these systems, meaning that when a pipe bursts or a pump fails, there are no funds, engineers or spare parts to repair them," Leason said.

"In Tanzania, this issue is particularly bad with an estimated 86,000 rural water systems, over 40 percent are unserviceable, leading to thousands of rural communities who live a hand to mouth existence, having to travel long distances every day to collect water. This means that children are unable to attend school,

the water has to be boiled leading to further deforestation and is a source of disease for many," he added.

Leason further stated that in fact, 45 percent of water supply systems tend to break after two years because there is no water economy, no professional maintenance and no money to pay for maintenance.

"It's important to find a solution that helps maintain the water infrastructure. eWATERPay helps address these challenges and ensures accessible, affordable clean water for rural communities. That, in turn, reduces the time needed to collect water daily, meaning children can attend school, it also reduces the risks of disease to these most vulnerable communities," he noted.

With Africa's rapid growth in

mobile use, and with 93 percent of Africans having access to a mobile phone, it makes it easy for them to have access to safe drinking water. Moreover, the cost of water is affordable to even the poorest communities with a 1,000 litres of water costing just 1 USD - or 5c for a 20-litre bucket. In Africa, mobile technology which revolutionised the banking sector could do the same for water shortage.

RSKeWATER services is a joint venture between the leading integrated environmental, engineering and technical services business, RSK, and eWATER services, the company behind the eWaterPay system.

EWATERPay comprises a solar-powered tap that is connected to a digital wallet that is situated within a village community. The



An eWATER services promotion placard installed at a business premises in Dodoma.

revenue collected is used to cover the costs of accessing clean water that is then used to operate and maintain the systems over time.

The device successfully addresses the twin challenges of water infrastructure maintenance and availability by offering round the clock access to water for users, unlike in the past when a borehole may have only had personnel at it for specific time periods. In sub-Saharan Africa, about 40% of the population lacks safe drinking water. Within ten years, the global demand for water is expected to grow by 50 per cent.

According to a recent World Bank study on the performance of water supply

services in Africa, half of the region's utilities do not have the revenues to cover their operation and maintenance costs. Countries need to build up their operational capacities and use both public and private utilities to meet the demand for sufficient volumes of quality water.

The Tanzanian government has launched the Accelerating Solar Water Pumping via Innovative Financing (ASWPTIF) project to address this issue. The ASWPTIF project is being led by the government through TIB Development Bank with funding from the World Bank. The RSKeWATER services JV successfully won a tender to install just under 650 solar-powered pay as you go water meters across two districts in the country.

Top Rio Tinto executives lose bonuses after aboriginal site blasts accident

LONDON

RIO Tinto Group will cut bonus payments to CEO Jean-Sebastien Jacques by about 27 million pounds (\$3.5 million) after the destruction of Aboriginal heritage sites in Australia, though ofered him the board's backing to helm the company's response to the incident.

Incentives will also be cut for Chris Salisbury, iron ore unit chief executive officer, and Simone Niven, group executive of corporate relations, following a board-led inquiry launched in June to investigate the incident, the London-based producer said Monday. "J-S is doing a very good job, at the moment, and he has the full confidence of the board," Chairman Simon Thompson said Monday in a phone interview. "He is the right person to be leading our response to the Juukan incident."

Rio has been criticised by investors and lawmakers over the incident, when explosions to open up a mining area for the Brockman 4 operation impacted the Juukan Gorge rock shelters in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

The sites had evidence of use by humans more than 40,000 years ago and were among the most significant of their type in the country, archaeologists had told the company in a 2018 report. The board's review found no single individual, or error, was to blame for the blasts in May, carried out to allow Rio to access about 8 million tons of high-value iron ore.

Three other mining options that would have avoided damaging the sites were rejected, Jacques told an Australian Parliamentary committee earlier this month. Rio failed to tell the Puutu



Rio Tinto Group CEO Jean-Sebastien Jacques.

Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura Aboriginal Corporation, the region's traditional land owners, about the options that would've prevented any damage, he said.

"The review is comprehensive in its recognition that a substantial number of changes need to be made," said Camille Simeon, a Sydney-based investment manager at Aberdeen Standard Investments, which holds Rio shares and manages assets worth about \$645 billion.

"From here implementation and execution is critical and will be a focal point," Jacques has faced a call to resign over the incident from the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility, a small shareholder advocacy group, though most major investors have offered support, Thompson said in

the interview. Aberdeen declined to comment on the fund's view on the future of Rio's executive team.

"By and large, investors feel that J-S and the team have been doing an extraordinarily great job in very, very difficult circumstances, particularly in 2020," Thompson said. "They obviously want to see what our response is to Juukan because of the damage that it has done to our reputation for really effective management of cultural heritage."

The Australian Council of Superannuation Investors, a corporate governance advisory firm whose members include Australia's two largest pension funds, expressed disappointment that managers had not been held more accountable and said it would've favored an independent inquiry.

"The destruction of the caves resulted in a devastating cultural loss," ACSI CEO Louise Davidson said in a statement. "It is of significant concern to investors because it puts at risk Rio Tinto's relationship with key stakeholders and its social licence to operate."

Rio's board-led review identified failures over nearly a decade that had contributed to the incident, including failures of management systems.

HNA's Swissport lands \$354m from creditors to fight Covid-19

BEIJING

SWISSPORT has secured nearly \$354 million of extra liquidity from senior secured creditors that will support operations while the aviation services company revamps amid the Covid-19 pandemic, in a move that could squeeze out Chinese owner HNA Group.

"The agreement 'in principle' on a comprehensive restructuring includes significant deleveraging and a new \$590m long term debt facility, which will replace the interim facility," the airport ground services group said without naming the creditors.

It was reported in May that a trio of distressed securities investors, led by Apollo Global Management, had bought debt of Swissport and were holding talks with the company as it seeks cash to ride out the coronavirus crisis. The latest cash injection will add to the more than \$236m of liquidity Swissport had on August 18, it said. The restructuring is expected to be completed in late 2020.

"The \$354m clearly is very important to give us the liquidity to confidently trade through the pandemic for the next months or year to come and also clearly gives us the liquidity to bridge the restructuring process," chief financial officer Peter Waller told journalists on a call on Friday. "That is a committed facility, only subject to final documentation. We actually expect to receive funds in due course in coming days."

Executives declined to comment on whether HNA would remain owner, saying detailed terms of the restructuring were expected to be released within days. "I think you are familiar with how restructurings typically turn out," Mr Waller said.

Swissport said it had managed the market disruption from the Covid-19 pandemic with stronger trading results and better liquidity than originally anticipated. Revenue for the three months to June 30 fell 70 per cent to €235.5m, with an uptick in volumes since the end of June.

SBL's responsible drinking campaign goes online, with thousands targeted



Singida regional traffic commander, Edson Mwakhaba (L) and Serengeti Breweries Limited's government relations manager, Neema Temba (R) presenting road safety vests to Abduli Misigo, chairman of Singida urban motor-taxi riders association as part of 'Don't drink and drive' campaign earlier this year. Photo courtesy of SBL.

By Smart Money Reporter

THOUSANDS of people including motorists, pedestrians and traffic officers are expected to take part in an online responsible drinking sensitization campaign which is organised annually by Serengeti Breweries Limited.

The annual event which normally is held in various regions in the country physically goes virtual this year because of the threat of the coronavirus outbreak which is ravaging many countries in the world.

Through its DRINKiQ e-learning tool, the sensitization campaign has been designed to provide consumers with the information they need to make positive decisions about drinking responsibly and tackle myths about drinking alcohol.

Before Covid-19, the awareness campaign was offered through public lectures and distribution of awareness materials at higher institutions of learning, public gathering such as bus stands and engagement with boozers at pubs.

"DRINKiQ e-learning is the next stage in SBL's commitment to help its consumers make informed choices about drinking. We have been providing face-to-face DRINKiQ

training to groups across the country in the last few years but our approach will now change due the situation we are currently facing," said SBL's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha.

Wanyancha said in Dar es Salaam this week that the DRINKiQ sensitization has been well received by the public because people are genuinely shown an interest to get information that saves their lives and property from traffic accidents. "This powerful, new online tool is intended to raise collective knowledge about alcohol, allow anyone anywhere in Tanzania and even beyond, to quickly get informed on what entails healthy, responsible drinking, and gives tips needed to make the right choices when consuming alcohol," he added.

He further elaborated that for those who choose to drink alcohol, the new DRINKiQ resource will help them to understand the units and calories in all types of alcoholic drinks and shows how each drink compares with others. "It is important for anyone who wants to better understand what they are drinking - and who seeks advice on drinking moderately and responsibly to make smarter choices about what to drink and when," the SBL Corporate Director noted.

The US Institute for Health and Productivity Management (IHPM) also recommends DRINKiQ e-learning as an engaging and easy-to-use educational tool which provides essential knowledge about the effects of drinking in order to guide appropriate and safe use of alcohol.

Various studies have indicated that drinking moderately

can be useful to health but on the other hand, drinking excessively has a number of negative effects to your health and wellbeing hence SBL's decision to sensitize the public.

SBL, which is a subsidiary of British multinational beverage conglomerate, Diageo, is transforming how alcohol consumers perceive hence decided to pioneer the e-learning tool dubbed DRINKiQ as a timely intervention to the growing concern of road accidents tied to excessive alcohol consumption.

DrinkiQ encompasses a global consumer campaign which began in London, the headquarters of Diageo, and has reached several markets including Tanzania, highlighting factors such as age and gender that determine how the body processes alcohol.

Zambia Eurobonds, kwacha slump after central bank governor fired

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S currency and Eurobonds plunged after President Edgar Lungu's shock dismissal of central bank Governor Denny Kalyalya that raised questions about the independence of the institution.

The move comes at a critical time for the economy of Africa's second-biggest copper producer, which is forecast to contract by 4.2% this year with annual inflation lingering near 16%. Debt is soaring and the fiscal deficit rapidly increasing as the coronavirus pandemic curbs revenue. Lungu's decision drew criticism from economists and even South African Finance Minister Tito Mboweni.

Zambia's kwacha fell 0.6% by 11:47 a.m. in Lusaka to a record low 19.1863 per dollar. The nation's \$1 billion of Eurobonds due 2024 fell as much as 5.7% to 54.07 cents on the dollar, the most since April.

Lungu on Saturday named Christopher Mvunga as Kalyalya's replacement. The former deputy secretary to the cabinet and deputy finance minister will have to contend with the world's second-worst performing currency, which has lost more than a quarter of its value against the dollar this year. He'll also need to limit the government's growing dependence on the central bank to cover funding shortfalls.



Dismissed Bank of Zambia governor, Dr Denny Kalyalya.

"It is quite surprising because Dr. Kalyalya has performed sterlingly under very extreme circumstances," Trevor Simumba, an economist based in Lusaka, the capital, said by phone. "To fire him in this manner sends a very negative signal. I'm shocked."

Spendthrift government
Lungu didn't give a reason for firing Kalyalya, who repeatedly urged the government to cut the fiscal deficit amid ballooning debt and falling foreign-exchange reserves. His dismissal could raise concerns among investors who saw him as a credible governor trying to keep a spendthrift government in check.

The move might be a response to the government's failure to push through a constitutional amendment that would remove the responsibility of printing currency from the Bank of Zambia, according to Grieve Chelwa, an economics lecturer at the University of

Cape Town's Graduate School of Business.

"The backdrop to this is Bill 10," he said by phone Sunday, referring to the proposed constitutional amendment. "There's been a struggle for control over the central bank."

The government had been increasingly relying on the Bank of Zambia for financing, even before the pandemic struck. Central bank holdings of government bonds increased to nearly 20 billion kwacha (\$1 billion) in July from 2 billion kwacha at the start of last year. There are fears that Kalyalya's removal could push Zambia toward soaring inflation seen in Zimbabwe in the 2000s, according to Chelwa.

"You need to remember the decisive role Gideon Gono played in ruining monetary policy," he said of Zimbabwe's central bank governor when hyperinflation began. "Mvunga is that kind of an appointee. He is too close to the presidency."

A call to Mvunga's mobile phone didn't connect when Bloomberg sought comment. Lungu's spokesman didn't respond to a call or message seeking comment, and neither did Kalyalya respond to a text message.

Kalyalya previously served as deputy governor and spent years at the World Bank. Mvunga is an accountant who has worked for lenders including Standard Chartered Plc and Standard Bank. He doesn't have the necessary experience in central banking, Simumba said. "Christopher Mvunga is not capable of being central bank governor," Simumba said. "Let's be very clear about that."

Fuliza loan owners hold wages to workers on stimulus programme

NAIROBI

SOME of the young people employed on the government's economic stimulus programme Kazi Mtaani cannot be paid through their mobile phones because their lines have been blocked for failure to settle Fuliza overdraft loans. Others have had their wages withheld because they furnished the government with mobile numbers of their relatives, which do not match their personal details, to evade debt payment.

The payment hitch, disclosed in a report by the National Assembly Committee on Labour and Social Services, shows the youth's addiction to mobile loans that are easy to access in small amounts but are priced higher compared to credit from banks and sacco.

Most of the young people are hooked to Safaricom's #ticker:SCOM credit service Fuliza, which is linked to mobile money platform M-Pesa and is designed to deduct the outstanding debt automatically within 24 hours. "Some youth had blocked or frozen numbers due to having taken Fuliza loan from Safaricom," the report says.

"Some used IDs that belong to other family members. The challenge is that the details provided do not match their ID numbers, resulting in pay delay." Fuliza was introduced in January 2019 and is popular among low-income earners who take loans of less than Sh2,000 for their daily needs, with the debt settled after sales are made or wages received.

In the Kazi Mtaani programme, the youth are hired for 11 days and are compensated at a rate of Sh455 per day. This is down 30 per cent from the Sh650 daily wage rate when the short-term employment programme was launched on April 29.

Fuliza charges a facility fee of 1.083 per cent or 395.2 per cent annualised, underlining the high cost of using the short-term credit service regularly. Most bank and sacco loans are priced from 12 per cent to 14 per cent per year but lock out people without steady income streams.

Surveys have shown many people who take digital loans are juggling credit from multiple platforms, ultimately leading to default on some of the platforms. Fuliza had lent an estimated Sh81 billion in the six months to June last year, indicating the huge demand for small loans conveniently delivered through mobile phones.

The government decided to use M-Pesa, the most popular mobile money service, to pay the young people in a convenient way that also reduces risk of handling cash in the wake of the highly infectious coronavirus. The report to Parliament comes after various youth protested delayed payments.

Last week, Housing Principal Secretary Charles Hinga sought to assure the youth that legitimate claims would be processed after county implementation committees verified their details against returns from the paying agency. "Payments for workers under the Kazi Mtaani programme are made via mobile money and it has been noted that some workers' details may have had errors which resulted in their payments not going through," Mr Hinga said.



Housing principals secretary Charles Hinga

Edcon secures Edgars sale to Durban-based Retailability

JOHANNESBURG

EMBATTLED clothing retail group Edcon yesterday confirmed that it has signed a sale agreement of its 90-year-old Edgars chain to Durban-based private retail group Retailability, for an undisclosed amount.

It's likely however, that the deal has come as a bargain, with Edcon being in the throws of a business rescue. Edcon said in a statement that the "sale and purchase agreement" with Retailability is for "parts of Edgars," without mentioning how many stores are included in the deal.

The deal effectively means only the most profitable Edgars stores in South Africa are part of the transaction, which is similar to Edcon's recently-concluded sale of its Jet chain to JSE-listed TFG. Negotiations are still underway regarding the sale of its Edgars stores in other African countries.

A retail fashion holding company, Retailability's retail brands including Legit, Beaver Canoe, and Style. It operates over 460 stores across South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, and eSwatini. Retailability previously purchased women's fashion chain, Legit, from Edcon for R637 million back in 2017. At the time the chain had around 216 stores across South Africa. The Legit purchase raised Retailability's national prominence and footprint.

"Positive step forward"
"We are pleased that we have taken a step closer to closing this sales transaction, which not only indicates confidence in the Edgars business but augments Retailability's already blue-chip level of retail expertise," Edcon's business rescue practitioners (BRPs) said.

"The signing of the sale and purchase agreement is a positive step forward in meeting the objectives of the Edcon business rescue plan, which when successfully concluded, will result in the saving of a significant number of jobs and the continuation of a great iconic Edgars brand," they added.

The BRPs are targeting for the transaction to be finalised by September, however, they noted that the deal is still subject to various conditions precedent and regulatory approvals, including from competition authorities.

"The parties will now move to work on preparing the signing of the sale and purchase agreements for the Edgars business conducted in the rest of Africa," the BRPs stated. While Retailability is not listed on the JSE, the group has a history going back to 1984 and has since 2015 been backed by Johannesburg-based private equity firm Metier.

Angolan ambassador roots for closer bilateral economic ties with Tanzania

ANGOLA'S Ambassador to Tanzania, Sandro de Oliveira wants to mobilise the local business community to invest and do trade with his country as a means of speeding up African integration. In this interview with Correspondent Beatrice Philemon, Ambassador Oliveira explains:

It is almost one year since your arrival in the country. How do you describe bilateral relations between Angola and Tanzania?

Diplomatic cooperation between our countries is excellent because it was founded on the historic ties that unite our people since the days of liberation struggle from colonialism where Tanzania played a fundamental role in our case. On the other hand, there is a significant margin for improvement of economic relations with bilateral trade which will mutually benefit both countries by taking advantage of the vast range of existing potentials.

Angola is currently taking new dynamism in engaging internationally and since last year we have submitted various bilateral agreements to different domains aimed at promoting our cultural proximity, free movement of people and goods. Our two countries can therefore open up to each other's new markets with focus on investment and trade involving the business communities. We believe that there is also a big interest from Tanzanians to have our bilateral agreement concluded in the shortest period of time, so that we turn things into reality to the benefit of our people.

What exactly is contained in your bilateral deal proposal submitted to Tanzanian authorities?

We are proposing free movement of people and goods between our two countries which will enable rapid growth of bilateral trade with investment in adequate communication infrastructure as a pre-requisite. Currently, the majority of cargo is transported by roads which remain poor to some extent and impassable especially during the rainy season. In that perspective, we will give priority to infrastructure projects that aim to resolve challenges facing road transport.

In addition, we are also looking at establishment of alternative transport modes such as investing in Lobito to Dar es Salaam railway corridor, which besides reducing time and cost for the transportation of people and cargo, will also create numerous direct and



indirect job opportunities on both sides.

This important railway line will link our important ports of Lobito and Dar es Salaam hence allowing for a quicker transit of goods between our two countries but also several landlocked countries served by our ports coming from Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Furthermore, we are conducting feasibility studies and reevaluating the Bilateral Air Services Agreement between our countries so that direct flights from our respective capitals become a fact.

Other areas of cooperation include the exchange and/or capacity-building of students, teachers and other professionals who will also mean that we share experiences on in various aspects of each other's strength and weakness.

And how do plan to involve the private sector in these bilateral relations?

The first thing that we aimed to do was create a Tanzania-Angola Business Forum, whose first meeting was scheduled for April this year but was not possible due to the coronavirus outbreak. This is our priority initiative and we continue to work on it so that it takes place in the nearest future.

The largest trade events in Angola and Tanzania that we intend to utilise to foster our trade ties and which involves the private sector are the International Fair of Luanda (FILDA) and the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) respectively.

These annual trade events which involve national and foreign companies are important vehicles that will boost our bilateral trade because of volume of transactions that are involved but also business to business deals that take place before, during and after these trade fairs. The Embassy of Angola will continue to work to encourage the participation of our private sectors in the forthcoming editions of the events. Also it is timely that we promote the creation of Angola-Tanzania Chamber of Commerce to provide a forum for consultation and research with direct contact between our business communities.

Can you mention some of the available business opportunities on both sides?

There are several opportunities in both countries, for instance, Tanzania has a huge agricultural sector in East Africa and the private sector has been its driver while Angola has as prioritised mass production of basic goods in quantities that meet local demand and the surplus. It is in this perspective that our government approved in July 2018, the overarching Support Programme for Production,

Diversification of Exportations and Substitution of Importations with particular emphasis on agriculture and currently has 14 ambitious projects. Tanzanian businesses here have an important role to play in terms of the supply of agricultural inputs and products, creation of industries and value chains and sharing of experience.

Similarly, from the romantic desert of Namibe, to the magnificent infrastructure of the Leba Sierra, to the joyful beaches of Luanda and Lobito, the heritage sites spread across the whole territory, its culture and welcoming people, Angola has a vast unexploited touristic potential, presenting many investment opportunities with high margins of return.

In which sectors does Angola promote productive value chains?

Productive value chains in areas of agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and aquiculture are all undergoing major transforms to produce finished goods. In this aspect, we have strong support from the African Development Bank and we are in need of experts with proven know-how and experience in these sectors.

What incentives do investors get in Angola?

There has been a paradigm shift in the past few years that has enormously improved the business environment in Angola. It is worth noting that laws such as our new Legal Regime of Foreign Citizens, the Regime of Unilateral Visa Exemption and Simplification of Administrative Processes for the Issuance of Tourism Visas and the Migratory Policy of Angola, are all meant to facilitate the entry and permanent residence of investors.

A new Private Investment Law has also been enacted to allow, among other measures, the realization of foreign direct investment in Angola of any amount without mandatory need to engage a local partner. The Agency for Private Investment and Export Promotion (AIPEX) has also been created to function as the sole agency to promote and attract private investors to support growth of exports in Angola. As a result of measures taken to provide a conducive environment for private investments, Angola has moved up two places in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index of 2018.

NB: Part two of the interview continues in Smart Money next week.

Africa goes big on tech in reinvigorating economies

ADDISABABA

JUST weeks after launching a Big Data solution to trace the spread of Covid-19 as African countries open up their skies and economies, the African Union has moved to devise more technological remedies to jumpstart the continent's trade and industries.

The organisation, which previously unveiled PanaBios - a bio-surveillance and bio-screening suite - that ensures continuity of business in the region, has now moved all Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) operations online.

The African Union Commission is now working closely with the private sector to address some of the most urgent challenges facing the continent at the moment, by coming up with the African Virtual Trade-Diplomacy Platform (AVDP), itself a part of the broader AVRIVA (African Virtual Resilient-Integration for a Vibrant Africa) framework being developed under the umbrella of the AfroChampions Initiative.

This comes as most governments on the continent advise their citizens to prepare for a future where most business operations will be conducted online, terming the coronavirus as the catalyst that could speed up digital transformation.

AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry Albert Muchanga told Digital Business that the move towards digital solutions for the 55-member state intergovernmental union is critical even as the union commits to meet the AfCFTA operationalisation deadline of January 1, 2021.

"This will help to ensure that African countries are able to meet the new date for the start of trading under the AfCFTA of 1st January 2021, as set by Africa Heads of State and Governments who are strongly committed to getting the AfCFTA agenda back on track after the postponement of the start of trading initially set for July 1, 2020," he said.

The concerns about the timely commencement of AfCFTA trading come at a time when countries all over Africa are getting ready to reopen their borders and economies, and a coordinated and harmonised effort is therefore urgently required to prevent confusion in the integration agenda. The commission is hopeful that digital technologies will keep playing "a very powerful role in driving positive cooperation" among member States for a safe, smart and harmonised reopening process.

"In this regard, the mandate of the

High-level Expert Committee is being broadened to include a review of the various options available to Member States, including digital solutions, which could be used to roll out trade next January," a statement from the AU reads.

PanaBios is already being utilised in Ghana, where it's being piloted, to manage congestion in workplaces and other high-risk locations while enabling digitising cross-border travel health clearance to suppress disease importation and transmission.

The platform was launched on July 29 by a consortium under the AU's Open Corridors Program with support from Pan-African Institutions such as the African Economic Zones Organisation, AfroChampions, the AU Department of Trade and Industry, Koldchain and national government initiatives, with the Ghanaian government's Trancop programme leading the way.

Ghana presidential adviser on health, Dr Anthony Nsiah-Asare said their government began piloting the use of the application in June. "I am sure every country will like it because nobody wants importation of the disease. All cases in Africa were imported and if we are not careful, this easing of businesses could lead to more importation of the virus into Africa," Dr Nsiah-Asare. PanaBios has the capacity to monitor and model the congestion, thereby mapping how the virus is spreading.

There are other digital solutions being adopted as well, key among them is the deployment of a technology framework for aligning e-commerce platforms, such as the already popular African Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP) developed by the Africa CDC, and the African e-commerce platform Sokokoo promoted by AeTrade Group.

As Africa aggressively pursues smart solutions, concerns shift to cybercrimes which have been the bane of adoption of e-commerce, with the continent suffering financially due to a vulnerable cyber space, leading to losses in the tune of \$350 billion last year alone, according to IT consultancy firm Serianu. The AU, however, is seeking to seal such loopholes by implementing a broad initiative to enhance cybersecurity in multilateral affairs on the continent.

This, the union believes, will shield governments, the private sector and citizens against the shockwaves of cyber gangs that keep spoofing and eavesdropping for user data over the internet, especially on its newly launched e-commerce platforms that are free for use by every member state.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Wearable technology put to use in fight against the Covid-19 pandemic

SAN DIEGO

THE prospect of suddenly falling gravely ill with no early symptoms is one of the coronavirus's many frightening aspects, one that Monica Valencia understands all too well. In July, a family member died of Covid-19 after an extremely short illness that seemed to come out of nowhere.

Only one symptom, shortness of breath, ever manifested. Within days, the relative was dead. "I don't want anyone else to go through what my family went through," Ms Valencia said. Now she is hoping to contribute her health data so that no one else has to. In July, Ms Valencia was among 400 employees of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System fitted with wearable Fitbit devices as part of a study tracking early signs of Covid-19 launched in March by the Scripps Research Translational Institute in San Diego.

The devices monitor heart rate, sleep patterns, and physical activity levels; if they can pick up subtle physiological changes that herald infection, they could nudge users to get tested even before symptoms appear.

Bringing such tech-based Covid-19 detection to an entire community could spot outbreaks earlier, alert individuals who may remain asymptomatic but contagious and help local officials to increase the effectiveness of their testing and tracing protocols. In a pandemic that has so far stubbornly resisted high-tech countermeasures, mass deployment of health trackers could be a powerful new public health weapon.

Several studies are looking at the effectiveness of wearables as Covid-19 detectors, and they are showing promising results. But they have major drawbacks. Most studies require participants to own their own wearable devices, which sell for anywhere from \$50 to \$400 and could cause a big data gap in a pandemic where low-income frontline workers are among the most vulnerable. (Pew Research Center has found

that some 31 per cent of Americans whose households earn \$75,000 or more per year report using wearable devices, compared to only 12 per cent of those in households earning less than \$30,000.)

Other issues could limit the effectiveness of this technology. As with tech-powered contact tracing efforts, some people are concerned with privacy issues and government access to health information - the same surveillance fears that also haunt "smart city" programmes that harvest data from residents. Researchers must both overcome those challenges and confront one additional barrier: a long legacy of mistrust between medical institutions and low-income communities of colour.

The Scripps study, called Detect, monitors the biometrics of 35,000 participants through an app that pulls data from Fitbits, Apple Watches, and other wearable devices. Lead researcher Jennifer Radin, an epidemiologist at Scripps, has compared day-to-day changes over baseline health levels and found signs that the sensor data can help detect Covid-19 before symptoms appear better than self-reported symptoms alone. Eventually, Ms Radin hopes to build an alert system that tells participants when their health patterns indicate infection; it could then send them testing information or an at-home testing kit and connect them with a contract tracer if they test positive.

Anyone who uses a wearable device can download Ms Radin's app to participate in this work. The MTS workers are among a few groups in and beyond the San Diego area who have received free Fitbits, donated by the device maker, that Ms Radin's team contacted to participate in the study. Healthcare workers at Scripps' clinical facilities have also received a batch, as have a number of osteopathic doctors in rural communities of the US, a partnership that Scripps set up through the Osteopathic Foundation. "It's exciting to potentially roll out the study in populations that might not have access all the



People wearing an Apple Watch and a Fitbit.

time to these devices and hopefully create something that is really useful," Ms Radin said.

Ms Radin and other scientists are going further, setting up a study in Jackson, Mississippi, to distribute wearables to low-income African-American residents, one of the pandemic's hardest-hit populations nationwide.

More than 80 per cent of Jackson's population is Black and nearly 30 per cent live under the poverty line; the city has seen more than 500 cases of Covid-19. Initiated by the World Economic Forum, the Jackson programme is still in the early planning stages about how it would work, how it would be funded and whom exactly it would target.

However, a programme that straps digital trackers to the wrists of African Americans

in a bid to study their health faces challenges beyond the question of device access. In the US, medical experimentation on Black people has a long history of deception and non-consensual practices, from syphilis injections by federal researchers at Tuskegee, to Cold War-era radiation studies by the Department of Defence, to the uncompensated taking of cancer cells by doctors at Johns Hopkins University.

That has scarred the Black community with deep trust issues towards health care institutions, said Primus Wheeler, the executive director of the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, a health care complex serving the city's disadvantaged residents. "When you even mention research, folks think about themselves as a guinea pig," Mr Wheeler said. "Even going to the hospital - people may not

want to go to a teaching hospital because they fear being practiced on."

That is also why Mr Wheeler sees so much value in the wearable devices: they can help prompt wearers to seek medical attention early, instead of waiting until it's too late. He and other community health leaders in Jackson are collaborating with city leaders, WEF executives and researchers to design the study in a way that is mindful of trust divides. Mr Wheeler thinks that they could tap into Jackson's network of community health workers - community members trained on the basics of at-home medicine and who act as a liaison to institutional providers - to distribute the devices and ensure participation.

The Detect study is just one of several projects employing wearables as Covid-19 detectors. Fitbit's own research programme, which encompasses 100,000 people in the US and Canada, is catching signs of the disease before symptoms show. So is a 5,000-person study led by Michael Snyder, a professor of genetics at Stanford University.

Mr Snyder's team is now building an algorithm that can scan device data at scale and alert wearers to get tested and self-isolate when signs of infection show.

In a sub-analysis of 31 participants who tested positive for Covid-19, Mr Snyder found that 82 per cent had data on their devices that indicated infection - such as an elevated heart rate - at or before the time symptoms appeared.

But the participants whose health data did not hint at their serious illness were likely people with pre-existing conditions, Mr Snyder said, highlighting another gap between wearables research and the populations most at risk for Covid-19. Mr Snyder said that his project has distributed free devices to high-risk groups - specifically people with family members who have had Covid-19. But medical confidentiality requirements have made that process a challenge.

WORLD

Fears over nutrition and stress see alarm raised in Africa over school closures

NAIROBI

THE World Health Organization has warned that prolonged school closures across Africa aimed at keeping students safe from COVID-19 are harming them in many ways. In a statement issued on Friday the WHO urged African governments to promote the safe reopening of schools while taking measures to limit the spread of the virus.

According to a survey conducted by the WHO and UNICEF, the impact of extended educational disruption is significant and includes poor nutrition, stress, increased exposure to violence and exploitation, childhood pregnancies and challenges in mental development of children due to reduced interaction.

Even though African governments have been gradually easing restrictions and reopening their economies, most have yet to find the right formula to reopen schools, with some coun-

tries closing them again after reopening them and some postponing learning.

In Kenya, where schools have been closed until next year, Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha cast doubt on reopening schools.

On Thursday Magoha said more than 100,000 schools will remain closed across the country until adequate preparations have been made to ensure full compliance with the guidelines on COVID-19 and President Uhuru Kenyatta feels it is safe to proceed.

Revised calendar

In South Africa, the department of basic education issued a revised calendar for this school year that provides for schools to reopen yesterday. The department said on Aug 1 that it had reached the decision after consultations with stakeholders.

This was after Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa's President, closed schools on July 24 after an initial reo-



Kindergarten teachers perform during an online class in Kampala on Saturday. As a measure to contain the spread of COVID-19, schools have started to offer online classes in Uganda. (XINHUA)

pening led to a rise in coronavirus infections among students and teachers.

According to the WHO survey on sub-Saharan African countries, schools are fully open in only six countries, they are closed in 14 countries and partially open in 19 others.

About 12 countries plan to resume classroom learning next month, when the academic year starts in some countries.

Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO regional director for Africa, said Africa should not be blindsided by its efforts to contain COVID-19 and end up with a lost generation.

"Just as countries are opening businesses safely, we can reopen schools. This decision must be guided by a thorough risk analysis to ensure the safety of children, teachers and parents and

with key measures like physical distancing put in place."

Schools have paved the way to success for many Africans and provide a safe haven for many children in challenging circumstances to develop and thrive, she said.

The survey also revealed that the long-term social and economic impact of extended school shutdowns is concerning. According to World Bank modeling, school closures in sub-Saharan Africa could result in lifetime earning losses of \$4,500 for each child.

This may also be exacerbated by reduced earnings of parents forced to stay at home to take care of children, especially in households that cannot afford child care services.

Agencies

China and Vietnam pledge border peace, common development

CHINA and Vietnam should strengthen strategic communication, keep developing their ties and make cooperation between their border areas play a bigger role in promoting ties, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

Wang (pictured) made the remark while attending a ceremony with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the demarcation of the two countries' land boundary and the 10th anniversary of the erection of boundary mark-

ers.

China and Vietnam signed their land border treaty in December 1999, and it took effect in July 2000. China and Vietnam stuck to resolving their land border issues through talks and spent nine years to get the treaty signed, which showed a significant resolution of the two countries and their ruling parties and strengthened the foundation for common development of their border areas, Wang said.

Upholding neighborliness and friendliness serves as a political guarantee for addressing properly sensitive issues between the two countries, while sticking to talks is



the right path for solving their differences, Wang said.

The two countries should work on maintaining the order of the border areas, improve the business climate there and promote person-

nel exchanges, he said.

They should also enhance cooperation in the management of border affairs, the security, operation of ports and disease prevention, and they should further promote the opening-up of the border areas, he added.

When addressing their maritime issues, China and Vietnam should draw on the experience of their demarcation of land borders and in the Beibu Gulf, Wang said, adding that they are fully capable of further addressing maritime issues through talks.

Wang called for the two countries to actively engage in talks for a basic

and long-term solution to the issues that both sides find acceptable.

China-Vietnam relations will become more robust after weathering the test of the pandemic, he said.

On his part, Pham Binh Minh said the Vietnamese side is committed to upholding the Vietnam-China comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, and expressed the willingness to further advance bilateral ties. The two foreign ministers examined the boundary stones between China and Vietnam and traced in red ink over characters printed on their respective first boundary stones.

Xinhua

Africa CDC urges avoiding prevention fatigue amid easing lockdowns

ADDIS ABABA

THE Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has urged the continent to avoid coronavirus "prevention fatigue."

The urgent call was made by John Nkengasong, Director of the Africa CDC, who noted "a slight decrease" in COVID-19 infection rates on the continent, and said this "gives some signs of hope that we are beginning to bend the curve slowly," an AU statement issued on Saturday quoted Nkengasong (pictured) as saying.

The Africa CDC Director, however, cautioned the continent "to maintain and increase the use of masks, social distancing, and to ramp up testing, even as countries begin to ease lockdown measures."

"We do not want the population to show prevention fatigue," Nkengasong said, adding that "we are dealing with a delicate virus that can easily flare up again very quickly, as has been witnessed in other parts of the world."

In the past week, Africa reported an average of 10,344 new cases per day, compared to 11,494 the week before and 14,447 the previous week, according to figures from the Africa CDC.

The Africa CDC, specialized healthcare agency of the 55-member African Union (AU), also announced that Africa is working towards "trusted testing" for COVID-19 to protect travel and borders. This will entail mutual recognition of certified COVID-19 testing among all member states, to allow for smooth movement across the continent. Nkengasong said the Partnership for Increased COVID-19 Testing (PACT) "will be used to enhance surveillance in different economic sectors."

The continental PACT initiative, which was rolled out in June when the continent had conducted under 400,000 tests, had a target of 10 million tests across the continent.

A few months later, 10,256,000 tests have been conducted, the majority of them in ten countries that are South Africa, Morocco, Ethiopia,



Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda and Mauritius.

The Africa CDC also disclosed a new target of 20 million tests has now been set for the period from now until the beginning of November, to capitalize on the gains recorded so far.

On Thursday, the AU Commission had launched a flagship campaign to intensify the continental fight against

the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic towards protecting African economies and livelihoods amid the easing of COVID-19-inflicted lockdowns.

The newly launched continental initiative, dubbed "Africa Against COVID-19: Saving Lives, Economies, and Livelihoods Campaign," mainly envisaged protecting borders and travelers, economies and livelihoods, as countries ease lockdown and re-

sume economic activities, the AU announced on Thursday.

As of Saturday, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the African continent reached 1,169,670 as the death toll from the pandemic climbed to 27,348, while some 891,713 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 have recovered across the continent so far, according to the Africa CDC.

Xinhua

Kremlin hopes wave of violence in Belarus is avoided

MOSCOW



MOSCOW notes that the Belarusian protesters' actions do not lead to clashes with the law enforcement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday, expressing hope that clashes will also be avoided in the future.

"So far, we note that no provocation from the protesters took place. We note that the law enforcement agencies perform their duties correctly. [...] We hope that any provocations in this regard will be successfully avoided and prevented in the future," Peskov told journalists.

The spokesman noted that various rallies in Belarus do not lead to riots.

"Consecutively, there is no need for any harsh measures from the law enforcement," he said.

Peskov also said that Russia is not in talks with the Belarusian opposition's coordination council.

"No, we have no channels of contacts. No talks are underway," Peskov said, while answering media questions if Moscow tried to establish contacts with the oppositional forces in Belarus.

Moscow prefers politicians that advocate cooperation between Russia and Belarus, but Kremlin has no intention to meddle in the situation in the neighboring country, according to the Kremlin spokesman.

"Of course, we prefer those politicians in Belarus who advocate consistent movement towards allied relations, who advocate mutually beneficial partnership between our two brotherly nations," he said.

In the meantime, the spokesman underscored that making any contacts with the opposition would fall into meddling in Belarus's internal affairs category in any case.

"We criticize those who do it, we consider it wrong and we are not going to do it ourselves. At least, not now, during this so-called 'hot phase'," he said.

According to Peskov, Belarus' opposition has scant intentions to maintain friendly ties with Russia.

"We saw some texts, some text drafts which were accessible in the media outlets, they are still accessible where the intentions to continue friendly relations were declared in the least degree," the spokesman said answering a reporter's question whether there are those among the Belarusian opposition who expresses serious anti-Russian views.

The Kremlin representative noted that the Coordination council of the Belarusian opposition is a somewhat informal structure and its "position on various issues is mobile, it changes." "There is no clear position, thus it is difficult for us to make a judgement in this case," he added.

The spokesman refused to comment on the actions of security structures during rallies in Belarus. "This is the internal affair of Belarus, we are not going to interfere," he said.

The Kremlin spokesman also declined to comment on the footage of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko arriving at his residence in a bulletproof vest carrying a machine gun. "I will not answer this question," the Kremlin representative said.

Agencies

W. Africa leaders soften stance on return of Mali leader

BY BLOOMBERG

WEST African leaders may no longer push for Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to be restored to office after a first phase of talks with the military junta that has taken control of the country, an official said.

The softened stance comes after envoys from the Economic Community of West African States met junta leaders at the weekend to discuss a transition to a civilian administration. The regional bloc had initially called for Keita to be reinstated.

The Ecowas delegation led by former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has made some progress in the negotiations. More talks are planned on Monday, Ismael Wague, the spokesman for the junta, told closely held Malian Horon TV.

"We have reached a lot of agreements, but we have not yet agreed on all the issues," Jonathan told the broadcaster. Keita, 75, dissolved his government and resigned Tuesday under pressure from soldiers who detained him hours after they staged a mutiny at an army barracks on the outskirts of the capital, Bamako. Previous mediation efforts by Ecowas failed to resolve the impasse between Keita's government and a popular protest movement that had demanded he step down before he was eventually seized.

The bloc placed its forces on standby Tuesday, as it sealed off Mali's borders and suspended all trade. Keita remains in captivity with top members of his cabinet.

Agencies

Postponing LegCo election absolutely necessary for safeguarding prosperity, stability of HKSAR

THE sixth Legislative Council (LegCo) of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will continue performing duties after September 30, 2020, for no less than a year until the term of the seventh LegCo starts, according to a decision adopted at the 21st session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

Considering that Hong Kong is currently faced with a severe situation of the COVID-19 epidemic, the decision is reasonable and in line with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China

as well as common international practice. It's essential for guaranteeing Hong Kong's early victory against the pandemic and efforts to achieve economic recovery and improve people's livelihood.

Fairness and justice of an election cannot be ensured without a secure environment, and economic recovery and livelihood improvement won't be achieved without early containment of the COVID-19 epidemic.

Hong Kong has been suffering from a third wave of COVID-19 infections since July, and is confronted with a rather grim and worrying epidemic situation.

Since the turbulence triggered by the anti-extradition bill protests in 2019 and the outbreak of the COVID-19 have grossly encumbered the social and economic development of Hong Kong, the latest COVID-19 resurgence would inevitably aggravate the situation and add to the burden on the HKSAR's economy and people's livelihood, pose direct threats to citizens' health and safety, and cast a greater shadow on the region's future development if Hong Kong fails to control the virus.

The decision to postpone the LegCo election and enable the sixth LegCo to continue perform-

ing its duties aims at stopping further spread of the pandemic caused by mass congregation as well as interregnum of legislature incurred due to the postponement.

The NPC Standing Committee's decision is authoritative and necessary, and timely addresses the urgent problems faced by the HKSAR.

The decision is critical for the success of Hong Kong's epidemic prevention and control efforts, which ensures that the legislative body of the HKSAR can perform its duties in accordance with the law, helps the HKSAR government ex-

ercise governance effectively and maintain normal functioning of society, guarantees the legitimate rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents, and safeguards the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Postponing the LegCo election when the pandemic is wreaking havoc in the city is absolutely necessary for Hong Kong and conforms to the general consensus among the international community. Such decision is also in line with the prevailing international practices in many countries and regions in the present situation.

From February 21 to July 26, a total of 68 countries and regions

had deferred elections due to the COVID-19 outbreak, according to statistics from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), an intergovernmental organization.

Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the ruling party of Germany, announced in a statement in March that the scheduled April 25 conference for electing a new leader had been postponed "indefinitely" because of COVID-19.

The British government postponed the local and mayoral elections in England slated for May 7 for one year, as the government

forecast that COVID-19 would be at its height in May.

The local government elections of Australia's New South Wales (NSW) were postponed for a year due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which means the local government officials and councilors will be in office for an extra 12 months.

As it has been proven by practice, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on elections and the health and safety of people's lives should never be underestimated or neglected. The threats posed by the pandemic must be tackled with powerful measures without delay.

People's Daily

Trump campaign eyes reboot with 'hopeful' convention

WASHINGTON / CHARLOTTE, NC

REPUBLICANS will make their case this week that the United States' economic and political future depends on the re-election of Donald Trump at a party convention designed to highlight his pre-pandemic record as president and sow doubt about opponent Joe Biden.

Against the backdrop of a coronavirus pandemic that has killed here over 175,000 Americans, and an ensuing recession that has seen the loss of millions of jobs and Trump's erosion in the polls, Republicans plan a partly virtual, partly in-person extravaganza here studded with Trump family members that features the president speaking every night.

The four-day convention will focus on the highlights of Trump's first term and a promise to do more in a second, said White House and party officials, who did not provide details about his policy plans.

The event follows last week's Democratic National Convention that nominated Biden, a former vice president, and running mate Senator Kamala Harris. The Democrats, originally scheduled to gather in Milwaukee, held the first-ever virtual convention because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden, 77, is leading Trump, 74, in opinion polls ahead of the Nov. 3 elec-

tion. Biden and his fellow Democrats portrayed Trump as a force for darkness, chaos and incompetence, while stressing the Democrats' diversity and values like "empathy" and "unity."

Republicans said their convention would offer a more hopeful message, with an emphasis on "law and order," gun rights, tax cuts and the "forgotten" men and women of America.

"We definitely want to improve the mood, the dour, sour mood from this week at the DNC," White House counselor and former Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway told reporters on Friday. "We need to be lifted up. We need to hear more optimism and hopefulness."

But with the pandemic not yet under control, good news has been in short supply for Trump and his party. His performance as president was sharply criticized by Biden and former President Barack Obama at the Democratic convention, which the party considered a huge success. Trump continues to receive low marks from the public on his handling of the virus. Biden's campaign said Trump and his allies would attempt to change the subject.

"What (voters) will hear from Donald Trump this week are the last things our country needs: more desperate, wild-eyed lies and toxic division in vain attempts to distract from



President Donald Trump

his mismanagement," said Biden spokesman Andrew Bates.

"What they won't hear is what American families have urgently needed and been forced to go without for over seven consecutive months: any coherent strategy for defeating the pandemic," Bates said.

LIVE EVENTS, WHITE HOUSE STAGE

The president, a former reality television star, plans to hold several live events here with in-person audiences during the Republican convention, in contrast to Democrats, who showed pre-taped segments or delivered speeches in mostly empty venues to

avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

Trump will travel on Monday to North Carolina, the originally scheduled convention venue, where some activities are still slated to take place. His nightly speeches are a break from both parties' tradition, in which the nominee takes a low profile ahead of the acceptance speech on the last night of the convention.

The contrast between Trump and Biden is "overwhelming," Pennsylvania Republican Chairman Lawrence Tabas said on Sunday while attending the party's summer conference in Charlotte. Trump "is vigorous, optimistic and dynamic. In Biden's speech, he was dull and did not seem

to have the energy, the spirit or the optimism."

Today, Trump's wife, Melania, is expected to give a speech from the White House, while Vice President Mike Pence follows on Wednesday from Baltimore's Fort McHenry historic site.

Trump will accept his party's nomination on Thursday night from the White House South Lawn with a large crowd in attendance, a location that has been criticized by Democrats as a partisan use of public property.

"Trump has four days to make two cases: One is 'we know what we are doing and have done a great job, obviously interrupted by the virus,'" said Constantin Querard, president of Grassroots Partners, an Arizona-based conservative political consultancy. "And then you have to knock the Democratic ticket for being as far-left as they are," he said.

BASHING BIDEN

Trump, who uses nicknames and pejorative descriptions to demean his opponents, previewed his attacks on Biden, whom he frequently derides as "Sleepy Joe," in a rebuttal address after the Democratic convention finished last week. "Joe Biden grimly declared a season of American darkness. And yet, look at what we've accomplished."

Over 40% Russians ready to undergo coronavirus vaccination – pollster

MOSCOW

MORE than 40% Russians are ready to get vaccinated against the novel coronavirus with Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, the Russian Public Opinion Research Center VTsIOM's head, Valery Fedorov, said.

"Russia's new vaccine Sputnik V: Are we ready to get vaccinated or not? 42% say 'yes, most likely.' 52% - no we won't," he said on Saturday.

According to the VTsIOM survey, almost 60% of Russians expect the second wave of the pandemic in Russia.

"Will there be the second wave. Only 30% of the respondents believe it is not likely to happen. The majority - 58% think that it will. Moreover, their number grew significantly in the past month, from 52% to 58%," Fedorov said.

The survey was conducted among 1,600 Russians aged 18 and older.

In late December 2019, Chinese officials informed the World Health Organization (WHO) about the outbreak of a previously unknown pneumonia in the city of Wuhan, in central China. Since then, cases of the novel coronavirus - named COVID-19 by the WHO - have been reported in every corner of the globe, including Russia.

On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. According to the latest statistics, about 23 million people have been infected worldwide and approximately 780,000 of them died. To date, 951,897 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Russia, with 767,477 patients having recovered from the disease. Russia's latest data indicates 16,310 fatalities nationwide.

On August 11, Russia registered the world's first vaccine against the novel coronavirus. The vaccine, dubbed Sputnik V, was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry, and its clinical trials were successfully completed in June-July. The vaccine was developed on a platform that had been used for a number of other vaccines.

Agencies

Stronger China-Africa ties key to post-COVID-19 economic recovery - scholar

NAIROBI

STRONGER China-Africa ties are key to the post-COVID-19 economic recovery of the African continent, a Kenyan scholar said on Sunday.

Peter Kagwanja CEO, Africa Policy Institute, a regional think tank, said in a commentary published in the Sunday Nation that as the global COVID-19 crisis continues, promoting manufacturing

and technological innovation is emerging as key to Africa's COVID-19 response and recovery.

"With the resurgence of isolationism, protectionism and shrinking resources for investment from Africa's traditional partners in the West, cooperation with China offers a common response and recovery strategy for African countries to combat COVID-19 while promoting manufacturing to roll back poverty, provide

jobs and livelihoods," Kagwanja wrote.

He noted that rising economic nationalism, isolationism and protectionism in the West has made Africa's cooperation with China even more urgent and pivotal. "But with the resurgence of the cold war-era geopolitics, signified by trade and technology wars between America and China, Africa has to make bold and enlightened choices in favor of its post-COVID-19 recovery and greater develop-

ment," he observed.

Kagwanja said that since February, Beijing has collaborated with the 54 African countries to fight COVID-19, noting that since COVID-19 struck, Africa has waged two wars. "The first is the war to contain the spread of the virus, which affected more than one million people. The other is the war against poverty that would come from succumbing to the disease either as a health threat or as an economic

threat," he added.

The scholar observed that the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on African economies is yet to be assessed but what is certain is that it has exacted a heavy toll on jobs and employment, disrupted manufacturing supply chains, leading to a shortage of raw materials, reduced orders and led to the closure of manufacturing plants around the world.

Xinhua

Electrified education opens bigger window for students

"WHAT does a dung beetle look like?" A student asked Long Zhongwu, a teacher from Xinxu primary school in Lanshan county, Yongzhou, central China's Hunan province during a Chinese class when the latter read a text about bugs.

Long was obviously well prepared for this. He slid two blackboards in the classroom to the sides, and then a big screen of a computer just appeared, presenting a video clip of dung beetles carrying their food. The students soon had a clear understanding of the text.

Since 2011, Lanshan county has started equipping local schools with electronic teaching devices, and 65-inch all-in-one PCs were allocated to Long's school four years ago. "The computer eased my pressure and made teaching more efficient," Long told the People's Daily.

Long, 52, has been teaching at the school for nearly 30 years, where he's responsible for teaching students in a grade. It means that all the courses of the grade are taught by him.

However, he's not good at every course, and in particular, music. "I don't sing well, so I'm afraid that I might misguide the students," he said.

With the computer, Long is able to download free courseware from the website of Hunan's basic education resource, which



Students from Xinxu primary school have an online class (File photo)

not only saves his time used to be spent on blackboard-writing, but also enriches the content of the classes.

"Every time I come across materials that are abstract or difficult, I would prepare pictures and videos in advance to make the classes more attractive, so that the students would also be more curious," he introduced. The computer also relieves his burden on teaching music, as the students can now have online music classes with it.

Li Zixuan, a student of the Xinxu primary school has been studying from home since the COVID-19 epidemic broke out this year. According to the requirement of the school, Li has watched an online class that encouraged children to share the daily chores of their families.

When Li's mother was about to start spring ploughing this year, Li volunteered to offer help, which surprised the mother very much.

Li's father works out of town, so her mother tries very hard to educate her. However, Li doesn't always listen to her mother.

"What's magical about the online class?" That's a question puzzled the mother very much. Later, after she watched it herself, she was finally convinced that the class was very useful.

The online classes launched by Hunan province also include moral education, psychological health, safety education, science, as well as culture and art. These recorded classes are aired through Hunan's education TV channel and online platforms.

The online classes are not about just reading what's written

on the books. They invite representatives from different sectors of the society to introduce their stories. "The classes are just like TV dramas and entertainment shows, and the children love to watch them," said Guo Xiaofang, head of the online class program.

The online class program is largely welcomed by Duan Shengwen, principal of the Xinxu primary school, as around 2/3 of the students from his school are left-behind children whose parents are working out of town. "The program will more or less make them less lonely and lead them to pursue the goodness," said Duan.

The education department of Yongzhou has promoted the application of internet in its schools since 2015, launching distance education to fill the gap between urban and rural schools. At present, the Xinxu primary school is installing cameras and microphones, and will soon be connected to online education network.

"When every classroom is equipped with touch-screen computers with access to the internet, we will be connected with the outside world. By then, our students may have classes here given by famous teachers from other places," Duan noted, adding that distance education also offers a channel for teachers to improve themselves.

People's Daily

No nation can ride out the pandemic until there is a vaccine - WHO chief

THE World Health Organization says the COVID-19 pandemic can be ended within two years but has warned that no country can just ride it out until there is a vaccine.

The organization's Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said it took two years to end the 1918 flu pandemic, and technology today will help end the present pandemic more quickly, even though globalization brings connectivity that helps viruses to spread.

"So we hope to finish this pandemic in less than two years, especially if we can pull efforts together and with national unity and global solidarity," he told a virtual news conference that he hosted in Geneva on Friday.

In opening remarks, Tedros said that no country can ride out the pandemic until there is a vaccine. A vaccine will be vital in fighting the pandemic, he said.

"But there's no guarantee that we will (find a vaccine soon), and even if we do ... it won't end the pandemic on its own. We must all learn to control and manage this virus using the tools we have now, and to make the adjustments to our daily lives that are needed to keep ourselves and each other safe."

So we hope to finish this pandemic in less than two years, especially if we can pull efforts together and with national unity



and global solidarity.

New milestone

The world reached a milestone of 800,000 COVID-19 deaths on Saturday and close to 23 million confirmed cases, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University.

In the United States, the country with the most infections, health officials said there may be 10 times more cases than the more than 5.6 million confirmed ones. The US has recorded more than 175,000 deaths from the virus, also more than any other country.

India reported a record daily jump of infections on Saturday, bringing the total to near 3 million and piling pressure on authorities to curb huge gatherings as a major religious festival began.

The 69,878 new infections, the fourth straight day above 60,000, took India's total cases to 2.98 million, behind only the US and Brazil. COVID-19 deaths increased by 945 to 55,794, the federal health ministry said.

South Korea added 397 new cases to its coronavirus caseload in a 10th day of triple-digit in-

creases, as the speed of viral spread neared levels last seen during the worst of the outbreak in spring.

The resurgence, which began in densely populated Seoul before spreading to practically every major city and provincial town over the past week, is a major setback for the country, which had been eager to tout its hard-won gains against the virus.

In Italy, the health ministry on Saturday reported 1,071 new coronavirus infections in the previous 24 hours, exceeding 1,000 cases in a day for the first time since May, when the government eased rigid lockdown measures.

Speaking of ways to contain the virus, Tedros said that the lockdowns enabled many countries to suppress transmission and take the pressure off their health systems, but noted that lockdowns are not a long-term solution anywhere.

"We do not need to choose between lives and livelihoods, or between health and the economy. That's a false choice. On the contrary, the pandemic is a reminder that health and the economy are inseparable."

WHO is committed to working with all countries to move into a new stage of opening their economies, societies, schools and businesses safely, he said.

Every individual must be involved, he said. Xinhua

HOUSTON

HURRICANE Marco and Tropical Storm Laura tore through the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico on Sunday, forcing thousands of coastal residents in Louisiana and Cuba to flee, and flooding roads in Haiti's capital, with damage across the region expected to worsen this week.

Marco, which strengthened into a hurricane on Sunday with sustained winds of 120 kph, is forecast to make landfall along the Louisiana coast on Monday.

Laura, which hit the Dominican Republic and Haiti earlier on Sunday, killing at least 10 people before striking Cuba on Sunday evening, is forecast to strengthen into a hurricane before making landfall in Texas or Louisiana on Thursday.

US President Donald Trump issued a disaster declaration on Sunday for Louisiana. He had previously issued a

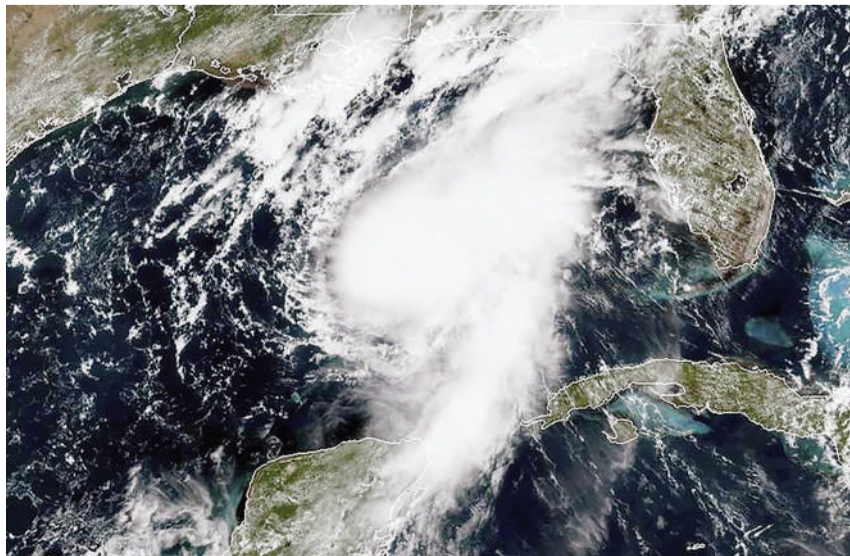
Thousands evacuate as dueling storms take aim at US Gulf Coast

similar declaration for Puerto Rico.

In New Orleans, Billy Wright spent his Sunday buying bottled water, non-perishable food and an attic ax, which can be used to chop through a roof if floodwaters block doors and windows. The 33-year-old attorney lives with his fiancée in a one-story house just blocks from a canal that failed during 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

"You'd rather have it and not need it than be stuck in your attic with rising floodwaters," said Wright. "Getting two storms back to back is a big concern."

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards warned that tropical storm-force winds would arrive by Monday and told residents that if they did not leave by Sunday night they should be prepared to ride out both Marco and



This satellite image shows Tropical Storm Marco approaching into the US Gulf Coast at on Sunday. (AFP)

Laura.

Laura could strengthen into a Category 2 or 3 hurricane on the 5-step Saffir-Simpson scale for measuring hurricane intensity and move west, closer to Houston, said Chris Kerr, a meteorologist at DTN, an energy, agriculture and weather data provider.

Category 2 storms have sustained winds of at least 155 kph. The threshold for Category 3 storms is 178 kph.

In the Dominican Republic, at least three people died, including a mother and her 7-year-old son, due to collapsing walls. Laura knocked out power to more than a million people in that country, forced more than a thousand others to evacuate and collapsed several homes along the Isabela River, authorities said.

In Port-au-Prince people wading

waist-deep in muddy water in some of the worst flooding the Haitian capital has seen in years.

Haitian authorities reported seven deaths, including at least two people swept away in flooding and a ten-year-old girl crushed when a tree fell on her home. Coastal neighborhoods of the capital were strewn with debris.

Laura hit eastern Cuba on Sunday evening with sustained winds of 60mph (95 kmph) downing trees and ripping flimsy roofing from buildings as it began a forecast 24-hour-trek from east to west along the southern coast of the largest island of the Caribbean.

The Cuban government said power was cut in the easternmost province of Guantanamo and would be shut down province by province as winds picked up across the country as a preventive measure.

Agencies

The
Guardian

SPORT



Utah Jazz's Donovan Mitchell (45) is fouled by Denver Nuggets' Jerami Grant (9) during the second half of an NBA basketball first round playoff game Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

Doncic beats buzzer with long 3, Mavs beat Clippers in OT

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

LUKA Doncic stepped back for a winning 3-pointer – on a tender ankle, no less.

Another installment in the ever-growing legend of Doncic.

Doncic's deep shot at the buzzer capped a triple-double and the short-handed Dallas Mavericks beat the Los Angeles Clippers 135-133 in overtime Sunday to even the playoff series at two games apiece.

Doncic finished with 43 points, 17 rebounds and 13 assists for his second straight triple-double.

"We know this kid has got a flair for the dramatic," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "He's a guy that lives for these moments."

To think, Doncic was a game-time decision due to the left ankle he hurt in Game 3. But once he stepped on the floor, he knew he would give it a go.

And once crunch time hit, the ankle wasn't even a thought.

"One of the best feelings I've ever had as a player," Doncic said about the winner. "Just something special."

Marcus Morris hit a 3-pointer with around 9 seconds remaining in OT to give the Clippers the lead. It simply set the stage for Doncic's winner over Reggie Jackson. His teammates rushed out to congratulate him.

"Big-time players make big-time plays. He's a big-time player," teammate Trey Burke said. "He's proved it already in this league."

Doncic's theatrics helped the seventh-seeded Mavericks post their biggest playoff comeback win, overcoming a 21-point, second-quarter deficit. Their previous best was 19 against the Spurs in San Antonio during Game 5 of the 2003 Western Conference Finals.

Dallas used a 16-0 run in the third to take the lead – and led by 12 points in the fourth before the Clippers rallied.

Lou Williams tied it at 121 by hitting two of three free throws with 50.6 seconds remaining in regulation. After Dallas failed to score on the next possession, the Clippers called a timeout to set up a play with 24.7 seconds left.

Kawhi Leonard's 3-point shot with 0.2 seconds remaining was off the mark. The Mavericks failed on a lob toward big man Boban Marjanovic to send it to overtime.

"Bottom line is the last play didn't lose the game for us," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "It was our entire play from the second quarter on."

Doncic didn't have center Kristaps Porzingis, who sat out with right knee soreness.

The 21-year-old Doncic hurt his left ankle in the last game. He hardly looked hampered, going 18 of 31 from the floor. He tested the ankle often, too, with jump stops, pivots and an impressive Euro-steps to gain separation.

Doncic got a breather to start the fourth quarter. He sat on the bench as trainers worked on his ankle. He then hopped up and down in the hallway and rode an exercise bike before returning with 8:33 remaining and the Mavericks leading 106-96.

The teams exchanged 3-pointers after 3-pointers down the stretch of the fourth, with the Clippers pulling to 119-117 on Leonard's 3-pointer with 1:56 left. The play was set up when Jackson saved a ball from going out of bounds on his end and tossed it all the way over to Leonard in the offensive end.

Williams scored 36 points off the bench for the second-seeded Clippers, and Leonard had 32. Paul George finished with nine points as his struggles continued. He was 3 of 14 from the

field and is shooting 29% in the series.

"If I make shots this series could be a little different," George said. "That's what it comes down to. Give them credit, they're playing well. Luka's playing phenomenal."

Before the game, Montrezl Harrell and Doncic exchanged a handshake and a hug as the patched things up. They were each given a technical foul after getting tangled up and exchanging words in Game 3.

"Sometimes you say things you don't want to say," Doncic said. "He apologized. So no problem."

Meanwhile, Donovan Mitchell added his name to a prestigious list that includes Michael Jordan, Allen Iverson and Wilt Chamberlain.

The four are the only NBA players to notch two 50 or more point games in a single postseason.

And Mitchell looks to just be getting started. Mitchell scored 18 of his 51 points in the fourth quarter and the Utah Jazz withstood a 50-point night from Jamal Murray to beat the Denver Nuggets 129-127 on Sunday and take a 3-1 lead in the playoff series.

Mitchell was 15 of 27 from the floor and went 17 of 18 from the free throw line. The 23-year-old Mitchell scored 57 points in Game 1. He's averaging 39.5 points in the series.

Since the return to action, he's looked like a different player. For that, he credits a chip on his shoulder.

"I love hearing negative things about me," Mitchell said. "The knock on me has been inefficient, not a team player. I pride myself on being a team player. ... People are going to say what they say. You can't please everybody. For me, it's how can I help my team win? Tonight it was scoring 50. Some nights it's not."

"They want to talk. It's just more fuel to the fire for me."

He's flattered to be joining such elite company. Iverson had a pair of games with 50 or more points in the 2001 playoffs, while Jordan accomplished the feat in '88 and '93, and Chamberlain in '60, according to the Jazz.

"I've got a lot of work to do to catch up to those guys," Mitchell cracked.

The Jazz can close the series out in Game 5 on Tuesday. But the Nuggets aren't ready to go home from the NBA bubble just yet, Murray said. "There's a lot of fight in us left," he said. "One game at a time."

Murray scored the most-ever points by a Denver player in a postseason game. His offensive explosion surpassed Spencer Haywood's mark of 45 in an ABA playoff contest on April 19, 1970. Murray also had 11 rebounds.

"He put his fingerprints all over the game – scoring, rebounding, play-making," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said.

Nikola Jokic added 29 points, including three dunks. Jokic is not known for his dunking despite his 7-foot frame.

Leading 109-108 with 4:02 remaining, the Jazz were on the fast break when Paul Millsap fouled Mitchell. The officials ruled it a clear-path foul. Mitchell hit both free throws and after getting the ball out of bounds, Mike Conley hit a jumper to extend the lead to five.

From there, the Jazz simply held on. Rudy Gobert had a big game with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Conley added 26 points in his second game since returning to the NBA bubble after leaving for the birth of his son.

After two blowouts by the Jazz, this game got back to being close. But once again the Jazz took control with a third-quarter spurt. They outscored the Nuggets 33-24 in the quarter and moved to plus-50 in the third for the series.

Limits of potential: Simba SC 'share sale' and Young Africans SC 'privatisation'

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

INTERMINABLE debate has been raging since 1975 at the very least on how the two rival city soccer giants ought to be organized, in the form of a fever that now rages in Yanga and then in Simba SC, cools down somewhat and comes back later.

It isn't clear if there is much room for innovation in how the two clubs are being run right now, but even then the pattern is definite, with stark contrasts on temperaments guiding the way the matter is handled at the two club premises.

Nor it is easy which if there is a viable model between the two ongoing experiments, or perhaps one mode of operation has reached its objective.

Something can be said, if at any rate on the basis of experience, in trying to compare the modes of leadership or club disputes in the two clubs since the mid-1970s, that there are distinctive patterns on how the disputes have unfolded.

While there are in both clubs disputes about who should be in office at a given moment, there is still a pattern, that in Yanga there is more often a conflict between club members (or a section of them, a rebel group) and an existing leadership.

With Msimbazi Street-based Simba SC, on the other hand, there is more of a conflict within the leadership, and members or fans involved as followers.

On the basis of this basic fault line one can figure out in what manner the hours and years put into the effort to find workable financial engagement systems in the clubs have produced results that are now being practiced.

In sum, despite the prevalence of a number of tensions or points of discord – and in large measure being orchestrated from higher levels as they take a club controlled by the members as a non-negotiable model – there is a workable system in place.

There is a key shareholder, despite the fracas about 51 per cent vs 49 per cent that authorities took as non-negotiable, so the 49 per cent level works.

In sum, there is something in the local environment that combats actual ownership of the city giants, as they



Yanga players take part in training session in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2020/21 season. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

have the commercial potential to be put up for what in proper market economies would be seen as 'public ownership,' that is, where public share trading is involved.

Yet this is the point of departure of impracticability of that model here, as the shares couldn't quite sell as ordinary shares on stock exchange as proper ownership is still a long way off.

But as noted, Simba SC is much closer to this model than their archrivals, Yanga, where the whole premise of a members' controlled club isn't imposed from above, but within.

The disconcerting point is that the two sides need more or less as much financing one compared to the other, in which case the clash of modes of financing works to the detriment of the one whose mode of running the club is inconsistent with key stakeholder's prerogatives. Still it is unclear if this issue about a system is really what makes the difference between the two clubs, or what sort of individuals or firms they have been able to elicit to financially guarantee club operations for a while.

The discussion revolves around the

business formats adopted – or failing to

be adopted – but is it an issue of individuals, firstly? The point that marginally needs to be underlined is that the Msimbazi Street club side has been able to adopt a relatively visible 'company' format because it is a change of relations, terms of accountability, within the leadership or leading groups in the club.

It is now accepted that there is a topmost boss who is also the club financier, and theoretically a 49 per cent shareholder, which is in accounting terms a virtual non-starter for there are no real funds constituting 100 per cent club share value.

What it thus means is the formation of a joint venture accord, where members have a free 51 per cent shareholding, and the key stakeholder provides the working capital, and this sum so provided is billed to be his 49 per cent shares.

The Jangwani Street side hasn't been able to adopt this format because club supporters are not obedient to club leaderships more or less unquestioningly, in which case reorganising the leadership on a company format on a durable basis

becomes impracticable.

At Jangwani Street club members want to have the last word on how the club is operating, in which case the key decision maker can't be a financier and then the membership is tied down to this 49 per cent shares holder.

When they have 51 per cent shares they will constantly overrule that investor, whereas the 51 per cent shares aren't backed by any real finances but the name.

Ask them about that and the answer will be clear: go start your own club and leave us with ours! But as the club needs cash, a 49 per cent shareholder intermittently exists, and currently it is GSM Group but for the modality to work, the sponsor holds no statutory positions and just being kind to the club, simply that.

Johnson back to No. 1 with performance that looked the part

NORTON, Mass.

DUSTIN Johnson is back to No. 1 in the world and wants to stay there as long as he can.

The manner in which he obliterated one of the strongest fields of the year at The Northern Trust is to wonder how he ever left in the first place.

At his best, no one makes golf look easier.

"He can absolutely dismantle a golf course," said Kevin Kisner, who used to ride to junior golf tournaments with Johnson when they were kids in South Carolina. "I've been watching it for 25 years. I'm pretty accustomed to it. When he's on, I just step to the side and try to add on to my bank account."

The numbers that defined Johnson's dominance go well beyond the \$1.71 million he earned for his 22nd career victory on the PGA Tour, his second this summer since golf returned from the pandemic or his fifth title in the FedEx Cup playoffs, tying him with Rory McIlroy for most in the postseason.

He started with a five-shot lead Sunday and matched the low score of the final round with an 8-under 63. Harris English, playing with Johnson in the last group, shot 32 on the front nine and lost ground.

"Kind of had my own tournament that I was playing," English said.

His 11-shot victory was the widest margin on the PGA Tour since Phil Mickelson won by 13 at the TPC Sugarloaf outside Atlanta in 2006, a week before the Masters.

When he tapped in for birdie on the final hole at TPC Boston, he was at 30-under 254, both personal bests.

Johnson became only the third player to finish at 30-under par or better on the PGA Tour. He was one shot from the record Ernie Els set in 2003 at Kapalua. Jordan Spieth was 30 under at Kapalua in 2016. He also was one shot from the 72-hole record Justin Thomas set – 253 – when he won the Sony Open in 2017.

Johnson wasn't aware of either record. "What is it?" he said when it was over, and then added, "That's all right. Next time."

What led to those numbers was missing only three greens over his



Dustin Johnson holds the trophy after winning the Northern Trust golf tournament at TPC Boston, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020, in Norton, Mass. (AP Photo)

last 54 holes – none on Sunday – while posting rounds of 60-64-63 the final three rounds, the lowest closing 54-hole total in tour history.

The 60 in the second round was noteworthy for Johnson being 11 under through 11 holes. It might have been the first time golf was buzzing about the prospect of a 57. Not many could have guessed he would finish with seven pars.

But then, Johnson is a mystery even at his best.

He shot 61 on his way to winning the Travelers Championship, but when he returned after a two-week break, he had a pair of 80s to miss the cut at Memorial, and a 78 before he withdrew from the 3M Open in Minnesota.

Since then, he has an average score of 66.25 in 12 rounds.

He came off the disappointment of another major that was in his grasp – the PGA Championship was his fifth runner-up finish in the majors, including the career Grand Slam of silver medals – by steamrolling the top 125 players outside Boston.

Claude Harmon III, his swing coach,

recalls Johnson showing up for The Northern Trust, going to the range and then saying, "Bro, what am I supposed to be working on again? I was hitting it good in San Francisco."

And he was. Johnson had a one-shot lead going into the final round at Harding Park and shot 68, only to lose to a 65 by Collin Morikawa. There was disappointment in not adding to his lone major (2016 U.S. Open at Oakmont) but not in the way he played that week.

"I didn't feel like I really did anything wrong at the PGA," Johnson said. "Generally, you shoot 68 on Sunday in a major with the lead on a tough golf course, you're going to win most of the time. So obviously, Collin jut played very, very well. ... Went home and took a few days off, and then got back to work. The game started feeling really good."

He moved to No. 1 in the FedEx Cup, the fifth time in the postseason he has been at the top. The trick is being No. 1 when it ends at East Lake in two weeks, and that has proven difficult.

His closest call was in 2016 when he was the No. 1 seed at the Tour Championship,

He was tied for the lead going into the final round, shot 73 and still would have won the FedEx Cup if either Kevin Chappell or Ryan Moore had won a three-man playoff. McIlroy wound up the winner of the tournament and the FedEx Cup.

As good as Johnson looked at The Northern Trust, no matter what happens this week at the BMW Championship, it still comes down to four days at East Lake. That much he knows.

"It's something I haven't won," Johnson said. "It's something I've been close to winning a few times, and it's just something that I would really like to have on my resume when I'm done playing golf. It's a big title. It means a lot to all the guys out here. It definitely means a lot to me."

AP

Bayern worthy winners in strangest Champions League season

By Andy SCOTT

IT will be remembered as the strangest of Champions League seasons but it has ended with a familiar name on the trophy after Bayern Munich got the better of Paris Saint-Germain in Sunday's final in Lisbon, with their deserved success the result of the remarkable job done by coach Hansi Flick.

There was tickettape at the trophy ceremony and the usual celebratory songs playing over the loudspeakers at the Estadio da Luz as the Bayern players savoured the moment after Kingsley Coman's goal saw them defeat PSG 1-0.

But it was a bizarre spectacle with the 65,000-seat stadium empty, supporters having been barred from attending the biggest match in club football.

The coronavirus pandemic killed the Champions League as we know it, at least temporarily, and UEFA was forced to come up with a new 'Final Eight' format in order to make sure its flagship competition was completed.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin told AFP in an interview in Lisbon that the format was likely to be a one-off, and some will be tempted to say that this Champions League should always have an asterisk next to it.

But, against first-time finalists PSG, Bayern were worthy winners of their sixth European Cup, their third in the Champions League era.

They won all their 11 Champions League matches this season, an unprecedented feat.

They scored 43 goals in that time on a run that included a 7-2 win at Tottenham Hotspur and the stunning 8-2 demolition of Barcelona in the quarter-finals in Lisbon.

They just had the better of the final, even if they were fortunate at times up against the French side's formidable attack of Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Angel Di Maria.

In Manuel Neuer, Jerome Boateng, David Alaba and Thomas Muller, Bayern's line-up featured four survivors from their last final victory, against Borussia Dortmund in 2013.

But this was also about the new faces, such as 19-year-old left-back Alphonso Davies, the Canadian international.

"Moments like these you dream of as a kid," he told DAZN. "I honestly can't believe it, winning the Champions League is the top level."

- Winning formula -

Flick deserves great credit.

A year ago Bayern were dumped

out by Liverpool, the eventual winners, in the last 16, and under Niko Kovac looked a long way off being contenders to win the trophy again.

But Flick replaced Kovac in November, initially as caretaker, and has gone on to win a treble.

"It's such a huge joy, it feels like we have come a long way since November," said Mueller, a player reborn under Flick.

"I don't know how it looked from outside, but it felt like we deserved it in the way we played."

As for changing coach mid-season, it is a formula that has worked for clubs at this level in the recent past.

Flick is the third coach in the last decade to win the Champions League having been appointed during a campaign, after Roberto di Matteo with Chelsea in 2011/12 and Zinedine Zidane with Real Madrid in 2015/16.

Zidane went on to win the next two as well.

- 'Not the football we know' -

It remains to be seen how Bayern will fare next season, which is just around the corner, with the Bundesliga starting on September 18 and the Champions League group stage in October.

They will be a formidable force again, but so will their rivals, including PSG, who need not be too downbeat in defeat.

"Over the last few weeks we have shown everything you need to win every title going," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel.

"We lost 1-0 in the final against one of the strongest sides in Europe. We must maintain the same quality to carry on this road."

The format of one-off matches in the quarter-finals and semi-finals maybe helped PSG more than anybody else, given their struggles in knockout ties in recent years.

But, as long as the health crisis does not worsen again, the Champions League will return to normal in the new campaign, and that includes seeing at least some fans return to stadiums.

Istanbul is in line to host the 2021 final, having had this season's showpiece taken away, and hopefully the winning team will be able to celebrate with their supporters.

As Flick said: "It's a pity that the fans couldn't be here with us today. Perhaps they can be back again in the future. A game like this without supporters is not the football that we know."

AFP

Bayern's triumph built upon Flick's influence, refusal to panic

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THE Champions League that almost was not – the one played against a backdrop of fear and insecurity (but also solidarity and self-scrutiny) – ended with the European Cup trophy returning where it has been before. Bayern Munich's 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain marks the German club's sixth time as champions of Europe, pulling them even with Liverpool, one behind Milan (and six behind Real Madrid).

The "big count" matters, because for most of Europe's elite, domestic titles feel mundane to the point that they become noteworthy only when they are not delivered to the doorstep every spring. PSG hope to be among that elite one day and Sunday could have been a giant step in that direction. But while the chances were there for the French team, the finishing was not.

And that was a non-negotiable requirement against a Bayern side that have won 29 of their past 30 matches in all competitions, that have not lost a game since 2019 and that emerged as a perfect 11-for-11 in the Champions League this season.

For long chunks in Lisbon, PSG had set up the way conventional wisdom suggested they should and it had yielded results. Manager Thomas Tuchel, the self-styled "rulebreaker," had in fact done what many expected him to do: Stay tight and organized at the back and exploit Bayern's penchant for playing a high press and defensive line. (Actually, is it even a line when two of your back four camp out in the opposing half like old-style wingers?)

Kylian Mbappe slipped away from his closest markers, Joshua Kimmich and Serge Gnabry, enough times to see shots blocked or help set up Angel Di Maria (skied into the second tier) or Neymar (denied by Manuel Neuer). And the biggest chance of the first half fell to the French striker, after a rare Bayern defensive blunder left him with an easy side foot, but Mbappe's flaccid nudge was right at Neuer.

A leg injury meant Tuchel was forced to sit alone, crutches in hand, on a pitch-side picnic cooler like the wretched uncle to whom nobody wants to talk at family reunions. He put both hands to his forehead when Mbappe missed, mouth open wide, before hopping on one foot to shout further encouragement. Positive reinforcement and all that ... but he knew. He knew mistakes get punished.

This is not to say the first half was all about PSG, because it was not. Rather, Bayern seemed unflustered by the fact that neither their furious press of the first 20 minutes nor the somewhat more measured approach taken for the rest of the period yielded much beyond two brilliant Robert Lewandowski efforts. The first was an absurdly quick turn-and-shot that hit the post; the second an improbable far-post header that saw him adjust his neck in midair to force a save out of Keylor Navas.

Bayern looked almost carefree as they walked off the pitch at half-time, as if they were unbothered about the chances surrendered or the fact that Mbappe was now up against the hulking Niklas Sule (and large objects aren't supposed to move fast). Their opponents, meanwhile, had the look of a teenager who had borrowed dad's BMW, scratched up the paintwork and was terrified there would be hell to pay.

The game's goal came just before the hour mark



when Joshua Kimmich, by this point not advancing down the right flank to deliver crosses but rather drifting inside to deliver final balls like the playmaker he is at heart, coolly picked out Kingsley Coman at the far post. The former PSG enfant prodige headed it past Navas with gusto.

Bayern coach Hansi Flick, who had chosen an all-black outfit for his first Champions League final as a boss – perhaps a nod to the monochrome he sported as Joachim Low's sidekick with Germany's World Cup winners in 2014 – raised an arm into the Lisbon sky and plotted his next move. It was a counterintuitive one for a team leading in the second half of a final.

Out went speedy wingers Gnabry and Coman and in came on-loan veterans Philippe Coutinho and Ivan Perisic. It was as if the man in black was saying: "Ha! I know you're going to come at me, but rather than scoring a second with my burners, I'll keep the ball and play through you with my ballers."

PSG were not done. Contrary to the popular belief of some, this is a side with character, who came back from 1-0 down in injury

time to beat Atalanta in the quarterfinals. Marquinhos was put through one-on-one with Neuer, only for the big German to claw it away (and, with this performance, perhaps clawing away those who argue Marc-Andre ter Stegen is his country's best keeper).

When Mbappe sliced through the Bayern defence before being nicked by Kimmich, referee Daniele Orsato stepped away and, with a clear sight line, said, "No penalty." VAR did not insist he change his mind and, after substitute Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting twice just failed to get on the end of crosses, that was that.

Europe has its champion and it is a worthy one, not just for what the road-grading Bayern did in the past half year but for where they were 10 months ago. Having lost half their starting back four to season-ending injuries, their big summer arrival (Coutinho) was struggling and Thomas Muller – "Mia San Mia" (the club motto) made flesh – was in and out of the side.

Their manager, Nico Kovac, had been unceremoniously dumped less than three months into the season and in his place came Flick, who had not actually been a No.

1 since 2006. And still, here they are – Treble winners for the second time in club history.

Sure, Bayern are beneficiaries of being a superclub and fully paid-up members of the game's 1 percenters, who boast bigger, deeper and more talented squads than almost anybody else. The imbalance of power and resources in the game must be addressed (UEFA keep saying they will do just that).

But that does not explain what we have seen since the turn of the year, particularly when juxtaposed with everything that went wrong in the first few months of the campaign. So yes, they are worthy winners, and more than that, they are likeable winners, something not every Bayern team has managed to be in the past.

The pastiche at the end, with Leon Goretzka rolling up his sleeves to his shoulders for a "cup's out, guns out" trophy lift; Alphonso Davies, the fourth CONCACAF player to win the Champions League after Dwight Yorke, Rafael Marquez and Navas, displaying the Canadian flag like an apron; Muller's grinning, overgrown hyperactive kid enthusiasm; all of it seemed as real as it was infectious. And definitely hard to argue with.

Bayern proves organizations do win championships

By JIM LITKE

THERE'S something fitting about a German club winning the first major team sports trophy of the COVID-19 era. Maybe a lesson in there, too.

Because of the way their countrymen handled the pandemic, Bayern Munich and the Bundesliga were the first big leaguers on either side of the Atlantic back on the pitch. That they happened to be the last ones standing is no coincidence, either.

Sunday's 1-0 win over PSG in the Champions League final was Bayern's 21st in a row. But winning a championship game, especially by a single goal, is always going to be a confluence of a lot of things: brains, skill, luck, good timing, good health and enough money to spread around; then crossing your fingers that somebody in the organization doesn't do something stupid with it.

Now add COVID to the mix, when food poisoning is only the second-worst problem a late-night, fast-food run can cause. That's a lot of moving parts to track and keep running smoothly, so it should come as no surprise that Bayern does that well, too.

The late Jerry Krause, who was the Chicago Bulls general manager during the Michael Jordan era, got roasted for years after suggesting "organizations win championships, too." But he was right.

Not so much in Krause's case, because Jordan was one of only five players per side on a 94-foot basketball court at any one time. But it takes 11 men a side to fill up a 120-yard soccer field. Even two Michael Jordans can't influence nearly every play on a surface that big, let alone for 90 minutes.

For better or worse, like a handful of Europe's other "super clubs," PSG keeps testing that notion. They buy and sell the best players for top dollar, including current stars Neymar Jr. and Kylian Mbappe, two of the most expensive and electrifying attackers in soccer, and coincidentally enough, among the dozens of promising young stars in every sport who get tagged the "next Michael Jordan" and never live up to the label. In their case, they don't even play defense.

Bayern takes a different approach. It builds teams for the long haul. It isn't cheap by any means, rarely lacks for talent and gives players room to shine. But the club

doesn't swap out pieces as often or spend as much as PSG, Manchester City or Real Madrid. They make up the difference with smarts, and not just lately. This Champions League title was their sixth, tying Liverpool, and only the latest reminder that Bayern is always going to fight for a seat at the big table.

The club rewards loyalty, isn't stuck in the past and pays well enough to retain its most valuable players, like Robert Lewandowski; it makes shrewd buys, like Sunday's goalscorer, Kingsley Coman; and is willing to take a flyer on youngsters like 19-year-old Alphonso Davies. The three are, respectively, a Pole, a Frenchman (who cut his teeth at PSG) and a Canadian who was born in a refugee camp in Ghana. Yet each has embraced his role in Bayern's system.

Against PSG, that meant playing a disciplined, physically demanding high-pressure game from the outset. Fitness is rarely a problem, though, because everything at the club, from the training tables to the data operation, is state-of-the-art. That, plus the sharpness and camaraderie built by playing more games than the rest of the Champions League contenders showed as the second half began.

To be fair, like the other super clubs, Bayern isn't too old-school to fire an underperforming coach in the middle of the season. That happened last November, when Hansi Flick took over as interim coach from Niko Kovac.

Flick has won 33 of his 36 games in charge, but he, too, knows his role at the club. After the win, he was deflecting credit as doggedly as Bayern keeper – and man of the match – Manuel Neuer's shins.

"There have been so many people that have been part of this success. The way the team worked for 95.96 minutes," Flick said, genuinely grateful, "was unbelievable."

It will be a short celebration, since the new season is barely two weeks away. But Bayern

has already planned for that, too, reinforcing its roster with the addition of not-inexpensive Leroy Sane from Manchester City.

There are great organizations in every sport, to be sure, and the Champions League final was only one game. And let's be honest, it could just as easily have gone PSG's way. Neymar and Mbappe both had several close-in chances, and Neuer somehow kept finding body parts to get in their way, especially in the first half. Otherwise, it's a different story, and in Bayern's case, a familiar one, since it has lost five finals, too.

The pandemic threw a pop quiz at every organization in pro sports and everywhere else, and somehow it seems right the first one to ace it is the same one who shows up prepared in the most casual of times.

No, it shouldn't have been hard to see this coming. As the great English striker Gary Lineker once explained: "Football is a simple game; 22 men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans win."

AP

Tuchel defends Neymar: He can't do everything

LISBON

PARIS Saint-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel has defended strikers Neymar and Kylian Mbappe after they failed to find the net in Sunday's 1-0 Champions League final loss to Bayern Munich.

The French champions missed their chances and then ran out of steam and ideas after the break, with former youth academy graduate Kingsley Coman, who left the club in 2014 as a free agent to join Juventus, heading the winner just before the hour.

Neymar and Mbappe, recruited for a combined €400 million, did not score in the "Final Eight" tournament in Lisbon despite 23 shots between them. Tuchel, though, refused to blame either of the pair for the defeat.

"Neymar has had a great tournament, he cannot do everything," the German said.

"Mbappe, it's a miracle that he was with us after sustaining a serious [ankle] injury [in July]."

Marquinhos echoed his coach's sentiments, adding that he was proud of the progress Les Parisiens had made this season.

"We're a team, it's not any individual's fault," Marquinhos said. "We have to be proud of our team."

"Nobody thought we'd do that well in this campaign. We're disappointed because we wanted more but we need to continue like this, to make sacrifices, to work for each other. We have to think about the next campaign and see what we can do better."

"Right now it's difficult to sleep, it's difficult to speak, it's difficult to

explain," disappointed midfielder Ander Herrera added.

"But, from tomorrow, at least myself, and I'm sure my teammates as well, we're going to start again. We've built something very, very important for the club."

Tuchel said that the tense final could have gone either way.

"It was a fight. We gave everything, we left our hearts, everything, on the pitch. You can't control the result," he added.

"I had the feeling the first goal would decide the final. I'm disappointed but not too much. We were very, very close."

"What did we need to win? The first goal. If we had scored the first goal we would have won the game with the same scoreline."

Asked if he would still be in charge next season, he said: "I have a contract that's all I can say."

Meanwhile, Paris Saint-Germain manager Thomas Tuchel says Lionel Messi would be welcome at the club if he ever decided to leave Barcelona, but he does not expect the Argentine forward to do so.

Messi, who joined Barcelona aged 13, has scored a record 634 goals for the club in 730 games and is also their most decorated player with 33 trophies but the 33-year-old is into the final year of his contract at the club.

Reports in the Spanish media have cast doubts about his future at the club after a disappointing season that culminated in an 8-2 Champions League humiliation by Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals this month.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

Ronald Koeman



SPORT

Bayern's triumph built upon Flick's influence, refusal to panic

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Lions Academy cricketers pictured before facing TCA Women team in a 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Lions Academy won the clash. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Lions Academy cricketers trounce TCA Women in 2020 TCA Development League

By Guardian Reporter

THE TCA Women squad has prolonged its woes in the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League, succumbing to 178-run loss to Lions Academy in a clash which was held at Leaders Club venue last weekend.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized event, which involves five clubs, has up-and-coming cricketers taking part in it in an effort to raise the standard of the game in the country.

Experienced all rounder, Salum Jumbe, had an impressive batting performance as Lions Academy raced to 290 runs for seven wickets in 40 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat first.

Jumbe, listed as a top order batsman in the clash, passed a century mark to notch 193 runs, which included 17 boundaries and 10 sixes.

His scintillating batting showing ensured Lions Academy's plan to end the innings with an imposing total comes to fruition, particularly after early dismissals of opening batsmen, Ramadhan Mbunde and Lazaro Festo, and Meet Bhalia, who came on at number three.

Mbunde and Bhalia were victims of TCA Women's Nasra Hamza's skilful bowling, which left the two batsmen ending their spells with six runs and eight runs respectively.

The TCA Women's experienced medium pacer, Mwanaidi Shakim, had earlier foiled an attempt by Lions Academy to get off to a good start in the innings, dismissing opener Festo for duck.

Goodluck Andrew chipped in handsomely with his 39 runs, which consisted of six fours.

Youthful batsmen, Abdulrazak Sameer and Abdullah Imtiyaz, closed the squad's innings out, posting 13 runs not out and four runs not out respectively.

They encouragingly managed to step up after yet other early dismissals of Rijali Fentu and Ashfaq Imtiyaz.

Nasra stood out of the rest of TCA Women's bowlers, taking two wickets and conceding 46 runs in seven overs, notching an economy rate of 6.57.

Mwanaidi, Nuru Omary and Zinaida Kelvin finished their spells with a wicket each for TCA Women, the only women outfit battling it out in the competition.

Much as they gave their all during the chase, notching 291 runs to post victory happened to a daunting task for TCA Women.

They, in response, were skittled for 112 runs in 23.4 overs to concede a second loss in a row.

Significant contribution with the bat came from Mwanaidi, opener Monica Paschal and Nasra, who batted at number three, with all three batters chipping in with double digit figures.

The experienced Mwanaidi was the top run getter in the innings, posting 35 runs which included five fours.

Monica, an equally experienced all rounder and the side's skipper, notched 22 runs, which included four fours.

The squad's up-and-coming all rounder Nasra notched 18 runs which included two fours.

With TCA Women's middle and low order batters experiencing early dismissals, efforts by team to mount a successful chase, ultimately, ended in vain.

Mwanaidi's exit, which had left TCA Women with 111 runs and nine wickets down after 23.1 overs, happened to be the last blow to the club in the clash.

Lions Academy's spinner Festo ended with most wickets, posting four and leaking 10 runs in four overs, successfully making up for his less impressive batting showing.

Ashfaq Imtiyaz and Rehaan Rafiq ended their spells with two wickets apiece for the eventual winners.

Senzo Mbatha's arrival will boost Yanga, says Msolla

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadono

TANZANIA football giants, Yanga, have said the coming of football administrator, Senzo Mbatha, into their club will bring a lot of achievements as he is the right person for the job.

Yanga Chairman, Mshindo Msolla, issued the comments at a press briefing held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, saying Senzo has a lot of experience in football management.

Early this month, Senzo quit his post as Simba SC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to join Yanga as an advisor as statutes at the latter do not provide for the position.

Msolla said Yanga believes that Senzo will bring to the team his experience on football management and commercialization.

Msolla also disclosed that the South African is currently having discussions with Spain's La Liga, who are Yanga's partners.

"He is a good person, a man with vast experience in football management, his coming to our club is of great importance as he will help us in our commercialization drive," he disclosed.

"He is a good advisor who knows his job well, we believe that he will take our club to great heights," he said.

"He has already started discussions with our partners, La Liga," he said.

Mbatha disclosed that he is happy that he is working closely with Yanga management.

"I'm happy with the support which I'm getting from Yanga, the whole Yanga family, starting from our Chairman going to the bottom, they are all supporting me, that is what we want for the team to realize its dreams," he said.

Yanga have not publicly outlined the responsibilities of the advisor at the club.

While at Simba SC, some of Mbatha primary goals were internal restructuring of the club, transformation of the club, promotion of the outfit and development of new business, among others.



Yanga's advisor, Senzo Mbatha.



Azam FC head coach Aristica Cioaba (L) looks on as the outfit's midfielder Salum Abubakary features in training the squad conducted in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Aristica Cioaba now reveals his preferred Azam FC formation

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

ROMANIAN coach Aristica Cioaba wants his outfit, Azam FC, to be flexible when it comes to formations, but the Ice Cream makers' boss admits 4-4-2 is his preferred system.

In a pre-season friendly match against Namungo FC, which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, Azam FC played 4-3-3 in the pre-season as they prepare for next month's Premier League kick off.

The clash as well served as a culmination of a week of the club's charity activities, known as 'Azam FC festival'.

The formation against Na-

mungo FC saw new arrival from Rwanda, Ally Niyonzima, in a three-man midfield that also contained Mudathir Yahya and, later, youngster Novatus Dismas, who has returned from a successful loan spell with Biashara United.

Obrey Chirwa was the focal point of the attack, with Iddi Selemani on the right and Ayoub Lyanga on the left.

Cioaba then switched to a 4-4-2 formation which he revealed to be his preferred approach in the long-run.

He had hoped that having two out and out forwards would add to their goal threat.

He ended the game with new recruit, Zimbabwean striker

Prince Dube, and youngster Andrew Simchimba.

But, while the switch did notch up a third goal, they did have far more goal threat in the second half against a well organised Namungo side that threatened to spoil the Azam FC festival party.

In a post match interview, Cioaba said: "My philosophy is to play offensive football, I sometimes change to 4-3-3 but my favourite one is 4-4-2."

"I tried these two systems today with the selection of players that I have. I am confident with these players that we can fight for the first position (Premier League title)," he disclosed.

Azam FC's last season top scorer, Chirwa, opened the scoring for the outfit against the run of play when he took advantage of miscommunication between Namungo FC keeper and his defender on the 37th minute.

Namungo FC found the equalizer 13 minutes after the restart through Ghanaian import, Stephen Kwame Sey, who has been signed from relegated Singida United.

Youngster Simchimba restored Azam FC lead when he tapped home on the 66th minute after Ugandan goalkeeper, Nicholas Sebawato, had spilled a curling shot from Selemani.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Lions Academy's spinner Festo ended with most wickets, posting four and leaking 10 runs in four overs, successfully making up for his less impressive batting showing.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

eastafrica RADIO

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 SSPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

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