



theguardiantz



theguardiantd



LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8192 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 17 APRIL, 2021

CONSERVATION



GOVT CALLS ON MEASURES TO REDUCE WATER LOSS PG 2

AGRICULTURE



INVESTING IN COFFEE SEEDLINGS, FARMERS EMPOWERMENT PG 3

BUSINESSES



USEFULNESS OF COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION AND SERVICES PG 4

PROJECTS



PAKISTAN INVESTORS EXPECTED TO VISIT TANZANIA PG 5



Page 13

'Contentious union issues resolution framework in pipeline'

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

MINISTER of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafo has said that the government is working on remaining contentious issues of the union and will soon announce a resolution framework accord.

The minister made the statement yesterday while visiting various development projects in Zanzibar, a tour in which he was accompanied by Deputy Minister Hamad Hassan Chande.

"We are working hard to resolve the pending union challenges so that we focus solely on improving the living standards of the people in the Mainland and Zanzibar," he said.

Among the projects visited by the delegation were the Kianga health center, an examination hall at Fujoni Secondary School, three classrooms and an administration block at Mahonda Secondary School in the Urban West Region. The projects are being implemented through funding from TASAF

Other projects visited were the Kinyasini market, implemented by the Market Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance (MIVARF) project and the renovated fish market through SWIOfish project funds in Nungwi area.

SWIOfish is the World Bank funded 'South-West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project' for the Africa region, aiming to improve the management effectiveness of selected priority fisheries at the regional, national and community level.

To further strengthen the union, project managers need to carefully manage the funds provided by the Union government for the implementation of various projects in order to bring good results, he urged.

"I am delighted to visit these projects and find that they are being implemented effectively. Your technical teams have work to do in ensuring the projects are at par with value for money criteria," he stated

Khalid Bakari Hamran, the director of government coordination for Union Affairs in Zanzibar urged residents to identify projects that they have noticed challenges so that proper implementation is

TURN TO Page2

Investment attraction: Policy formats, laws up for review

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that the government intends to fast-track the review and amendment of investment policies and laws so as to ease doing business in the country.

The changes are aimed at attracting more investors and thus stimulate businesses activity and economic growth.

The premier said that the move is part of the implementation of various directives issued recently by President Samia Suluhu Hassan especially in the area of enhancing investment and trade.

In remarks after swearing in permanent secretaries, their deputies and heads of a number of key government agencies, the president said the negative business environment had reached the point of driving scores of investors out of the country.

Winding up budget estimates for his office for the year 2021/22 fiscal year in the House, Majaliwa said the government is well prepared to invest heavily in improving the business environment to facilitate smooth operation of the private sector, thus improving revenue collections.

He said projected amendments will involve the Investment Policy of 1996 and the Investment Act of 1997, removing contradicting positions stemming from the provisions, thwarting government efforts to improve conditions of doing business and enhancing investments.

The government is preparing a 'National Investment Strategy' to further enhance investment promotion, he said, directing ministries, government departments and

TURN TO Page2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan talks with Vice President Dr Philip Mpango and Bank of Tanzania Governor Prof. Florens Luoga at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

Speaker cautions frugal MPs hiring motorcycles

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

DESPITE pocketing cool amounts in salaries and sitting allowances, some lawmakers resort to hiring motorcycles to go to Parliament grounds as their daily means of transport to and from the august House, it has emerged.

This came to the public attention after Speaker of the National Assembly Job Ndugai yesterday cautioned frugal MPs who have been using motorcycles to change to other means of transport for safety concerns.

Ndugai issued this appeal in the House after noticing that some of the lawmakers were opting for passenger motorcycles instead of using official cars that are part of their packages.

He added remarks after the Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Godfrey Kasekenya was responding to concerns from legislators on the status of roads in the country.

Several MPs were concerned over delayed construction of roads in their areas, thus occasioning poor transportation.

TURN TO Page2



Dr Edward Hosea (2nd L) celebrates with his supporters shortly after being announced the new Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) president following the 2021 election held in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Govt embarks on workforce survey

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma
THE government has embarked on a nationwide workforce survey to facilitate improvement of the education system and curriculums to produce more competent graduates.

Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Af-

fairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), said this in the legislature yesterday when winding up debate on the PMO budget estimates for the 2021/2022 financial year.

She said that from the study findings, the government will come up with a national strategy to transform the country's education system to strengthen the formation of competent human

resources to meet the country's current needs.

Mhagama said that training programmes and curriculum for technical and vocational education will be designed to complement the country's development priorities, market demand and development of science and technology.

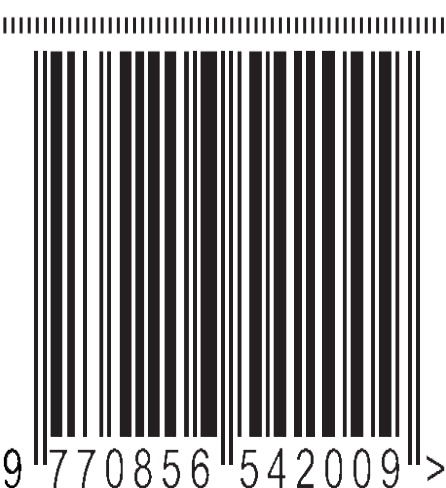
Improvement efforts will involve a change of school and col-

leges programmes to seek to produce more graduates capable of employing themselves, as securing formal employment was usually tricky, the minister affirmed.

The government will also invest in the skills development area by increasing budget allocation, raising the number of tutors and supportive tools so as to stimulate development of the green and blue economy, she said.

The value of social security funds was growing steadily and has officially reached 11.50trn/-, the minister noted, elaborating that the government has also cleared pension's arrears for 132,670 retired civil servants claiming their benefits in the past five years, with 6,793 claimants

TURN TO Page2



Speaker cautions frugal MPs hiring motorcycles

FROM PAGE 1

Speaker Ndugai appealed to the lawmakers to also think on how their voters will perceive them on the means of transport they were using.

"Let me also say about something relating to the roads, and this is about some legislators using bodaboda as means transport to and from Parliament. This is good transport, I don't have doubt on it, but my request to you is that you have to be very careful, make sure the drivers you using are also competent," he said.

He reminded the MPs that if getting them into the House was so costly, so they should think carefully on the matter.

Earlier, different MPs asked when the government would construct roads in some parts of their constituencies having poor roads connecting wards or villages to major roads.

One of them, Stanslaus Nyongo (Maswa-East) wanted to know government plans to construct a by-pass road in Maswa district so

that residents could be relieved from transport challenges, and also plan for installing street lights.

Kibiti MP Twaha Mpembenwe wanted to know when a feasibility study would start for construction of the road from Kibiti to the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), if it is being implemented as promised by them vice president and running mate, Samia Suluhu Hassan during election campaigns.

In his basic question, Msalala legislator Kasimulddi asked when the government would start constructing the Geita-Bukoli-Kahama road.

The deputy minister said the plan was progressing to construct the by-pass road in Maswa district and install about 60 street lights.

He said the ministry through the National Roads Agency (TanRoads) has already started installing lights along the Mwigumbi-Maswa major road during the 2020/21 financial year. A total of 18 street lights have already been installed, costing a total of 81m/-, he added.



Zanzibar President and chairman of Revolutionary Council Alhaj Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi responds to a prayer recited by the Chief Imam of Masjid Assalaam Mlandege, Sheikh Abubakar Mbarak Mumin (on his R) shortly after the Tarawekh prayer service at the masjid's in Zanzibar on Thursday evening. On his (L) is Zanzibar Mufti's secretary Sheikh Khalid Ali Mfaume. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

Minister calls on conservation measures to reduce water loss

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Water minister Jumaa Aweso has directed all directors of water authorities and other stakeholders to work tirelessly and help reduce water loss, saying non-revenue water cost the nation 9bn/- per month and over 100 bn/-annually.

He said in total about 36 per cent of water produced by the authorities get lost as un-billed water, terming it a real threat to livelihood and national development.

The minister maintained that water is a scarce resource and important in life of people as well other living things and is instigated some big members in the society mainly through theft.

"We have to be very serious with the matter and strongly deal with those who disrupt water infrastructure" he said, adding that in most cases it is the common people who are dealt with while 'big fishes' who because great losses are not touched.

Aweso made the remarks when he officiated the launch of a national campaign against water loss, an event organized by Association of Water Supplies (ATAWAS) and several stakeholders.

He said through the campaign members of the public should be sensitized on the importance of saving water, noting that the ministry is undergoing serious revolution to ensure every citizen get water.

He thanked the organizers for the good effort to reduce

water loss in the country as well as the annual water conference that bring together stakeholders to deliberate on matters affecting water sector.

Earlier, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Eng Anthony Sanga said there is still serious water loss in the country, thanking ATAWAS and other partners for the move to revert the trend.

He called on the organizers to bring on board more stakeholders in the campaign, saying it needs participation of

many people.

The PS also underscored the need for serious engagement with media in the programme for they have the needed capacity to educate the public.

"The problem is so big and if no serious efforts are put in place to revert the trend, the dream to make every Tanzanian access water cannot be realized" he said.

He added that to some extent water loss is caused by use of different water meters, saying there are waters me-

ters whose efficiencies are not guaranteed.

According to the PS it is normal to find that one water authority is using more than ten different meters, calling on the relevant authority to conduct research on the best meters to use.

Equity Bank Tanzania is one of the leading partners that worked closely with ATAWAS to organize the campaign.

Speaking at the same event, Equity Bank Tanzania's Executive Director, Easter Kitoke

said her institution is working closely with other partners to improve water resources for economic and social development.

"Equity is a big champion in creating change not only in Tanzania but beyond and is committed to changing people's lives" she noted.

The bank she said deploy small, affordable water and sanitation loans to households living in poverty as well as larger, corporate loans to water and sewerage companies.

'Contentious union issues resolution framework ready'

FROM PAGE 1

exercised.

The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) disbursement of funds had increased from 12bn/- to 21.2bn/- in the past year, enabling the department to continue implementing social projects in health, education and water sectors, he affirmed.

In October last year, the government announced that it had resolved and removed five issues off the list of contentious union matters. The issues unveiled at State House Dar es Salaam at a meeting for signing of the removal protocol included the Union and Zanzibar governments' Joint Committee oil and gas exploration and exploitation.

Others were agreements on costs to import cargo from Zanzibar at the port of Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar's participation in the East African Community as

well as involvement in international and regional issues.

Then Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Environment and Union) Mussa Azan Zungu named the pending issues as challenges of milk importation from Zanzibar; appointing Tanzania Revenue Appeal Tribunal board member from Zanzibar; appointment of the Tanzania Insurance Deposits Board member from Zanzibar.

Others were the supervision of phone services tax calculation and collection by Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB); formation of the Joint Financial Commission' along with issues of vehicles registration and revenue division between the two sides.

Speaking yesterday, Jafo signaled that the work has been going on and resolution agreement is looming.



Mtama legislator Nape Nnauye (R) shares a light moment with his colleague from Arusha Urban Mrisho Gambo during the National Assembly session in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Government embarks on workforce survey

FROM PAGE 1

maintaining to be paid.

The government is also conducting an evaluation of social security funds to find out major setbacks and come up with a viable or permanent solution to address various challenges facing the funds.

"Social security funds have a number of development projects; all these are

being evaluated and once the report comes out, we will address all complaints from the members and the public at large," the minister declared.

Recently, MPs called on the government to overhaul the country's education system so as to produce competent graduates for the country's development.

In various contributions, MPs said

the country's education sector has been hit by a number of challenges including having outmoded curriculums ending up producing an incompetent workforce.

Debating the 114.8trillion/- Five Year Development Plan (FYDP-III), legislators urged the government to take acute measures to improve the sector by facilitating the provision of quality

education.

Reports show that 800,000 young men and women are estimated to enter into the labour market each year, including school and college graduates, along with young people migrating from rural areas to urban areas. Unemployment among youths aged 15 to 34 years is officially estimated as hovering around 13.4 percent.

Investment attraction: Policy formats, laws up for review

FROM PAGE 1

local authorities to invest efforts to promote investment in various parts of the country.

He warned government executives, agencies and departments to impugn dishonest acts like extorting bribes and misuse of of-

face as this thwarts investment attraction efforts.

Real time electronic surveillance will be created to receive and address complaints from investors and traders, the premier cautioned, stressing the importance of a conducive environment for business and investment to spur the country's social and

economic development.

The government intends to address challenges in thematic areas, including investment coordination; investment promotion; investment facilitation; regional and international integration; land for investment; investment financing and incentives; and technology development, he stated.

The government will strengthen efforts to ensure that more businesses are formalised so as to support their growth and contribution to national income, he similarly noted.

"We will invest heavily in local content policies and revamp laws so as to stimulate greater engagement of Tanzanians in lucra-

tive sectors and projects," he said.

He reaffirmed government commitment improve service delivery by enhancing budget allocation for social services. It will continue investing efforts to address land conflicts in the country so as to support smooth implementation of various projects for sustainable development, he added.



Deputy minister for works and transport Mwita Waitara pays his last respects to the casket bearing the body of the mother of Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro, the late Monica Tongori during the burial ceremony at Muriaza village in Butiama District, Mara Region on Thursday. Photo: Courtesy of MWT

Twiga Cement plans to invest US \$15m to renovate factory

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TWIGA Cement yesterday said that it plans to invest US \$15 million to renovate and expand its factory this year.

The factory senior commercial manager, Danford Semwenda made the revelation when speaking to Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) delegation who visited the factory in Dar es Salaam.

The delegation visited the factory whereas they met with the management and discussed various issues related to their operations and challenges facing the factory for the government to work on them.

Semwenda told the officials that one of the most challenges they face is the delay of cargo at Dar es Salaam port resulting in increased charges and penalties.

"The investment done here is huge; we would wish many people including TIC to visit us regularly so that they can hear our challenges. We are happy you are and you have heard our challenges," he said noting the visit by TIC officials is clear testimony of the government readiness to cooperate with investors.

Semwenda said the factory pay to the government about 54bn/- in taxes and other charges and has provided employment to a good number of Tanzanians.

Semwenda said during the 5th phase government they did good

business by supplying tonnes of cement to construction firms implementing strategic infrastructure projects such as the Standard Gauge Railways (SGR), Ubungo Interchange the Rufiji Hydro Power Plant Project.

Bevin Ngenzi who is TIC Eastern Zone Manager, said they decided to visit the factory to witness their operations and see if there are any challenges that need immediate attention.

He said TIC is happy to see the factory expanding time to time something which increases government revenues through tax collections.

He said for the past 10 years, the factory was producing 1.2 million tonnes of cement annually but currently it has increased its capacity to about 2 million tonnes per year.

"Twiga cement is doing well; they also appreciate government efforts in improving business environment. The few challenges mentioned here will be worked on in collaboration with responsible institutions," he said

He said the investor has expressed concerns of cargo delayed clearance at the Dar es Salaam port promising to work on the matter.

Twiga Cement (HeidelbergCement group) has invested 105bn/- over the last five years in modernizing its operations. In 2013 Twiga Cement used to produce 1.07Mt of cement, but today it produces 1.9Mt

'Govt to invest more in coffee seedlings, farmer empowerment'

By Guardian Reporter,

Dodoma

THE government has promised to continue investing heavily in the coffee crop by facilitating production of quality seedlings as well as capacitate farmers with skills and tools so as to improve production and income.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Hussein Bashe made the statement in the House yesterday while responding to a question by Anatropia Theones (Special Seats, Chadema).

He said that the government is determined to transform the sector to enable it to contribute more to the country's economy by fighting poverty and unemployment.

Bashe said that the government will also invest in promoting use of quality seeds, processing plants so as to facilitate production of quality coffee to cater for the local and international market.

In her basic question the lawmaker wanted to know the government's plans to change the current coffee procurement

system so as to ensure that farmers benefit from the crop.

"It is better now to allow farmers to sell coffee on their own instead of selling them through cooperative unions which have been delaying their payments and thus affects their farming and incomes," she said.

Responding, the deputy minister said that the government has been taking several measures to ensure that farmers benefit from this crop which includes linking them to buyers who purchase their crops at a

fair price as well as educating them on proper farming practices.

The minister acknowledged that in order to build a competitive and sustainable coffee sector, it is crucial to increase the value chain efficiency through optimization of the internal marketing system and improvement of the overall business environment

He said that due to the strides taken by the government and stakeholders to improve the sector, coffee production has continued to improve every year.

Bashe said that production of coffee rose to 67,676 by March, this year from 59,000 tonnes in the 2019/20 farming season.

"Kagera Region has produced 39,667 tonnes (58.8 per cent) of all produced coffee in the 2020/21 season including the 19,572.8 tonnes produces in Kyerwa District," he said.

He said that the government has been supervising sale of the coffee in three systems which includes auctions and direct sale where farmers collect their coffee to the cooperative unions.

"Through this systems a total of 67,676 tonnes of coffee had been sold until March 2021 of which 20,296 tonnes of coffee worth

US\$53.5 million sold through auction and 47,108 tonnes worth US\$79.2 million were sold through direct sale," he explained.

The deputy minister said that major buyers of Tanzanian coffee were coming from Japan, Italy, Belgium, Germany and the United States (US).

Livestock policy for review to attract investments - govt

By Guardian Reporter,

Dodoma

THE government has expressed its commitment to continue reviewing livestock policies, laws and regulations so as to put in place conducive investment environment to spur growth in the sector.

Deputy minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdullah Ulega said this yesterday in the House that the government's intention is to ensure that the sector benefits all people including small-scale fishermen.

He was responding to a question by Neema Lugangira (Special Seats, CCM) who claimed that the current fisheries policy and legislation does not seem to meet the needs of small-scale fishermen.

The deputy minister explained that in implementing this, the ministry has been reviewing fisheries Policies, Laws and Regulations to be in line with the current needs and has been doing so regularly.

sustainability of fishery resources," he said.

Ulega acknowledged

that as the government is struggling to bring revolution in the livestock sector,

having supportive policies and laws is a matter of paramount.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
COMMERCIAL DIVISION
AT DAR ES SALAAM
COMMERCIAL CASE NO.132 OF 2020**

**STARLINGER & CO GESELLSCHAFT m.b.h. PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
TECHPACK TANZANIA LIMITED DEFENDANT**

DECREE

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff humbly prays for the following reliefs;

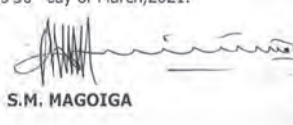
- An order that the Defendant release and bears costs for relocation of the machines bank into possession on the plaintiff.
- Payment of **EUR 756,384.51** equivalent to Tanzania shillings **TZS. 2,066,472,849.17** being the amount that the Defendant failed to remit to the plaintiff for machines delivered in accordance with the hire purchase agreement.
- Payment of interest at commercial rate prevailing at the date of judgment, or at such rate as the Honorable court may deem fit and just, accruing and computed from the date of judgment of this suit.
- Payment of General damages amounting to **500,000,000/=** as general compensation of any cost, loss or liability incurred by plaintiff due to Defendant's actions and in pursuit to recover the machines.
- For costs of this suit; and
- Any other relief (s) that the honorable court may deem fit and just to grant.


This case is coming up for Default Judgment on 30th day of March 2021 before Hon. S. M. Magoiga Judge in the presence of Mr. Anuwar Katakweba Learned Advocate for Plaintiff and in the absence of the Defendant.

THIS COURT DOETH HEREBY ORDERED THAT
Judgment and Decree in favour of Plaintiff as follows:

- Declaration that the defendant is in breach of the Hire Purchase Agreement and order Confirmation entered between the plaintiff and herself.
- The defendant is ordered to pay to the plaintiff sum of **EUR. 756,384.51** equivalent to **TZS. 2,066,472,849.17** being an outstanding amount that the defendant failed to pay or remit to the plaintiff within one month from the date of this judgment.
- That in case the defendant fails to pay the said money as adjudged in item(2) above in one installment to the plaintiff, immediately, the plaintiff is entitled to repossess the machines at costs of the defendant and relocate them to herself.
- The defendant is ordered to pay the plaintiff interest on the above sum at rate of 25% per annum, from the due date of debt to the date of this default judgment.
- The defendant is also ordered to pay the plaintiff commercial interest on decretal amount at a rate of 18% from the date of this default judgment till when the above decree fully satisfied in case of failure to pay the same within one month.
- The defendant is ordered to pay general damages to the tune of the **5,000,000/=**
- That, the defendant is ordered to pay costs of this suit.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this 30th March, 2021.
Dated at Dar es Salaam this 30th day of March, 2021.


S.M. MAGOIGA
 JUDGE
 30/03/2021
 Extracted on 30/3/2021


DODOMA CHRISTIAN MEDICAL CENTRE TRUST

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Dodoma Christian Medical Centre Trust (DCMC Trust) Hospital is a registered Private Hospital according to Hospital Regulations CAP 151 R.E 2002.

The mission of DCMC Trust is to provide accessible and sustainable quality health care through a Tanzanian comprehensive health system which encompasses community-based prevention and primary, secondary and selected specialized and super-specialized care.

Dodoma Christian Medical Centre Trust (DCMC) has served thousands of patients as a multispecialty hospital offering quality health care for the people of Central Tanzania and in collaboration with other stakeholders and in line with the Government policies.

DCMC Trust is an equal opportunity employer offering stable and professional working environment with competitive remuneration and benefits. DCMC invites qualified Tanzanians to fill in the following vacant positions:

ACCOUNTANT

Job Reference Number : DCMC – HQ – 0100
Duty Station : Ntyuka, Dodoma
Reports to : Chief Finance Officer

JOB SUMMARY: Reporting to the Chief Finance Officer, the Accountant is responsible for accounts payable, accounts receivable, fixed asset and general accounting, bridging the gap between procurement, warehouse, sales, and financial departments.

Education and Qualifications

- Minimum of a bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance from a recognized institution and holder of CPA.
- Minimum of 2 years' experience - Proven work (2) years' experience as a financial accountant in related field is a plus
- Strong commercial and business acumen
- Process and deadline driven mindset with a keen eye for detail and accuracy.
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Excellent organisational, analytical, and time-management skills.
- Computer Literate – Strong Excel skills and the ability to use MS Office suite.
- Ability to perform data and statistical analysis to spot trends and anomalies
- Good team skills and ability to self-manage

CASHIER

Job Reference Number : DCMC – HQ – 0200
Duty Station : Ntyuka, Dodoma
Reports to : Accountant

JOB SUMMARY: Reporting to the Accountant, the Cashier's primary function is to make people feel welcome to the Hospital. S/he must be efficient and be able to deal professionally and courteously with enquiries either in face-to-face situations or by phone. S/he will be responsible for all cash and cheque payments made to the Hospital and help patients/relatives with any special requests. The Cashier will also be responsible for preparing the daily collection reports and submit it to appropriate Authorities

Education and Qualifications

- Minimum of a Diploma in Accounting or Finance NABE III/ATEC II/NABOCE from a recognized institution.
- Minimum of 1 years' experience - Proven work (1) years' experience as a Cashier in related field is a plus
- Good team skills and ability to self-manage

MEDICAL/HEALTH ATTENDANTS

Job Reference Number : DCMC – HQ – 0200
Duty Station : Ntyuka, Dodoma
Reports to : Accountant

JOB SUMMARY: As an attendant, S/he will be part of unique and dynamic support staff. S/he will be responsible for general cleanliness of the Hospital wards, compounds and surroundings and assisting patients with their everyday needs. The vast majority of the patients are recovering from severe illnesses and injuries, and s/he will be responsible for helping them with their personal hygiene. In addition to this, S/he will also be responsible for providing comfort and transportation to these same patients.

Education and Qualifications

- One-year certificate in any health attendant course (Nursing attendant/laboratory attendant/Red Cross etc.) from a recognized and accredited college with passes in English and Kiswahili subjects.
- Holder of an Ordinary/Advanced Secondary School
- At least one year Experience working in a hospital or clinical environment
- All applicants must be Citizens of Tanzania
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the willingness to keep bedside manner in mind when interacting with patients
- Ability to multitask and manage time effectively
- Understanding of basic infection control practices
- Ability to promote a healthy, safe environment
- Ability to administer medications and perform pain management
- Willing to work closely with other team members

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ALL POSTS:

- Job descriptions for each position would be accessed through the Hospital website: www.dcmct.or.tz/careers
- Applicants must attach an up-to-date current Curriculum Vitae (CV) having reliable contact postal address, email address and telephone numbers.
- The job reference number should be clearly indicated on top of the envelope or e-mail Subject/headline.
- Applicants must attach their detailed relevant certified copies of Academic certificates/ transcripts as follows:
- Postgraduate Degree
- First Degree/Advanced Diploma,
- Diploma/Certificates.
- Form IV and Form VI National Examination Certificates.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
Application letters should be posted, hand delivered or e-mailed to the following address on or before 4.00 p.m. on 23rd April 2021 (i.e., Deadline for receiving applications)

Postal Address	E-mail Address
DIRECTOR DCMC HOSPITAL Imagi Hill, Ntyuka P O BOX 658 DODOMA	jobs@dcmct.or.tz

DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, WE MAY RECEIVE, KINDLY NOTE THAT ONLY THE SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED.



Singida Regional Commissioner Dk. Rehema Nchimbi speaks during the opening of the business community training organised by Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) in the region earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AU and Somalia agree on security strategies

MOGADISHU

SENIOR leaders of the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) and the Somali National Army (SNA) have agreed on strategies for Somali security forces to take a lead role in future security operations, the Amisom said Friday.

The months ahead will be crucial in the implementation of the decisions reached at a two-day meeting that ended Thursday evening, said Francisco Madeira, special representative of the chairperson of the African Union Commission and head of Amisom.

The meeting, which evaluated security gains in Somalia, urged Somali military commanders to continue to flush out Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups in the country.

"As the mission gets into the next phase, where Amisom is expected to gradually transfer security responsibility to the Somali security forces, joint planning and coordination, as well as harmonized force reconfiguration will enable the mission to maintain operational effectiveness, thus, we can timely and effectively respond to threats within our area of responsibility," Madeira said in a statement issued on Friday.

He said the conference marked an

important milestone in the roadmap toward peace and stability in Somalia, where Somali security forces are to assume a lead role in their own security operations, as laid out in the Somali Transition Plan (STP).

The meeting brought together representatives from the Somali government, the SNA military and Amisom, as well as international partners.

According to the AU mission, the Somali Transition Plan is a key deliverable in the Amisom mandate agreed upon in December 2017, when the government and the international community agreed on a conditions-based transition plan to enable Somalia to assume full responsibility for its security.

SNA Chief of Defense Forces Odowa Yusuf Rage reiterated that his forces, with support from Amisom and other partners, have been building capacity for the eventual takeover of security responsibilities from Amisom.

"I want to express my commitment to all the plans we have agreed upon and make it clear that SNA is committed to implementing its part as agreed. I call upon the sectors to take seriously the reconfiguration synchronization matrix and put in action all its recommendations so that we can achieve our harmonized plans," Rage said.

Singida RC urges BRELA on educating business community to register business

By Guardian Reporter

SINGIDA Regional Commissioner, Rehema Nchimbi has urged the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) to continue to educate the business community on the importance of registering their business.

She made the remarks yesterday when opening a two days seminar organised by BRELA for small entrepreneurs and business community in Singida Region. The seminar was geared to educate business community on services provided by the agency.

Dr Nchimbi commended

BRELA for conducting the seminar which is said would broaden the understanding of business community on the agency activities as well as seeing the importance of registering their businesses.

"Various people come to educate our people on matters related to business operations, but you are impor-

tant to us and the business community because they are going to have all their concerns answered," said the Regional Commissioner.

She added: "I am impressed that you are following people at their areas, instead of waiting for them to seek information from your office."

She said Singida Region has now changed with a lot of business and investment potentials in different sectors. She said following the increased investment and business opportunities, the number of small scale entrepreneurs and business people has increasing tremendously.

"For a very long time Singida was not seen as an investment destination, but currently, we have a good number of people engaging in business as well as those who have showed interest to start businesses," he noted.

BRELA Senior Licensing Officer, Abas Cothema said that the agency will in the

2020/2021 financial year educate the public on their role, offered services and how to register their businesses online.

He said in the first phase they will cover six regions—Singida, Ruvuma, Dodoma, Njombe, Morogoro and Iringa.

Tanga RC calls on TASAC to educate stakeholders about oil spill disasters

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

TANGA Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigella has called upon the Tanzania Shipping Agency (TASAC) to educate stakeholders on the Tanzania National Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan to get them ready for any oil spill disaster.

He made the call on Thursday when opening a two-day training workshop on the plan.

Shigella noted that as the city prepares itself for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) after the recent signing witnessed by the President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Uganda, it is crucial that stakeholders prepares on how to control oil spill incidents.

Construction of the 1,445-kilometer oil pipeline is scheduled to start soon, with operations expected to start in 2025.

TASAC Acting Director General, Nahson Sigala said that the plan has been reviewed and amended as per opinions provided by stakeholders.

Sigala added that to underline the corporation's intention to create a strong response team for Tanga, it has already handed over equipment for fighting oil spills to the region. He said the Tanga team would undergo practical training using the equipment.

According to Sigala, implementa-

tion of the EACOP calls for the creation of a strong oil spill contingency plan.

One of the stakeholders, Captain Wangwe from the Tanzanian Navy called on Tanga stakeholder to organize themselves instead of waiting for TASAC.

Tanzania and Uganda have officially launched construction of the world's longest heated pipeline at an estimated cost of 8trn/- (3.35 billion US dollars) to pump oil discovered in Uganda to the international markets.

About 80 percent of the construction of the pipeline will be conducted in Tanzania passing through Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga regions.

The pipeline is expected to transport about 200,000 barrels of oil per day providing the nation millions of funds annually.

Apart from transporting the oil from Uganda, the pipeline will be transporting oil from other countries of DRC Congo and South Sudan which have shown interest to transport the oil through Tanga Port.

Other benefits that Tanzania will obtain from the project are 15,000 employment opportunities during the construction and 2,000 others after the construction jobs during construction and 2,000 others after the completion of the project.



A man carrying merchandise rides on the back of motorcycle taxi along Nyerere Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday contravening road safety regulations. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

FAO and govt resolve to put more efforts to control loss of biodiversity

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the government have resolved to direct more efforts in controlling the continued loss of biodiversity which is being fuelled with increased human activities and the use of chemicals in agriculture.

The project, funded by the European Union (EU) will be implemented in six regions in the country including Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya, Dar es Salaam, Kili-manjaro and Arusha. The project will be directed on the agricultural sector with aims of looking at ways to reduce the biodiversity loss.

Speaking at the launch of the project's strategic plan, FAO Project Coordinator Diomedes Kalisa said the use

of various pesticides and chemicals in agricultural activities has been a major source of biodiversity loss. He noted that protecting the country's ecosystem and controlling the loss of biodiversity will help Tanzania in ensuring improved agricultural activities as well as food security.

He said that the use of various chemicals and pesticides in agriculture does not follow proper procedures thus contributing to destruction of biodiversity.

Kalisa said that through the project, farmers will be empowered with better farming skills and extension officers. He said they will also provide capacity building training to extension officers and agricultural stakeholders to be able to come up with policies for alternative use of pesticides with low levels of chemicals in agricultural activities.

"We will start by empowering agricultural officers and farmers through farmers' organizations so that they are able to reduce or come up with alternatives to the use of chemicals or pesticides in agriculture. It is through this means we can save biodiversity which is helpful in food security and crop production," said Kalisa.

The Registrar of Pesticides from the Tanzania Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) Joseph Bukalasa, said they have already listed 21 pesticides that are dangerous to the environment and human health and will go through various processes until they are removed from use.

He said that pesticides and chemicals that will be left for use in agricultural activities are those that are friendly to the environment and human health. He

said the institute is in the process of removing the dangerous chemicals in list of being by farmers. He said the move will save farmers from incurring high costs in pesticide use.

Environmental Officer from the Office of the Vice President, Thomas Chali, said they are the ones responsible for managing the environment in the country and that through the project they are targeting at helping farmers to improve their agricultural activities as well as production through sustainable use of environmentally friendly chemicals and pesticides.

He said the use of pesticides in agriculture helps to increase productivity but if not used properly, it can affect various biodiversity and become a source of environmental degradation and kill unwanted organisms.



Kahama District Commissioner in Shinyanga Region Anamringi Macha (L) cuts ribbon to launch the handing over ceremony of 184 chairs and tables worth 5.5m/- donated by TPB Bank for Ubagwem Ushetu secondary school in the district on Thursday. Looking on (2nd R) is the bank's loans director Henry Bwogi. Photo: Correspondent Shabani Njia

Africa to see slowest regional growth in 2021

By Special Correspondent

SUB-SAHARAN Africa is set to record the world's slowest regional economic growth at 3.4 percent as it struggles to recover from a virus-triggered slump, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned on Thursday.

"The economic hardships have caused significant social dislocation, with far too many being thrust back into poverty," said Abebe Aemro Selassie, the head of the IMF's Africa department.

"The number of extreme poor in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to have increased by more than 32 million," he said.

Sub-Saharan Africa has so far lagged behind in the global rollout of vaccinations.

The IMF warned that limits on access to vaccines and policy space were holding back the near-term recovery, calling for wealthy countries to step up access to vital vaccines and make financing available to Africa.

The IMF forecasts estimate that for most countries, the cost of vaccinating 60 percent of the population will require up to a 50 percent

increase in health spending. The additional outlay could exceed 2 percent of GDP in some countries.

The fund estimates that sub-Saharan Africa will more than recover from the 1.9 percent contraction it experienced in 2020 - the worst year on record - with a growth spurt of 3.4 percent this year. The growth is attributed to more countries opening up their borders, bolstering trade and commerce.

But in many countries, "per capita incomes will not return to pre-crisis levels until 2025", the IMF warned. According to Selassie, countries in the region have been hit by a 'trilemma' of pandemic-related risks including increasing developmental needs in health and infrastructure spending, increasing debt levels and governments being unable to collect more taxes.

Meanwhile, other factors such as access to external financing, political instability, domestic security, or climate shocks could further jeopardize recovery.

On the upside, the fund notes that a faster than anticipated vaccine supply or rollout could boost the region's near-term prospects.

Pakistan investors to visit the country in search of potential business deals in agricultural sector - envoy

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

PAKISTAN Ambassador to Tanzania Muhamed Saleem has said a number of Pakistan investors are expected to visit the country to explore joint venture projects in business and investments in the agricultural sector.

Ambassador Saleem said that Pakistan based auto machinery investors are also expected to invest in the agricul-

ture sector this year.

Saleem revealed this recently saying the move by Pakistan investors to invest in Tanzania testifies the strong relationship between the two countries. He said the joint ventures will help in creating job opportunities for Tanzanians and at the same time increase government revenue.

"Tanzania and Pakistan have enjoyed strong bilateral relationships, I recently met with Pakistan auto machinery investors and they promised

to come and invest in Tanzania," said the Ambassador noting that Tanzania has a lot of farmers who need modern machinery which will help in increasing production, create jobs and increase government revenues.

The ambassador was speaking at the launch of Sayed Autos offices in Dar es Salaam whereas he hailed the company for being in the country for more than ten years.

He said for the past ten years, Sayed Autos has helped

in creating job opportunities for Tanzanians at the same time contributing to the country's economic growth through taxes.

In his remarks, the Chief Executive Officer Sayed Auto Company, Sayed Masood Ur Rehman hailed Tanzania's conducive business and investment environment which have contributed into the company's existence in the country.

He promised to continue doing business in the coun-

try and inviting his fellow Pakistan investors to establish projects in the country.

"We have been in the country for the past ten years, the business environment has been good, as the company eight percent of our workers are locals and the remaining are foreigners. We employed more Tanzanians because we aimed at supporting the government's efforts in creating jobs, and the same contribute to the economic growth," he said.

Justine Cronery who is the Human Resource Manager for Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) welcomed the Pakistan investors to explore investment opportunities in the agriculture sector.

He said the government has put much emphasis on the agriculture sector since it has lot of potential to transform the country's economy.

"As TCCIA our doors are always open, we welcome investors from Pakistan and any

other country to come and invest in the potential agriculture sector for improved economic growth," he noted.

Tanzania's agricultural crops exported to Pakistan include beans, cotton and spices.

Recently, the TCCIA president Paul Koyi led a Tanzanian delegation to Pakistan where they signed a memorandum of Understanding (MUO) on how they can work together with the Pakistan business community.

CHF issues IDs to at least 1m poor elders

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has identified and issued special identification cards (IDs) to at least 1,087,008 poor elders in the country so as to enable them secure various essential services including quality health services.

It has also issued health insurance cards under the Community Health Fund (CHF) to 856,052 elders who are also enjoying access to quality health services in various health centres and hospitals in the country.

Deputy Minister, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Dr Festo Ndugange made the observation in the Parliament yesterday when responding to a question by Ghati Chomete who sought to know the government's move to ensure that all older adults in the country have access to quality and timely health services.

Dugange said that by December 2020, the government had identified and registered a total of 2,344,747 elders which is 87 percent of the estimated older adults in the country. Among them 1,09,310 are men and 1,252,437 are women.

He noted that the aim of the national health policy is to provide free health services to elders from dispensary level to national hospital.

The deputy minister also said that the government is looking for a better system to ensure that senior citizens enjoy health services anywhere in the country.

"However, leaders at village level should ensure that they have a database of all elders living in their areas, district executive directors (DEDs) should supervise this and ensure that health officers pass in all villages to collect accurate data of all elders," he added.

In his basic question, the lawmaker wanted to know the government's plans to strengthen the implementation of the national policy of providing free health services to elders in Mara Region.

Responding, the deputy minister said the government has identified and registered at least 70,170 elders in Mara Region of whom 32,900 are men and 37,270 are women.

"We have also provided special IDs to 39,664 vulnerable elders who are currently accessing quality health services in various hospitals and health centres," the deputy minister explained.

According to him, in recognizing the importance of health service to people, the government has seen it necessary to implement the improved community health fund (iCHF) as a step towards health insurance to all people.

We have also provided special IDs to 39,664 vulnerable elders who are currently accessing quality health services



City resident walks in flood water which is dangerous, disgusting and dirty. It is a hazard to one's health, safety, and it could be deadly as captured at Buguruni market in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Worm infections leave African women more vulnerable to STIs

By Special Correspondent

INTESTINAL worm infections can leave women in sub-Saharan Africa more vulnerable to sexually-transmitted viral infections, a new study has revealed.

The rate and severity of sexually-transmitted viral infections (STI) in the region are very high, as are those of worm infections, which when caught in the intestine can change immunity in other parts of the body.

Researchers at the Universities of Birmingham and Cape Town led an international team comprising of experts from Germany, Norway, Belgium, France and Togo.

They discovered that intestinal worm infection can

change vaginal immunity and increase the likelihood of Herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) infections - the main cause of genital herpes.

Publishing their findings in Cell Host and Microbe, the research team also notes that worm infections significantly increase the death of tissue in the vagina (necrosis), which can result in gangrene.

However, the researchers found that they could prevent these worm-induced changes in HSV2 pathology by targeting a particular type of immune cell called eosinophils - suggesting that this pathology could be prevented or reduced by using existing drugs.

Co-author Dr William Horsnell, from the Institute

of Microbiology and Infection at the University of Birmingham and Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town commented: "Our work identifies for the first time how a worm infection can influence a very important viral STI. This is important for health workers and may help them to explain why STIs are more virulent in areas where worm infections are common.

"We show that worm infections that never colonise the vagina cause a strong change in vaginal immunity. Following a viral vaginal sexually transmitted infection the pathology caused by the virus is hugely increased. Research into STIs has, until now, largely neglected the role of worm infections in influencing

the severity of these important diseases," Dr Horsnell said.

Rates and severity of sexually transmitted viral infections in sub-Saharan Africa are very high and are one of the world's leading causes of pathological disease. Worm infection rates are also very high in this region, but do not colonise the female reproductive tract.

"Our research shows that eosinophils can have a very important role to play in vaginal immunity - we hope that this discovery will boost efforts to understand how parasitic worm infection indirectly influences control of sexually transmitted infections," added Dr Horsnell.

EAC countries urged to embrace e-procurement

By Lavie Mutanganshuro

INSTITUTIONS in charge of public procurement in East Africa Community (EAC) member countries have been urged to embrace electronic methods of issuing public tenders in a bid to prevent corruption and other malpractices.

The call has been made by the Minister of Economic Planning and Finance, Uzziel Ndagijimana when speaking at the 13th East African Procurement Forum- an annual event that brings together heads of public procurement regulatory bodies from EAC member states to discuss ways to ensure smooth and transparent public procurement.

It was also attended by researchers, members of the private sector and civil society among others.

This year's forum brought together over 300 participants from Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Tanzania. It also had other participants attending virtually.

The two-day meeting runs under the theme "Strengthening integrity and accountability in public procurement for an effective emergency response."

According to Ndagijimana, public procurement plays a central role in good governance when it is characterized by transparency, integrity, and fairness among other

virtues, a reason why there should be a modernized way of issuing public tenders so as to ensure fair public procurement.

"Public expenditures are done through public procurement, literally, the international budget excluding salaries and a few other budget lines.

These large amounts of public spending create temptation to corruption, the reason why we need proper legal and regulatory frameworks for public procurement and their proper enforcement," he said.

He added: "We need to modernize our public procurement, including digitization to minimize human contact and intervention. The latter creates opportunities for corruption and malpractices."

In 2017, Rwanda adopted the Umucyo e-Procurement System, a portal through which bidders submit their proposals and quotations, reducing physical interaction between them and procurement officials.

Since then, according to statistics by the Rwanda Public Procurement Authority (RPPA), 19,850 tenders were published, about 85,000 bids processed, and 16,976 contracts were awarded to competent bidders through the portal.

A total of 210 procuring entities used the system.



Dodoma City council marketing officer James Yuna (L) talks to traders at the new Makole market yesterday. The business people are expected to be evicted any moment. Others are Makole ward councillor Omary Omary (2nd L) and Makole street chairman Anni Ngaya (3rd L). Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Forest officers in Kilindi District appeal for management training

By Beatrice Philemon

FOREST officers in Kilindi District, Tanga Region have called on stakeholders engaging in the forestry sector to support them with capacity building training to be able to transfer the forest management knowledge to the villagers.

Kilindi District Forest Officer, Rouland Lema made the call recently when briefing journalists who visited Mnkonde village in Kilindi District.

Kilindi has a total of 21 villages with 20192 hectares of forest reserve land endowed with natural forests suitable for timber, medicines and other uses.

"We need training forest management because most of us have not been trained since we graduated from universities," he said adding such training would help them to promote sustainable management of forests, efficient use and acquire new techniques for community engagement in forest conser-

vation.

He however noted that the Tanzania Forest Management Community Network (MJUMITA) and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) have been training villagers on forest resource management, there are still challenges caused by livestock keepers who have been grazing in the village land forest reserves.

"Environmental degradation is too high in our area been caused by increased human activities, illegal log-

ging, agricultural activities and encroachers who invade the village forest reserves," he noted.

He said the village government had already ordered encroachers to leave the area, but some of them are still residing at the forest reserve land.

MJUMITA Northern Zone Coordinator, Daniel Lucas said that 12 percent of the villages in Tanzania have legally established their own village Land Forests Reserves. The villages include the Mnkonde

village in Kilindi District.

According to him, so far 17.6 million hectares of unreserved forests that is approximately 80 percent of around 22 million hectares of forest cover found within the village land in Tanzania is not legally reserved and formalized resulting into deforestation.

He said that shifting agriculture is the main factor for deforestation accounting to a reduction of the reserved land by 80 percent. He urged Mnkonde resi-

dents to continue conserving their village land forests because forest protected land helps in mitigating climate change, create fresh water runoff and attract rains which is important for agricultural activities.

"There are many other villages which have benefitted with conservation activities in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region and Tunduru District in Songea," he said adding the villagers use funds generated from sales of forest products to build schools, dis-

pensaries, village offices and paying allowances to villagers conducting patrol inside the forest.

He added that some villagers have spent the money to enroll with health insurance services (Community Health Fund-CHF).

MJUMITA communications and advocacy officer, Revocatus Njau added that every year more than 469,000 hectares of forest are cleared in Tanzania with most deforestation occurring on unreserved forests within the village land.



Construction workers painting zebra crossing sign on Shekilango road within Kinondoni municipality in Dar es Salam earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Dr Tax joins leaders' calls to address root causes of conflict and instability in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax has joined calls by Africa's former Heads of State and government to address the root causes of conflict and instability to ensure sustainable peace, stability and development in the continent.

Dr Tax made the call when speaking at the Africa Forum Core Group stakeholder consultation meeting which was convened virtually by the Secretariat of the Africa Forum in collaboration with the government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Africa Forum is advancing the notion of a new Approach to Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA) which aims to focus on addressing root causes of conflict, which will complement the work of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Dr Tax highlighted that former

Heads of State have previously made significant contributions to peace and security in the SADC region through their involvement in mediation and conflict resolution.

She cited the role of former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki in bringing political parties together after the 2008 elections in Zimbabwe, leading to the establishment of the Government of National Unity as well as the work of former President of Mozambique, Joaquim Alberto Chissano who was the SADC mediator and special envoy to Madagascar whose efforts led to the holding of the 2018 elections and the eventual peaceful transfer of power in Madagascar.

The SADC Executive Secretary noted that the forum's new approach to peace and security, is in line with measures put in place by SADC to address the current and potential threats to economic and political stability in the region as identified in the peace and security threat assessment that was conducted by SADC in 2020.

Malawi to bin 16,000 AstraZeneca doses amid fears of rise in vaccine hesitancy

LILONGWE

MORE than 16,000 expired AstraZeneca Covid-19 doses are to be destroyed in Malawi as concerns over vaccine hesitancy increase.

The vaccines are among 102,000 doses donated by the African Union (AU) to the Malawian government last month.

Health campaigners are concerned that the possible link with rare cases of blood clots and rumours that peo-

ple were being given out-of-date doses of the vaccine were putting people off coming forward.

Currently, about 230,000 doses have been administered, enough to vaccinate nearly 1% of the population. As well as doses from the AU, the country received more than 400,000 AstraZeneca shots from Covax and the Indian government.

Initially, Malawians responded to the vaccine enthusiastically, with long queues at vaccination points and

hospitals since the rollout began last month. But numbers have dropped off.

"From what I know, vaccine hesitancy has contributed to reduced uptake," said Dr Ben Chilima, director of the Public Health Institute of Malawi. "I know some people did not go for the vaccine because of the hesitancy. There are some people who hesitate because they want to understand, other people because of religion and some people who simply think, 'I will

go tomorrow'.

"In the last week, people were also spreading messages that they will receive the expired vaccine, causing damage to the effort of the government."

News that the AU has decided to halt plans to procure the AZ vaccine has not helped, despite it insisting the decision was not linked to concerns over blood clots.

George Jobe, executive director of Malawi Health Equity Network, said:

"We wished all the vaccines had been administered to Malawians, so we're very concerned.

"In the country, especially in rural areas, people are still clinging to the negative information about the vaccine. We should remember that there has been misinformation on the vaccine, and now we've experienced the danger of such messages."

Jobe said people should follow expert advice, and not listen to rumours.

"This is a lesson to our donors that when giving donations, they should consider how prepared the nation is. Are people aware and ready to get the vaccine? The next vaccinations should not come within a few weeks before the expiry date because the same things will be happening," he said.

The ministry of health has assured people that it will dispose of all expired doses.



An entrepreneur arranges his beads for making necklaces and bracelets at Mianzini area in Arusha yesterday a job that earn a day income. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

TAWA takes steps to reinforce anti-poaching efforts

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) have signed an agreement to reinforce anti-poaching efforts.

TAWA's acting conservation commissioner, Mabula Misungwi, said the anti-poaching and other conservation activities will be conducted along the Ruaha-Katavi ecosystem.

Misungwi thanked WCS for working jointly with TAWA saying fighting

poaching required joint efforts.

Noah Mpunga, WCS director for Tanzania, appealed to other conservation organisations to support Tanzania toward wildlife conservation.

The Ruaha-Katavi ecosystem comprises miombo plains, forested highlands, significant rivers, lakes and wetlands.

It is the most important area in terms of elephant numbers in East Africa and a key habitat for endangered and vulnerable species including lion, wild dog, giraffe, hippo, vul-



Noah Mpunga, WCS director for Tanzania, appealed to other conservation organisations to support Tanzania toward wildlife conservation.

Mnangagwa pays tribute to Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana

HARARE

AHEAD of this year's Independence Day celebrations, President Emmerson Mnangagwa has paid tribute to neighbouring countries such as Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, and Botswana for the invaluable support they rendered until the attainment of Uhuru in 1980.

On Sunday Zimbabwe celebrates its 41st Independence on the background of a successful agriculture season as well as rapid infrastructural development projects that have been implemented by the Second Republic towards industrialization and economic

transformation.

In his address at the 351st ordinary session of the Politburo on Wednesday, the President said Independence Day offers Zimbabwe an opportunity to reflect on the supreme sacrifices made by the country's heroines and heroes in liberating the country from colonial rule.

"Zimbabwe is forever grateful for the international solidarity and support we received during the protracted war for our independence. In the region, we had invaluable material, logistical, diplomatic, and political support from Zambia, Tanzania, and Botswana, until the ultimate defeat of the exclusionary and

oppressive minority rule. As a Party, we remain emboldened by the Pan-African ideals of collective peace and harmony as well as the belief that unity is fundamental for sustainable economic, social, and political progress, in our region and on the continent," he said.

And ahead of the 2023 elections, the President said the party structures must continue to diligently implement the people-oriented programmes to ensure production and productivity in line with the Zanu-PF ethos and values that also underpinned the liberation struggle.

"The 2023 Harmonized General Elections are fast ap-

proaching. Let us therefore continue tightening our belts and diligently implementing our party programmes with a greater sense of urgency. Our people and party membership must be kept informed, mobilized, and motivated to be productive towards improving their plight and the achievement of the goals we set out, in the 2018 People's Manifesto," he said.

He added: "Party structures must remain intact. We cannot approach the next election with an assumed membership base. It is fundamental that we know the figures of those who will potentially vote for us at a disaggregated ward,

constituency, and provincial level. Nothing must be left to chance."

Turning to by-elections, the President said they must be conducted within the confines of internal democratic practices and provisions of the Zanu-PF constitution, while at the same time observing WHO protocols.

The President said that values that promote discipline, unity, robust and mature political competition as well as the indivisibility of the revolutionary party must be guarded jealously.

He commended the Herbert Chitepo School of Ideology for implementing a compre-

hensive and robust training programme for the DCC structures and new cadres joining the party.

"Our political DNA as the ruling party Zanu-PF, with the vision for the future, is premised on the sanctity of our party constitution, rich revolutionary history and heritage, as well as the culture of engagement and dialogue. The ideals of our party, particularly patriotism, loyalty, discipline, and honesty must remain engrained in all of us. There is no room for malicious, divisive, corrupt and retrogressive tendencies within our rank and file membership," said Mnangagwa.

"Reflections on our liberation principles and ethos, instruct that we must relate with the people, as water is to fish.

The people, inclusive of women and youth, are a critical force in driving our development agenda. In today's meeting, Politburo will, thus, receive reports from the war veterans, women and youth leagues on their activities and programmes," the President said.

He added that the youths are the future of the nation and critical towards the achievement of the national Vision 2030 to become an upper middle-class economy.

UN outlines scheme to close camps housing 430,000 refugees in Kenya

By Peter Muiruri

THE UN refugee agency (UNHCR) has given the Kenyan government "sustainable and rights-based" proposals for the closure of Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps.

The response follows a 14-day ultimatum issued by the Kenyan government for the UN high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) to come up with a plan for closing the two camps, which are home to some 430,000 refugees and asylum seekers from more than 15 countries.

The UNHCR said it recognized "the tremendous generosity that the people and government of Kenya have demonstrated towards refugees for many decades and the need to resolve situations of long-standing displacement". The government had declared there was "no room for further negotiations" on the closure.

However, last week the Kenyan high court issued an injunction temporarily halting the closure for 30 days after a petition was filed by a former presidential candidate, Peter Gichira, who said the order to close the camps violated the constitution and international treaties on refugee rights.

The UNHCR's proposals include "enhanced voluntary repatriation", resettle-

ment programmes and issuing national ID cards more quickly to Kenyans registered as refugees. The agency is also advocating that refugees from East African Community partner states be offered alternative arrangements to stay in the country, representing a "major opportunity for refugees to become self-reliant and contribute to the local economy".

"We have heard the concerns expressed by the government of Kenya and hope that these measures will be a significant step forward in accelerating sustainable solutions for all those concerned," said Fathia Abdalla, UNHCR's representative in Kenya.

"We believe that through joint renewed actions we can put in place measures that respect refugee rights and lead to sustainable solutions. We look forward to continuing our dialogue and collaboration with the Kenyan authorities and partners on this important matter."

Kakuma camp, in the north-western Turkana region of Kenya, was set up in 1992 for child refugees from what is now South Sudan - known as the "Lost Boys" - and Ethiopians who fled their country after the fall of the Mengistu government. Dadaab camp, in Kenya's eastern Garissa County, was established in 1991 to house Somali refugees.



Tanzania petrol station operators association (TAPSOA) assistant secretary Maulid Mahfudh (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the partnership with Tigo Tanzania through which the customers will pay for their fuel via Tigo Pesa calling number 777512. Right is Tigo chief officer for mobile financial services Angelica Pesa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MIC, TanManagement partners to boost digital insurance services in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE world's digital insurance platform - Micro Insurance Company (MIC) has partnered with TanManagement Insurance Brokers Limited to grow digital insurance in the country.

MIC's mission is to provide a simple safety net, so when the unexpected happens, people are able to bounce back swiftly.

The company delivers relevant insurance products through their digital channels and partners by providing them access to the over 4 billion people and 100

million businesses that are un-served across the globe.

TanManagement Insurance Brokers Limited is a private limited liability company registered in Tanzania under the Companies ordinance Cap 212 and issued with a Certificate of Incorporation No. 35174.

MIC, formerly (MicroEnsure) has been working diligently to partner with like-minded businesses and organisations in order to grow the distribution of micro-insurance globally. The appointment of TanManagement, as Micro Insurance Company's representative in Tanzania, is part of this ongoing endeavor.

The partnership was formed as a result of leveraging

the platform provided by Brokerslink - a global company that owns and manages a worldwide insurance broking network with the initiative to strengthen the growth of digital insurance.

Brokerslink has all the expertise needed to provide the services expected from an international firm, while also having the embedded knowledge and relationships that only local brokers possess.

Through the joining of forces, new and innovative insurance products will be developed and delivered to millions of individuals and businesses via various business to business (B2B) partners such as telecom opera-

tors, e-commerce platforms, mobile money operators, ride hailing apps, and other platforms.

MIC brings to the partnership its digital insurance expertise, B2B network, innovative product development, process design, and reinsurance support, while TanManagement provides the license and outreach.

It is a global insurance platform delivering technology, underwriting, policy management, and distribution. In the past 10 years, TanManagement Insurance Brokers Limited has grown from a small office in Moshi to being one of the top 10 Brokerage Firms in Tanzania.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 17 APRIL 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

African nations should be on high alert for bird flu

AVIAN influenza, known informally as avian flu or bird flu, is a variety of influenza caused by viruses adapted to birds. The type with the greatest risk is highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Bird flu is similar to swine flu, dog flu, horse flu and human flu as an illness caused by strains of influenza viruses that have adapted to a specific host. Out of the three types of influenza viruses (A, B, and C), influenza A virus is a zoonotic infection with a natural reservoir almost entirely in birds. Avian influenza, for most purposes, refers to the influenza A virus.

Though influenza A is adapted to birds, it can also stably adapt and sustain person-to-person transmission. Recent influenza research into the genes of the Spanish flu virus shows it to have genes adapted from both human and avian strains. Pigs can also be infected with human, avian, and swine influenza viruses, allowing for mixtures of genes (reassortment) to create a new virus, which can cause an antigenic shift to a new influenza A virus subtype which most people have little to no immune protection against.

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has told African nations to be on high alert for bird flu after multiple outbreaks of the virus were reported in wild birds across Europe.

The FAO's warning says that the disease has spread rapidly in Western Europe's wild bird population. 70 cases have been reported across the UK, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Commercial poultry farms have also been affected by bird flu outbreaks. Since wild birds act as a reservoir for the virus and will soon begin migrating across Africa, the risk of transmission is growing.

"FAO recommends countries in Africa to be on alert for incursion of H5 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), following increasing reports from European countries of detections in wild birds over the past week.

"Countries and farms should have in place enhanced measures for prevention, early detection and diagnosis, and for outbreak response," it said in a statement.

"Moreover, it is likely that the virus has already arrived in parts of West and North Africa but remained undetected so far," it said.

The FAO is recommending that African nations increase disease surveillance efforts in wild birds and poultry and limit contact between domestic birds and wild flocks.

The organization says to pay extra attention to shared sources of drinking water to prevent contamination. Previous bird flu outbreaks in 2017 threatened the livelihoods and food security of millions in Africa.

Sunflower sector in Tanzania: A great potential for industrial competitiveness

TANZANIA has the opportunity to strengthen a sector that can improve the livelihoods of millions of families, while improving domestic food security. Thanks to innovative shifts in country-level policy and a new framework for industrialisation, Tanzania may soon become more self-reliant in the production of cooking oil and serve as a model for industrialisation for other African countries in the process.

A new USAID-funded study by Dalberg and a suite of local and international partners reveals notable transformations in the industrialisation of Tanzania's sunflower sector. This transformation follows the government's decision in 2018 to enact trade and tax reforms aimed at boosting industrialization in the sector.

Tax incentives have encouraged industrial investments in the production of sunflower oil, while tariffs imposed on imports have likely helped favor domestic sunflower production. The changes also mean that Tanzania, which currently imports about 60 per cent of its cooking oil requirements at a cost of approximately \$250 million USD per year, could reduce or eliminate its reliance on imported vegetable oil – a key food staple in the country.

Tanzania's sunflower sector is paving the way for future industrialisation and sustainable growth. Tanzania is one country among others in the world producing sunflower oilseeds for raw materials in processing cholesterol-free edible cooking oil with a by-product used as livestock feeds. Currently sunflower oil makes about 13 per cent of the world edible oil production. Sunflower was introduced in Tanzania during colonial times and it was found to grow in almost all parts of the country. Interestingly, the crop grows well in the dry weather conditions of the central corridor compared to other crops like maize and wheat.

Sunflower in the central corridor is also interesting from a pro-poor or welfare perspective as most of the sunflower is grown by small farmers.

In Dodoma, for example, about 50 per cent of farmers are engaged in oilseeds production. With a population of about 50 million people, Tanzania's minimum national demand for edible oil is expected to be about 219,000 tons per year, but the actual national demand is probably much higher, although there are no reliable figures available. Demand for vegetable oil is at least growing with the rate of population growth. The production of oilseeds in Tanzania mainly focuses on groundnuts (40pc), sunflower (36pc), sesame (15pc), cotton (8pc), and palm oil (1pc). The palm tree nuts have the highest oil content (46pc -67pc) than its counterpart; however the palm tree requires specific climatic conditions which are only found in some parts of Tanzania, such as Kigoma. While there is a large production of other oilseeds such as groundnuts and sesame, there has been no substantial oil production from these seeds, thus making sunflower oil the most important vegetable oil produced in Tanzania.

In the same vein, FARM Africa has announced the start of a new project with UN Women under their realising gender through empowering women and adolescent girls programme.

Tanzania is well positioned to grow its oilseed and horticulture sectors, but many women are currently being excluded from participating in and benefiting from the potential of the sector. Through a 12-month project that launched in January 2021, Farm Africa will train sunflower farmers on how to access quality supplies and boost productivity to meet growing domestic demand for sunflower oil, increasing incomes for women working in the sector.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Covid-19: The opportunity for a reset of our global humanity

By Jay Naidoo

ALL 195 countries on the planet are in the same big salad bowl. Covid knows no borders, carries no passport. We can say that there is a vaccine, but not that 'we all' have a vaccine. People with money and power have a vaccine. A mere 16 per cent of the global population holds 60 per cent of all available vaccines.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the emergence of global vaccine apartheid clearly illustrate what is going wrong with the world today. Medical discoveries and most recently the Covid vaccine have always been the result of a remarkable collaboration between knowledge workers, including scientists and researchers, and public funding of their work. The Covid-19 pandemic generated public funding in excess of \$12-billion into finding a vaccine. Now Big Pharma wants, in its usual practice, absent of ethics, and with its long history of putting profit before people, to privatise the benefits, having benefited from the socialisation of the costs.

Speaking to investors in mid-March, Frank D'Amelio, Pfizer's CFO, said the company was selling its vaccines at "pandemic pricing", indicating that could change once most of the world had received its first dose.

"So the one price that we published is the price with the US of \$19.50 per dose. Obviously, that's not a normal price like we typically get for a vaccine, \$150, \$175 per dose."

A high-ranking Pfizer official touted "significant opportunity" for the pharmaceutical giant to increase the price of its Covid-19 vaccine once the spread of the virus shifts from pandemic to epidemic.

That would represent a 900% increase per dose and an annual recurring revenue stream for the duration of the patent and future pandemics which appear to be a certainty. The 18 Big Pharma companies in the period 2009-2018 had combined profits of \$588-billion. We are living in an era where narrow corporate interests of maximising the accumulation of profits trumps saving



the lives of people - a stark reminder of colonial exclusion and discrimination. Intellectual property rights are now the rising spectre of apartheid racism - the blunt instrument of the 1%.

A year after the outbreak of Covid-19, less than 3% of the people in developing countries are going to be vaccinated by the middle of 2021. Globally, 70,000 health workers have died since March 2020. At the current pace and scale of the vaccine roll-out, it is conservatively estimated that it would take at least seven years to vaccinate the whole population.

Africa has recorded 4.28 million cases, representing a 9% rise in just one month. As of 15 March, only 23.6 million vaccine doses had been distributed in Africa, sufficient for around 1.7% of the continent's population. This is barely 0.5% of current global vaccine distribution, while the continent represents more than 17% of the global population. If vaccine supply to Africa is not immediately upscaled, the continent's frontline health workers are likely to be overwhelmed. Meaning the collapse of our public healthcare system.

Africa and the developing world in general are not asking for charity. Rather, we are demanding justice. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, described the goal of providing vaccines to all as "the biggest moral test before the global community", underlining that everyone, everywhere must be included.

"Yet," he said, "progress on vaccinations has been wildly uneven and unfair. Just 10 countries have administered 75% of all Covid-19 vaccines. Meanwhile, more than 130 countries have not received a single dose. Those affected by conflict and insecurity are at particular risk of being left behind."

A proposal led by India and South Africa - joined by 100 countries - to

request a temporary waiver of intellectual property rights to the World Trade Organisation over the creation of Covid-19 vaccines which would allow unfettered access to the intellectual property and formulas necessary to ramp up production of vaccines for the developing world, is being opposed by 10 of the wealthiest industrialised countries and the Big Pharma enterprises protected by them.

Western governments are meanwhile talking of donating their excess vaccines to the developing world through the Covax facility. And many want to be paid for it. Philanthropy cannot buy justice.

As in the case of HIV/Aids activists who fought against big pharma and won, global solidarity matters. The demand for global justice and a "People's Vaccine" is growing across the world. More than two-thirds of the people in the world supported a call for unfettered and equitable access to a People's Vaccine by ending intellectual property rights that deny such access.

Clearly, the main bottleneck in tackling Covid-19 today is vaccine manufacturing capacities and capabilities. While up to 14 billion Covid-19 vaccines might be needed globally, the current global manufacturing capacity is only three to five billion. In response to the current crisis and looking ahead to future pandemics, Africa must strengthen and upscale its own vaccine manufacturing capacities and capabilities. We are on our own.

We cannot let an archaic, colonial mentality that permeates the market be used to dictate the lives of people and another repeat of the HIV/Aids debacle.

The market is not God and the owners of Big Pharma are not the new medieval aristocracy with the warped self-belief that they have the right to deny life to people of the world. In a world where no one is safe unless everyone is safe we

have to rethink the governance and rules of our world. Let's start with intellectual property rights.

With a population of more than 1.3 billion, Africa is one of the most unprotected and vulnerable regions. It would be a fatal mistake to consider that the pandemic here is less severe, and thus "Africa can wait".

We are in the eye of a perfect storm, picking up speed heading towards the wall of an economic, political, social, and ecological catastrophe. The health crisis coincides with that of legitimacy of governance and the very basis of our societal organisation. It is abundantly clear that the current status quo is broken. Humanity stands at a crossroads. One path leads to despair, growing inequality, conflict and implosion. Another is the choice to rethink, reimagine and reorganise everything. Now is the time for a just transition to a fairer sharing of the world.

We live in a world that is more connected, binding people and planet into one global system with one destiny.

The digital revolution heralded a new phase of civilisation.

One that was to embrace the indivisibility of our humanity and our stewardship of our planet. To build the pathways of hope and opportunity for our future generations.

And to weave a notion of human values that saw us evolve to a greater consciousness of a more compassionate and caring human race living in peace and intelligent cooperation with each other and everything and everyone we share our world with.

We must return to common decency and fairness.

Believing in your abilities

“I am who I am... I am the best the way I am...I can achieve my goals.” This should be your slogan. Your daily reminder. Pat your back when you achieve your set goal, congratulate yourself, give yourself a treat, and appreciate your efforts.

The funny thing or probably the fantasy that we look for is appreciation and gratitude from a second and third party which often brings us disappointment. Keep in mind that, not everyone will see your success in the perspective you would have loved them to.

Yes, there will be those who will rejoice with you on each and every success story. Others will see to it just as a norm and sadly there will also be the ‘jealousy’ type. Make sure that you learn for each of them. It is a lesson that you should always pick. Each day is a learning day.

One thing I learned is; whenever you wish good for your fellow, then you reap goodness from it, your heart is always at ease and doors open up in directions you had least idea of.

The main aspect is that, do not associate your happiness with someone else’s gratitude. Be happy, be proud of your success, your failure, your strengths, and shortcomings. Only then, will you find your inner peace.

When someone tells you that whatever you are doing is worthless, prove them wrong. Bring out the worth in it, let it shine so brightly, and let them see that with your dedication, trust in The Almighty and self-belief, you could get your ambitions to greater heights and success keeps on following you step by step.

Do not be afraid of failure, how will your success story be interesting if you fought no battles and rejections on the way. As a writer, there are times when writer’s block takes control of you but when you decide to lift yourself from that comfort zone and try as much as you can to scribble down your thoughts, it’s much easier to overcome it. As an entrepreneur, there is will be times that your business thrives and moments when sales are low, all in all, let this not demoralize you. Maybe I can say, failure is a fundamental key factor to success, challenges are there to make you stronger and competitive, not to weaken your capabilities.

Learn from your weaknesses and pull your socks. Be proud of yourself.



College Comfort Zone

With
Salima Hamisi

saly30@gmail.com
0762 174 124



WASHINGTON

GENDER stereotyping in the media has a significant impact on how women and gender minorities are perceived. In turn, it affects their opportunities to fully and effectively participate in public life.

Lack of inclusivity in the media is one reason for widespread gender stereotyping. Recent findings from the 2020 Global Media Monitoring Project show that the news media falls far short of being an inclusive space for women, for example. The study found that women are subjects or sources in the news just 26% of the time, and that only 31% of experts consulted for televised COVID-19 stories were women.

To discuss what we can do to counter stereotypes about women and gender minorities in news coverage, NGO CSW65 -- the civil society side of the UN Commission on the Status of Women -- convened a panel discussion, moderated by ICFJ President Joyce Barnathan. The panel explored the media’s role in mitigating gender stereotypes, and the potential for regulatory frameworks to counter its prevalence in the media.

Panelists were Chiara Adamo, head of “Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance” at the European Commission, Motunrayo Alaka, founder of the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism in Nigeria, Taboom Media’s Founding Director Brian Pellet, Colombian senator and former FARC commander Victoria Sandino, and Melanie Tobal, the founder of Publicitarias.org.

The session was co-hosted by CFI, Fondation Hironelle, Free Press Unlimited, the Global Forum for Media Development, International Media Support and Sembramedia.

Here are some key takeaways.

Education

Education is the most effective approach to fighting gender stereotyping in the media, the panelists said. The goal is to train newsrooms so that reporters can consciously rid themselves of their own biases. “Often, the media pursues stories because it wants to meet a deadline and there is not too much time to learn the nuances of the issue,” said Alaka.

Education initiatives should start with the basics, said Tobal, since many people don’t even understand what gender stereotypes are. Many journalists think that taking gender into consideration when covering a story, and actively trying to fight the stereotypes that come with it is a trend they can quickly master, she added. “They want magic solutions, like a checklist or a quick workshop, or a quick talk and send,” she said. “But the issues are very complex.”

Pellet’s Taboom Media works to improve media coverage of LGBTQI+ rights. Without training, such topics are often misunderstood, and lack of education on LGBTQI+ issues can lead to further gender stereotyping. Pellet and his team train journalists on the concepts of informed consent and anonymity, for example, as they relate to LGBTQI+ individuals.

“Everyone has met a woman in their life, they know women. But the same is not necessarily true for sexual and gender minorities,” said Pellet. As such, educating newsrooms about LGBTQI+ coverage is focused on



learning basic terminology and expanding the definition of gender.

Incentives

Newsrooms and journalists often have little incentive to change how they incorporate gender perspectives in their reporting. Panelists agreed that these initiatives need to come from leadership.

If activists and organizations can make it clear that better coverage of women and gender minorities is essential for sustainability, more newsrooms might seek training and create better incentives for their staff. As Barnathan pointed out, if a news outlet excludes 50% of its audience it will have a hard time thriving for much longer.

Adamo urged media funders to leverage their power to require change. For example, the European Commission, of which she is a part, runs the Creative Europe Media Program to support the development, promotion and distribution of European media works. “For the next seven years, we will ensure that those who request Creative Europe funds commit to gender equality in their company strategies,” she said.

Regulations

Regulation is a complex and delicate debate, said Adamo. Regulators need to make sure different human rights at play do not conflict. For instance, regulations should not unduly diminish freedom of expression for the sake of protecting gender equality.

There are ways to go about it that work, she said. In 2018, the European Commission introduced an audiovisual media directive prohibiting broadcast news from containing content that incites hate or violence on the grounds of race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, for example.

“Conflict exacerbates stereotypes that lead to violence against women and minorities,” said Sandino. The Colombian senator explained that regulations aren’t meant to hinder the free press, but to set up an inclusive ethical framework. She praised newsroom gender quotas as one option, adding that there should be a minimum percentage of women required for senior positions, as well.

Regulations are necessary, but they are a long route to change, said Alaka. These efforts always need to be supplemented by local, independent and immediate initiatives, such as training.

Tobal, based in Argentina, suggested that the coun-

try could bridge regulation and education by extending a current law there that requires training on gender perspective, diversity and violence for state workers to include the media as well.

Leadership

Sandino considers media ownership a key facet of the fight for change. “In Colombia, there is no woman owner of media. All conglomerates are handled by men. We need [women in charge] of information management, language, elimination of stereotypes and creating the space for women,” she said.

The women in charge must also be equipped to affect positive change, too, other panelists noted. “It’s not just that we’re getting more women in the space that’s important, it’s that the women that are getting into the space must have the right understanding of what they are going into the space to do, what power they have, and what they are going to change,” said Alaka. “They are going to program in a different way, they are going to frame in a different way, they are going to staff in a different way. The agenda is just different when they understand.”

Sources

The panelists agreed on the need to diversify sources and cite more women experts on all issues. Oftentimes, journalists go to their same sources repeatedly, out of convenience. The media, however, can help turn women sources who aren’t usually consulted into top experts in their fields, or for specific stories, Alaka noted.

“The media can make newsmakers,” she said. By adding women experts to their source lists, journalists can help change the perception of women in society.

Reducing gender stereotyping in the media won’t just result in better reporting, it will radiate to the rest of society. “The advantage of the media is that it goes beyond just taking care of itself. It can take care of the rest of society, too, and that’s why it’s important to get the media right so that we can help the rest of society,” said Alaka.

Ecuador's presidential runoff marked by uncertainty

QUITO,

A cloud of uncertainty lingers over Ecuador's upcoming presidential runoff with political analysts being cautious about the bets.

Andres Arauz, a left-leaning economist endorsed by ex-president Rafael Correa, won 32.72 percent of the vote in the first-round election in February, and will face three-time candidate Guillermo Lasso, a former banker who secured 19.74 percent, in the runoff scheduled for next Sunday.

"I don't think there are certainties about who could win, but certainly there has been a polarization in the population facing the two candidacies," said Katalina Barreiro, professor of political science at Ecuador's Institute for Higher National Studies (IAEN).

The tension created by a mudslinging presidential campaign could dissipate on election day, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will remain, according to Barreiro.

The electorate is uneasy due to a lack of solutions to urgent problems such as unemployment, strained healthcare and insecurity amid the pandemic, she told Xinhua.

"That is going to have a great repercussion on the voting decision," said the professor.

Polls showed that Arauz, 36, who served in Correa's cabinet, has a 7-point lead over Lasso, 65, whose career as a banker prompted his opponents to cast him as a member of the elite and out of step with the working class.

Ecuadorian political consultant Decio Machado said marginal preference between the two leads him to "reserve prognosis."

"The polls indicate that there is more or less a technical tie at this point, and everything that is going to happen in the final stretch of the (election) season will be decisive," Machado said.

One thing is certain, he said, the vote will be a litmus test for Correa's political influence.

The former president, who lives abroad and was sentenced in absentia to eight years in prison for corruption, is backing Arauz to continue the "Citizen Revolution," a political movement Correa spearheaded over a decade in power.



"I don't see that there is capacity for illusion or generating hope in Ecuadorian society on the part of the two candidates," Machado said, "it is evident that we are in a situation of uncertainty."

Many people will simply vote for the candidate they consider least bad, said Machado.

"If voting was not compulsory in Ecuador, we would possibly have a

very high abstention rate," he said.

However, polls showed that the number of undecided voters, which was around 35 percent in the first round, has dropped to 8-17 percent.

Some observers say the race is shaping up as a contest between opposite political and economic models – Arauz proposed strengthening the state's role in economic and social sectors, and Lasso is more of a

laissez-faire approach.

The runoff follows a politically tense first-round, as third-placed candidate Yaku Perez, an indigenous activist, lost his runoff chance to Lasso by 32,600 votes.

Claiming voter fraud, Perez mobilized protests for widespread recounts and is calling on supporters to null their votes.

"The scenario is complicated," political analyst Xavier Flores told Xinhua, noting that fraud suspicion has prevented Lasso from altering Perez's supporters, who are largely leftists, while voting null will only have a "mar-

ginal" impact on the runoff.

"Voting null not only displaces the voter from a key decision, but can make him responsible, by action or omission, for a government that least represents the interests of the great majority," said Santiago Basabe, political scientist at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, Ecuador.

Xinhua

People's leader: A Dalit woman becomes the voice of farmers in India

NEW DELHI,

ON 12 January this year, somewhere in the outskirts of the capital, New Delhi, 24 year old Dalit activist Nodeep Kaur was arrested by the Haryana police for protesting outside a factory. During the lockdown in 2020, Nodeep joined a local workers' rights organization called Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan (MAS) in the Kundli Industrial Area in Haryana. In January Nodeep was accused of allegedly manhandling management and staff of an industrial area during a protest and also assaulting the police team.

Nodeep had been participating in the farmers' protest against the central government's new agricultural reforms as well. She was taken into custody and accused in three separate cases and was charged under sections of the Indian law which included, attempt to murder, extortion, unlawful assembly, rioting and criminal intimidation. She has been granted bail, but her cases are still pending. Nodeep's case was covered extensively by International media when Meena Harris, niece of American Vice President Kamala Harris, called for her release.

Nodeep's crime, she told IPS, "I am a woman, I am Dalit and I am giving voice to the people who are often very easily suppressed."

"They arrested me, they beat me up, ill-treated me, even inside the prison there was so much bias between upper caste and lower caste people. I was tortured a lot, I couldn't walk, I was in so much pain, they didn't give me access to a doctor, and kept me in isolation for days. I am grateful that I came out alive and I am here, where I am meant to be, with my people, with the working class and with the farmers," Nodeep Kaur told IPS.

Nodeep hails from a family of activists and her parents have been associated with farmers' union in Punjab. In 2014, her mother Swaranjeet Kaur led protest demanding justice for a minor Dalit girl who was gang raped in their village. She faced multiple death threats, was arrested and kept in custody for days.

"I am who I am today because of my mother. Our society is not created equal, there is so much caste based bias and if you are a woman, and a woman from my background (Dalit), it's a bigger challenge. From a very young age I learnt to fight not just for myself but for others as well," said Nodeep.

In February, when Nodeep was granted bail, one of the first few statements she made right after coming out of the prison was, "I will definitely go to the Singhu border and sit with the farmers". A few months into this, today as we speak, Nodeep has become one of the strongest voices that is leading the farmers protest in the country.

"This solidarity that you see today between the farmers and the working class is so powerful. Can you imagine what all can happen now that we are all united and standing up for each other?" says Nodeep. "My battle started with fighting for unpaid wages and unfair treatments of the working class in an Industrial area, and from there, today, I am here supporting and giving my voice to the farmers. I don't know how or when it happened, but they call me their leader, and I am not going to let them down."

Thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh have been protesting at several Delhi's borders since November last year against three farm laws. The farmers have been demanding a repeal of the farm laws - Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce



Activist-Nodeep-Kaur-Speaking-at-Farmers-Rally-at-the-Kundli-Manesar-Palwal-Expressway-in-Haryana. Credit: Sania Farooqui

(Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers Empowerment and Protection Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The farmers have also demanded a legal guarantee on Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for their crops and also to withdraw the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020, as they fear it will eventually lead to an end to subsidised electricity.

"All we are asking for is to withdraw these three laws which will deregulate the sale of our crops," said Sukhdev Singh, State General Secretary of Bharti Kisan Union to IPS.

"Our biggest concern is that the recent laws that have been enacted by the central government will completely dismantle the MSP system, only the private players will benefit and us farmers we will end up out of business. We cannot afford to shut down the "mandi system", that's how we make money. Over 300 farmers have so far died while camping and protesting at these borders in Delhi. We have already lost so much, but our fight will continue," Sukhdev Singh said.

The farmers protest is considered to be one of the biggest protests that has taken place in India, not just for its size and magnanimity but also because it has put women in the forefront who are now often seen leading the pro-

test despite being asked to leave.

"This is a revolution, we are here to raise our voices, if we don't do this today, what will our future generations have," says Ratinder Kaur, a 65-year-old farmer from Punjab. Ratinder has been camping at Singhu border since January 2021, and plans to stay on at the border as her husband returns to Punjab to cut crops this week.

"How can anyone tell us we can't participate? We women are farmers too, we go to the field, we farm, we do other labour incentive work and we also look after our families," Ratinder says.

International Humanitarian group OXFAM states that nearly 80% of the full-time workers on Indian farms are women, they comprise 33% of the agricultural labor force and 48% of the self-employed farmers yet only about 13% women own land. The agrarian societies in India are extremely patriarchal societies, characterized by deeply entrenched feudal structures where women and men rarely have equal access to resources.

Closing this gender gap is essential in order to accelerate the pace of growth in the agricultural sector. Gender based discrimination continues to thrive in the country in different ways, for the women farmers in India, they are yet to be recognized as farmers in Indian policies, "thereby denying them of institutional supports of the bank, insurance, cooperatives, and government departments," says OXFAM.

"Do you know why we call Nodeep our leader? She is just like us farmers, strong and resilient. Nothing can stop her, and when she goes up on the stage and talks, everybody listens," says Kiranjeet, a 57-year old farmer from Punjab who joined the protesters camping at Tikri border and then at Singhu border since March.

"I have left my children back home in Punjab, and I am going to be staying here, just like my other farmer sisters. It's important for us women to fight this fight, when inflation hits, when prices go up, when there is no money at home, we know how much we have struggled to get the next meal.

"Nodeep is the future, we need youngsters like her, and so many other sisters who came out to support us. When one woman speaks, so many others join her. Our husbands have gone back home, its crop cutting season and now we are going to be here for the next few months, it's our right and our fight," Kiranjeet says.

The farmers protest is not the first time women in India took on leadership roles in both political movements and mass protests. Women constituted a significant proportion of street protesters during the anti-CAA protests in the country since December 2019. The biggest challenge in India however remains how to transform their leadership into equal representations in high-level government positions, without gender, caste and religious bias.

The very idea that the farmers movement in the country is transforming women's presence and influence within their own patriarchal and often caste based biased set ups, there is no pushing them back into a space of invisibility. "Without women there is no revolution," says Nodeep. "We (women) have gone through so much, have fought so much, have survived so much, they thought they could put inside a prison and I will keep quiet. I am here to fight and I am here to stay, come what may, they have made their people's leader, and I am not going to let them down," says Nodeep.

IPS

Only three per cent of world's ecosystems still intact - study

By Henry Goodwin

JUST three per cent of the world's land remains ecologically intact - with healthy populations of all its original animals and an undisturbed habitat - shocking new research has found.

The remaining fragments of genuine wilderness, undamaged by human interference, are mainly in parts of tropical rainforests in the Amazon and Congo, east Siberian and northern Canadian forests and tundra, and the Sahara.

Australia has been particularly hard-hit, with invasive alien species like cats, rabbits and goats meaning there are no intact areas - full of native species - remaining.

Previous studies based on satellite research have estimate that between 20 and 40 per cent of the Earth's species is largely unaffected by humans. But scientists behind the new study argue that forests, savannah and tundra can appear intact from above but, on the ground, are lacking vital species.

Wolves, for example, can control populations of deer and elk - whereas elephants spread seeds and create important clearings in forests.

It is widely accepted that the world is in the midst of a biodiversity crisis - with many wildlife populations plunging, mainly due to the destruction of habitat for farming and building.

Some scientists believe we are seeing the onset of a sixth mass extinction of life on Earth, which would bring devastating consequences for food, clean air and water.

"Much of what we consider as intact habitat is missing species that have been hunted [and poached] by people, or lost because of invasive species or disease," said Dr Andrew Plumptre, the lead author of the study, from the Key Biodiversity Areas Secretariat in Cambridge. "It's fairly scary, because it shows how unique places like the Serengeti are, which actually have functioning and fully intact ecosystems.

"We're in the UN decade of ecosystem restoration now, but it is focusing on degraded habitat," he said. "Let's also think about restoring species so that we can try and build up these areas where we've got ecologically intact ecosystems."

The study - published in the journal *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* - used maps of the ranges of 7,000 species from the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

"It might be possible to increase the ecological intact area back to up to 20% through the targeted reintroductions of species that have been lost in



areas where human impact is still low, provided the threats to their survival can be addressed," said Plumptre. He referenced the successful reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone national park in the US, which transformed the ecosystem.

Prof Pierre Ibisch, at the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development in Germany, said finding just three per cent of land was intact was

"predictably devastating". He said: "We need to give nature significantly more space to carry us into the future, [but] I fear that the reintroduction of a few species in certain areas is not a game changer.

"Accelerating climate change is becoming the overarching threat to the functionality of entire ecosystems. Yesterday's mammal intactness hardly tells us a lot about the functioning ecosys-

tems in the [global heating] age."

Prof James Watson at the University of Queensland, Australia, added: "This study undervalues many efforts by ecosystem scientists to map and save ecologically intact places across the planet. It uses maps for species that are basically best guesses, meaning the message of where ecosystems are actually still pretty much intact is clearly minimized."

AngloGold Ashanti's Geita extension leads to new Tanzania contract mining

By Guardian Reporter

ANGLOGOLD Ashanti has facilitated the establishment of the BG Umoja joint venture in Tanzania, which has been awarded the \$186m worth two-year mining contract for the Nyankanga and Geita Hill underground mining projects.

The 80/20 joint venture is a partnership between Africa Underground Mining Services (AUMS) Tanzania, a subsidiary of Australia's Perenti Group, and local drilling services and mining-supply

company, Geofields Tanzania Limited.

The partnership is modelled on a similar underground mining joint venture at the Obuasi Redevelopment Project in Ghana between AUMS Ghana and Accra-based, wholly Ghanaian-owned Rocksure and will help build local specialised mining capacity.

AngloGold Ashanti's Chief Operating Officer - Africa, Sicelo Ntuli said: "We're working with our experienced mining contractors to assist in establishing local joint

ventures for long-term transfer of sustainable skills, and to continue building on our sustainable local procurement programmes.

"AngloGold Ashanti is building sustainable local procurement programmes that will allow it to stimulate economic and social development at all of its operations, evidenced by the significant contribution Geita has made to the fiscus and people of Tanzania," he said.

He added that, AngloGold Ashanti's annual expenditure

with indigenous Tanzanian suppliers have almost tripled to \$162m since 2016. The company's the local team in Tanzania has set itself an ambitious target of 60% to 70% of all expenditures with indigenous Tanzanian companies, by 2025.

In addition, he said AngloGold Ashanti's Geita Gold Mine has awarded a two-year fuel transportation contract, worth approximately \$10.8m a year, to two local contractors. Both have a presence in Geita town and participate in

social initiatives aimed at uplifting the lives of host community residents.

"The Geita based company is one of those that were enrolled under the capacity building initiative for host community suppliers implemented in partnership between the Mine and the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) to enhance the capacity of Geita suppliers to effectively compete in the Mines supply chain.

"To influence Scope 3 emissions, trucks are to be compliant

with EURO IV emissions standards, tankers are to be made of an aluminum alloy material to reduce weight and the age of the fleet will be maintained at less than six years.

"The contractors already employ women fuel tanker drivers to meet the mine's requirements for diversity and inclusion. The two contractors both own workshop facilities in Geita town and participate in social initiatives aimed at uplifting the lives of a host community residents," he said.



Scientists sound warning note over malaria drug resistance in Africa

By Special Correspondent

RESISTANCE to malaria drugs in Africa may be starting to take hold, according to a study that maps changes similar to those seen a decade ago when drug resistance spread in south-east Asia.

In Cambodia and neighbouring countries, the artemisinin drug compounds widely used against malaria are no longer always effective.

The falciparum malaria parasites have developed genetic mutations that allow them to evade the drugs. There has been great concern that drug resistance could spread to Africa, which has the highest burden of cases of this type of malaria - and the highest toll of child deaths from it.

A study in Rwanda, published in the *Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal on Wednesday, shows that the feared erosion of efficacy of the malaria drugs may have begun. As happened in south-east Asia,

researchers have found that giving a child a course of artemisinin compound drugs does not always clear the malaria parasites from their blood in three days, as it should.

Artemisinins, introduced in the early 2000s from China, are given in combination with a different type of malaria drug to ensure all parasites are cleared and the efficacy of the drugs is not compromised. The most common combination is artemether-lumefantrine, which Rwanda began to use in 2006.

If the artemisinin drug does not clear the parasites promptly within three days, the partner drug comes under pressure and resistance to it may develop in turn. At that point, the treatment may fail, as has happened in south-east Asia.

"Mutations can emerge spontaneously, and previous studies have pointed to isolated cases of resistance. However, our new study shows that resistant isolates are starting to become more common

and most importantly, are associated with clinical implications [delayed parasite clearance]," said lead author Dr Aline Uwimana, from the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, in Kigali.

The experts called for more intensive surveillance of drug resistance in Rwanda and other African countries. "Our study showed that the treatment for malaria in Rwanda is still 94% effective, but new studies and ongoing monitoring are urgently needed," said co-author Dr Naomi Lucchi, CDC resident adviser for the US President's Malaria Initiative.

The researchers monitored the treatment of 224 children with malaria aged six months to five years in three areas of Rwanda - Masaka, Rukara and Bugarama. In two of the sites, about 15% of children still had detectable parasites after three days, fitting the World Health Organization (WHO) criteria for partial resistance.

The researchers also found certain mutations in the parasites, which are impli-

cated by the WHO in delayed clearance.

Experts believe the warning signs are there. This study, and other data, suggest we are "on the verge of clinically meaningful artemisinin-resistance in Africa, as emerged in south-east Asia over a decade ago", writes Prof Philip Rosenthal, of the University of California, San Francisco, in a commentary in the journal.

"Loss of efficacy of key ACTs [artemisinin-based combination therapies], particularly artemether-lumefantrine, the most widely used antimalarial, could have dire consequences, as occurred when chloroquine resistance led to enormous increases in malaria deaths in the late 20th century."

It was impossible to predict the pace of progression in Africa, but close surveillance of the development of resistance in the parasite - with prompt replacement of failing regimens - "could save many lives", he said.

UAE sends humanitarian aid to Maputo to support victims of Daesh terror attack

ABU DHABI

THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) has sent 36 tonnes of emergency medical and food assistance to the Republic of Mozambique to address the humanitarian situation in its coastal town of Palma, Cabo Delgado province.

This humanitarian assistance came in the wake of the Daesh terror attack that resulted in dozens of casualties, hundreds of injured, the mass displacement of individuals from the city, and a lack of shelter and basic food resources, particularly among women and children.

"Since joining the Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh in 2014, the UAE has sought to support all efforts by the international community to eliminate this organisation and prevent the spread of its extremist ideology," said Khalid Ibrahim Sohail, UAE Ambassador to Mozambique.

He added, "This urgent humanitarian assistance sent by the UAE to Mozambique is part of the provision of humanitarian supplies to aid those affected by the terrorist attack, as well as enhance the humanitarian response and assistance to all African countries in such critical circumstances."

The UAE previously sent an aid containing 8.7 metric tonnes of medical supplies to Mozambique to support approximately 9,000 medical professionals as they work to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rampant gun violence makes US proven hypocrite on human rights

WASHINGTON

A recent string of mass shootings in the United States have once again proved that the country, always proclaiming itself a defender of human rights, is indeed a hypocrite, as deadly gun violence rate keeps ballooning while gun proliferation remains rampant.

U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday depicted gun violence in the country as “an epidemic” and “an international embarrassment,” highlighting a chronic human rights crisis that has reached epidemic proportions and long blighted the United States.

Over the last few weeks, the country witnessed mass shootings occur nearly back-to-back in Orange, California, Boulder, Colorado, the Atlanta area in Georgia and Central Texas.

As of April 7, 11,535 Americans were killed by gun violence this year, according to data from the Gun Violence Archive. Last year, the number of gun violence death topped 435,000, including nearly 300 children, more than any other year in at least two decades.

Although Washington has largely rejected being held accountable for the ravaging crisis, its failure to protect its citizens from gun violence has been constantly reviewed and bombarded by international human rights bodies including the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

The “right to life, liberty and security of person” is codified in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. “Life” also comes before “liberty and the pursuit of happiness” among the three unalienable rights enshrined in the Declaration of Independence.

However, for decades, Washington has failed to live up to the legal promises made to its people. The right to bear arms too often trumps the right to life as a result of powerful lobbying by interest groups such as the National Rifle Association, erecting a major barricade to gun control legislation.

Multiple complex legal, political and cultural factors lead to the high rate of gun violence in the United States.

The most conspicuous one is that guns are unreasonably easy to get in the country. Gun control advocates even lamented that it’s “easier to buy a gun than to register to vote” in the United States, which bills itself as a champion of freedom and human rights.

As a consequence, gun proliferation has been appalling. With less than 5 percent of the world’s population, the United States owns 46 percent of the global civilian-owned guns, according to a report by the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey.

In 2020, industry data and firearms background checks show that nearly 23 million guns were purchased in the country, up by 65 percent from the previous year, according to U.S. consulting firm Small Arms Analytics.

A more underlying reason for the deteriorating gun violence in the United States is that the government makes little effort to address the root causes -- racism, poverty and lack of access to education.



Specifically, eight people were shot dead at three massage parlors in the Atlanta area in March, of whom six were Asians, stoking fears over rising hate crimes against Asian-Americans.

Meanwhile, the country’s public divide on gun control has revealed the cavernous gap between rural and urban Americans. Many of the supporters for gun ownership take hunting and fishing as a way of life in states with large rural populations, while for many in coastal cities, owning guns is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, gun control legislations are extremely hard to get through the U.S. Congress due to partisan politics and the influence of interest groups. The hot-button issue has for decades been a major

point of contention between Democrats and Republicans. The GOP favors gun-owners’ rights, arguing that gun laws will not keep people safe, but rather take away the rights of law-abiding citizens.

In contrast, Democrats contend that gun laws will make a difference, saving people’s lives and preventing firearms from getting into the hands of the wrong people.

Last month, the House of Representatives approved a pair of bills aimed at expanding and strengthening background checks for gun buyers. Though widely popular with voters, the measures were expected to face strong GOP opposition in the Senate.

Biden, who campaigned on the issue of curtailing

gun violence, is expected to proceed with piecemeal regulations through executive orders or tucking them into the massive infrastructure bill that is now taking shape in Washington.

Yet gun control advocates maintained that Washington’s measures on gun control are far from enough. Without the right to life, it is impossible to enjoy other rights. The U.S. government has clear and urgent obligations to tackle gun violence.

Effective gun control is more about whether Washington has adequate political will and moral courage to take all measures necessary to protect people from gun violence. As Biden has said, “Enough prayers. Time for some action.” And for real action.

World moving towards ‘devastating marriage’ of artificial intelligence and weapons of war

TOCKHOLM,

LANDMINES are among the most insidious and cruel weapons of all, because they do not distinguish between armed soldiers, civilians or even children.

According to the Landmine Monitor 2020, explosive devices hidden in the ground killed or injured at least 5,554 people worldwide last year alone – that’s an average of 15 deaths and serious injuries per day.

With her International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Professor Jody Williams (70) has been advocating a ban on landmines for almost 30 years, and she received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for her commitment.

Excerpts from the interview:

Professor Williams, thank you for taking the time for this interview with the Faces of Peace initiative. To begin, we would first of all like to ask you: What does “peace” mean for you personally?

WILLIAMS: Peace is not simply the absence of armed conflict. That is the baseline on which sustainable peace can be built. For me, sustainable peace is peace built on human security, not national security. We do not need more, “modernized” nuclear weapons.

We do not need fully autonomous weapons that on their own can target and kill human beings. We need to use our resources so that the needs of people are met, not the needs of arms producers.

People should be able to live dignified lives, with equal access to education, health care, housing, etc. We need to focus on human security for sustainable peace, not national security to protect the infrastructure of the state. Peace and security should be people centered!

On 3 December 1997, 122 states signed the treaty for the banning of landmines. You and your campaign received the Nobel Peace Prize for this. How did you, as an American, come on the topic of landmines?

WILLIAMS: Actually, I was asked by two organizations – the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and a German humanitarian relief organization, “Medico International” – if I thought I could create an international coalition of nongovernmental organizations to pressure governments to ban antipersonnel landmines.

It was an amazing challenge that totally sparked my interest so I accepted that challenge and the Interna-



Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams won the prize for her work to eradicate landmines in 1997. She is pictured here speaking at a youth protest at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates held in Merida, Mexico.

tional Campaign to Ban Landmines was born. Today, some 164 nations are part of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Speaking of the Landmine Monitor 2020: With 5,554 dead, the global death toll remains high 23 years after the ban on landmines. Is this a sobering figure? What else can the international community do?

WILLIAMS: It is a very sobering question and demonstrates how long it takes to clean up the mess as chaos caused by war and violence. The international community must maintain its focus on supporting countries still plagued with landmines and that are working on mine-clearance.

The danger of landmines – especially improvised

explosive devices – still exists. And the world has not become more peaceful anyway. What are the biggest threats to peace in 2021?

WILLIAMS: To my mind, the global obsession with weapons and violence while at the same time painting people who believe that peace is possible as intellectual “light weights” who don’t understand the harsh reality of the world are the two sides of the double-edged sword that keeps the world believing that only more weapons will keep us safe.

The biggest threats are the “modernization” of nuclear weapons and the new “revolution” of weapons – killer robots. The weapons are fully autonomous and can target and kill human beings on their own. A devastating “marriage” of artificial intelligence and

weapons of war!

Bombs do not kill ideology: Just in office, U.S. President Joe Biden ordered an airstrike in Syria – and another was called off at the last minute. What are your thoughts about that?

WILLIAMS: As you point out, bombs cannot kill ideology. In fact, bombing and other acts of violence can strengthen ideological conviction and make recruiting new people easier. I did not support Obama’s extensive use of drone warfare either.

And speaking of Joe Biden: The US has so far not signed the Ottawa Convention. What do you think the chances are of this happening during Joe Biden’s presidency? Does the world need US leadership?

WILLIAMS: I cannot predict what Biden will do regarding the Mine Ban Treaty. But it is very likely he will roll back Trump’s policy and align his administration’s policy with that of the Obama administration, which brought the US very close to compliance with the treaty even if it was not signed.

Professor Williams, you are also chair of the Nobel Women’s Initiative. What exactly does this initiative do and how can one support your important work?

WILLIAMS: The Nobel Women’s Initiative was launched in 2006. It brings together five women recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, who use our influence and access to shine a spotlight on grassroots women’s organizations in conflict areas around the world working for sustainable peace with justice and equality.

*About the Faces of Democracy and Faces of Peace initiatives:

With almost 100 prominent figures from politics, business, the media and society – including the former President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway Erna Solberg, the President of the Republic of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid, the German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger – the Faces of Democracy initiative is now in its fifth year of existence.

The first “faces” of the 2019 founded Faces of Peace initiative are SIPRI Director Dan Smith, the Chairman of the Atlantic Brücke e.V. Sigmar Gabriel, the OSCE CIO 2019 and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Laják and the Chief of Staff of the 69th Submarine Brigade of the Northern Fleet Vasili A. Arkhipov.

BUSINESS



Mdantsane matriculants in class.

EGGHEADS

Mdantsane matriculants excel in maths and physical science against all the odds

CAPE TOWN

Despite the enormous challenges faced by the matric class of 2020, learners benefitting from the Promaths programme in the East London township of Mdantsane rose to the occasion to record remarkable performances in maths and physical science.

The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa disrupted academic learning on an unprecedented scale, with the hard lockdown introduced in March last year proving to be incredibly taxing for matrics preparing for their all-important final exams.

Yet as it has done so successfully in previous years, the Promaths programme of the Kutlwano Centre for Maths, Science and Technology was not only able to steer learners through troubled waters, but deliver them exceptional results in these two "gateway" subjects.

The programme is designed to speed up top-level results among Grades 10-12 learners in previously disadvantaged South Africa areas. For many years, it has enjoyed a highly successful track record in the Mdantsane cohort.

As was the case with learners and institutions in the rest of the country, the 2020 Promaths cohort were forced to contend with the pandemic's effects, and for many, that included the emotional trauma of losing loved ones.

Many parents and guardians also lost their jobs while some homes experienced domestic abuse and other forms of violence. Covid-19 also meant that Promaths centres had to rethink their strategies while recognising that internet connectivity and web access in the township and rural areas remain a massive problem in South Africa. But by employing a combination of online and face-to-face teaching sessions, Promaths was able to keep learners firmly on track and recover sessions that had been lost to the lockdown.

The outcome for the Mdantsane cohort was beyond what even programme facilitators would have imagined. The group of 60 Eastern Cape learners recorded 100% pass rates in both maths and physical science, but even more impressively, they achieved overall averages of 63% and 67% in these two subjects, respectively.

There were also 13 distinctions for maths and a staggering 22 distinctions for physical science among Mdantsane's Promaths learners. Your family and Covid-19 masks: What do the doctors

say? Parent24 editor Elizabeth Mamacos spoke to Dr Carol Bosch to learn more about Covid-19 safety measures, and the use of masks.

Remembering that 2020 was a year like no other in recent history, some of the results are nothing short of spectacular. Likhona Mnyamana, of Khulani Commercial High School in Mdantsane, scored a near-perfect 98% for maths and 97% for physical science.

In contrast, another Khulani learner, Faith Tonnie, scored 86% for maths and 90% for physical science. At Wongalethu High School, located in Mdantsane Unit 2, Liphelo Morris left matric with 86% for maths and 91% for physical science.

Another standout performer was Sandisiwe High School's Kelly Mugonera, who notched up 80% for maths and 87% for physical science. As a measure of just how much the Promaths learners benefit from the programme, in the 2019 National Senior Certificate examinations, the Eastern Cape pass rate average for maths and physical science was 41.8% and 70.3% respectively.

By comparison, Mdantsane's Promaths learners achieved 98% and 99.8%, respectively. It is the kind of success Tumelo Mabitsela, CEO for Kutlwano, has become accustomed to in the past 15 years thanks to the tireless efforts of the Promaths team, who in that period have spurred more than 22,000 learners onto greater heights. Mabitsela also credits this success to private sector partnerships with funders like the Datatec Educational and Technology Foundation, which has been funding the Mdantsane Promaths group for ten years. The Foundation aims to improve education, specifically in 'STEM' (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects in underprivileged communities in South Africa.

"Aside from the vital skills gap that maths and science education fills, many people overlook the real-world, day-to-day needs these vital subjects play in our ordinary living, such as helping us to problem solve, or reason logically, or challenge our thinking," Mabitsela says.

"Ultimately, our dream as an organisation is to see underprivileged black learners moving up through the ranks and going on to pursue careers in engineering, finance, science, maths and technology. Nothing makes me happier than when I hear about professionals in these fields who once benefited from being on one of our extra-tuition programmes."

COMPETITIVENESS

A Lesotho dagga grower just landed Africa's first approval to sell to the EU

MASERU

A Lesotho-based cannabis cultivator has been approved as the first manufacturer in Africa to export the medicinal cannabis flower as an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) to the European Union.

MG Health has been certified as meeting the EU's good manufacturing practice (GMP) standards. Situated outside of Lesotho's capital Maseru, in the mountainous region near Mohale Dam at 2,000 metres above sea level, MG Health operates a cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility.

The 5,000 sqm greenhouse, fitted with internal climate, temperature, humidity and lighting controls, houses plants which are dried and trimmed to produce 250kg of medical-grade cannabis flower every month. MG Health's master plan is to increase this output to 100 tons of cannabis flower per year using a cultivation area of 160,000 sqm.

It's an optimistic outlook for a company that was only established in 2017, but one which has been supported by Lesotho's progressive cannabis cultivation laws. The Mountain Kingdom was one of the first countries in southern Africa to legalise the cultivation and use of medicinal cannabis in 2008.

The recent GMP approval, which was officially granted at the end of March 2021, is expected to turn this cannabis start-up into a profitable industry player by September. The first exports are expected to go directly to Germany which has the highest usage of medicinal cannabis in Europe.

"We've followed a process with



Workers at MG Health in Maseru.

our partners in Germany in registering an extension to their narcotic licensing to include our products and we need to get the necessary import and export documentation before we can begin our first shipments," explains Luke van der Nest, MG Health's business development manager.

Those first shipments to Germany are expected to begin in June and will be supplied to Drapalin Pharmaceuticals, a Munich-based importer and distributor which lodged the request for GMP approval. Once this initial export arrangement with Drapalin Pharmaceuticals is completed - at which point the cannabis company will see a positive cashflow - MG Health will

be looking to strike other deals with licensed distributors in key markets across Europe. "They're one of the strictest regulators," says Van Der Nest of Germany and MG Health's decision to seek GMP approval for the supply of the cannabis flower as an API.

"We wanted to find the most stringent standards and make sure that we adhere to those, to generate that global confidence for patients, prescribing doctors and everyone else along the supply chain." And while MG Health is keeping a close eye on developments in South Africa, which has recently formulated a new cannabis master plan to stimulate economic growth, Van Der Nest says the company has no intention of uprooting its

operations in Lesotho. "Lesotho is our home and we're very happy here," says Van der Nest.

"We've got a great relationship with the regulators here, do a lot for the local community and look to grow the business here. So, at the moment, we're fully focused on Lesotho. We obviously watch South Africa very closely and we hope to see regulations, in terms of medical prescriptions, ease so we can start to service patients throughout the continent."

MG Health believes its cannabis flower - which is also processed into extracts and oils - is of superior quality, which it says is due to the altitude at which it is grown, and the nutrient-rich water obtained from the nearby Senquyane River.

PROGRESSIVE

Couples fight in court for embryos in Kenya

NAIROBI

A few years ago, in divorce cases, couples mainly fought for property. Soon more divorcees will be fighting for sole custody of embryos frozen in some fertility clinic?

Amid the increase in the number of Kenyans getting children through in vitro fertilisation (IVF), where a sperm and egg are fertilised in a lab before implanted in the womb, and marriages are not everlasting, the kinds of disputes that courts will start settling will be battles over embryos.

At Dr Kireki Omanwa's clinic, Frontline Medical Consultants in Nairobi, hundreds of his clients choose to get children through IVF. For the eight years that he has been running the fertility clinic, one case lingers in his mind.

A couple visited him with the hope that he could make their dream come true. After conducting tests, he harvested the eggs, sperms and an embryo was created in readiness for making a baby. "A few days later, we received a letter from the husband asking us to immediately halt the process. He'd just found out that the wife had been unfaithful and was



Ayieta Lumbasyo an advocate and bio-ethicist during an interview at Nairobi IVF Centre on April 8, 2021.

contemplating his next steps," Dr Omanwa recalls. The case was filed in court.

"We're yet to hear from the couple," says the fertility specialist who studied at Wrocław Medical University in Poland. "For now, the embryos stay in our care and we'll only proceed with a court order in hand." Demand for IVF has grown over the years, due to the availability of centres and specialists in Kenya and a growing population that can afford.

In most of these IVF centres couples draw up legal contracts detailing each partner's rights but infertility can take a physical and

emotional toll on patients that they do not think through before signing the paperwork.

It is always a rush against time to produce healthy embryos and babies as fast as possible. Later on, the science of IVF can carry its baggage. What happens to the remaining embryos if one or both of the partners die, or if they have had enough children? Who should decide what happens to the embryos in case of a divorce? What about the donor eggs and sperm in case of their owner's death, disappearance, or incapacitation?

Giving a partner the sole

rights to embryos could have consequences, should there be a divorce and an ex-partner brings the embryos to full term. Data from the Kenya Fertility Society reveals that two in every 10 couples in the country face fertility issues. Most of these couples will opt for IVF, surrogacy, or adoption. However, the lack of laws governing assisted childbirth, including IVF and surrogacy, means that embattled couples are at the mercy of judges' discretion.

According to Dr Omanwa, who currently sees two IVF clients a day, infertility can be primary or secondary. Primary infertility is where a couple is having sex up to three times a week, but still unable to conceive over two years. Secondary infertility is when a couple has a child but has stayed for four to five years without conceiving.

The causes of infertility vary for both genders. Male infertility is caused by low sperm production, abnormal sperm production, sexually transmitted infections, blockages that prevent sperm delivery, health problems such as diabetes, among others. In women, age and lifestyle factors are the leading causes of infertility.

SKINTELLECTUAL

Woman who stopped straightening her hair has grown one of the world's largest afros

NEW YORK

Simone Williams, 32, started growing out her natural locks, and now has an incredible length that has a 1.48m circumference.

She says, "Growing up I had natural hair and around the age of 11 I transitioned to straightened hair. It's something I thought was a part of growing up, I wanted to be like my friends and the things that I saw on media or in the TV, and around the age of 23 that's when I decided to

transition back to natural hair." "As a child, there wasn't pressure per se but I did want to fit in with what I saw around me and the media, and the media definitely straight hair versus natural hair.

"After college I decided to save money for my new apartment and at the salons I would spend anywhere from \$50 to \$100 a month so I took that money to contribute to my new apartment. And, once I moved into my new apartment, having my natural hair it was something kind

of an experiment just for the time being until I reached my savings goal. But once I started to see that new growth I became curious about the new texture of my hair and I just continued to grow my hair out and I've been doing that for about nine years now and here I am."

Simone was recently awarded an honour by Guinness World Record for broking an existing record for the largest afro, which acknowledges her for her afro that is 20.5 cm tall, 22.5 cm wide and 1.48 m in

circumference. She says, "My wash days, just to wash it and detangle it, it takes anywhere from 30 minutes to one hour. And to dry depending on the time of year, because I don't apply heat to my hair it could take six hours in the summer or maybe 12 hours in the cooler months."

Adding that she often gets compliments when in public. "The reaction I receive varies on the streets, I get things that are subtle like a thumbs up or like a Black Power fist or sometimes, if I'm crossing the

street I get horns honking or people just telling me 'I love your hair' ... they love it pretty much."

Simone broke the record previously held by Aevin Dugas for eight years and recorded a 1.32m circumference. Simone says, "The goal was never to have the Guinness World Record, I've just been doing what I've been doing since day one so same processes and now that the record has been broken I'm going to continue doing that same thing that I've been doing with my hair all these

years.

"I would say to anyone looking to embark on the natural hair journey, I would absolutely tell them to have patience. At first it may seem like a daunting process, it was a struggle for me. I didn't go natural and just have big hair one day, it was very hard for me at first but the key thing I always say is to have patience with your hair. It's something that's a part of you and you will learn to embrace it." Would you grow your afro for a spot the Guinness World Record?

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Health fanatic on building society through women

KIGALI

In 2019 after securing a Bachelor's degree in health and human kinetics, Ornella Bisamaza embarked on a journey to achieve her goals—to impact current and future generations through her passion for agriculture, health and women empowerment.

By rolling all her passions into one, Eat Green Trading and Delivery Co, was launched. The 23-year-old says, "I have always loved working in the health sector and empowering women. I wanted to be a source of opportunity to others, my mission is to transform people's lives through health and creating opportunities specifically for women."

Eat Green is a bridge between local farmers and its customers. The business model encompasses business to business (B2B) sales and business to customer (B2C) online shopping for home deliveries, where 80 per cent of its workforce are women.

It deals mainly with fruits, vegetables and meat trading with local farmers. The company provides daily meals' advocacy that generates significant strategies to combat preventable chronic diseases, such as diabetes, kidney malfunction, and heart dis-



Ornella Bisamaza.

ease, through nutritional prevention methods. According to Bisamaza, her supply chain guarantees fresh, healthy and organic produce as they

are able to track their farmers from seed sowing to the harvesting stage. "Eat Green is reputable for being affordable to households

and businesses while preserving its reliability as the core value for business. I continuously bid to empower women and the Rwandan youth in general," she notes.

This, she says, is portrayed by her ability to translate her connections into opportunities where women and young Rwandans can develop different skills and eventually run their own farms and businesses. The most interesting and outstanding part about the business is that as a health enthusiast, she understands the need to preserve better/improved health standards in a 360 degree approach.

Aside from nutrition advocacy and pesticide-free farming, Bisamaza has chosen to align herself with Rwanda's vision of being a green nation through using green transport to deliver her produce to customers across the country.

Triumphs and future plans

Through the company, Bisamaza has successfully managed to increase local farmers' revenues on her

team by at least 30 per cent while expanding her knowledge in the agricultural sector through trading, and partnership with local farmers from seed-sowing till harvesting stages. "Using my cognitive skills of farming produce and health advocacy, I am able to transcend my lifelong goals of changing people's health standards through agriculture," she says.

Her focus now is to inspire more women to join the agricultural field, and to take more risks in building themselves up from the ground. Also, she aspires to help them understand that just because a field is dominated by men, it shouldn't limit them from pursuing their goals and aspirations.

"I want to impact young female entrepreneurs by making them understand that we should work not only to generate income, but also, to make an impact in the world/society, and most importantly, to put Rwanda on the map," she adds. So far, the company has eight staff members of which six of them are on a permanent basis.

FITNESS

When is the best time to exercise when fasting for Ramadan?

DUBAI

Maintaining a normal workout routine during Ramadan can be hard, because of interrupted sleeping patterns and a lack of liquids. However, in order to remain healthy during the holy month, finding the time to work out will help to keep energy levels up, your mind clear and your metabolism stable.

"The holy month should not be when you give up on your fitness goals. Rather, make Ramadan a time to recharge so you can hit the gym strong after these four weeks," says Ahmed Al Sayed, a personal trainer at Fitness First.

Which kind of workout is best?

As someone who observes the fast himself, Al Sayed focuses on three basic fitness aspects in each work-out: strength training, cardio and flexibility. "The reason I prioritise muscular strength is because a loss of muscle mass will slow down your metabolism. The goal ought to be to avoid both: losing muscle and a drop in your metabolic rate," he says.

"When it comes to cardio, I recommend a light-intensity session, limited to 30 minutes of slow, steady distance, every other day. Remember, you will be dehydrated, so your body will use your fat storage as a source of energy, especially if you do your cardio before iftar. However, the fact that you're depleted means your blood pressure might drop at onset or even after, so don't skip warm-up and cool-down routines.

"Similarly, when you start your resistance training, choose exercises that target the upper body before the lower body to avoid any drop in your blood pressure during or after. The last fitness aspect to focus on is flexibility to avoid any mobility-related issues you might face, especially when you exercise normally again after Ramadan and during the Eid break."

The best time to work out

During the fast, with high temperatures and no liquids from sunrise to sunset, you will compromise your health by pushing yourself too much. It is not recommended to do intense cardio workouts and heavy weight-training exercises while fasting. You should also cut your routine down to two cardio sessions a week throughout the holy month.

A light work-out towards the cooler part of the day will mean you can soon replenish yourself with water, and reap the benefits of exercising on an empty stomach. However, any workout done at this time should be low-key with more resistance training, low repetitions and weights, and lots of stretching.



Emirati Olympic sailor Adil Khalid working out at Fitness First Gym breaking fast during Ramadan.

SETBACK

KCPE top scores drop on the back of lower marks in language, science

NAIROBI

The number of candidates who scored 400 marks and above in the 2020 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination dropped by 16.3 per cent compared to the previous year, weighed down by lower performance in languages and Science.

The results released by Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha Thursday show 8,091 candidates scored above 400 marks in the exam compared with 9,673 in 2019 and 11,559 in 2018 - marking successive drops.

Candidates scored lower marks in half of the 10 papers, including English Language, Kiswahili Insha, Kenyan Sign Language Composition, Science and Social Studies. Public schools outshone the private ones in the best rankings, taking 10 of the top 15 places. The top candidate scored 433 marks in the exam administered in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Although the mark of the highest candidate dropped from 440 to 433 in 2020, the mean average performance and quality of grades for all candidates is higher," Prof Mag-

oha said when he released the results. As is the norm, candidates scoring above 400 marks are assured of places in national schools, including the upgraded institutions that are perceived as less attractive by parents.

The performance drop in the Science paper comes amid increased focus and investments in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses, seen as key to spurring innovation and industrialisation.

More than 75 per cent of the 1,179,192 candidates who sat the exam scored 300 marks and below.

The number of candidates who scored less than 100 marks dropped 77 per cent to 307 from 1,393 the previous year. "This was an indicator that most candidates scored better grades than the previous year," said Prof Magoha.

Faith Mumo of Karimwailu School emerged the top candidate, having scored 433 marks out of the possible 500. Yvette Wesonga and Angel Gakenia of Chogoria Girls and Maseno boarding respectively tied at position two with 432 marks. Data from the Ministry of Education shows the number of candidates that regis-

tered but failed to sit the exam more than doubled to 12,424 from 5,530 the previous year.

Prof Magoha said that five cases of impersonation were detected and seven candidates found with prepared notes during the four-day exam starting March 22. "Those involved in these cases of exam malpractices will be severely punished," he said.

This is the first time the KCPE exam was administered at a time other than November. The candidates were required to sit two metres apart to ensure social distancing in line with public health protocols meant to combat Covid-19.

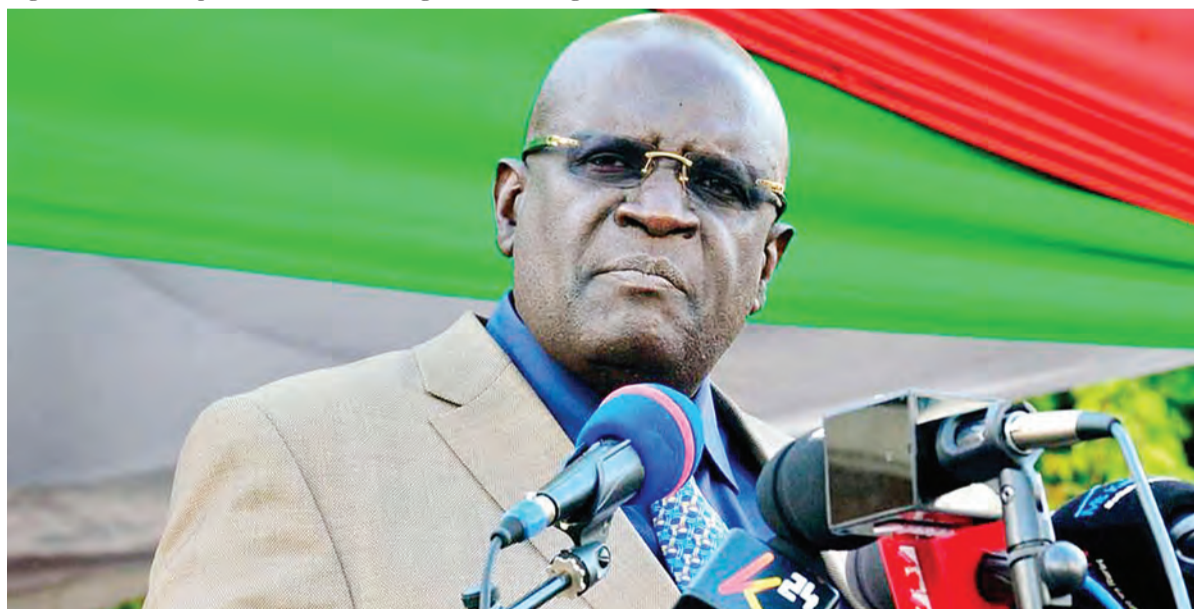
The learners had been out of schools for a prolonged period following the outbreak of Covid-19, forcing the government to implement a crash programme to recover the lost time. Those in pre-primary level one (PPI) and level two (PP2), Grade One to Three, Standard Five to Seven and in Form One to Three will resume in May for their third term that will run for 10 weeks.

The new school calendar shows the 2021 term one will start on July 26, while the 2022 term one

will start in April 25 before it reverts to its normal January date in 2023. The Form One selection for the 2020 exam candidates for all categories of schools is slated to take place from May 28.

This is set to pile pressure on the parents that are dealing with the Covid-induced economic hardships that led to layoffs and loss of income for those in business. This year, the government will offer 9,000 scholarships under the Elimu Scholarship Programme, which was initiated in 2019.

The new school calendar shows the 2021 term one will start on July 26, while the 2022 term one



Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha.

ENTERPRISING

Wheels of change: Langa bicycle hub hopes to start cycling revolution

CAPE TOWN

The wheels of change are slowly turning in Langa, thanks to one man's dream of creating a cycling revolution. Mzikhona Mgedle, a cycling enthusiast, conceived the idea for a local bicycle hub two months into the nationwide lockdown - after he was retrenched.

Mgedle started the Langa Bicycle Hub in his tiny, second floor flat,

before moving operations into customised containers next to a local sports park. "I really love bicycles," Mgedle said, his face beaming.

The hub offers cycling lessons, tours around the community, repairs and bicycle rentals - and has become a home to all of Langa's cycling needs. "They are saving you so much money in commuting from one point to another. It's very

good that we start this initiative in Langa because it's so central." He's even offered cycles to citizens who patrolled the area.

Mgedle's main objective, however, is to change the way people commute in their everyday lives. "There aren't enough people using bicycles. We're just trying to target even less than 5% of the community. It will take us many years to achieve our goal of non-motorised

transport," he said.

He ultimately wants to see more women and children on bicycles and aims to encourage this as a form of transport and community building. "I was inspired to start this initiative by my previous work, Open Streets Cape Town," he said.

This citizen-driven initiative works to change how people use, perceive and experience streets. "I gained so much interest working

for the team and working for the cause of shutting down streets for communities to come together to unite," Mgedle said public spaces in the community, like parks and playgrounds, were becoming dumpsites.

"Public parks are not child friendly; they are not accommodative enough for the community... We want to have more of these public spaces occupied," he added.

Commuting on a bicycle is not only good for the environment, but it also changes the way you interact with your surroundings, he told News24. "You're willing to access communities with different eyes, not from under the glass window... You are willing to be more physical within any space with a bicycle because you're riding, getting to greet people, see places and create your own routes."

GENDER

What happens when women run the economy?

WASHINGTON

Women now hold many of the jobs controlling the world's largest economy and major global economic institutions. We're about to see what happens when women work to correct a global economic crisis.

In the U.S., Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, and Trade Czar Katherine Tai hold top jobs in President Joe Biden's administration. And nearly 48 percent of his confirmed cabinet-level officials are women.

This change may be already affecting economic policy by shifting the focus to people instead of numbers. Joe Biden's new \$2.3 trillion spending plan includes \$400 billion to fund the care economy, essential social care work that has mostly gone ignored in the past and is normally done by women.

"And this is what is so fundamentally different," says Reuters journalist Andrea Shalal. "So instead of thinking about infrastructure as just being the roads, the bridges, the highways that connect our society, it's talking about the human beings that actually make the economy go. A care economy is an economy, whether it's taking care of children or taking care of people with disabilities. Those are jobs that are going to stay, and they're going to be important."

"But they've traditionally been really under-compensated. So one in six people who works in this care economy is living below the poverty line. They're living in poverty, although they're working full time. Riding that balance is what's going on now, and that's not just happening in the United States. This kind of thinking is playing an important role in decisions that are being made also by institutions, like the International Monetary



Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of World Trade Organization.

Fund, which is also led by a very powerful female leader, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development," Andrea adds.

Outside the United States, there's Christine Lagarde at the helm of the European Central Bank with its 2.4 trillion euro balance sheet. Kristalina Georgieva heads up the International Monetary Fund with a \$1 trillion in lending power. And Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala runs the World Trade Organization - all jobs held by men a decade ago.

Overall, there are women running finance ministries in 16 countries and 14 of the world's central banks, according to think tank OMFIF. And the stakes are high. The global recession has been referred to as a she-session because of how hard it has hit women. Women comprise 39 percent of the global workforce but account for 54 percent of

overall job losses, according to a recent McKinsey study.

What happens when women run the economy?

Women now hold many of the jobs controlling the global economic institutions - the change may affect economic policy for years to come. Emma Jehle has more. IMF's Kristalina Georgieva says, "A crisis is an opportunity. Our research shows that public investment, especially in green projects and digital infrastructure, can be a game-changer with the potential to create millions of new jobs - well-paying jobs - while boosting productivity, raising incomes."

"Supporting workers as they transition to new jobs is a key element of a more resilient and inclusive future, particularly important for those most affected today, women, young people. They are those that should benefit from a just transition."

SECURITY

Moroccan King Mohammed VI flags off universal social protection

FEZ

King Mohammed VI chaired, Wednesday at the Royal Palace of Fez, the launching ceremony of the implementation of the project of generalization of social protection and the signing of the first related agreements.

The project, which will initially benefit farmers, craftsmen and professionals, traders and independent service providers subject to the unified professional contribution scheme (CPU), the auto-entrepreneur scheme or the accounting scheme, will be extended, in a second phase, to other categories with a view to ensuring the effective generalization of social protection to all citizens.

After the screening of an institutional film on the various initiatives undertaken by King Mohammed VI in the social field, the minister of Economy, Finance and Administration Reform, Mohamed Benchaaboun, delivered an address in which he stressed that the project is in line with the guidelines contained in the last speech of the Throne Day, as well as in the one addressed by King Mohammed VI on the occasion of the opening of the 2020 legislative year.

Preserving the dignity of Moroccans

"This societal project, which enjoys a follow-up and special attention from your majesty, is a real social revolution, because it will have direct and tangible effects on improving the living conditions of citizens and preserving the dignity of all Moroccans, while contributing into integrating the informal sector," said Benchaaboun.

He said implementation of the large-scale societal project constitutes a starting point for the achievement of His Majesty

the King's aspirations in favour of all the components of Moroccan society, in terms of responding to the challenge of the generalization of social protection.

"Moreover, it presents a lever for the integration of the informal sector into the national economic fabric, so as to guarantee the protection of the working class and its rights, as well as a decisive turning point on the path towards the achievement of the balanced development and social and spatial justice under the wise guidance of the King," Benchaaboun added.

The minister also noted that as part of the implementation of King Mohammed VI's directives, the government was keen to prepare a framework law whose outlines were presented before His Majesty the King during the council of ministers of February 11, 2021 and which was approved by the parliament.

"This framework law is the cornerstone and the frame of reference for the implementation of the enlightened vision of your majesty in the field of social protection, and the achievement of the noble objectives set by your government, the most important of which are the support of the purchasing power of Moroccan families and the achievement of social and spatial justice," the minister said.

"It will also ensure the optimal implementation of this reform according to the timetable and axis set out in the speeches of the sovereign," he noted while recalling that the project concerns, firstly, the generalization of the basic compulsory health insurance during the years 2021 and 2022 by broadening the base of beneficiaries of this insurance to include vulnerable categories benefiting from the Medical Assistance Scheme.



King Mohammed VI

ITV	
SATURDAY 17 April	18:00 Jiji Letu
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:10 Aibu yako rpt
6:00 HABARI	18:15 Mapishi
6:40 Kumekucha	18:45 Kesho leo
7:00 Habari	19:00 Afiya ya Jamii
8:00 Al Jazeera	19:30 Isidingo
9:00 Watoto wetu	20:00 Habari
10:00 Shika Bamba 5	21:05 Dakika 45
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	Wild Skin
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong	23:00 Habari
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	23:30 The Base
Wild Skin	00:30 Al Jazeera
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	02:00 DWTW
16:20 Igizo: Mtego	
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	TUESDAY 20 April
18:00 Jiji Letu	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
18:15 Korean drama: Jumong	6:00 HABARI
19:00 Jungu Kuu	6:40 Kumekucha
19:30 Shika Bamba	7:30 HABARI
20:00 Habari	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
21:00 Art and lifestyle	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
21:30 ITV TOP 10	9:30 Isidingo
22:10 Isidingo rpt	9:55 Habari za saa
00:30 DWTW	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt
	10:30 Jungu kuu rpt
	10:55 Habari za saa
	11:00 The Base rpt
	11:55 Habari za saa
	12:00 Al Jazeera
	12:30 Afiya ya jamii
	12:55 Habari za saa
	13:00 DWTW: Kesho leo rpt
	13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
	13:55 Habari za saa
	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
	Wild Skin
	14:55 Habari za saa
	15:00 Meza huru
	16:30 Watoto wetu
	17:00 The Base
	18:00 Jiji Letu
	18:10 Yu wapi
	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
	18:30 Uchumi na biashara
	19:00 Jarida la wanawake
	19:30 Isidingo
	20:00 Habari
	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu
	21:40 Chetu ni chetu
	22:30 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)
	Wild Skin
	23:00 Habari
	23:30 Chetu ni chetu
	23:45 The Base
	00:45 Al Jazeera
	02:00 DWTW
	WEDNESDAY 21 April
	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00 HABARI
	6:40 Kumekucha
	7:30 HABARI
	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
	8:55 Habari za saa
	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30 Isidingo
	9:55 Habari za saa
	10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
	10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
	10:55 Habari za saa
	11:00 The Base rpt
	11:55 Habari za saa
	12:00 Al Jazeera
	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
	12:55 Habari za saa
	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
	13:55 Habari za saa
	FRIDAY 23 April
	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00 HABARI
	6:40 Kumekucha
	7:30 HABARI
	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
	9:55 Habari za saa
	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
	9:30 Isidingo
	9:55 Habari za saa
	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt
	10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
	10:55 Habari za saa
	11:00 The Base rpt
	11:55 Habari za saa
	12:00 Al Jazeera
	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
	12:55 Habari za saa
	13:00 Jagina rpt
	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
	Wild Skin
	14:55 Habari za saa
	15:00 Meza huru
	16:30 Watoto Wetu
	17:00 The Base
	18:00 Jiji Letu
	18:15 Mapishi rpt
	18:30 Jagina
	19:00 Usafiri wako
	19:30 Isidingo
	20:00 Habari
	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
	23:00 Habari
	23:30 The Base
	00:30 Al Jazeera
	02:00 DWTW
	13:55 Habari za saa
	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
	Wild Skin
	14:55 Habari za saa
	15:00 Meza huru
	16:30 Watoto Wetu
	17:00 The Base
	18:00 Jiji Letu
	18:15 Mapishi rpt
	18:30 Jagina
	19:00 Usafiri wako
	19:30 Isidingo
	20:00 Habari
	21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
	21:15 Mizengwe
	21:35 Mjue Zaidi
	22:15 Bongo Movie: Who's Back
	00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
	Wild Skin
	13:55 Habari za saa
	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
	Wild Skin
	14:55 Habari za saa
	15:00 Meza Huru
	16:30 Watoto Wetu
	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
	17:30 Kiislam
	18:00 Jiji Letu
	18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt
	19:00 Shamba lulu
	19:30 Isidingo
	20:00 Habari
	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: (Piel Salvaje)
	22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
	Wild Skin
	23:00 Habari
	23:30 The Base
	00:30 Al Jazeera
	02:00 DWTW
	SATURDAY 24 April
	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
	6:00 HABARI
	6:40 Kumekucha
	7:00 Habari
	8:00 Al Jazeera
	9:00 Watoto wetu
	10:00 Shika Bamba 5
	10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
	12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong
	13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
	Wild Skin
	16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
	16:20 Igizo: Mtego
	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
	18:00 Jiji Letu
	18:15 Korean drama: Jumong
	19:00 Jungu Kuu
	19:30 Shika Bamba
	20:00 Habari
	21:00 Art and lifestyle
	21:30 ITV TOP 10
	22:10 Isidingo rpt
	00:30 DWTW
	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
	12:30 EcoAfrica rpt
	13:00B usiness edition rpt
	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
	14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
	17:45 Bundesliga kick off
	18:15 Capchat rpt
	19:15 Mizengwe
	19:30 The Decor
	20:00 Korean Drama: Iris
	21:00 Out n' About
	21:30 Movie: Grindstone Road(tape no:5593)
	23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	01:00 Al Jazeera
	Sun 18 April
	08:00 Al Jazeera
	09:00 In good shape
	10:00 Capchat rpt
	11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
	11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
	12:00 Jagina rpt
	12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
	13:00 In good shape rpt
	13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	15:15 Aibu yako
	15:30 Rev rpt
	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
	16:45 Mizengwe rpt
	17:00 The Decor rpt
	17:30 Meza huru
	19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
	19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
	20:00 Korean Drama: Iris
	21:00 Shift
	21:15 Capchat live
	22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	00:00 Al Jazeera
	Mon 19 April
	06:00 Al Jazeera
	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
	17:00 EcoAfrica rpt
	17:30 Meza huru
	19:00 The Decor rpt
	19:30 Shamba lulu
	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
	20:45 The Monday Agenda
	21:30 Capital Prime News
	22:00 Kipima Joto
	00:00 Al Jazeera
	Tues 20 April
	06:00 Al Jazeera
	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	16:30 Capchat rpt
	17:30 Meza huru
	19:00 Innovation
	19:30 Jagina rpt
	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to

CAPITAL

Sat 17 April

08:00 Al Jazeera

09:00 Rev rpt

09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt

10:00 Culinary delight rpt

10:30 Innovation rpt

11:00 Out n'about rpt

11:30 Sports Gazette rpt

WORLD

Gunman kills eight, takes his own life at FedEx site in Indianapolis - Police

WASHINGTON

A GUNMAN shot eight people dead and injured several others at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis before taking his own life, police said early yesterday.

An Indianapolis police officer said the authorities did not feel there was an active threat to the community anymore. "Today it is very heartbreaking and, you know, in the Annapolis Metro Police Department, the officers responded, they came in, they went in and they did their job," Officer Genae Cook said.

The incident occurred at a FedEx facility on Mirabel Road, Indianapolis, late on Thursday night. The facility is located close to the Indianapolis International airport.

Cook said that four people were transported to hospitals - one in critical condition suffering with gunshot injuries and three others with various other injuries.

She added that two others were treated at the facility by the medical staff and released, and that "multiple" others had walked in to hospitals in nearby areas.

She said the police will have a press conference later on Friday morning.

"I am heartbroken by the mass shooting at the FedEx facility here in Indianapolis and praying for all affected by this tragedy," said US Congressman André Carson, a representative for Indiana.

"I am communicating with local authorities to get all details of the attack and my office stands ready to help everyone affected in any way we can."

One man who said he works at the plant told local broadcaster WISH-TV he saw the gunman shooting.

"I saw a man with a sub-machine gun of some sort, an automatic rifle, and he was firing in the open. I immediately ducked down and got scared," Jeremiah Miller said.

Timothy Boilat, another employee at the facility, told the broadcaster that he saw around 30 police cars arriving at the scene as he witnessed the shooting unfold.

"After hearing the shootings, I did see a body on the floor," he said.

"Luckily, I was far enough to where he [the shooter] didn't see me."

A FedEx spokesman said the company was working to gather more information and was cooperating with investigating authorities.



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department spokesperson Genae Cook speaks with a person looking for information on the people inside the FedEx building where multiple people were reportedly shot early yesterday, in Indianapolis, Indiana. AP

"We are aware of the tragic shooting at our ground facility near the Indianapolis airport," the company said in a statement.

"Safety is our top priority, and our thoughts are with all those who are affected."

The facility for the delivery company is reported to employ more than 4,000 people.

Live video showed police tape at the scene of the incident, which follows several mass shootings in recent weeks.

At the end of last month, four people, including a child, were shot dead in an office building in southern California.

On Mar 22, 10 people were killed in a shooting at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado.

That came less than a week after a

man shot and killed eight people, including six women of Asian descent, at spas in Atlanta, Georgia.

Nearly 40,000 people in the United States die each year from guns, more than half of those being suicides.

The issue of gun regulation in the United States is politically fraught.

President Joe Biden this month announced six executive measures he said would help stem the gun violence crisis.

"It's an international embarrassment," Biden told Congress members and gun control activists at a White House ceremony.

The move was immediately attacked by Republicans, with the party's senior leader in the House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy, warning of "unconstitutional overreach".

Agencies

Kremlin rebukes US over its obsession for sanctions against Russia

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON'S fixation on imposing sanctions remains unacceptable to Russia, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"Clearly, they (the Russian and US presidents) differ in their understanding of how to build mutually beneficial relations taking into account each other's interests. I suppose, there is no convergence of views here.

And, of course, the obsession with sanctions by our American counterparts remains unacceptable," he said, when asked to comment on the address of US President Joe Biden, in which he expressed his readiness for the de-escalation of relations with Russia.

"President Putin talked about the feasibility of building, normalizing and de-escalating our relations," Peskov (pictured) said.

"He talks about it consistently, he is convinced of it. He has stated repeatedly that we are ready to develop our dialogue to the extent that our counterparts are ready to do it. In this regard, I suppose, it is a good thing that the positions of the two states converge here," the press secretary noted.

On Thursday, US President Joe Biden signed an executive order to impose a new round of sanctions against Russia. In particular, the US government is prohibiting American companies from acquiring Russian debt obligations issued by the Bank of Russia, the Russian National Wealth Fund or the Russian Ministry of Finance after June 14, 2021.

Besides, the US Treasury Department slapped sanctions on 16 organizations and 16 individuals allegedly involved in interfering with America's elections.

In addition, Washington introduced restrictions against eight individuals and legal entities tied to Crimea, including members of the Crimean government.

The United States is also expelling 10 diplomats working at the Russian Embassy in Washington DC. According to the US administration, they "include representatives of Russian intelligence services."

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated earlier that Moscow would act in accordance with the principle of reciprocity in its relations with Washington.

He noted that the new US sanctions would not facilitate organizing a meeting between Putin and Biden proposed by Washington.

Agencies

WHO pledges support for boosting safety of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa

NAIROBI

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said Thursday it had joined forces with African governments to boost the safety of COVID-19 vaccines as their rollout in the continent gathered steam.

Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, said that the establishment of robust surveillance systems has been prioritized to ensure that administration of the vaccines among high-risk groups triggers minimal side effects. "Every vaccine shot given moves us closer to ending this pandemic," Moeti said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

This historic endeavor, however, is not risk-free. African countries have put in place stringent regulations and are monitoring for side effects and any severe adverse events following vaccination, she noted.

Moeti said WHO had partnered with African countries to manage potential risks arising from inoculation against the coronavirus. Statistics from WHO indicate that more than 13.6 million, including 12 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses have been administered in Africa, while only mild adverse effects have been reported.

Moeti said that no single case of blood clotting has been reported in the continent, noting that many African countries have put in place stringent approval processes to ensure the vaccine meets the safety and efficacy threshold.

The WHO-led African Vaccine Regulatory Forum is supporting African countries to strengthen oversight and regulatory capacity in order to ensure inoculation against the virus is devoid of risks. And regulators from Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa and Tanzania have participated in the WHO global assessments for safety and efficacy of the three COVID-19 vaccines that have received emergency use listing, said Moeti.

Richard Mihigo, an immunization and vaccine development program coordinator at the WHO regional office for Africa, said that enhanced safety of the COVID-19 vaccine is key to facilitate its seamless rollout in the continent.

Xinhua

IMF chief: China's reforms help curb emissions

WASHINGTON

CHINA'S continuing reforms towards high-quality, sustainable, and balanced growth can help curb carbon emissions, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday.

"Shifting away from investment-heavy to consumption-led growth, and supporting the expansion of services and high-tech sectors ... will reduce the energy demand and carbon intensity of growth, thus, making it easier to achieve your climate goals," Georgieva said in remarks to a high-level seminar on green finance and climate policy held by the IMF and the

People's Bank of China.

Noting that carbon pricing is the most efficient and cost-effective approach to curbing emissions, Georgieva said China's existing coal tax could eventually be scaled up to curb CO2 emissions.

"China is also taking a major step forward by introducing a national carbon emissions trading system for the power sector," she said, adding the system can become "more comprehensive" by shifting the focus to a cap on total emissions and gradually adopting more ambitious targets over time.

Georgieva also said the global economic outlook is "starting to become sunnier" as the IMF recently lifted its global growth



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva

forecast to 6 percent for this year and 4.4 percent in 2022.

China's economy is expected to grow at 8.4 percent this year,

and the fund projects that "China will contribute on average more than one quarter to global GDP growth through 2026," she

said.

Georgieva urged countries to turn the pandemic-induced crisis into opportunity by "building greener and more climate-resilient economies," which would help realize a more sustainable and inclusive recovery.

A policy mix of carbon taxes and green investment stimulus could increase the level of global GDP in the next 15 years by about 0.7 percent and create around 12 million new jobs through 2027, she said.

The international community, the IMF chief said, also needs to step up to provide the climate finance and technology transfers that developing economies need to enhance their own climate efforts. Xinhua

US troop withdrawal to throw Afghanistan into chaos

KABUL

U.S. President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that all U.S. troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan before Sept. 11, a decision to end the longest war in American history.

Since entering Afghanistan in October 2001, the U.S. troops have caused more than 30,000 civilian deaths, injured more than 60,000 and made about 11 million people become refugees.

As the security situation in Afghanistan remains complicated and terrorism keeps festering, analysts deem the U.S. decision as irresponsible and warn against an intensifying

civil conflict and more rampant terrorist acts.

IRRESPONSIBLE DECISION

Worrying about deteriorating domestic situation, some high-ranking officials in Afghanistan publicly expressed their disappointment with the U.S. decision to withdraw troops without establishing a peace process.

"The withdrawal of these forces is a desire of the Afghan people, but at the moment, the conditions have not been made for this to happen. There is a possibility of the return of civil war," said Mir Rahman Rahmani, speaker of the lower

house of the Afghan parliament.

The Afghan people generally believed that the United States should help Afghanistan to establish a strong government and reduce armed conflicts, but it failed to deliver on its promises and harmed the interests of the Afghan people.

Kabul resident Mohammad Ayub expressed concern that the pull-out of U.S. forces could lead to factional fighting in Afghanistan, as many armed groups and warlords still exist in the country.

"It risks civil war, ethnic

cleansing, partition and terrorist sanctuary -- all just to bring home a few thousand troops, before a peace process is even attempted," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Michael O'Hanlon told Xinhua.

The United States decided to withdraw its troops without substantial progress in the peace talks, said Zhu Yongbiao, director of the Research Center for Afghanistan at China's Lanzhou University.

Under the current circumstances, a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops will further aggravate the political chaos in Afghanistan and, at the same time, worsen the security situation. The internal conflict in

Afghanistan is likely to intensify and eventually turn into civil war, said Zhu.

MORE RAMPANT TERRORISM

Noting that the United States has achieved counterterrorism objectives in the war, Biden said, "It is time for American troops to come home."

However, Afghans believe that the United States, instead of eradicating terrorism, has been cultivating and using various extreme terrorist organizations in Afghanistan to serve its own interests, and after the U.S. troops withdrawal, terrorism will become more rampant.

Xinhua

China creates green miracles through strenuous efforts

China accounts for 25 percent of the global net increase in leaf area in the past nearly 20 years, leading the world in greening effort, and the country's forest coverage rate has increased from 12 percent in early 1980s to 23.04 percent today, according to data.

Forty years ago, China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), passed a resolution on carrying out a public voluntary tree-planting campaign, a nationwide event that has been participated in and promoted by governments at all levels and in both urban and rural areas.

Tao Fengjiao, a fisherwoman in

Changjiang Li autonomous county, south China's Hainan province, has planted 5.88 million trees in quicksand with her female friends since 1992. The forests they have created cover an area of 33,800 mu (about 2,253 hectares), and have given a brand new look to the island province of Hainan.

On the Saihanba mechanical forest farm in north China's Hebei province, three generations of residents covered 1.12 million mu of wasteland with green trees.

In the Greater Khingan Range in north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, 16,000 forestry workers have changed their job

from cutting down trees to protecting trees.

Many more areas in China, including Yulin city of northwest China's Shaanxi province, Youyu county of north China's Shanxi province, and Minqin county of northwest China's Gansu province, are seeing more and more shelter forests be created and vegetated areas get better protection, while the "Green Great Wall of China", the country's Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program designed to improve the environment in the Northwest, North and Northeast China, continues to extend across the country.

From finding the suitable tree species to preparing trees for inclement weather, changing people's traditional views about exploitation, and protecting the growing environment of seedlings, Chinese people's understanding of the relationship between human and nature has deepened constantly.

China has realized profoundly that it needs to correctly understand and handle the relationship between economic development and environmental protection, and should neither follow the way of developing economy at the cost of the environment nor slow down economic development for fear of

environmental pollution.

As it turned out, afforestation is a wise decision of the country, as it has not only improved the natural environment, but also benefited the well-being of the Chinese people.

Many forestry workers, farmers, and herdsmen in the country have enjoyed significant improvement in their living standards after securing stable incomes, thanks to China's endeavors to reduce poverty through the development of local industries and its ecological poverty-relief programs.

By developing ecological tourism, China's seventh largest desert,

Kubuqi Desert located in Ordos city of China's Inner Mongolia, has seen a great number of visitors and thriving ecological industry, which have brought considerable economic benefits to the local people.

The Saihanba mechanical forest farm, where yellow sand could block out the sun and birds couldn't find a single tree to rest on in the past, is now covered with boundless forests and witnessing an endless stream of visitors. The development of green and ecological industries of the locality has helped nearly 40,000 people embark on a path to a more prosperous life.

People's Daily

Nigeria's economic hub starts construction of new light rail to improve connectivity

LAGOS

NIGERIA'S southwest state of Lagos on Thursday held a groundbreaking ceremony of a new line of an ongoing light rail construction project that is expected to improve the connectivity in the economic hub of the West African country.

The Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Red Line project, contracted by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), is the second light rail project of the state, which start construction of the first line -- the LRMT Blue Line project in 2010, according to the website of the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority.

Both projects are part of the state's ambitious Strategic Transport Master Plan, which aims to meet the demands of future transportation and of the state as Nigeria's commercial and economic hub and one of the world's fastest growing megacities.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, governor of Lagos State, described the project as another initiative of his administration to deliver enduring infrastructure for the transport system and make Lagos a competitive megacity.

"Our desire is to achieve improved connectivity amongst transport modes, making commuting within Lagos easy as well as business-like for every Lagosian and visitor," said Sanwo-Olu, adding an efficient and sustainable transportation system will increase mobility, improve living conditions, and promote economic growth.

According to the governor, the state of Lagos plays a pivotal role in the Nigerian economy as the country's commercial nerve center and the focal point of economic activities.

"The Lagos Gross Domestic Product accounted for 26.7 percent of Nigeria's total GDP and more than 50 percent of non-oil GDP. Over 50 percent of Nigeria's non-oil industrial capacity is located in Lagos," he said.

"Since transportation is the backbone of any economy, it then means we need to invest in our transport infrastructure so that our people can meet their daily targets and aspirations," he added.

Addressing the ceremony, Jiang Yigao, managing director of the CCECC, said the project was another great milestone of the state for solving transportation challenges in line with the government's development blueprint.

"It is noteworthy that the project, when completed, will ensure faster movement of people and will reduce the congestion on the roads," Jiang said, adding that CCECC will work closely with Lagos state to ensure timely delivery and good quality of the project.

According to the CCECC, the 32-km Red Line will be constructed in three phases, and will run from Agbado, a suburban area of the state to Marina, a top business district.

Xinhua

WFP secures over 95 mln USD to tackle hunger in S. Sudan

JUBA

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on Thursday received more than 95 million U.S. dollars from the United States through USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance to provide food aid to South Sudan amid biting hunger.

WFP Representative and Country Director in South Sudan Matthew Hollingworth (pictured) said the rising food insecurity has pushed 60 percent of the population into hunger and poverty.

He said WFP relies on predictable funding to plan ahead to prevent the kind of alarming conditions that precede famine by covering the pressing needs of the most food-insecure communities.

"These funds will also help WFP to preposition food stocks for the lean season when humanitarian access is more challenging," he said in a statement issued in Juba.

The latest integrated food security phase classification assessment released early this year warned that 7.24 million people will face severe acute hunger at the height of the lean season in between May and July, while 1.4 million children will be acutely malnourished.

According to the report, unprecedented floods, the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of the poorest people and increased conflict over the last two years have taken their toll on the world's youngest country.

WFP said the contributions provide relief to extremely vulnerable families living in emergency or catastrophic levels of hunger and in dire need of immediate food and nutrition assistance.

Funding shortages, however, remain a reality in South Sudan, where humanitarian needs outpace the aid response, Hollingworth said.

WFP last week announced that it was forced to cut food rations from April, a decision that will affect 700,000 refugees and internally displaced people who now receive 50 percent of a full ration, down from 70 percent.

WFP said it requires 125 million dollars in the next six months to provide life-saving food assistance in sufficient quantities to crisis-affected people, including increased rations to refugees and internally displaced people

Xinhua



Hong Kong legislature starts deliberating bill on improving electoral system

HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S legislature on Wednesday started deliberating a widely-anticipated bill on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the latest effort to put the global financial hub back on track after disturbances in recent years.

The draft laws, in a package named the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021, were brought to the Legislative Council (LegCo) for the first and second reading at a meeting early afternoon.

The local amendment came after China's top legislature on March 30 adopted the amended Annex I and Annex II to the HKSAR Basic Law, concerning methods for the selection of the HKSAR chief executive and the formation of the LegCo.

Erick Tsang, secretary for constitutional and mainland affairs of the HKSAR government, stressed the necessity of the amendment when speaking at the meeting.

The legislature was repeatedly plunged into chaos in recent years, including by the storming of rioters and malicious filibusters, resulting in the government nearly losing its power to govern Hong Kong, Tsang said.

Published on Tuesday, the local amendment bill mainly comprises six areas, including reconstituting the Election Committee, providing for the method for selecting the chief executive, updating the composition and formation of the LegCo, and the candidates' eligibility, among others.

It is a very tight schedule for lawmakers to review the over-500-page bill in the coming weeks, said Martin Liao, chairman of the LegCo bills committee responsible for the draft. He vowed all-out efforts to complete the deliberations at an early date.

HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Tuesday that she hopes the draft will be passed by lawmakers by the end of May.

The HKSAR government will fully cooperate in the work of the LegCo in scrutinizing the bill and strive for its early passage so that three major elections can be held on schedule in the next 12 months, Lam said.

Elections of the Election Committee, the seventh-term LegCo, and the sixth-term chief executive will take place on Sept. 19, 2021, Dec. 19, 2021 and March 27, 2022, respectively. Improving the electoral system came as another major step after last year's national security legis-



Aerial photo taken on March 6, 2021 shows citizens displaying China's national flag and the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in support of implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" at Tamar Park in Hong Kong, south China. (Xinhua)

lation to ensure peace and prosperity of the global financial hub.

It is "obviously necessary," Grenville Cross, British barrister and former director of public prosecutions in Hong Kong, said, stressing the move is fully justified after the social unrest in 2019 and the subversive activities to take control of Hong Kong's governance through electoral loopholes last year.

The "patriots administering Hong Kong" principle is also hardly uncommon, he said. "This is the case in countries around the world. People have to have the best interests of their country at heart. Otherwise, there's no future for them in democratic politics."

Under the electoral improvement, the membership of the Election Committee, which elects the HKSAR chief ex-

ecutive and part of LegCo members and nominates LegCo candidates, has been expanded from 1,200 to 1,500. The number of LegCo members has also been increased from 70 to 90.

Anthony Wu, chairman of the Hong Kong Island Youth Organization Union, believes the electoral changes will advance Hong Kong's democratic progress.

"Now the electoral system suits Hong Kong's reality, has broader representation of society, and encourages more balanced and orderly political participation," he said, adding that he is looking forward to more youth representatives joining the electoral system.

Xinhua

Troupe attracts more young people to Chinese Peking Opera

A Beijing-based Peking Opera troupe with a history of more than 80 years has drawn more and more young people to Peking Opera through a series of explorations and innovations while carrying forward the essence of the traditional art form in recent years.

Beijing Fenglei Peking Opera Troupe is located in Banzhang Hutong, an artistic alleyway decorated with painted facial makeup patterns of main Peking Opera roles, relief sculptures of various characters in Peking Opera plays, as well as paintings of costumes and headwear used in the fine performing art in Xicheng district of Beijing.

The time-honored Peking Opera troupe started to think about attracting more young people to their performances after a survey it conducted revealed that young people under the age of 25 accounted for only less than 20 percent of its audience, which was mainly made up of middle-aged and senior people.

"If we can't get more young people involved, then who are we going to perform for in the future?" The remark of Song Yan, head of the troupe, showed his anxiety over the future of the traditional art.

Beijing Fenglei Peking Opera Troupe then held themed salons and invited young people to share their opinions about Peking Opera. Song was surprised to learn through these salons that many young people did not dislike Peking Opera, but rather didn't understand or didn't know how to appreciate the art form.

Song then realized that it is important for young people to learn about the traditional Chinese art so as to better enjoy it.

Considering that Peking Opera has a high appreciation threshold and young people obviously need more opportunities to get to understand and experience the art, Song decided to build a Peking Opera culture and art experience base inside the theater of the troupe.

Visitors to the experience base are allowed to try drawing facial makeup patterns of Peking Opera with their own hands and learn movements and vocal skills of the art form in Peking Opera costumes from professional actors, thus enjoying personally the charm of Peking Opera and acquiring more knowledge about



Children of a kindergarten in Tianjia'an district, Huainan city, east China's Anhui province, learning Peking Opera movements in a class. File Photo

the cultural and artistic value of the performing art.

Beijing Fenglei Peking Opera Troupe has also established ties with some schools, and invited primary and secondary school students to visit the Peking Opera culture and art experience base, aiming to bring the quintessence of Chinese culture closer to children via on-site interpretation and interactive experiences.

Song has also tried to promote Peking Opera by creating modern drama. In January, a play showing the life of an elderly couple who live in a Hutong in the south of Beijing was staged for five consecutive days and enjoyed wide popularity among audiences. Song was the scriptwriter and leading actor of the play.

"Just like establishing the experience base, creating modern drama is also one of our ways to promote Peking Opera," Song said, explaining that he hopes to demonstrate the beauty of Peking Opera through modern drama, which he considers a more feasible plan to draw Peking Opera outsiders, thus driving the development of Peking Opera.

In recent years, many variety shows, animation and comic works, as well as other forms of artistic works have tried to expand the audience of Peking Opera by spreading the art through ways that are popular among the public and favored by young people.

Popular Chinese television series Winter Begonia, which focuses on the art of Peking Opera and legendary stories of a famous Peking Opera

artist and a businessman who is also a big fan of Peking Opera, represents film and television industry's helpful practice of carrying forward Peking Opera.

Some people who weren't familiar with Peking Opera have grown fond of the traditional art form after watching modern dramas and film and television works about Peking Opera.

"I thought pop songs are pleasant, and yet never expected that Peking Opera can be so enchanting. Such works help young people discover the charm of Peking Opera and make it possible for Peking Opera to be inherited," commented an Internet user.



Beijing Fenglei Peking Opera Troupe has also established ties with some schools, and invited primary and secondary school students to visit the Peking Opera culture and art experience base, aiming to bring the quintessence of Chinese culture closer to children via on-site interpretation and interactive experiences

Russian intelligence chief slams Washington's sanctions as unfriendly, ill-considered step

MOSCOW

THE Biden administration's new sanctions against Moscow are an unfriendly and ill-considered step that is eroding global stability, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Director Sergei Naryshkin told reporters yesterday.



"This is certainly an unfriendly and, in my opinion, a very ill-considered step. We all understand that relations between Russia and the United States - two great powers - in many ways determine the level of global stability and security. This step contributes to the destruction of global stability, and that's obvious," he emphasized.

According to Naryshkin (pictured), "the US' inconsistent actions are surprising." He pinned Washington's erratic policy towards Russia on various groups within the US administration vying with one another.

The Russian intelligence chief also mentioned Washington's allegations about the SVR's alleged involvement in the SolarWinds hack.

"I would also like to point out that competition between the world's leading intelligence agencies takes various forms and has specific characteristics," the SVR director noted.

"But still, I am convinced that it should be fair. The steps that the [US] administration is taking, including that package of sanctions, are a sign of unfair competition," Naryshkin specified.

US President Joe Biden signed an executive order imposing sanctions against Russia on Thursday. In particular, the document "prohibits US financial institutions from participation in the primary market for ruble or non-ruble denominated bonds" issued by Russia's Central Bank, Finance Ministry and National Wealth Fund after June 14.

In addition, the US Treasury Department sanctioned 16 entities and 16 individuals "who attempted to influence the 2020 US presidential election at the direction of the leadership of the Russian Government."

Sanctions have also been imposed on five individuals and three entities related to Crimea, including members of the regional government. Besides, the US is expelling ten personnel from the Russian Embassy in Washington DC.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that in terms of relations with Washington, Moscow would be guided by the principle of reciprocity. According to the press secretary, the new US restrictions won't facilitate efforts to arrange a meeting between Putin and Biden recently proposed by the White House.



Tanzanian attacker, Thomas Ulimwengu.

Thomas Ulimwengu back to catapult TP Mazembe to success

By correspondents Nassir Nchimbi & Ismail Tano

TANZANIAN winger, Thomas Ulimwengu, who plays for Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s TP Mazembe, has returned to action after scoring two goals in his squad's 4-1 win over AC Rangers in the DRC Premier League clash, which took place in Kinshasa mid this week.

Ulimwengu was out on the field as he was nursing an ankle injury, a condition that kept him out of this season's CAF Champions League group stage matches while his team was battling it out in the tournament.

He disclosed that he is happy to be back in action and help his team win the game and stay in the league's title chase.

He noted: "It's a pleasure to recover from injuries and come back and help my team, I was rested to stay fit and now I'm fine."

Despite scoring a brace, Ulimwengu further set up one of his side's four goals, and he was voted the best player of the game due to the showing he displayed.

He is today expected to lead his team in the Vodacom Ligue 1 clash against Sanga Balende at TP Mazembe's home venue, Stade du TP Mazembe, in Lubumbashi in pursuit of the domestic title.

The TP Mazembe lead the country's Premier League with 46 points followed by Maniema Union with 46 points, the latter have inferior goal difference.

Third-placed AS Vita Club has collected 42 points after taking part in 18

games.

The mid week win over AC Rangers has brought about calmness in the TP Mazembe squad after enduring a series of bad results in the CAF Champions League.

The poor displays in the showpiece led to a section of TP Mazembe followers and football enthusiasts in DRC to express sadness, with some going as far as venting their frustration on the team.

The TP Mazembe, former CAF Champions League winners, are now forced to turn their focus on the DRC top flight.

The DRC football big guns were on April 2 knocked out of this season's CAF Champions League after losing their Group B match against Chabab Belouizdad of Algeria.

They went on to wind up with a 2-1 victory over Sudan's Al Hilal in a clash that took place at Stade du TP Mazembe. Ulimwengu recently said the club's poor performance in this season's CAF Champions League is a difficult phase, and he believes the outfit will bounce back next season.

In CAF Champions League, TP Mazembe ended third in Group B, which was led by Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa, whereas Algeria's CR Belouizdad finished second and Al Hilal finished last.

Ulimwengu said many of famous teams that have been doing well are sometimes experiencing difficult phase.

He maintained that he believes the mishap will not happen again the next season.

Mwanza all out to promote handball

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MWANZA Regional Handball Association (MWAHA) is keen on reviving the sport in the region and other areas of the Lake Zone after the sport had endured inactivity for over three decades.

One of the strategies used by MWAHA, the association's secretary general Jehoshaphat Kalulu stated, entails staging one-day bonanza scheduled to take place at Nyamagana Stadium on April 26th from 9am.

The MWAHA official made the initiative public, insisting that preparations for the crucial event are in final touches.

He noted: "Participants in the bonanza are men and ladies' teams from the region's seven districts.

"We have as well invited teams from outside the region," he said.

He mentioned Majura Handball Academy from Mara and a team from Geita as some of the teams that have been invited to take part in the bonanza.

za.

He said he has asked sports stakeholders and handball fans to attend the event in the day to witness the action and make it attractive.

Kalulu said there will be various prizes for the winners of the various categories.

He said in an effort to promote handball in the region, the association is facing financial challenges.

The drawback, he disclosed, renders them unable to set up various competitions as well as purchase equipment for the game.

He said the association had organized training for physical education teachers and handball coaches but still many teachers did not respond well, as many were not interested in learning the rules of the game.

Kalulu said shortage of playing grounds for the sport is another challenge, given Mwanza so far has two handball courts at Nyamagana Stadium and Sumve in Kwimba District.

New tirade about coaches unsettling, but it is better than earlier soundings

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

OLD habits die hard, is an expression that easily comes to mind when one looks at a new campaign that has gripped a number of individuals, and seemingly making its way to the legislature as estimates of some ministries are discussed.

There was an observation that there is a move lately, or a series of such incidents, where coaches are hired from nearby countries, with the fellow making that observation seeking that moves be initiated to train local coaches - apparently so that we do not need to hire those from nearby countries.

This query was pointed in one regard, but then it appeared to falter in its key intimation.

There is another expression which isn't part of mainstream language like the previous but is part of crime novels or American literature specifically, formulated as 'follow the money.'

It seeks to assert that when an incident that is questionable takes place, for instance a man or woman is shot or poisoned, a detective just needs to find out who mostly gains by the death, or may have a person in the background who may in that sense desperately want such an event.

A hidden relationship and worries about costly divorce is such a hunch, and quite often detectives use such hunches to uncover the



Kagera Sugar's new head coach, Francis Baraza.

riddle behind death by drowning, etc. Despite that the tirade about coaches from neighbouring states is somewhat unsettling as it seeks to curb the freedom of leading clubs and their managements to pick coaches from wherever they wish, it has a few positive elements.

To this we can get another expression, this time from Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin (died 1924) who once said 'shame is a evolutionary sentiment.'

That was what was good about the recent intimation, as it avoided saying quite simply that clubs should use local coaches, as they are available for the asking, ditch our foreign coaches penchant; we kept hearing that view, and repeatedly

There is different approach this time, in the sense that antipathies about foreign coaches haven't entirely been eclipsed but taken a slight twist, and some would say a sobering one.

The point is that the new call talks about coaches from

neighbouring countries picking up coaching slots that would otherwise be reserved or be handed to local coaches by the relevant authorities, whether at premier league club level or national team level.

The fact that the foreign coaches criticism wasn't generalized by applied to those from neighbouring countries made the intervention somewhat realistic; those coaches are arguably similar.

That obviously doesn't mean the formulation is proper, that take local coaches and not those from nearby countries, but fortunately the intervening fellows didn't quite say so.

They desisted from making a clear point by making a flowing observation, as for the need to train local coaches so that at some point in future there will be no need to pick coaches from nearby countries as those at the local level will be apt for the task.

That of course could be projected in due course, but saying there will be no need for

foreign coaches altogether would be going too far; even the most advanced states keep recruiting foreign coaches.

In that case there is reason to suspect, or otherwise surmise, that the comment was targeted at some specific coaching jobs that are up for grabs, or those which may have of late been filled after some top level club coaches left - or even with the national side.

The criticism appears to have avoided filling the Taifa Stars' head coach slot with Kim Poulsen, as well as repeatedly seeking coaches from the European circuit for top level sides, with perhaps Yanga pointedly failing to keep its overseas coaches in place in a repetitive manner.

Yanga's arch rivals, Simba, appear to better organised in that context, keep coaches and advance.

So the suggestion really was a ringing cry to the Jangwani Street-based outfit's leadership not to pick a coach from a neighbouring country against the current one - as some of them are out of a job and could be available.

It also appears the club has no immediate plan for a European coach, despite rumours or -say the intervention was stoic, resigned to the possibility of European circuit recruitment, but insists on solely that option - otherwise the local interim coach ought to keep his place. If possible they could also confirm the position.

This outcry, much as it still makes the error or preference as an issue in recruiting either a coach or a player - as all preference hampers efficiency - has a glaringly soft underbelly when it says there is a need to facilitate further training of local coaches to take the place of neighbouring country coaches.

Mtibwa Sugar, Kagera Sugar not too big to go down

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AWAY from the top three of Simba SC, Yanga and Azam FC, just staying in the league is an achievement.

One can look at the size of some of the clubs that have been relegated in the last few years, the likes of Stand United, Ndanda FC, even Ruwu Shooting, it just shows how tough it is for an outfit to just stay up.

Only a handful of teams are safe from relegation. While talk of relegation is not on the agenda at Mtibwa Sugar and Kagera Sugar, the slip in form in recent seasons means that the word 'survival' is now most certainly at the forefront.

Mtibwa Sugar and Kagera Sugar's status as solid league clubs is fading away as they have found themselves struggling for survival once again this season.

History shows they are still big clubs but performance suggests they should not be naive to the threat of relegation.

In 2018/19 Kagera Sugar made the mistake of not believing that they were in real danger and only realised when it was very late and only avoided relegation through a tough and nerve wracking play offs against a stubborn and determined Pamba FC.

Mtibwa Sugar repeated the same mistake and embarrassingly went into the final day of last season on the relegation zone.

They survived relegation in the second half of their last match day game against Ruwu Shooting who had nothing to lose.

After escaping on the final day of the previous season and coming through relegation play offs in 2020 and 2019, it was expected Mtibwa Sugar and Kagera Sugar would improve and reclaim their status in the



Mtibwa Sugar's striker, Jaffari Salum (R), challenges Azam FC's fullback, Nicholas Wadada, when the clubs met in a Vodacom Premier League clash, played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Azam FC defeated Mtibwa Sugar 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

league, but the going is tough in the league.

With about 10 matches to go, both sides are firmly in the relegation zone. Mtibwa Sugar are placed 15th in the league, four points from safety.

It means if the league was to end today, they will automatically go down to the First Division League as one of the four teams that are to be directly relegated this season.

The harsh reality is that even a change in the technical bench has not helped much Mtibwa Sugar.

Recent results has dragged them into a relegation battle with 10 games to go. They are winless in their past eight league games.

On Wednesday they endured their worst results of the season with a 5-0 loss to defending champions, Simba SC, to extend a three-game losing streak.

On current form based on the

last 10 league games, only bottom-placed Mwadui FC has collected less points than Mtibwa Sugar. They have won just five games from their last 20.

Mtibwa Sugar have struggled to score goals, amongst many other issues, in 2020/21 season.

The Morogoro outfit has bagged just nine goals in the squad's 24 Premier League games so far - no other team in the division have scored fewer.

To put it into better perspective, two players, Meddie Kagere and Prince Dube, have scored more goals than the whole of the Mtibwa Sugar squad combined.

It also further suggests that Mtibwa Sugar simply are not a side that plays attacking football and scores goals.

It becomes even worse when one considers the number of games Kagere and Dube have missed due to injury layoffs.

Mtibwa Sugar strikers, Salum

Kihimbwa, Jaffari Kibaya, Riphath Msuya, Kassim Hamisi and Kevin Kongwe, have had some injury problems, but all have had enough time on the pitch to have contributed more in the way of goals than they actually have.

Kagera Sugar are placed 14th on the log, just two points above Mtibwa Sugar.

As it stands they are a candidate for relegation play offs.

Confidence has ebbed and they find themselves winless in their last nine league games.

In recent weeks newly appointed head coach Francis Baraza has tried to balance expectation and reaffirmed that survival is the aim.

It is a big twist from top four finish to survival. Changes have been made but soccer followers might not have enough time to see the full impact until next season.

David Beckham's Inter Miami could be a great team. But it has to win first

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

DAVID Beckham stepped out of a Cadillac SUV and into the dust of a construction site. It was December 2019. In front of him was the shell of a new 18,000-seat stadium in deepest Broward County, where Inter Miami would play its first two seasons before moving, if everything fell into place, to a \$1 billion venue near Miami Airport. Behind him, a training complex and team offices were beginning to emerge.

After nearly seven years of battling to get an MLS expansion franchise on the field somewhere in South Florida, Beckham was eager to implement his vision for a club that would start big and get bigger. "I don't think there's another club anywhere that has the opportunity we have globally," he told ESPN.

Since then, almost nothing has gone as planned. One afternoon not long ago, Beckham and Jorge Mas, one of his co-owners, stood on a second-floor terrace of the office building and surveyed the scene. Across the street, the stadium parking lot had been transformed into a drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination site; cars were queued up into the distance.

The stadium had been rented for the day to the local Boys & Girls Club, income that helps pay for running an MLS team during a pandemic. So did the showcase that Brandon Marshall, the former Miami Dolphins wide receiver, was staging on a practice field for potential NFL draft picks, and the decision to lease the stadium to Club de Foot Montreal for its 2021 MLS home games.

"You have to adapt to the situation," said Mas, whose title is managing owner. (Former Sprint CEO Marcelo Claure and tech entrepreneur Masayoshi Son also have ownership shares.) "With the short season, with the lack of fans, with the restrictions we faced, last year was a challenge."

On the field, Inter Miami became the first team in the history of the league to lose its first five games. It ended with seven wins, three draws and 13 losses, good for 10th place in the 14-team Eastern Conference -- and the worst record Beckham has been associated with as a professional. Miami finished three places behind last year's other MLS expansion team, Nashville SC, which came into the league with minimal expectations and an owner whose distinctly unromantic business interests include transport barges and print-on-demand books. Nashville won more games than it lost in the regular season, then eliminated Inter Miami from the playoffs 3-0.

As a player, Beckham was drawn to successful clubs, and they were drawn to him. He played for four of the biggest in Europe -- Manchester United, Real Madrid, AC Milan and PSG -- and

won championships with three, as well with the LA Galaxy in MLS. Since negotiating a future option on an expansion franchise as part of his original MLS player contract, Beckham, 45, has had plenty of time to imagine what owning a team would be like. Failing, even temporarily, never crossed his mind. "We set high standards," he said. "As individuals, Jorge and I set high standards in our businesses, and that's how we want to run the club."

So Beckham, who takes the lead on all things football, fired manager Diego Alonso in January and hired Phil Neville, his former Manchester United teammate. He replaced the sporting director, Paul McDonough, who had been plucked with much fanfare from Atlanta United, with Seattle's Chris Henderson. He also supervised the acquisition of 13 new players, an overhaul of basically half the team. A year after Inter Miami's inaugural game in Los Angeles, seeing so many new faces in the workout room was almost as unexpected as the vaccination line.

Beckham spent the first 10 months of the pandemic in England. He returned to the complex for the first time at the end of December and hasn't left the area. Of all the changes at Inter Miami, his presence there may be the most profound. The club has been sculpted in Beckham's image, from the emphasis on a strong academy and intense training sessions to the unique great white herons logo that he helped design. With him out of sight, Inter Miami seemed like any other expansion team, struggling to find an identity.

Though he remains one of the world's most famous people, Beckham is surprisingly accessible. If he sees someone he doesn't know, he'll step up and greet them, look them in the eye. "He's David Beckham from Essex," said Neville. "The guy who shows the same respect to the chef upstairs as he does to the kit man downstairs, as he does to Gonzalo Higuain," the Argentine international and Inter Miami forward.

As an owner, Beckham seems equally comfortable on the football side of the building, where the gym and changing rooms are located, as the business side. "His presence on-site every day, even if he's just up there in his office, means there is now a connection between everybody in the club," Neville said.

And at least until Lionel Messi decides to buy a team, no other football owner has his cachet. "Having David here is just inspirational," Henderson said.

Previously, Henderson had engineered much of the Sounders' success, from their inaugural season in 2009 through two MLS Cups. He was drawn to Miami, like so many others, by the chance to work with Beckham. Merely catching a glimpse of Beckham in the parking lot is enough to remind his players that what's happening



Beckham's more hands-on role in 2021 is indicative of his passion for the Inter Miami project, but also reflective of the need for more input in order to thrive in MLS. (Agencies)

in Miami is no ordinary project. "Just that can make guys give an extra 5 or 10%," said the Scottish striker Lewis Morgan, Inter Miami's MVP in 2020.

With characteristic thoroughness, Beckham has immersed himself in every aspect of ownership. It helps that his frequent trips to China and around Europe for endorsements and his wife Victoria's fashion business have paused during the pandemic. "I like to physically be here, watching the training sessions, seeing what drills they're doing," Beckham said. "I'm talking to our physios, our doctors, our fitness trainers, our chefs, the parents of our under-13s and under-14s. I've been very lucky to have played with the biggest clubs, for the biggest managers, with the biggest players, on the biggest stage. I'd like to think that my involvement, even if the players just see me sitting here while they're working out, has made a big difference."

That involvement carries a huge potential upside, especially at a time when MLS' biggest names of the past decade -- Didier Drogba and Frank Lampard, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Beckham himself -- are no longer on the field. "We've got an owner who is arguably one of the most famous people on the planet," said David Bruce, a senior vice president with the league. "He transcends the worlds of sport, culture and lifestyle in a way that not many people can." Factor in the glamour of Miami and you have the potential for a flagship American team for the first time since the 1970s New York Cosmos. "Miami can be a great franchise and a great market," said Bill Manning, the president of Toronto FC. "I'm incredibly excited about it." But, Manning cautions, "they have to win."

If not, the risk is public embarrassment for someone who has spent a career studiously avoiding it. The Beckham brand is on the line. No wonder he wants to be around to supervise. The routine played out week after week at the Beckhams' country home at Chipping Norton, in the Cotswolds, where the family spent last summer and fall waiting out the pandemic. At midnight or 1 a.m., Beckham would settle

on the couch with a son or two, his longtime friend and business partner Dave Gardner and high expectations for the team's game. Soon enough, the frustration would begin.

Inter Miami's stretches of inspired play often included a near-goal by Morgan or attacking midfielder Rodolfo Pizarro, but they would inevitably end with a successful counterattack in the other direction, or a conceded penalty, or a red card. "It was bewildering and unfathomable," said Ray Hudson, Inter Miami's play-by-play announcer. An English-born midfielder who played more than 300 games for North American teams between 1977 and 1991, Hudson later managed the Miami Fusion, the area's failed attempt at an MLS franchise, and D.C. United. Over a career of playing, coaching and broadcasting soccer, he insists he'd never seen a season like it. "Every week there'd be a different thing," he said. "You'd just slap your head with your hand. 'What's next?'"

For Beckham, watching loss after loss from a distant time zone was excruciating. He'd never wanted to be an owner who'd call his manager and, as he says, "demand that the left back be replaced." But there in the stillness of the night, Beckham could see that his club wasn't right. "It wasn't just 'Why are we playing 4-4-2?'" he said. "It was about the small details, which are actually the important ones because they become bigger problems."

"Being an ex-player, you can pick up things going wrong in certain positions, or in the way we're playing, or just the way we're stepping out onto the field. You get to know the signs."

To be fair, few clubs anywhere were affected by the pandemic as much as Inter Miami. Unlike clubs like Nashville, which graduated to MLS after time in the United Soccer League (USL), it was constructed out of whole cloth. The players hardly knew one another. Several arrived days before the opener. "We couldn't do any team bonding sessions," Morgan said. "And then we couldn't jeopardize our season by going out for team meals."

Not having fans in the stadium dissipated much of the excitement of an inaugural season. Reinforcements arrived

in September in the form of the world-class striker Higuain -- whose older brother, Federico, also plays for the club -- and the stylish midfielder Blaise Matuidi. But they came from Italy's Juventus, a club accustomed to overrunning most opponents, and adapting to an expansion mentality during a season was predictably difficult. Fans finally were allowed in limited numbers in October, but by then, Inter Miami was irredeemably bad.

Or was it? "When you really analyze their games, they were incredibly unfortunate," said Philadelphia Union head coach Jim Curtin. The Union beat Inter Miami twice, in July and in September, by a combined 5-1. "But they dominated us for long stretches," Curtin said. He describes the club as a sleeping giant. "In the key positions up the spine of the field, I think they got it right," he said. Curtin had himself coveted Pizarro, the most expensive transfer in Liga MX history. With a full training camp behind him, the 32-year-old Higuain is "ready to break out," Curtin said. And he voted for Morgan on his leaguewide best XI.

That leaves the coaching. Before hiring Alonso, Beckham and Mas held discussions with a list of candidates that seemed more appropriate for a club with the history and reputation of an AS Monaco or Aston Villa than an MLS franchise that hadn't played a game. Roberto Martinez, who won the FA Cup with Wigan, finished fifth in the Premier League with Everton and manages the Belgian national team, was a distinct possibility. So were Gennaro Gattuso, who managed AC Milan and is at Napoli, and Santiago Solari, a teammate of Beckham's at Real Madrid who now coaches Mexico's Club

America. Patrick Vieira, a standout midfielder of Beckham's generation who spent three seasons as head coach of NYCFC, was "close, extremely close," Mas said. Marcelo Gallardo of Argentina's River Plate agreed to come, then couldn't agree on terms.

Alonso, the eventual choice, couldn't help but feel like a consolation prize. He'd managed six clubs -- two in Uruguay, two in Mexico -- and the Uruguayan national team. Once upon a time, in 2001-02, he scored 22 goals for Atletico Madrid, but his was hardly a name the average South Florida soccer fan would know. He also wasn't hired until after Christmas, and beyond a brief intersection in La Liga, he had no history with Beckham. That wouldn't have mattered if the season had progressed normally. But last summer, as Beckham tried desperately to communicate telepathically with his manager from an ocean away, he couldn't help feeling that he had no idea what Alonso was thinking.

Much has been made of the fact that Beckham has hired one of his oldest friends to run his football club. From a distance, it seems desperate. Neville's history as a manager is short, and at the club level, it is nonexistent. He took charge of the England women's team in 2018 and did well enough, including a fourth-place finish at the Women's World Cup the following year, before ending with seven losses in his last 11 games. Before that, he coached for a single season, 2013-14, under David Moyes at Manchester United, and then at Valencia during the tumultuous 2015-16 season under Nuno Espirito Santo and then his brother, Gary. It's hard to imagine his résumé in the same pile as Gattuso's and Vieira's if Beckham didn't know him.

But Beckham does know him. "Since we were about 14, 15 years old," Beckham said. Neville, a year younger than Beckham, believes they first met when he was 11. They came up together at Manchester United in the early 1990s as the "Class of '92," along with Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and Gary Neville, under the management of Sir Alex Ferguson. By 1996, they were winning the double, the Premier League and the FA Cup. Beckham, who was gifted with talent, honed it with an extraordinary work ethic. The Nevilles, whose talent was less evident, worked even harder. They put in so much time that, Beckham admits, "we used to laugh at them."

It's precisely that devotion that Beckham believes was missing from last year's team. "I'd be watching games and thinking, what had they done during the week in the lead-up?" Beckham said. "Had they prepared right? Had the players seen videos of the team that we're playing against? Are the coaches watching the academy kids at the weekend? And why are we dropping off in the 60th minute? Why are we not pressing?" He doesn't have to convey his expectations to his new manager; Neville's come from the same place. "Phil already has said to me, 'If a player isn't reaching a certain fitness level, he won't be on the field,'" Beckham said. "It doesn't matter who."

Neville arrives around 6 a.m. most days. "He's still there at 7 o'clock at night," Beckham said approvingly. What he's doing all that time is adapting Ferguson's football philosophy to today's North America. "A lot of the values that David wants to implement into the football club come from the values that were implemented at Manchester United," Neville said. It goes far beyond what happens during the games, or even training. "Humbleness," he said. "To do the right thing every minute of every single day. The way you speak to each other. And just basic values that our parents probably taught us. If there's a bottle on the field, you go over and pick it up."

Whether Ferguson's approach will work in MLS is an open question. For one thing, European managers have typically tended to underestimate the league's difficulty, not to mention the byzantine complexity of its player-procurement regulations. Notable disappointments include Ruud Gullit, Frank De Boer and Thierry Henry. "You've had European coaches come into this league and they've not really understood the rules, not really anticipated the travel or the weather," Beckham said. He's referring, among others, to Gullit, who managed the Galaxy when Beckham was there. Expressing astonishment that he couldn't simply sign players for any amount he wanted to, Gullit lasted less than a season before returning to Europe.

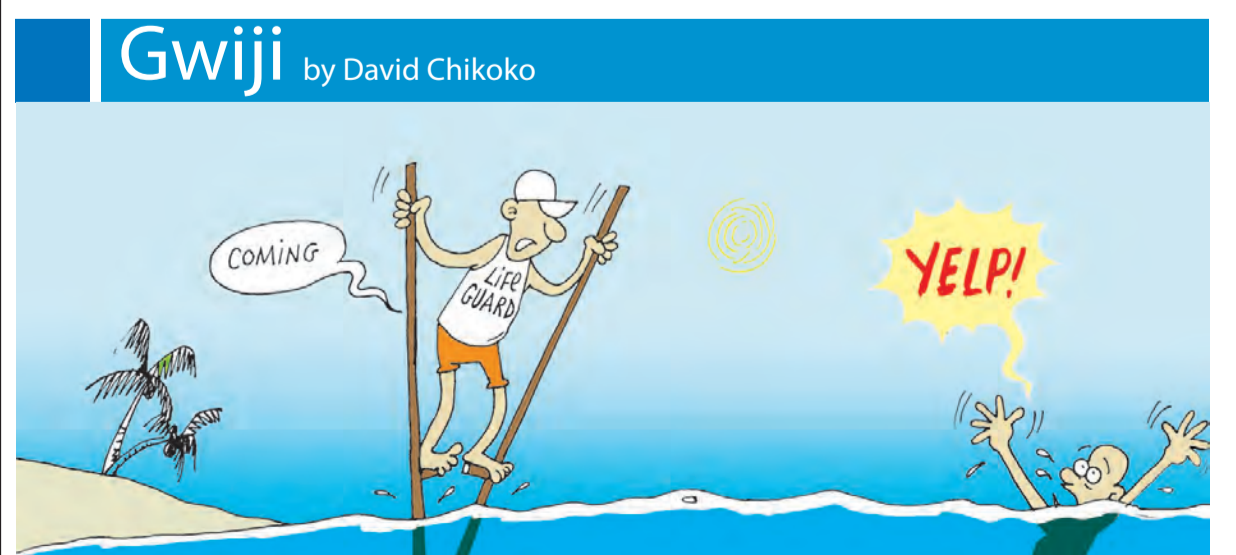
"It's a unique league in a lot of ways," said the Union's Curtin. "There are lots of different playing styles. It takes certain elements from the Argentine league, the fight and the intensity, but other games can look and have the feel of a Premier League game. The travel is hard, and the hot weather means you can't always play the way you want to. You have to adapt, not only month to month but week to week."

Neville thinks he's ready. Fifteen years ago, when Beckham first went to Los Angeles, Neville started watching MLS games on television. "After David, there was Robbie Keane and Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard," he said. He insists that he watched every Inter Miami game last season, long before he had any inkling that he'd be managing the club. He watched again through different eyes once he arrived. "Last year was a disappointment, but there were many factors," he said. "This year, we've got a fresh start."

Determined not to be caught unprepared, Neville has surrounded himself with MLS veterans such as Henderson and former NYCFC head coach Jason Kreis, who is an assistant. "I know there haven't been many foreign managers who have succeeded," Neville said. "That's my own personal, individual motivation. When I go back to my apartment and I'm thinking about Philip Neville and not the team, there's a bit of 'I'll show you lot that a foreign manager can make it here.' You know, a bit of 'I'll show you lot that it can be done.'"

It's a sunny Saturday morning in March, a month before the start of the 2021 season. Beckham has ownership meetings inside the facility. Neville has first-team duties. But the lure of live football is too strong.

To be continued



SPORT

David Beckham's Inter Miami could be a great team. But it has to win first

PAGE 19

Shaken Yanga out to prove VPL title credentials



Yanga players warm up before facing Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in Vodacom Premier League match, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

RECORD time Vodacom Premier League champions Yanga are determined to prove their stark decline in form is not terminal when they host Biashara United in a league clash, which will take place in Dar es Salaam the afternoon.

The league leaders' winless run extended to three matches last weekend when held to a one-all draw by Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

Yanga have won only one match in their last seven league outings.

In addition to failing to win direct clashes with Kagera Sugar and Prisons, Yanga also failed to achieve wins over the likes of Mbeya City FC, Polisi Tanzania and most recently KMC FC.

By the end of the first round of matches, Yanga were nine points clear at the top of the table.

They went 17 matches unbeaten. A slump in form in the second round has seen them relinquish advantage

to defending champions Simba who are just two points behind with four games in hand.

Yanga will now aim to answer the doubts swirling about them today afternoon against fourth-placed opponents who snapped a four-match unbeaten run on Tuesday versus visiting Coastal Union.

Yanga have claimed 26 points from 12 home matches this season.

They will take encouragement in their unbeaten home record which has seen them claim seven wins and five draws so far.

Meanwhile Biashara United will look to bounce back from their third home defeat of the season to visitors

Coastal Union.

The Mara-based side has claimed 16 points from 12 matches on the road this season.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and Biashara United have met in five league matches since 2018/19 season.

Yanga have claimed three wins compared to one for Biashara United, while one game has ended in draw.

When the teams met earlier this season at Karume Stadium in Mara in October 2020, Yanga won 1-0 thanks to a second half goal netted by attacker Michael Sarpong.

In Morogoro, both hosts Mtibwa Sugar and Kagera Sugars will aim to end their poor run in the league.

Mtibwa Sugar suffered a 12th defeat of the league season when they went down 5-0 to Simba in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

The Turiani-based club, on the one hand, has so far won just once in their last nine outings.

On the other hand Kagera Sugar are poor travellers, with just one win in 12 away matches.

They have claimed only eight points from 12 away matches this season.

In Tanga, Coastal Union will hope to avenge a 3-1 loss they suffered in a reverse fixture against Ruvu Shooting earlier this season, as the former host the latter.

EATV **TONIGHT @ 9:00**

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

Tonight on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanlix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Arusha to host Youth Athletics Championship

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AT least 365 pupils and students of nearly 40 learning institutions from Arusha, Rukwa, Singida and Dar es Salaam will be flexing their athletics skills in the Arusha Youth Athletics Championship, to be held at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium here tomorrow.

Organized by the Arusha Youth Athletics Championship (AYAC), the Sunday events include relay racing competitions covering 100 meters, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m.

The youths will also be participating in longer running experiences such as the main 3000m race, as well as other sporting feats such as javelin, long jump, high jump and shot put.

The Arusha Youth Athletics Championship's Director, Juliana Mwamsuva, said the aim for the events is to discovered budding talents, recruit and cultivate existing ones and encourage more young people to take active interests in sports.

She pointed out: "That is why we are starting with children from tender ages."

According to Juliana, they expect at least 400 participants for the sporting events.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) vice-president, John Bayo, pointed out that the AYAC event is taking place for the first time in the country and therefore organizers need all the support they can get, in order to make the race and related sports activities successful.

Bayo noted: "We would also like these AYAC events to be sustainable like many other athletics activities currently being hosted in Arusha on annual basis."

The Arusha City Sports Officer, Benson Maneno, stated in rejoinder that, while there are ample opportunities for athletics bodies to get potential candidates in Arusha through such events, there is still the need for individuals, institutions and companies to come forth and support these initiatives through series of sponsorships.

As we were going to press, the Arusha-Urban District Commissioner, Kenan Kihongosi, was listed among the top officials expected to grace the Arusha Youth Athletics Championship at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium.

AT confident of fielding athletes in Olympics' qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) officials have stated they are confident they will secure events for athletes to seek qualification for the Tokyo Olympics, which will be held later this year.

John Bayo, AT vice-president, in an interview said although many athletics events have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he is confident that they will secure qualifying events for local athletes.

Currently only two local athletes Alphonse Simbu and Failuna Matanga have qualified for the Olympics.

Bayo said: "We are working day and night so that we can secure qualifying events for our athletes, it is a bit complicated due to coronavirus crisis but we are doing our best to secure events."

Currently 14 athletes are in camp at Arusha College of Forestry, Wildlife and Tourism to prepare for Tokyo Olympics qualifying events. Bayo said the athletes in camp are doing well.

"They are all doing well and



Dar es Salaam athletes take part in training in the city to shape up for a recent National Championship.

the spirit is high, it is my view that the morale they have in camp will motivate them to do well at qualifying events," he said.

The athletes are coached by Anthony Mwingereza and Thomas John, they are camping in the area known as Ol-

motonyi in Arusha.

The camp runs up to the mid of July when the athletes who will qualify for the Olympics will enter Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC)-organized camp.

Initially, AT and coaches wanted to have more than

30 athletes in the camp but Bayo said due to financial constraints the association is facing they have settled for 14 athletes.

The AT official noted the selected runners have potential to qualify for Tokyo Olympics slated for July 23 to

August 8.

"We wanted to have more athletes in camp but due to financial constraints we are facing, we thought it wise to have only athletes who have potential to qualify for the Olympics," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

NURSE, CAN'T YOU TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER?

