



National Pg 2

Warning against idling in office



National Pg 3

Nkome residents get new ferry



National Pg 5

TPB Bank builds 11 classrooms



Bus owners want more dialogue on e-ticketing

By Guardian Reporter

AS the government readies to end the use of paper tickets for most upcountry routes today, bus owners want more sensitization and dialogue on how to operate an electronic ticketing system. Speaking to this paper in an interview yesterday, the secretary general of the Tanzania Bus Owners' Association (TABOA), Joseph Priskus said that the land transport regulator has not provided enough education on the new system to

the general public and ticketing agents. Furthermore, there are other issues that still need to be ironed out, such as receipting and amount in taxes remitted to TRA through the system, he stated. The association has engaged the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on the matter but no agreement has been reached by the time of the proclamation to start enforcing e-ticketing regulations, he elaborated. On Monday, LATRA Director General Gilliard Ngeve released a statement

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This is a temporary bridge built to facilitate the movement of materials for the construction of a 3.2-km-long permanent one across Lake Victoria waters - at Kigongo-Busisi in Mwanza Region - which is expected to cost 700bn/-. The scene was captured yesterday. Photo: State House

MILK DRIVE

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BANNED DRUGS

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FEEDS FACTORY

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Verifying northern zone CBOs set for Feb 15 to 23

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government shall mid next month start verifying community-based and religious organizations in the Northern Zone. Emmanuel Kihampa, the registrar of organizations in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said in a statement here yesterday that the verification of organizations will be conducted on February 15th to 23rd, in which the various organizations will be asked to pay their annual fees for 2021. The ministry was continuing to verify religious and community-based organizations throughout the country, the statement indicated, noting that the fifth phase of the verification exercise will take place in the Northern Zone regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga.

The ministry was continuing to verify religious and community-based organizations throughout the country

"The verification centre is set for the Immigration College near KNCU offices in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region," it said, elaborating that payment of annual fees will be channeled through the Government Electronic Payment Gateway System. During the verification process, the organizations are required to submit original and photocopies of their registration certificates, annual fees payment receipts for previous years, plus originals and copies of constitutions of those organisations approved by the registrar. Other documents include a letter from the local government authority that attest to the existence of the organization in a particular areas, along

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PM: Draw up technicians' databases in key projects

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed that a special database be established with details of Tanzanian technicians participating in implementing major development projects such as ships and bridges for continuous reference. He issued this instruction when launching MV Mbeya, a newly built vessel which will be making trips to ports in Malawi and Mozambique. The database will help the concerned technicians to be recognized in various areas of development undertakings and thus be trusted to handle large projects



when they come up, the premier noted. The new vessel costing 9.1bn/- was being built as part of efforts by the fifth phased government to improve the transport

infrastructure for rapid growth, he said, noting that the 200-passenger vessel is expected to vastly alleviate transport woes for residents along the lake's shoreline. Regions bordering Lake Nyasa are Mbeya, Njombe and Ruvuma, which have numerous commercial links with the other side of the lakeshore, in Malawi and Mozambique. The ship, with the capacity to carry 200 tonnes of cargo at once, has been certified by the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC). The launch of the vessel took place at Mbambabay in Nyasa District where

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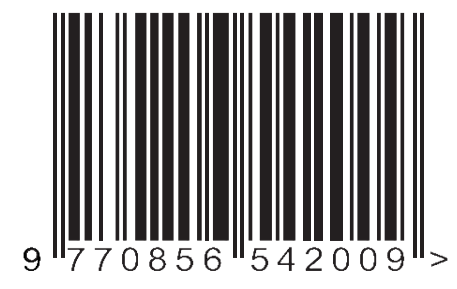


NSSF: Employers must desist from corrupt practices

By Guardian Correspondent

EMPLOYERS colluding with dishonest employees of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to sabotage the fund by facilitating the non-remittance of members' contributions should know that their days are numbered, a senior NSSF official declared yesterday. Lulu Mengele (pictured), the NSSF public relations manager, also tasked with education to members, issued this caution yesterday in a press conference, saying that the fund was working to stamp out tendencies of corruption. "NSSF will not tolerate corrupt practices," she said, insisting that members and stakeholders noticing signs of corruption when accessing NSSF services should not hesitate to communicate with the management. Direct communication with the public relations office, the Director of Operations or the Director General will be appreciated, as well as reporting such instance to law enforcement authorities, she stated. There are employers colluding with unfaithful employees to engage in corruption, "something that cannot be tolerated, and NSSF will ensure that this is brought to an end," she further noted. NSSF continues to address loopholes for corruption, she said, pointing out that recently at the NSSF Mwanza regional office the management received information from reliable sources that there is an employee soliciting bribes from an employer. "After receiving that information we submitted the matter to appropriate

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'Control influx of substandard food products into Zanzibar'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Zuberi Ali Maulid, has called on the executives of the Zanzibar Food and Drug Agency (ZFDA) to control the influx of substandard products into the Isles' market outlets to protect human health.

Maulid made the call here yesterday when speaking at the function to lay a foundation stone for the laboratory building of ZFDA in Mombasa area as part of marking the 57th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution.

He said the government is committed to strengthening the health sector in the national interest, urging ZFDA to protect the health of the people by preventing the entry of products that are unfit for human consumption.

He said it was important for them to be careful in controlling the importation and sale of expired products in various stores, especially food products such as rice, wheat, and other food products.

The Speaker said: "It's important for you (ZFDA staff) to focus on service delivery to citizens as well as provide quality services and contribute to the development of the country as well as strengthen the growth of entrepreneurs."

However, he thanked the partners for agreeing to support

the revolutionary government of Zanzibar in implementing the project which is essential for the development of the country.

Commenting on the implementation of the ZFDA laboratory project, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, Elderly, Gender and Children, Halima Maulid Salum, said the building is being implemented in two phases where it will be a three-story building in line with the installation of laboratory infrastructure where it is expected to be completed in March this year.

She further said the cost of the construction is expected to be 4.8bn/-, which has been provided by the Zanzibar government and development partners from the East African Community and the funds were provided in installments. The PS said that in the first phase, the government pumped in 3.3bn/- and the second phase partners from EAC pumped 1.5bn/-.

The project is being executed by the Quality Building Contractor (QBC), under Zanzibar Building Agency as a consultant. The 18-month project was to be completed in September last year, but delayed and is to be accomplished in March this year. It has completed by 80 percent and now the contractor is working on the final touches.



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority director general Hamza Johari (C, in suit) with trainers and the first batch of participants of four-week training on the use of drones jointly run by Tanzania's Civil Aviation Training Centre and Pro Wings Training of South Africa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

reminding owners of upcountry passenger buses plying major routes "to comply with licensing conditions on e-ticketing" effective today.

LATRA indicated that sensitization on use of the new system had thoroughly been undertaken, but TABOA says only bus owners have been reached, not other key stakeholders.

"The key groups in ticketing such as agents and conductors have not been reached with education on the new system and this will cause a lot of inconvenience," he TABOA leader cautioned.

Bus owners want more dialogue on e-ticketing

LATRA said that routes where the use of e-tickets is in the first phase commencing today are Dar-es-Salaam to Tanga as well as Arusha, Lindi, Mtwara, Iringa, Njombe, Songea and Mbeya.

Others are those travelling from Dar-es-Salaam to Tunduma, Rukwa, Morogoro, Kilombero, Ifakara, Malinyi and Mahenge.

TABOA maintains that more education is needed for agents on how to operate point of sale machines, while passengers also

need more information on how to book and purchase tickets online.

"We heavily rely on conductors for sale of tickets. If we proceed this way our members are headed for 4.5m/- in fines imposed by TRA and 250,000/- in fines by LATRA for precipitous violations of ticketing regulations," he pointed out.

In its statement, LATRA said licenses will be issued to transporters who have been registered in an electronic

ticketing system approved by the authority.

"LATRA directs all transporters to ensure that they adhere to the guidelines as announced in the Government Gazette of February 2, 2020," the statement intoned.

LATRA sees the e-ticketing system as a silver bullet that will cut the cost of travelling to ticket offices for passengers, eliminate the menace of touts at bus stands and improve revenue collection in the transport industry.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and Lindi regional commissioner Godfrey Zambi (R) pictured recently unveiling a plaque to inaugurate 11 classrooms at Nandagala Primary School in Ruangwa District, some of which have been built and others renovated by TPB Bank at a cost of 164m/-. Left is the bank's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

A DRIVE to promote milk consumption in the country is set to kick off early next month with selected public offices fitted with special coolers for refilling.

Coordinated by the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB), the programme will start with all ministries located at government city in Dodoma where milk will be sold at half street retail price per litre.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with The Guardian yesterday, TDB Assistant Registrar Noel Byamungu said the board has already imported special refrigerators for safe storage of the milk, to be placed at all ministries and later other public offices.

Byamungu said TDB is implementing the drive in collaboration with three Tanzanian milk processors

National milk consumption drive kicks off next month

namely Dar Fresh, Tanga Fresh and Asas Dairies. "The special refrigerators will facilitate continued supply of fresh and safe milk to civil servants at the comfort of their offices," he said.

He added that the storage facilities will continuously be checked and refilled with milk whenever the supplies run out.

The programme is part of series of efforts by the government to promote milk consumption in the country alongside expanding performance of local milk market.

Moreover, he said the drive will later on see at least 100 primary schools also distributed with milk free of charge under the School Milk Feeding Programme.

"We're planning to commence

with the 100 schools to be picked from different regions, and the number will keep on expanding gradually depending to availability of funds," he added.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) an individual is supposed to drink at least 200 liters of milk in a year, but in Tanzania the trend is low, estimated at 54 liters.

Records show that in a period between 2006 up to September 2020, TDB had distributed at least 12,023,186.83 liters of milk to different 210 primary schools in Tanzania, worth at 19.24bn/- free.

In Tanzania, school feeding programme was initiated since 2006 through cooperation between the milk board,

parents, milk processors, sponsors, development partners, stakeholders as well as primary and secondary schools.

The programme which was under the auspicious of Heifer International towards supporting the country's school milk feeding programme benefited 89,922 pupils in ten regions, including Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Morogoro, Mwanza and Mara.

As of 2019/20 Tanzania had recorded at least 33.4million cows, out of which, 1.95 million are hybrid dairy cows, and 31.45million are domestic cows.

Throughout the number, the country recorded production of a total of 3.01 billion liters of milk.

PM: Draw up technicians' databases in key projects

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the premier urged the crew and management to take care of the ship. It has been built by Songoro Marine Transport Co., a shipbuilding and repair company based in Dar es Salaam

The premier said Tanzania is surrounded by countries that depend on its territory to transport various goods, including food imports, thus the various projects develop economic ability of the people currently and in the near future, he said.

Majaliwa also inspected the 66 kilometre Mbinga-Mbambabay road whose construction has been finalized, with Works and Transport deputy minister

Geoffrey Kasekenya affirming that the construction of the project realizes a long time wish by President Dr John Magufuli.

He also remarked that the finalization of building the ship was a pleasant development for the people of the southern regions, elaborating that the ministry will ensure that the collection of revenues in using the sh Deuseddit Kakoko ip is properly administered to yield expected dividends.

Deuseddit Kakoko, the Director General of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) said that the Tanzanian portion of the Lake Nyasa shoreline has 15 ports, six of which are located in Nyasa District.

Verifying northern zone CBOs set for Feb 15 to 23

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with minutes on latest annual general meeting and its financial report.

Organizations that will fail to be verified during the stated period will be compelled to seek the same service at the registrar's office in Dodoma within 90 days, the statement affirmed.

At the same time CBOs and faith based organizations that are yet to get registration have been cleared to participate in the verification exercise, upon comprehending

procedures on how to finalize the process.

During the exercise, the office of the registrar shall respond to information requests by the concerned organizations on the procedures being followed, it affirmed.

"All faith-based organizations registered in the country are required to submit lists of their branches and their postal addresses to the registrar's office by 10th February 2021," the statement added.

NSSF: Employers must avoid corrupt practices

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organs and we thank the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) as they did great job and managed to arrest that employee as he went to take a bribe from an employer," the manager explained.

Lulu called on employers not to get involved with unfaithful NSSF

employees as they will be subject to stern legal action including being handed to law enforcement organs.

Paying benefits to members when all requirements have been adhered to is a lawful obligation for NSSF and a qualified member doesn't need to give a bribe to obtain such services, she added



Ednamamu Mshubi (R), NMB Bank Plc's card services manager, demonstrates in Dar es Salaam yesterday how the bank's 'MastaBata' is conducted. She is with Lupia Matta (C), the bank's senior manager for card operations & finance, and Gaming Board of Tanzania official Joram Matafya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TMDA vows crackdown on smuggling of banned drugs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has vowed to conduct a crackdown in all border areas aimed at controlling the importation of banned drugs, medical devices, reagents as well as erectile dysfunction medication. Mitango Fimbo, TMDA Director gave the notice here yesterday during his visit that aimed to inspect medicines seized by the authority in collaboration with the police. He said there was rampant trade by unfaithful dealers who sell banned medicines that were being smuggled into the country, adding that the network was huge in many areas and which the authority was already mobilised to control.

"TMDA, working together with the police have arrested a dealer selling banned drugs that are harmful to human beings, the vehicle used to transport the drugs has also been seized by the police," Fimbo said, adding that all those who will be found engaging themselves in the racket will face legal action including prosecution on economic sabotage charges whose penalty is five years in jail. He said TMDA also continues with its investigations to identify the criminal network engaged in distribution and selling of expired drugs but which the expired dates are extended thereby endangering the lives of the people. He added that they have various means to change the appearance of the medicines which they later distribute to

customers. He warned the practice by some traders who deal in drugs that are normally dispensed by the government and which are not supposed to be sold in private pharmacies. Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila said there was a big network of big businessmen who smuggle in, distribute and sell banned drugs in the country. He said he was preparing a list, which he will publicly disclose, of businessmen who engage themselves in these drugs, including those for allegedly treating erectile dysfunction. He appealed to Mbeya residents for their continued cooperation with government organs to eradicate the trade that threatens people's lives.

Relief as Chato Muharamba, Nkome residents get new ferry

By Guardian Reporter

CONSTRUCTION of Mv Chato II ferry has been completed and it is now providing relief to residents living in Chato Muharamba and Nkome in Geita Region. Worth 3.1bn / -, the ferry has been built by the Mwanza-based Songoro Marine Transport Boatyard and will be providing services between the two areas—Chato Muharamba and Nkome. Speaking at the function to hand over the ferry, the Minister for Works and Transport, Dr Leonard Chamuriho commended Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) for being able to effectively manage the construction of the ferry until its completion. He called on the ministry to ensure that it continues building ferries using local contractors which enable them to access services easily and increase technology and employment for Tanzanians. Dr Chamuriho expressed his hope that through the ferry construction project which was undertaken by a local firm, Tanzanians involved in the construction would have learned the technology of building ferries and with the income they earned would be able to improve their living conditions. "The government is determined to ensuring that all ferries in the country are safe and secure for public use and will continue repairing them as well as

purchasing the new ones when needed as far as the government's budget allows," he said. Dr Chamuriho added that the government will continue to improve the safety and management of the ferries to prevent accidents by appointing officers from the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), who is in charge of overseeing all maritime transport areas and continuing to train operators including TEMESA so as to raise public awareness, hence comply with the rules and regulations for the operation of marine vessels. Earlier, TEMESA Chief Executive Officer Eng Japhet Maselle said that the new ferry has been built in the form of a land craft ship to meet the demand, noting that the idea is to increase cargo from and to Chato through Muharamba, Senga, Bukondo, and Nkome. "This vessel will stimulate socio-economic development of areas where the ferry will be docking." Eng Maselle commended the government for trusting them in implementing such giant projects including the construction of the ferries. Chato MP, Medard Kalemani thanked the government for the construction of the ferry, adding that the facility will facilitate business activities in the area as it provides opportunities for traders to be able to deliver their fish and seafood to the markets of Senda and neighbouring Congo DRC. Geita Regional

Commissioner Robert Gabriel said the construction of the ferry was an implementation of the CCM manifesto, which promised to build a new ferry during the 2015 election campaign. The ferry has the capacity of carrying 200 passengers and 10 small cars and it makes the total number of ferries in the country 32.

"The government is determined to ensuring that all ferries in the country are safe and secure for public use and will continue repairing them as well as purchasing the new ones when needed as far as the government's budget allows"

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Innochem Africa (TZ) Limited is looking for suitably qualified persons to fill the following positions:

1. Director.
2. Sales Manager

Job requirements

Applicants for the post of Director must be holder(s) of BSc/BA in business administration or relevant field; MSc/MA will be preferred. Also, Applicants must have more than 10 years' corporate experience in senior managerial position. Bachelor's degree in marketing or business administration with five years or more experience in marketing is prerequisite for the Sales Manager post. Interested candidates should register their candidacy by channeling their cover letters and updated CV via email operations@innocheminternational.com not later than 9th January, 2021. Late applications will receive no consideration.


Be strong, deliver competitive services to your members, Dr Mwinyi tells ZSSF

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said his government would take appropriate and timely action to ensure that the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) continues to be strong and deliver competitive services to its members. Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday when inaugurating ZSSF's new building located in Tibirinzi, Chake Chake District, South Pemba Region as part of marking the 57th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. The function was also attended by the Zanzibar's First Vice President Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad. He also said that he's interested to see the fund is managed by leaders who are vigilant and refrain from acts of embezzlement, corruption, and theft. The eighth-phase governance will work closely with ZSSF in ensuring that the fund delivers the expected results to its members, he said. He insisted that the government will ensure that members of the fund live without worrying about the fate of the investments they invest in, which are often the mainstays of life after retirement. Dr Mwinyi said ZSSF officials must

ensure that the implementation of the good intentions of using the deposits of the members of the fund they collect is accompanied by strong plans to manage the investment. He encouraged the fund's leaders to ensure that the money invested provides returns and all activities of the fund are wisely executed. "Make sure that the amount of money required to pay the benefits of retired members and the various benefits

are available at all times without any inconvenience and inconvenience," he said. He said that the presence of ultra-modern office buildings is an important step in the efforts to attract more investors to Pemba, urging ZSSF officials to ensure that the procedures for renting out the shops located in the new Michenzani Mall and Thabit Kombo buildings are in place.



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: No. RFP/2020/SUP/049 FOR THE PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES FOR UNHCR TANZANIA OPERATION

1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites reputable and qualified suppliers to submit firm offers for establishment of the service contract(s) for provision of internet services for UNHCR Tanzania operation.

2. Eligibility:

Suppliers duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process.

Kindly download the tender documents in the below link:


https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fmqQdz_M-FkHm8yZK-MA0qex5mU6rMf_V?usp=sharing

If you fail to access the link, please write to ishobeza@unhcr.org copy ndassa@unhcr.org

CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL	
Pre-bid Conference meeting will be held	Wednesday 06 th January 2021
Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Wednesday 20 th January 2021 at 1700 hrs EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Friday 29 th January 2021 at 1700 hrs, EAT

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.

HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) is looking for qualified and well experienced Tanzanians, to fill the following position:

ENDOWMENT FUND MANAGER

- 1. Summary Description:**
The Endowment Fund Manager is the in-charge of the Fund responsible for the day to day running of the Trust ensuring it achieves its mission and objectives.
- 2. Qualifications and Experience:**
Applicants must be in possession of a Master degree or its equivalent in the fields of business administration, finance, accounting or economics. Interested applicants must have at least five years of experience in financial services or business role. Key competencies of the Fund Manager should include ability to act as a team player; proficiency in ICT technology; proven advocacy skills and ability to determine and manage risks.
- 3. Duties and Responsibilities:**
 - i. Planning**
 - a) Developing a Five-year Trust Strategic Development Plan in alignment with the HKMU Five-year Strategic Plan.
 - b) Developing and implementing annual work plans based on the Five-year Strategic Plan.
 - c) Regularly monitoring and evaluating the Trust strategic plans.
 - ii. Finance**
 - a) Development and managing annual budgets for the running of the Trust.
 - b) Analysing and implementing robust investment strategies.
 - c) Raising funds through various methods as provided in the Trust Deed.
 - d) Providing timely financial and administrative reports.
 - e) Preparing and facilitating financial external audits.
 - iii. Administration**
 - a) Preparing documents and organising meetings of the Board of Trustees in liaison with the Secretary.
 - b) Upholding best practices and ethical standards.
 - c) Developing, updating and maintaining a robust database of stakeholders including financial contributors and beneficiaries.
 - d) Collaborating and networking with individuals including HKMU Alumni and like-minded institutions.
 - e) Developing and managing Risk Register including risk assessment, mitigation and risk-management plans.
 - f) Advocating for and popularising the fund in the community including the civil society and the private sector actors.
 - g) Performing any other duties as may be required.
- 4. Reporting to:** The Vice Chancellor (VC)
- 5. Tenure:** Three (3) years contract, renewable subject to satisfactory performance and successful completion of a six months' probation period upon recruitment.
- 6. Remuneration:** According to the HKMU salary scales and fringe benefits.
- 7. Application Procedure:**

Interested and qualified applicant for the above post are requested to submit application letter and curriculum vitae, attaching copies of their certificates to:

Vice Chancellor
Hubert Kairuki Memorial University,
70 Chwaku Street, P. O. Box 65300, Dar es Salaam.
Tel. 255-22-2700021/4, Fax: 255-22-2775591,
E-mails: sevcv@hkmu.ac.tz, or rahab.kassimoto@hkmu.ac.tz

The advert can also be downloaded from the HKMU website: www.hkmu.ac.tz
DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: 30 JANUARY 2021



INVITATION TO TENDER

FOR DISPOSAL OF ASSETS AT RIJKZWAAN Tender No. RZ/Q-SEM/001/2021

Date: 6th January, 2021

1. Rijk Zwaan intends to dispose Vehicles, Generators and other equipment. The bellow listed assets are disposed on "as is, where is" basis and the procuring entity shall have no further liability after sale.
2. Rijk Zwaan invites sealed Tenders for the purchase of bellow mentioned items

Vehicles	Other items	Other items
Lot 1. Ford Ranger (blue) T841 BCV	Lot 7. Motor bike TVS MC 767 AJS	Lot 14. Washing machine tolker 20 kgs
Lot 2. Ford Ranger (silver) T104 BQF	Lot 8. Generator John Deere 100 KVA (2 pcs)	Lot 15. Hand rotator power tiller
Lot 3. Toyota Prado T201 CDZ	Lot 9. Generator John Deere 300KVA	Lot 16. Toilet European type (2 pcs)
Lot 4. Staff bus Eicher T880 CLQ	Lot 10. Dry clean machine LG	Lot 17. Old sprayer hose pipe (2 rolls)
Lot 5. Ford Ranger (dark blue) T173 BVM	Lot 11. Laundry machine Electrolux (3 pcs)	Lot 18. Black harvesting crates (500 pcs)
Lot 6. Nissan Pickup T943 ANS	Lot 12. Washing machine Sumsung 9kgs wd1172xv	Lot 19. Washing machine Westpoint
	Lot 13. Change over switch panel 630 ams (2pcs)	Lot 20. Motor for high pressure fogging system Motor Germana

3. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) and is open to all Tenderers.
4. Interested Tenderers may request the Tender document via our email procurementqsem@rijkszwaan.com Tenderers are required to inspect the physical goods at Rijk Zwaan Q-Sem Ltd. office, Malalua station - Old Moshi/Nelson Mandela road Arusha and Rijk Zwaan Afrisem Ltd. office, Dolly Estate, USA River on 21st and 22nd of January 2021 from 09:00am up to 12:00 noon.
5. The highest successfully bidder will be required to pay 100% of the amount quoted for the specific asset under each Lot within 24hours from the date of receiving award letter. Award letter will be issued to highest successfully bidder within 7days from the date of Intention to award letter.
6. All Tenders in one original plus one copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the following address; Rijk Zwaan Q-Sem Ltd, Procurement office, Malalua Station- Old Moshi/Nelson Mandela Road, P. O. Box 12345 Arusha, before or on 26th of January 2021 at 11:00am. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening
7. Late Tenders, portion of Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the Tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

RIJK ZWAAN Q-SEM AND AFRISEM
P. O. BOX 12345,
ARUSHA.
 Sharing a healthy future
www.rijkszwaan.com



It's the second harvesting phase for rice farmers at Mombo in Korogwe District, made possible by the short rains, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

10billion/- spent to improve quality of Mufindi tea factory

By Guardian Correspondent, Mufindi

AS Tanzania battles to increase tea exports in and outside Africa, Mufindi Tea & Coffee Limited has installed at Itona factory machines valued at 10 billion/- to ensure plant produces world class tea for local and external markets.

Factory Assistant Manager, Engineer Basil Mhongole, told reporters on a field tour of southern highlands regions that, with installed machines that are straightening the tea leaves, the factory now preserves in good condition 50 tonnes or 50,000 kilogrammes at a goal.

The factory is owned by GL Groups. Other factories under the same group include Luponde, Kibena and Ikanga. These are costly ultra-modern machines that are straightening tea leaves in the production process thereby improving the quality of Tanzanian tea on the market. The factory now has a big preserving capacity to accommodate tea from out-growers' farms and from our own estates. We get 25 percent of the tea from villagers and 75 percent is harvested from our farms," he explained adding that the income of smallholders will simultaneously increase because of the modernization in the production process.

The Farm Manager of Itona and Stone Valley Estate, Hekima Sanga, explained that the estate has 490 productive hectares that are currently being harvested. "The amount of tea we are harvesting because of irrigation, justifies and necessitates this costly investment," he said

explaining that the estate has to be irrigated during the August-September spell.

Because of irrigation and fertiliser application, he said, last year the company harvested 18,000 kgs of tea daily, up from 500 kgs the company used to harvest. He said Itona factory alone has 13 machines, all of them are lined up for modernization as part of the national industrialization strategy.

Sanga also said starting last year the company has introduced a pruning system and that a total of 101 ha have been pruned in the two parts of the estate.

Itona smallholder farmer, Evelina Mligo, said the company gives villagers extension officers so that smallholders can produce quality tea and it has also created a reliable market for their tea. "We have learnt proper tea husbandry because extension officers are keen and very cooperative. Otherwise we would not be producing the kind of good tea we are producing," she said.

Tea is one of Tanzania's seven strategic cash crops. Others are cotton, pyrethrum, cashew nuts, sisal, sugar, coffee and tobacco. In 2018/2019 fiscal year, Tanzania produced 35,000 tonnes of tea, up from 31,814 tonnes produce the previous year.



The amount of tea we are harvesting because of irrigation, justifies and necessitates this costly investment

By Guardian Reporter

PM receives 11 classrooms built by TPB bank in Ruangwa District

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has received 11 classrooms, two teachers' offices, furniture and a special room for girl students built by TPB Plc Bank at Nandagala Primary School in Ruangwa District, Lindi Region all at a cost of 164.902m/-.

He received the buildings during his visit to the school as part of his recent official visit in Ruangwa District, and praised the bank's top officials.

The PM called on parents, guardians and teachers to ensure the structures are taken care of to last long.

"We want these buildings to stay

as they are now, we must take care of them, and you students should not do tests by scribbling on walls. I thank TPB bank for handing to us the classrooms, four of which are new and seven have been refurbished," he said.

Speaking about examination passes, the PM said out of 63 students who sat for standard VI examination last year, 57 passed. He directed all those who passed to be enrolled in secondary schools and the other should be

taken to VETA college expected to be opened in Ruangwa District later this year.

Earlier, TPB Bank Managing Director Sabasaba Moshingi said the implementation of the project was the continuation of the bank's plan to plough back some of its profits back to the community via various development projects, including construction of infrastructures in the education and health sectors.

He said the project involved refurbishment of seven classrooms and construction of four new classrooms, two teachers' offices, a store, refurbishment to 28 pit latrines and a construction of a special room for girl students.

The Chairman of the Project Committee Hamza Mkuyanda said the project's completion has brought in many benefits including better teaching and learning environments.

Dr Bashiru impressed by dairy factory run by Tanzanian investor in Karagwe

By Guardian Reporter, Kahama

CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa has made an inspection visit at ongoing construction of a dairy and animals' feed factory belonging to Kahama Fresh Ltd in Kihanga Ward, in Karagwe District as well as the experimental maize farm and the ranch at Kikurura.

Dr Bashiru praised the efforts by the indigenous investor in Kahama Fresh Limited, Jossam Ntangeki, for assisting in the implementation of CCM Election Manifesto and the Phase V

Government Vision in building the industrial economy as well as producing employment, saying the firm has so far provided jobs to 139 Tanzanians, and that when the factory starts operation 200 more jobs will be available.

Dr Bashiru was told of various challenges facing the investor including frequent power outages affecting operations, as well as lack of power in the ranch area that affect milk production.

Dr Bashiru called by phone the Energy Minister Dr Kalemami who promised him to work on the frequent power cuts at the

factory construction site as well as provision of power at the ranch.

Dr Kalemami also promised to visit the area on February 5 this year.

Jossam Ntangeki, Kahama Fresh Limited Director told Dr Bashiru that the dairy factory, when fully operational will have the capacity to process 10,000 litres of milk per day - 5,000 litres would be produced from the farms owned by the firm and the rest by neighbouring livestock keepers, and that construction work will be completed in June this year.



Iringa district commissioner Richard Kasesela (R) has a word with Iringa district council director Himidi Njovu when inspecting the construction of classrooms at Umoja Primary School in Mtwivila ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

LAND O'LAKES

VENTURE 37

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR COMPETITORS FOR THE AGRESULTS TANZANIA DAIRY PRODUCTIVITY CHALLENGE PROJECT

On behalf of the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project, the Project Manager (PM) Land O'Lakes Venture 37 invites your organization to participate in a prize competition through which the Project aims to test Pay-for-Results mechanism approaches to scaling up innovative technologies, tools, and approaches to increase dairy productivity through the use of improved input. The competition will take place in the coastal region of Tanzania, and specifically the regions of Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga, and Morogoro (excluding Kilombero and Ulanga districts).

Land O'Lakes Venture 37 is calling for applications from potential Competitors who are established entities from the private, parastatal, and non-profit sectors to participate in the project.

The RFA outlines the competition background, objectives, and rules, and includes an application form. In submitting an application, your organization consents to the RFA terms, including the application procedures and instructions.

Please note the deadlines for receipt of the application, with all required signatures and certifications, is due no later than **1700 Hrs. ET on February 26, 2020**. Application documents must be submitted in one email to AgResultsTanzania@gmail.com or hand delivered to Veterinary Complex; 131 Nelson Mandela Road, Dar es Salaam. Please indicate **"Competitor RFA-AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Project"** in the subject line of the email or on the cover page.

The Project management team will review applications according to the criteria described herein. The applicants whose applications meet the selection criteria will be invited to participate in the competition.

We encourage you to submit an application and join us for a chance to win prizes and contribute to the development of a dairy sector in Tanzania. Should you have any questions or comments please direct them to NMrema@landolakes.org. We appreciate your timely response to this RFA and look forward to cooperating with you on this important project.

Get a copy of the RFA on below link:

[AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project Competitor Request for Applications https://agresults.org/news-and-blog/tanzania-dairy/10-blog/152-rfa-tanzania-dairy-competitors](https://agresults.org/news-and-blog/tanzania-dairy/10-blog/152-rfa-tanzania-dairy-competitors)



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
TANZANIA

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is a local non-government organization affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care organization that provides orphaned and destitute children with a permanent home and educational opportunities. Established 60 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International the umbrella organization, currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs the SOS Children's Village Programme which has two main arms, i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991, and implements its programs in the following locations Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Iringa. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania seeks to recruit suitably qualified candidates to fill the following vacant Positions.

Job Title: Executive Assistant to the National Director

Duty station: National Office (1 post)

Reporting to: National Director

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Serves as the National Director's administrative liaison to the Board of Trustees and manages Board activities, which include coordinating semi-annual board meetings and dinners, semi-annual board staff lunches/receptions/new board member orientations, arranging hotel accommodations for board members, processing travel reimbursement requests, compiling, assembling and distributing board meeting materials.
- Work closely with the National Director and SOS Tanzania Board through regular correspondence, arrange meetings and prepare briefing materials for the National Director
- Preparation, finalization and circulation of all board papers, notice and agenda item for each of the meetings including resolutions to be passed.
- Provision of administrative support in the delivery of assignments and initiatives on behalf of the National Director's office as and when required by the Board.
- Coordinates board committees (Finance, Programs, HR, Fundraising and Audit Committee meetings, maintain confidential files and contact information, coordinates meetings, conferences and committees to support the National Director's agenda.
- Ensure all board correspondence and relevant materials are produced in a timely and accurate manner.
- Coordination of departmental reports and documentation for the Board of Trustees meetings and other meetings with outside partners.
- To follow up on action points/recommendations from board meetings on behalf of the National Director for effective implementation. Assist with preparation of monthly/quarterly/annual Board of Trustees meetings.
- Support the National Director to prepare and distribute Board papers and ensure all Board papers are filed and kept up to date.
- To coordinate, attend and take minutes for National Director's meetings, board meetings and any other relevant meetings as per National Director's preference.
- Communicates directly and on behalf of the National Director with Board members, donors, stakeholders and others on matters related to programmatic initiatives as directed.
- Draft reports, letters of solicitation, proposals, prepares and coordinates oral and written communication with donors and board of trustees on behalf of the National Director.
- Maintain a daily file, create and maintain a 'bring up' system for National Director's office.
- Manage the National Director's diary, including booking appointments and meetings.
- Maintain the National Director's calendar/diary. This includes making appointments and responding to general inquiries. Manage messages on behalf of the National Director.
- Collating all correspondence from the other Departments to be presented to the National Director and later re-distributing the said correspondence and/or new assignments to the relevant Departments in a timely fashion.
- Perform full secretarial support including typing, reviewing letters, memos, reports and any other correspondence for the National Director's clearance
- At all times ensures that personal data of donors, sponsors, SOS beneficiaries and their families as well as SOS co-workers is handled confidentially and in accordance with prevailing SOS data protection laws

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent with Social Sciences / Secretarial and Office Management background and an interest in national and global issues.
- Strong organizational skills that reflect an ability to perform and prioritize multiple tasks with excellent attention to detail.
- 3-5 years providing support for upper-level management.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to build relationships with stakeholders, including staff, board members, external partners and donors.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Excellent organization skills and keen eye for details

Job Title: National Office Administrator

Duty station: National Office (1 post)

Reporting to: National Human Resource Coordinator

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Managing the day-to-day operations of the National Office.
- Assist the Senior Management in the matters pertaining the Boards of Trustees.
- Assisting management on the implementation of the Member Association strategies.
- Making travel and accommodation arrangements for the National Director, Board of Trustees and International Guests
- Assist the National Director in coordination and arrangements of meetings and conferences including Board of Trustees meetings, and a regular National Office staff meeting agenda and minutes; etc.
- Supervise office cleanliness and office space.
- Raising awareness of the principles of the SOS Child Protection Policy to all co-workers, stakeholders and SOS beneficiaries
- Responsible for managing the execution, direction and coordination of all transportation matters within National Office.
- Planning and organizing for cost effective vehicle repairs, and maintenance
- Ensure correct update of vehicles logbook particulars by the Drivers making right entries.
- Carry out preliminary investigations on transport related incidences and road accidents in view of managing risks and exposure.
- Ensure the requirements for vehicle safety, security, health, and work environment for passenger, staff and drivers are met.
- Fuel and mileage management; Monitor vehicle fueling, and usage by all authorized Drivers.
- Organizing schedules and routes to all vehicles within National Office.
- Ensure vehicles are safe and meet legal requirements and make sure drivers are aware of their roles.
- Allocating and recording resource and movement on the transport planning system.
- Communicating effectively with staff ,external guests and respond to their requirements.
- Ensure the necessary vehicle legislation requirements are up-to-date in accordance with the Traffic Act by facilitating renewal of vehicle Insurance covers, Government Inspections, and other road licenses.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Bachelor Degree in Business, Administration and other related field.
- Three (3) years working experience as Administrator or any related position
- Excellent knowledge of institutional mandates, policies and guidelines pertaining to transport operations and related matters.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including ability to operate effectively across organizational boundaries; ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and working relations in a multicultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

Job Title: Procurement and Logistics Officer

Duty station: National Office (1 post)

Reporting to: Financial Controller

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Developing an organization's purchasing strategy
- Identifying potential suppliers, visiting existing suppliers, building and maintaining good relationships with them.
- Estimate and establish cost parameters and budgets for purchases
- Prepare purchase orders and send copies to suppliers and to departments originating requests.
- Maintain and update a list of suppliers and their qualifications, delivery times, and potential future development
- Giving presentations about market analysis and possible growth;
- Review and analyze all vendors/suppliers, supply, and price options and make professional decisions in a fast-paced environment
- Determine if inventory quantities are sufficient for needs, ordering more materials when necessary.
- Track status of requisitions, contracts and orders and respond to customer and supplier inquiries about status, changes or cancellations.
- Prepare, maintain and review purchasing files, reports and price list.
- Calculate costs of orders and charges or forward invoices to appropriate accounts
- Monitor contract performance, recommending contract modifications when necessary.
- Able to uphold and respect procurement ethics and to conduct activities with integrity
- Monitor in house inventory movement and complete inventory transfer forms for bookkeeping purposes.
- Keep sound and adequate logistics records in connection with the bar codes.
- Ensure service and repairs of office equipments
- Keep accurate in terms of data and record management and insist good negotiation skills to fetch the best charges for the organization.
- Develop and execute tools and methodologies to enable effective implementation of logistic plans.
- Design and develop standard operating methods to manage logistics operations efficiently
- Coordinate logistics activities related to procurement, funding, substantive units and humanitarian affairs.
- Develop and execute logistics support policy, processes and methodologies to the general benefit of all mission units.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Bachelor's Degree in Procurement and Office supplies, Material Management, Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
- 3 to 4 years of progressively responsible experience in procurement and logistics.
- Knowledge on Logistics and Transport Management
- Be able to use effectively computerized integrated financial Management System
- Knowledge of organizational procurement procedures is highly desirable
- Supply Chain Management skills
- Analytical Skills
- Decision-making and Negotiating Skills

Job Title: Program Officer

Duty station: Kilolo (1 Post)

Reporting to: Program Manager

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Prepare weekly and monthly plans as per approved annual activity and budget plans
- Participate in preparation of annual activity and financial plans
- Support the families and communities in the assessment of root causes leading to adolescent challenges in communities through use of appropriate participatory tools.
- Support the development of an appropriate action plans to meet the needs of each household and adolescent girls participating in the program.
- Facilitate the identification of opportunities and mobilization of local resources appropriate for target groups.
- Take lead on preparation of individual family development plans.
- Facilitate the preparation of community development plans that promote men engagement, women participation and child protection.
- Support the Program Manager in the consolidation of Family Development Plans and preparation of budgets relevant to the attainment of program's goal.
- Facilitate the planning by ensuring gender balance in decision-making and in all program processes.
- Facilitate, timely implementation of activities from the approved annual plans and budgets
- Facilitate target group to have access to essential services required to fulfill their basic needs and rights
- Ensure engagement of range of stakeholders in executing and accomplishment of plans and activities
- Facilitate stakeholder analysis within and beyond the program, maintaining and updating stakeholders' profiles.
- Collaborate with community development structures, other NGOs and government departments for effective service delivery to program participants.
- Support functional sustainability of community based networks on adolescents' girls, mothers and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and other relevant development initiatives.
- Represent the program in gender, adolescent and child related forums.
- Identifying and linking target group to a range of opportunities for adolescent girls and mothers
- Facilitate participatory monitoring and evaluation of the program interventions.
- Facilitate regular data collection through appropriate monitoring tools on program interventions.
- Ensure program data base and statistics are updated regularly.
- Facilitate the regular counting of key program participants.
- Organize and facilitate regular project reviews with Community Family Development Planning Facilitators and other service providers.
- Carry out regular home visits to families on the program and write home visit reports.
- Carry out regular visits to CBOs if any, family support groups and other partners in the respective community for timely and relevant program support.
- Develop monthly good practice and success stories from outputs and outcomes of the project
- Facilitate sharing of best practice amongst family groups.
- Prepare and submit timely progress reports (weekly updates, monthly reports and quarterly reports) to the Program Manager on program interventions.
- Prepare and submit progress reports to the Program Manager for compilation to donor reporting
- Document family, child and adolescent success stories on program interventions.
- Ensuring that relevant community development structures have documented program processes.
- Ensuring that the database and files of target group on the program are timely and regularly maintained and updated
- Facilitate the preparations of the Development Plans with respective target group.
- Ensure all services, items and other support provided to target group and stakeholders are recorded and stored
- Ensure the financial resources are spent as intended
- Submission of signed distribution list to Finance on all program items received by participants in the community.
- Adherence to internal controls as outlined in the Finance manual, and other related documents.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Degree in Public Health, Youth Development, Gender, Community Development, Social Work, Sociology, social science, or related fields with specialized knowledge in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender, adolescent and youth development projects

- At least 3 years of working experience in relevant field, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender and young mothers and adolescent programming
- Well informed and experienced on donor funded projects with abundant skills in result based reporting and ; good basic knowledge of donor compliance
- Languages: Fluency in Chinese and English is required.
- Other Desirable Skills: Proficiency in current office software applications such Microsoft work. Excel, PowerPoint, graphics
- Positive attitude is necessary.
- Results-oriented, self-discipline and team spirit, and happy, able and experienced to work for and with young people
- Ability to drive motor cycle to ensure execution of activities, field visit and regular follow-ups of project activities.

Job Title: Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

Duty station: Mufindi (1 Post)

Reporting to: Program Manager

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Support all M & E initiatives for assigned grant(s)/project(s) including monitoring data quality, tracking the progress of results, and contributing to staff capacity building initiatives as necessary.
- Assist in making sure that Result Based Management (RBM) remains alive in the location by undertaking and facilitating M&E plan for SOS Children's Villages Tanzania and its partners, regular revising and updating performance questions, indicators, methods, reporting on time and analytical processes for each project component and for each level of objective hierarchy.
- Assist in making sure that Program Data Base (PDB) remain alive by supporting the program staff in the processes of entering valid, relevant and reliable data in PDB, reviewing the quality of existing project data, strengthen data collection methods, and the degree to which the existing data will provide good baseline information.
- Undertake regular visits to the field to support implementation of M&E and to identify where adaptations might be needed.
- Designing SOS Children's Villages Tanzania and its partners monitoring and evaluation tools. Analyzing the data from the field and assisting the Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator in writing the M&E reports
- Support project/program staff on ways to properly document, organize and capture Program progress.
- Build capacities and knowledge of program staff on Monitoring & Evaluation, development of frameworks to integrate M&E in Program/Project cycle, impact assessment and Learning and knowledge management.
- Support and participate in program and project evaluations and writing evaluation report with recommendations for decision making
- Ensure adherence to SOS Children's Villages Tanzania principles of Family Based Care and Family Strengthening approach & integrate Child Rights Monitoring and Evaluation principles and practices into the strategies and its implementation.
- Reviewing existing M&E and management information systems of SOS Children's Villages Tanzania and identifying where support is needed.
- Insure the documentation and presentation of lesson learnt and best practices to the program people, management, partners and stakeholders and put mechanisms to insure they are accommodated in our daily implementation SOS Tanzania program.
- Actively seek to understand problems and unexpected positive/negative impacts, discussing these with primary stakeholders at location level/ Facility Heads and senior management.
- Develop a plan for program-related capacity-building on M&E and for any computer-based system support that may be required and carry out capacity building of relevant staff especially in areas of M&E systems, and conduct quality circles checks in order to identify possible areas for improvement.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Degree in Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation or related fields with specialized knowledge in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender, adolescent and youth development projects
- At least 3 years of working experience in monitoring and evaluation of relevant fields, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender and young mothers and adolescent programming
- With ability to develop data collection tools and manage program data base in accuracy, relevance and validity manners,
- Well informed and experienced on donor funded projects with abundant skills in result based reporting and ; good basic knowledge of donor compliance
- Languages: Fluency in Chinese and English is required.
- Other Desirable Skills: Proficiency in current office software of data analysis applications
- Positive attitude is necessary.
- Results-oriented, self-discipline and team spirit, and happy, able and experienced to work for and with young people
- Ability to drive motor cycle to ensure execution of activities, field visit and regular follow-ups of project activities.

Nafasi Ya Kazi: Mama Msaidizi wa SOS Children's Villages

Kituo cha Kazi: Arusha (Nafasi Moja), Dar es Salaam (Nafasi Moja)na Mwanza (Nafasi Mbili)

Anaripoti Kwa : Mratibu wa Malezi Mbadala

Maiukumu ya kazi ya mama msaidizi.

- Kuhakikisha ustawi wa mtoto kupitia malezi
- Kujenga Mazingira ya Kusisimua na yenye Usalama na upendo ambayo yanamfanya kila mtoto awe na utulivu, furaha na uhuru wa kuelezea furaha au matatizo yake.
- Mama msaidizi ni kiongozi mkuu wa kaya, na anakuwa mfano wa kuigwa kwa watoto, kwa tabia yake nzuri, uvumilivu na kwa kuwaheshimu watu wengine na anaongoza kaya yake kulingana na kanuni za SOS na anaheshimu mchango wa wafanyakazi wengine kama vile Mkurugenzi wa Kijiji.
- Mama msaidizi ana wajibu kwa ajili ya usimamizi wa nyumba yake na shughuli muhimu ndani ya nyumba yake
- Mama msaidizi ana wajibu wa kuwajengea fursa watoto kuwa huru zaidi na kuwajibika.
- Kuendeleza familia kwa upendo, ulinzi, uaminifu na usalama kwa wototo atakaok-abidhiwa kwa muda wote.
- Kumjenga kila mtoto katika familia na kumsaidia katika ukuajai wa kiafya, kimwili, kiakili, kijamii, kiutamaduni na ustawi wa kiroho.
- Kuwa jengea uwezo wa kujitegemea na watoto wanaowajibika kwa jamii husika.

Sifa za Muombaji.

- Awe na elimu si chini ya Sekondari
- Awe hana majukumu makubwa ya kifamilia, asiwe na watoto wenye umri chini ya miaka 12
- Awe yuko tayari kuishi katika Kijiji cha SOS kama mama wa watoto wanaohitaji malezi.
- Uwezo wa kuongea kwa lugha ya Kiingereza ni sifa ya ziada.
- Kama hana cheti cha sekondari awe na cheti chochote cha malezi ya watoto au barua yoyote ambayo inamhibitisha kuwa amekuwa akijihusisha na malezi ya watoto wanaoafanana na hawa.
- Mama aliyemaliza kidato cha nne atapatiwa kipaumbele.

To apply for this position, send your application letter by email describing how your experience, qualifications and competencies make you the right candidate for this position. Enclose ONLY detailed and updated CV with telephone contacts, email address and details of at least 3 referees. Only contacted candidates for the interview will submit copies of academic, professional certificates and passport size photo. This advert can be obtained on our website <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.tanzania.or.tz>. Closing date is 12th January 2021. To apply please send to;

The National Director SOS Children's Villages Tanzania,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org

Please Note: SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and committed to keeping children safe from abuse and harm, therefore candidates applying for this post will be subject to child safeguarding recruitment procedures and checks.

- Only short listed candidates will be contacted

Kagera Region man in police hands over assault leading to the death of his own son

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

POLICE in Kagera Region have detained Amos Rudovick (39), an Ibale village resident in Kyerwa District for causing death of his child, Dastan Amos (13), after beating him with a stick on various parts of his body.

Kagera Regional Police Commander Revocatus Malimi said the incident happened January 2 this year after the deceased, a Standard IV student at Ibale Primary School left home for a walk without permission, and returned home at 3.00 pm.

"When the child was questioned by his father, he failed to provide acceptable answers, hence started beating him with a stick without mercy after which he went to bed to sleep. At around 9.00 pm they saw the child had not woken up and when they went to the room they found him dead," said the RPC.

He said an autopsy conducted showed that the child had his neck broken as well as the spine that caused his death.

The RPC further said the police were still investigating another incident in which Jesca Samson (37), a resident of Ruzinga village in Karagwe District died after she allegedly consumed rat's poison which she also gave to her son, Jordan Samson (3) to drink, but survived after he was rushed to the Designated District Nyakahanga Hospital.

"The deceased was in a family quarrel with her husband following his selling of their land without involving her, the issue of which reached the courts after

which the husband was arrested," he added.

He said after the quarrel the woman moved from the house to stay with her relatives, named Dotto Clemence and Evodia Mussa, and on December 31 last year they all moved to Kayanga town to celebrate New Year.

"New Year found them there but thereafter they returned home, and on the way she escaped and returned home quickly. After she arrived she and her son drank the poison," RPC Malimi added.

She said after her relatives arrived they found her still alive, hence they took the two to Nyakahanga Hospital where she died while receiving treatment.

The RPC said the decision of the woman to take her own life was made one day after her husband was released from prison where he was held for over three months.



New Year found them there but thereafter they returned home, and on the way she escaped and returned home quickly. After she arrived she and her son drank the poison



Tunduru District Council director Gasper Balyomi (L) pictured on Monday handing over a government motor vehicle to Tunduru Secondary School headmaster Limia Ausi for use by the school, as ordered by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. Photo: Correspondent Stevie Chindiye

DED hands over vehicle to Tunduru High School

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

TUNDURU District Council in Ruvuma Region has handed over a Toyota Land Cruiser with registration number STK 9472 to Tunduru High School as a fulfillment of an order issued by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Handing over the vehicle, the Executive Director of the council, Gasper Balyomi said that this was in line with the instructions given by the Prime Minister on January 2, this year when he inspected the progress of the renovation of the school.

The school is one of the oldest schools in Tanzania,

which was funded by the Fifth-Phase government to improve the teaching and learning environment.

Balyomi also promised to continue helping the school make major repairs as well as fueling the vehicle at all times when the school will find itself failing to have the funds to enable it to carry out its operations.

Tunduru District Administrative Secretary Richard Mbambe urged the school authorities to maintain and use the vehicle in accordance with the intended objectives.

School headmaster Limia Ausi said the school was previously

using an Isuzu vehicle with registration number STG 2743 issued by the ministry in 1983 and a Toyota Land Cruiser with registration number SM 3027 issued in 2012 by then executive director Ephraem Ole Nguayaine after receiving instructions from the then Permanent Secretary in the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Jumanne Sagini where all are damaged beyond repairs.

Limia explained that the school with Form Five and Six students has 682 students of whom 376 students in Form Five and Form Six are 306 and that the car is

a relief for and they will use it according to the goals.

He said the school has 37 staff members whereby 28 are employed; one (1) teacher is volunteering and nine (9) are non-teaching staff, who support the various school responsibilities at the school. But they are having a hard time when it comes to getting access to healthcare services whenever they fall sick.

School head boy, Abdalah Nuru commended the Prime Minister for working on their long-standing grievances and lauded Tunduru executive director for implementing the directive quickly.



Morogoro-based Moro Family group members pictured on Monday visiting the municipality's Rayah Islamic Centre at Bigwa village, where they donated an assortment of items. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge has directed all district councils in the region to make sure they plant fruit tree including cashew nuts, mangoes and grapes to push for economic growth.

Dr Mahenge remarks were given recently at the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) meeting.

He said it was essential for the district councils to mobilise the people to plant trees that have economic benefits.

"Even the existing farms should be supervised, 33 cashew nuts trees can be planted in one acre of land and can yield 40kg of the nuts, a very huge economic prospect, so we must tell our people to grab these opportunities," he said.

He also called on each council

Mobilise people to plant fruit trees, Dodoma RC directs district councils

to mobilise for the establishment of factories and the use of their products.

Kenneth Nollo, Bahi Member of Parliament said there have been challenges in regard to the grapes market, adding that apart from the government decision to remove levy charged on grapes dealers, many processing factories import grape powder from South Africa.

Peter Mavunde from Dodoma Region's Elders Council called on the region to have a strategy of advertising opportunities that exist in the grapes and wine industry to woo many investors.

Dodoma Acting Regional Administrative Secretary, Aziza

Mumba speaking on the region's agriculture situation said the region has a total of 4,131,000 hectares of arable land equivalent to 54 per cent of the entire area.

She said an estimated 1,161,575 hectares were under cultivation or 52 per cent of the total arable land area and 28 per cent of the entire area of Dodoma Region.

She also said the region had 50,457 hectares fit for irrigation farming but only 947 hectares were under irrigation.

The DAS further said food availability depends on its production in the respective areas, and added that its availability for region was good.

She also mentioned the region's food crop production targets for 2020/21 year by districts as including Bahi District (163,332 tonnes of food crops and 42,504 tonnes of cash crops).

Chemba District (182,641 tonnes of food crops and 160,260 tonnes of cash crops), Dodoma City (48,201 tonnes of food crops and 53,109 tonnes of cash crops); Kondo (142,641 tonnes of food crops and 63,111 tonnes of cash crops).

Kongwa (426,487 tonnes of food crops and 81,551 tonnes of cash crops) and Mpwapwa (175,849 tonnes of food crops and 8,060 tonnes of cash crops).

Resolve people's problems, Mwaluko urges researchers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Prime Minister's Office, Dorothy Mwaluko has urged researchers in the country to go on the ground and help find solutions to problems facing people, saying by so doing they contribute to social development of the country.

On the same note, she challenged them to work on issues affecting welfare of private sector employers, adding that there are several issues affecting them.

The PS argued that out of the about 60 million Tanzanians only 500,000 are employed in the public sector and the remaining are either in private sector or informal sectors, stating the need to conduct inquiries on their welfare.

"While the government is doing everything to support all citizens, other stakeholders like researchers can support the government efforts by doing more studies on issues affecting private sector employees," she said.

According to the PS public servants are almost sure of earning a living throughout employment period and after retirement unlike their private sector counterparts.

She made the remarks during an event to receive a report on the importance of education on retirement, planning and quality elder life, the PS applauded work done by researchers in the country.

The report titled, "The Importance of Education on Retirement Planning and Quality Elderly Life for Employees, Primary and Secondary Students in Tanzania" authored by a consultant Dr Mkumbo Mitula indicates that 98.3 percent of both primary and secondary school students interviewed are of the view that they need the education.

Some 88 percent of the students admitted that the education on retirement and planning for quality elderly life as taught to

them by the researcher was well understood to them.

Presenting the report to the office of the Prime Minister in Dodoma, Dr Mkumbo said the study was conducted for 21 months since April 2019 involving 120 interviewees, 60 being lecturers and other public servants and 60, being students.

He said the aim of the study was to identify education gap on retirement planning among public servants and students in the country.

He also observed that 95 percent of employees in the public sector feel that education on retirement to public servants is highly needed, a new study has shown.

It also states that 77 percent of those interviewed admitted not having got it, thus retirement education and planning for quality elderly life should be provided to public servants.

"The government always provides education on retirement to public servants who are about to retire but this study has shown that public servants need more than this, they want this education at the start of their employment, during the employment period and when they about to retire," he said.

He noted what the government is doing at the last minute help public servants to psychologically face and accept the new environment outside employment.

However, he noted that they need to do more than that, like planning for retirement life through different deeper approaches like psychological, health, education economic and social, which they cannot get in two days training or last just before retirement.

On the other hand, most students in the country who are future employees and retirees are not prepared to face life after school, having financial discipline on income and expenditure.

WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

What of the conmen selling muddy water as edible oil?

STRANGE reports are being heard from Arusha as to what happens when there is a shortage of a key commodity.

This time it is a case of racketeers selling muddy water in containers as edible oils ran scarce in the city. The victims bought containers with the edible oil colour and image while inside lay murky water.

As happened, until the public came to learn about it, quite a number of people had lost cash and otherwise suffered.

Obviously, the racket is unlikely to continue after shockwaves spread relating to how a number were conned at several retail shops. Still, it remains true that a crime has been committed and peace has been disturbed.

Many people are still seething with anger at this show of contempt and arrogance for the trust shown by buyers on persons vending edible oil, paying at face value while wrongly believing that it is oil - as only later did they discover that it has a worthless, even hazardous, waste liquid.

There were no immediate estimates of how many people would have fallen for this trick but given the number of retail shops and reports that containers looked somewhat scarce, it may have taken place at numerous points for a day or two.

At some point the matter went viral after initial hesitation as to reporting such incident for the shame attached to being conned as easily as that. Only when it is noticed for a number of people does it seem plausible to come out

and tell it all.

It appears that what the conmen were doing was too fill the 10-litre containers with muddy water and then add an amount of some oil on top so that if one opens the containers one may think if it oil, until one starts to use the stuff, as it quickly emerges that there is something disturbingly wrong with the contents.

Reports said the tricksters used to come to retail shops with the containers and pretend that they were employees who had stolen the oil from some genuine factory within the city, and were selling the liquid at a much lower price so as to dispose of it quickly.

Those who bought the stuff obviously had no idea that 'there is no free lunch' in life.

For one thing, the sellers of the foul liquid must have left a significant trail on their path as to who came to what shop with the containers, the sort of clothes they wore, their voices and at times even their phone numbers.

It is definitely likely that police will have a few leads to follow to apprehend at least some of them so that they name their accomplices in the reprehensible trade that turned members of the public into idiots.

That is the least police authorities can do on the matter, while other levels of authority sort out the cooking oil shortage and the means of procuring more supplies without the price shooting to the roof as was apparently the case already. It is a sorry tale whose end Arusha residents and the nation would like to see as soon as practicable.

A new era starts with Continental African Free Trade Area take-off

THIS New Year's Day was a moment for a landmark entry into force of the Continental African Free Trade Area, with all but one independent African state, Eritrea, signing the pact, while 33 have ratified it.

Tanzania has signed the pact while not rushing into the ratification of its tenets as they stand. As this is a trade pact between African countries rather than between Africa and the rest of the world, a more liberal environment has no acute overreach.

It is something like a snowball effect, of one thing pushing another, rather than something big pushing everyone at the same time, where easier entrance of goods into a major trading partner affects its trade relationship with nearby countries, on the basis of pre-existing trade arrangements.

For instance, it is well known that bitter trade disputes existed at a bilateral level between Kenya and South Africa but, depending on the state of ratification of CAFTA, trade will be somewhat eased.

Kenya will likely have ratified the pact while South Africa and Nigeria were hesitating, but they already signed on the document.

Closer to home, CAFTA adds up or widens the range of trade regimes that near and distant trade partners can use to bring goods here, or rather widens the sourcing of goods for local merchants or importers, checking with their chambers of commerce on the do's and don'ts of the new situation.

CAFTA adds to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) in spheres

of privileged trading relative to raw or rudimentary World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, where no prior privilege is provided but in regional blocs.

CAFTA is definitely an improved version of WTO, of which most countries are already members, but not quite like SADC or EAC.

That is where the need for fine-tuning in the trade environment comes up - namely, that goods aren't likely to be sourced from far away by the tonner but that, with a slightly easier trade pact existing, they are likely to flow more easily than before.

The past half a decade has seen South African and Kenyan supermarket chains closing shop for lack of business.

This had largely to do with their market strategies in the first place, but also against the background of taxation regimes that have to do with regional trade affinities, bilateral pacts. To a certain extent this situation is now being eased, as all of us will be part of an African bloc, largely

For those who support economic reforms, what is even more laudable about CAFTA is that it provides an external cushion to existing regional trade blocs, chiefly in engendering a different mechanism of trade liberalisation.

The CAFTA protocol is quite specific about free movement of people, trade and goods, whereas the East African Customs Union protocol enshrines moving goods more or less liberally, by tax margins agreed by Finance ministers each year.

In the light of the new trade instrument, this protocol will have to be more institutionalised so that changes in taxation will not disrupt CAFTA-based harmony.

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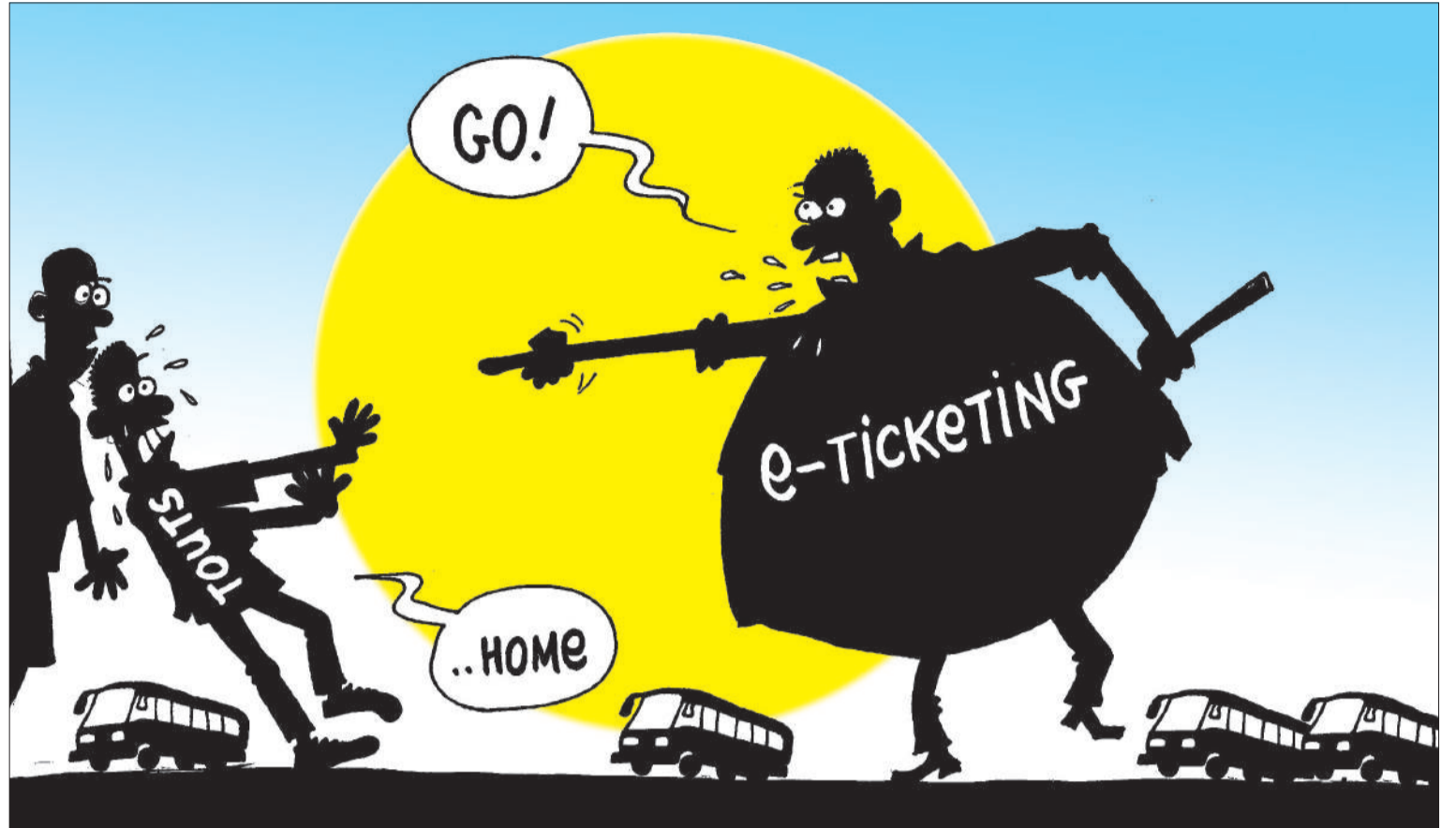
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Insecurity: Why the people must stand firm

By Special Correspondent

MY heart went out to the families of the boys who were kidnapped from Government Boys Science Secondary School, Kankara, Katsina State, when they were missing. During the time that their sons were in captivity, I cannot imagine how the Parents would have felt. I think that I can safely say without equivocation, that, apart from death, kidnapping/abduction of a child is one of the worst things that can happen to a family - not knowing the whereabouts or fate of your child who is in the hands of the most violent, vicious types of criminals (I call them criminals, because their actions have nothing to do with the teachings of Islam or any religion of the Book). I am sure you will all agree with me that, this has gone way beyond pontification, rhetorics, and debate on whether the President attends the National Assembly (NASS) to address the members on insecurity, or whether he was in Katsina when this ugly incident occurred and he didn't visit the Parents of the abductees etc. It is a matter for serious and immediate action. These days, in Nigeria, we have been moving from one negative and undesirable hashtag to another - #BringBackOurGirls, #LekkiShootings, and now, #BringBackOurBoys. What next? It is time for Government to respond meaningfully and impactfully, to our security challenges.

Apart from rescuing these children, going forward, what steps will Government take to ensure that children are safe while they are in school? Believe it or not, another incident of kidnapping has already been reported in Katsina State after #BringBackOurBoys; one in which about 88 girls were said to have been rescued from their abductors. Beefing up the security in all schools (especially up North) is a given, as children cannot just put a stop to their education.

Education is the key to the development of any society; but, these criminal elements are instilling fear into Parents with their concentrated and continuous attacks on educational institutions, in order to ensure that they keep their children out of school - something that would be tantamount to conceding defeat to those who senselessly say formal education is an abomination, if Parents and their children are scared away (of course, being scared away is a natural reaction - who wouldn't be afraid? With the kind of violence that Boko Haram has unleashed in the past and is still unleashing, most people would be fearsome). Already, Nigeria has one of the highest numbers of out-

of-school children in the world, and one of the biggest problems plaguing our country, is that too many of us are uneducated - it would be unfortunate, if more people quit school to avoid being Boko Haram targets.

The Constitution Section 1(1) & (3) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) (the Constitution) provides that the Constitution is supreme and binding on all in Nigeria, and that it prevails over any other law. Section 10 of the Constitution prohibits the adoption of any religion as a State or National Religion, whether Islam, Christianity, Ifism or Hinduism.

Then, Section 18 of the Constitution provides that Government shall promote science and technology, strive to eradicate illiteracy, and where practicable, provide free education up to tertiary level, and even a free adult literacy programme, while Section 38(1) guarantees our right to freedom of thought and religion.

The synopsis of a community reading of afore-mentioned constitutional provisions, is that Nigerians are free to practice any religion which they choose, and even change their religious beliefs; that education is a priority for all in Nigeria, as it is a fundamental objective and directive principle of State Policy; that religion does not play any role in State Policy; and therefore, even if any religion prohibits its devotees from acquiring an education, the provisions of the Constitution which promote formal education, shall prevail.

Islam and Education In reality, nothing in the Holy Quran or the Holy Bible prohibit education. However, the organisation, Jamaal-u-Ahli-Sunna-Linda-Awati Wal-Jihad - "the organisation committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and Jihad", aka Boko Haram (literal interpretation "Western Education is forbidden"), says otherwise, having misquoted and misinterpreted the words of the Holy Quran. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Islam promotes the quest for knowledge, and this is evidenced in the Hadith (the traditions and sayings of Prophet Muhammad [PBUH]). Some of the sayings of Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] in the Hadith are:

"Whoever follows a path to seek knowledge therein, God will make easy for him a path to Paradise"; "Education is not only the right, but the duty of every Muslim, male or female"; "The best gift from a father to his child, is education and upbringing". It is said that the first word of the Quran to be revealed was: 'Read'. I do not see any words in these particular quotations of

the Hadith, defining or qualifying this quest for knowledge, as only Islamic knowledge.

Two of the world's oldest Universities are Al Quaraouiyine, Fez, Morocco established in 859 by a woman, Fatima al-Fihri, with an associated Madrasa, and Al-Azhar which was built by Muslims in Cairo, Egypt and was first opened in 970. While Al Quaraouiyine concentrates on the Islamic religious and legal sciences, Arabic Grammar/linguistics and Maliki Law, Al-Azhar which was founded as a centre of Islamic education, expanded its scope in the 1960s to other disciplines like Medicine and Engineering. Both Universities, are open to male and female students.

So, where did Boko Haram get their own 'misrevelation' about education? Among other things, it seems that they received it from the group's contempt for Western education, which they see as one of the signs of the corruption that has pervaded our nation. They also believe that many aspects of Western education, are contrary to the teachings of Islam.

In Mohammed Abid Ali's Article "Islamic and Western Education Systems - Perceptions of Selected Educationists in Malaysia", Ali quotes Khan (1986) who stated thus: "The philosophy of Education determines the aims and objectives of Education. There are different philosophies of Education. Naturally there are different aims and objectives of Education (p. 4)". I concur. Ali goes on to say that "... it is natural that Islam should have a system of education which is different from the western system of education, which has its background either in Christian theology or secular approach". I also agree with Ali that "the West and Islam have quite different philosophies of life... ", and education systems are developed to suit the aim and objectives of the different nations and philosophies.

The sum and substance of this is that, the aims and objectives of Nigeria's educational system, I imagine, are to develop human potential in order to develop the country. This may not necessarily be in consonance with that of Islam, which according to Ali, "prepares man to assume the responsibilities of the highest creation of God and His vicegerent", that is, while the aims and objectives of western education may be worldly, that of Islamic education is obviously, heavenly.

And while I have no issue with either type of educational system, I can only conclude that Section 38 of the Constitution guarantees our right to have any type of education which we so desire, whether religious or formal; and that because Nigeria is officially

a secular nation à la Section 10 of the same Constitution, no one has the right to outlaw western/formal education - any attempt to do so as Boko Haram has sought to do, is unconstitutional. This is Federal Republic of Nigeria, not Islamic or Christian Republic of Nigeria.

Criticism from the Opposition Again, I snigger and marvel when members of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) shamelessly condemn this administration vis-a-vis their handling of the Boko Haram crisis. Did they not assist in solidifying the emergence of the killer group? Was it not under their administration that, in the year 2000, the then Governor of Zamfara State, Ahmad Yerima unconstitutionally adopted Islam as his State's religion contrary to Section 10 of the Constitution, followed suit by Governors of other Northern States? Was it not after that, that religion began to become more of a problem in this country and the slang "Islamisation of Nigeria" etc became the order of the day? Should Yerima's unconstitutional act not have been nipped in the bud? Was it not the then Governor of Borno State who was alleged to have given teeth to this deadly terrorist group for his own selfish political gain at the time? Granted those two Governors may not have been members of the PDP, but pray tell, what did the successive PDP administrations do to contain this situation then? So, while PDP's observations may not be out of turn, many wonder about their moral justification to make them, since they are an integral part of the problem, especially as half of APC were once PDP members.

Conclusion

Let us not be too distracted with debates amongst the different arms of government, and accusations and counter-accusations between the opposition and this present administration, and join them in shifting the blame between themselves - they have all failed and neglected to fulfill the primary purpose of Government - the security and welfare of the people (Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution). Instead, let us continue to mount legitimate and lawful pressure on this administration to fulfill its constitutional obligations to us, and secure our lives and property, especially those of our brothers and sisters in the North who are presently living under siege. Whether it is to change the leadership of the Armed forces, or restructure the Armed forces for better efficiency, or to seek external assistance if need be, it is unarguable that, Government needs to up the ante and step up to the plate, as far as security within the country is concerned.

By Gillian May

The various ways alcohol affects your mental health

I saw a Twitter thread recently asking people to comment on what they will give up this year to help their mental health. There were hundreds of answers, ranging from food items to toxic relationships.

The one thing I didn't see much of was booze. The people who did mention alcohol said that their mental health improved once they quit drinking. I found this to be the case for me, as well.

I'm almost four years sober, and I've suffered from depression, anxiety and alcohol issues most of my life. My father also suffered from the same thing but, unfortunately, he didn't make it. He was able to seek help for his depression, but he couldn't bring himself to quit drinking. And this eventually took his life.

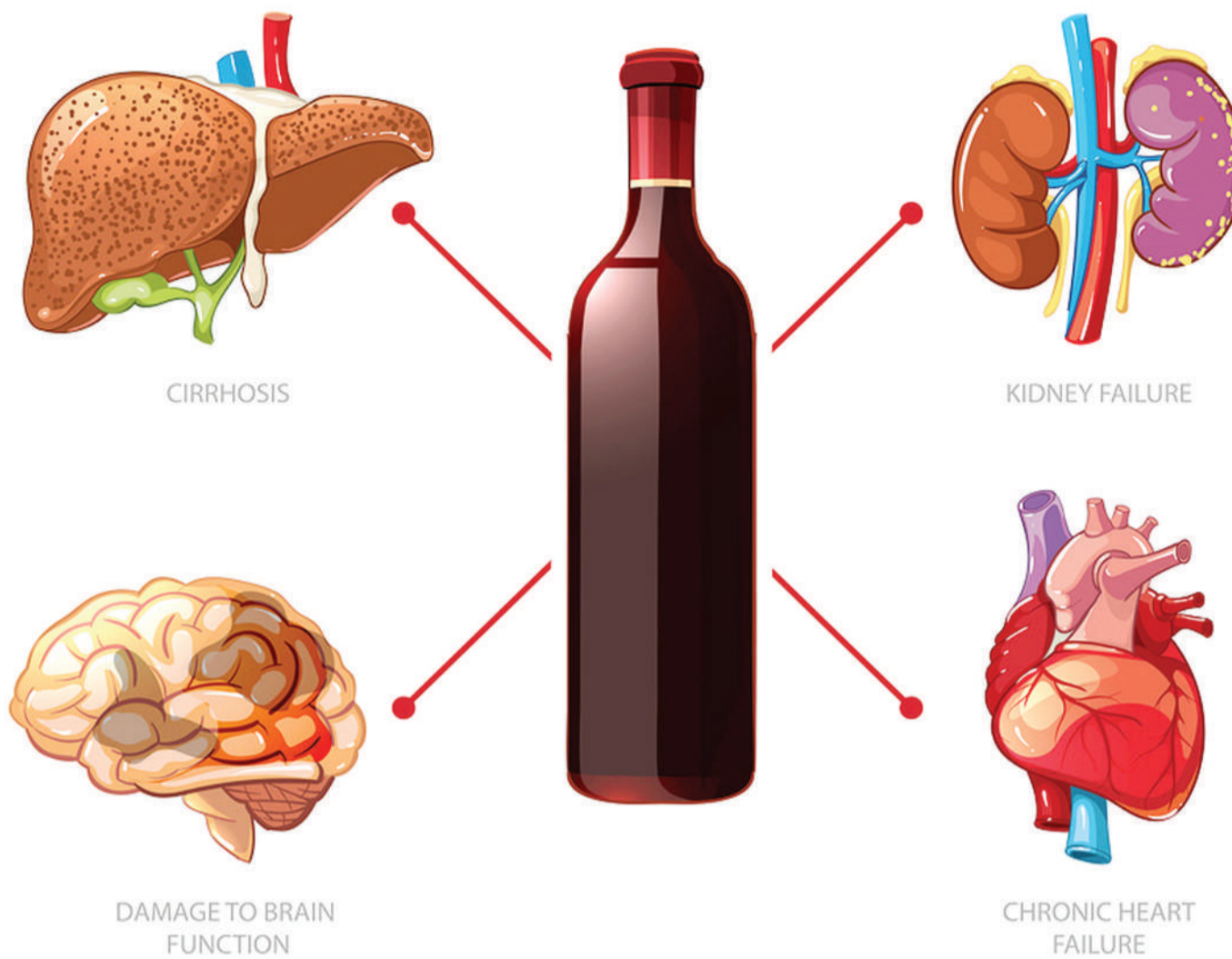
Alcohol was the single worst cause of my anxiety and depression. I knew this from both my personal experience and because I used to be a mental health nurse. The research is quite clear when it comes to alcohol and mental health - if you suffer from any type of mental health issue, alcohol will make it worse.

Within a month of quitting drinking, my anxiety and depression symptoms improved and not just a little - a lot. I was more relaxed, slept better, and didn't wake up anxious the way I usually did after drinking. I also seemed to digest food better and could gather my thoughts more rationally.

During my drinking binges, the worst anxiety I ever had was after I stopped drinking for a few days. And, of course, I knew why that was - the most common symptom of alcohol withdrawal is anxiety.

And even though I knew this as a nurse, I was addicted to alcohol, so I couldn't face it. It was my crutch, and horrible as it sounds, I preferred to stay sick rather than quit drinking. This was also the same reasoning that my father followed.

I suspect that this is a popular story amongst many who have mental health issues and who also drink



too much. We know that it doesn't help our physical or mental health, but we can't stop. More so, we can't really talk about it either because doing so would force us to reconsider our drinking habits.

Most of us with mental health issues choose alcohol because it relaxes us and seems to help our symptoms at first. Indeed, one or two drinks usually has a calming effect. The reason for this is that alcohol suppresses our nervous systems, which is why we initially feel good.

Unfortunately, once we have had a few drinks and then stop for the night, the nervous system rebounds from that calm state and snaps in the opposite direction. This is why we feel so damn anx-

ious when the alcohol starts to wear off.

It's important to know that even a few drinks can cause this challenging effect. Even more importantly, those who suffer from mental health issues are already known to have a sensitive nervous system.

This means that we're already prone to significant swings in our neurological synapses, so adding more irritating substances can have devastating effects.

The problem is that people with mental health issues already have a lot on their plate. Not only do we have to deal with our life-altering symptoms, but also we cope with stigma and judgment everywhere we turn.

And guess what else has a lot of stigma

attached to it? Alcohol addiction. So those of us with mental health and addiction issues can really find ourselves in a pickle. No matter which way we turn, someone is going to judge us for both our mental health and alcohol problems.

This is why most of us stay silent. And even if we begin to speak out about our mental health issues, we will usually maintain our silence about alcohol. After all, why would we tattle-tale on our favourite coping mechanism?

Unfortunately, this leads to worsening mental health and addiction symptoms. This was the case for me until I reached out for help and quit drinking. My father stayed silent, continued his drinking, and paid the ultimate price.

In the mental health system, we usually refer to people with both mental health and addiction issues as having concurrent disorders. The research shows that those with concurrent disorders are at higher risk of suicide, severe disability, and death.

However, the reason people stay silent about their alcohol issues is that they feel that it helps them cope with their mental health. But what if people knew more about the effects of alcohol and exactly why it makes their mental health worse?

Yes, many of us know that excessive drinking isn't good for us, but most of us don't understand why. More so, when you're already hanging by a thread owing to severe depression, you might need a damn good reason to give up the one thing you believe helps you, right?

The best we can do now is to talk about this more openly and with better information. As a former nurse and alcoholic, I'm committed to getting this info out there the best way I can.

Quitting drinking helped my nervous system find balance again. Only then could I address my depression and anxiety adequately. Alcohol only further confused my mental health and made it virtually impossible to find the root cause.

You should also know that if you take medication for depression or anxiety, alcohol will prevent it from working correctly. Alcohol interacts with most mental health prescriptions by blocking the body from metabolising it properly. Even more frightening is that adding alcohol with prescription medication causes severe stress to the liver.

If that's not bad enough, you should know that a stressed liver also causes problems in our nervous system, which may further our mental health problems.

So you can see that alcohol causes a vicious cycle that only feeds into worsening addiction and mental health issues.

If you're someone who drinks heavily and also has mental health problems, please talk to your doctor about it. Staying silent can have severe repercussions. I know it's hard to find non-judgmental help but, with a little perseverance, you'll find what you need.

You're not alone, and trust me, there is help out there. There are better ways to cope with - and relieve - the symptoms of mental health issues. But unfortunately, alcohol is not one of them.

A medium.com dispatch. Gillian May is a former nurse turned writer whose focus is on mental health, addictions and wellness.

Expensive drugs tested for impact on coronavirus's breath-stealing damage

By Roxanne Khamsi

ONE of the scariest elements of Covid-19 is that even among those who survive the disease, damage to the lungs can linger afterward, and it's unclear whether that tissue will fully recover with time.

The destruction caused by the virus that causes Covid-19 can be so severe that in some cases patients require a lung transplant to survive.

At the root of this potentially devastating scarring is a cellular process called fibrosis. That phenomenon occurs when cells produce collagen protein in response to injury, which clogs up tissue.

This can occur anywhere in the body and is even part of the normal healing process when, for example, a person accidentally trips and scrapes the knee. But with Covid-19, the body's fibrosis reaction might go overboard.

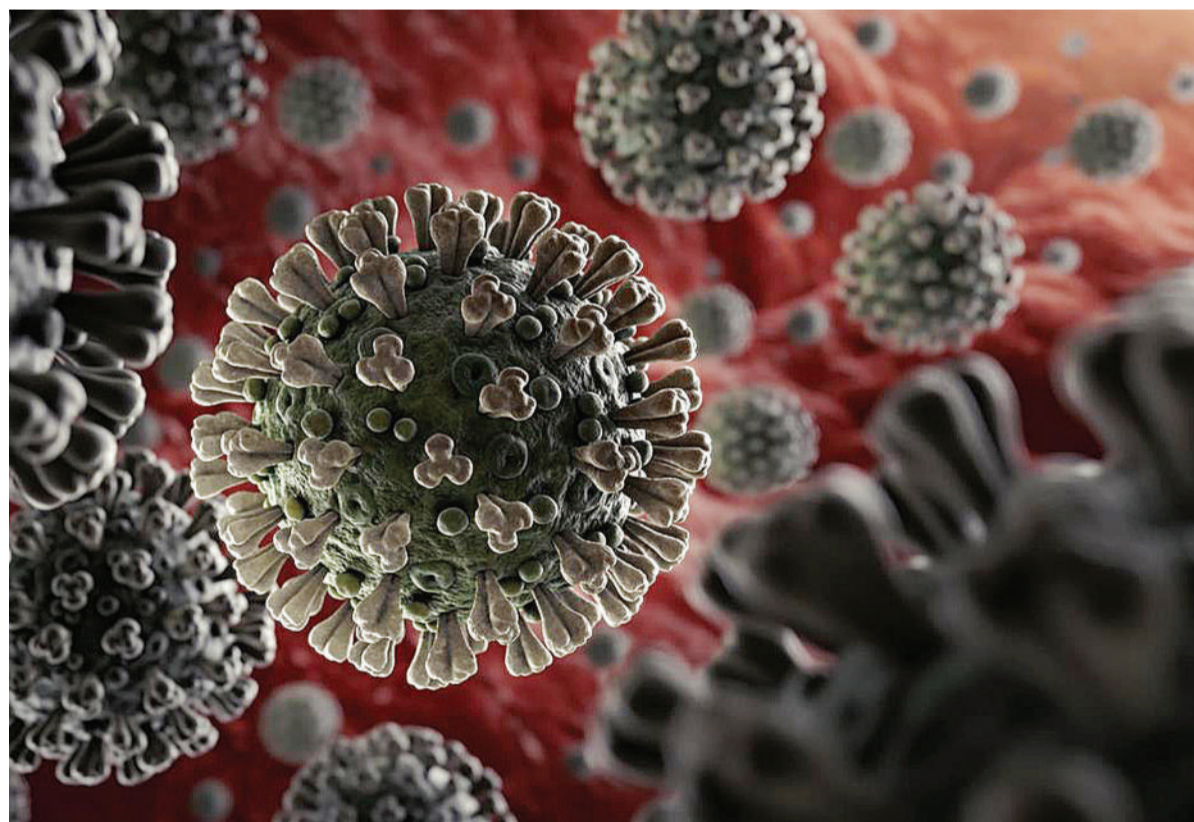
"It is very concerning because we haven't seen this degree of fibrosis in any other disease in the past, even with the original SARS," says Sachin Chaudhary, MD, director of the Interstitial Lung Disease Programme at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

"Personally I am seeing quite a lot of fibrosis post Covid-19, and the emerging data are quite a concern," says Gisli Jenkins, MD, PhD, a lung airway expert at the University of Nottingham, a public research university in the UK.

One study published last month showed that 65 per cent of Covid-19 patients discharged from hospital had some evidence of lung damage in scans three months later, but the prognosis is not certain.

Jenkins notes: "It's unknown if it will resolve and get better over time, stay the same, or in the worst-case scenario, turn into something like idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis," a disease of unknown cause in which lung scarring gets worse and worse with time.

"If even a small proportion progresses, then given the numbers of patients with Covid-19 then there will be a big



problem," adds the expert.

Steve Jones knows firsthand the seriousness of unchecked fibrosis in the lungs. He was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in 2008.

"I could no longer go hiking in the hills and even walking up slight ramps, like you have in shopping malls, became a real challenge," Jones recalls.

He says that daily living tasks such as showering and dressing became more and more difficult. Eventually, he needed supplementary oxygen to walk around the house.

"I would have died from respiratory failure but I was really lucky to be accepted for a lung transplant in 2016," says Jones, who is now president of the European Pulmonary Fibrosis Federation - which represents 21 patient

organisations.

There is recent evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, can damage the lining of the little air sacs in the lungs known as alveoli. If the body responds with fibrosis, the collagen that fills these parts of the organ might make it difficult for the body to absorb oxygen.

Moreover, Jones says that putting people on a ventilator can also damage the lungs and result in fibrosis in some cases.

A study published in late November last year examined the lung tissue from people with Covid-19 who required lung transplants and found remarkable similarities to end-stage pulmonary fibrosis. These included how messy and disordered the collagen structures that hold the tissue

together were.

The genetic signatures of the cells in these tissue samples from people with Covid-19 also "mapped almost perfectly onto those from patients with end-stage pulmonary fibrosis requiring transplant," says Scott Budinger, MD. He is chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (in Chicago) and one of the study's authors.

To treat or not to treat?

In recent years, the US Food and Drug Administration approved two drugs to treat lung fibrosis. These drugs, nintedanib and pirfenidone, were both originally developed as anticancer drugs.

The drugs can stop or slow the progression of scarring in

conditions such as idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Unfortunately, however, they cannot reverse the damage. There has been a continued search to find better treatments for lung fibrosis. Oddly, even a chemically modified version of the antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine - which failed in treating Covid-19 after a massive amount of hype - has been tested in rats as a possible treatment for lung fibrosis.

Nintedanib and pirfenidone are already in clinical trials involving Covid-19 patients, although no results have been reported yet. But Chaudhary cautions against the idea of treating a large number of Covid-19 patients prophylactically with these medications: Not only do they carry side-effects, such as bleeding, but they are also very expensive - costing around \$100,000 a year.

Chaudhary also stresses that viral infections of the lung often only cause temporary fibrosis that resolves with time. One 2005 study of people infected with the original SARS virus found that, a year after their illness, there was some mostly mild scarring in about one-third of individuals.

Chaudhary says that it's far more likely for experts to see lasting fibrosis in people owing to chronic environmental exposures, such as the lasting lung damage observed in coal miners.

This is akin to what happens with a chronic injury such as scraping the knee every day in the same place: the healing process starts to go haywire after chronic injury, leaving one with a scar. A similar process happens in the lung with repeated injury.

Also, some researchers have seen low rates of fibrosis in Covid-19. Emanuela Barisione, MD, of Italy's IRCCS San Martino Poly-clinic Hospital, says that some 5 per cent of the Covid-19 patients her team is studying had fibrosis at three months.

Yet, given the large numbers of people infected with SARS-CoV-2, there's still a lot of pressure to find drugs that might help treat or prevent scarring. Other drugs currently under study to see whether they might stem fibrosis in Covid-19 include the antibody drug pamrevlumab, which inhibits a protein in the body that encourages the growth of connective tissue.

The anti-inflammatory drug colchicine, which is being assessed in a clinical trial of Covid-19 patients, also has theoretical potential to stop fibrosis.

"A plethora of drugs are being tested in patients with severe Covid-19," Budinger says, further noting that some of these may reduce fibrosis by limiting the severity of the initial injury caused by the virus or by directly targeting the immune system's role in producing fibrosis.

There's even renewed hope that by better understanding the cells known as fibroblasts - which secrete collagen and drive scarring - it might one day be able to have drugs that undo tissue scarring.

But Budinger worries that the studies looking at current drugs' effects on Covid-19 might take too short a view on outcome, especially for something like fibrosis, which may only manifest as chronic or worsening over a longer period: "Because most of these trials focus on survival alone, I am concerned that we might miss a beneficial signal for some of these agents in Covid-19 survivors."

If the benefits of drugs on fibrosis are to be known, survivors of Covid-19 have to be followed and assessed long after they overcome the SARS-CoV-2 infection. No organ is as hard-hit by Covid-19 as the lungs, and so doctors say that it's crucial to keep an eye on Covid-19 patients' lung function far into the future.

• **An elemental.medium.com report. Roxanne Khamsi is a health writer.**

From earthquake recovery to coronavirus battle: A tale of Tibetan dance and African songs

BEIJING

As the temperature continues to drop on western China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, local school kids still look forward burningly to their recess for a dance. While in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo, artists are beating drums with fiery passion as if summer never ends.

Though geographically far apart, the two peoples, both of whom have a rhythmic soul and habitually resort to dance and music during hard times, have always extended a helping hand to each other, which makes a tale of friendship between China and Africa.

DANCE OF GRATITUDE

Cewang Pasang, a 20-year-old Tibetan girl, was still emotional when recalling the day when an earthquake hit her hometown, the Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China's Qinghai Province, 11 years ago. In April 2010, a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck Yushu. Cewang and her friends were safe, but had to spend freezing nights in tents with their school badly damaged from the disaster. "I felt like I've lost my home. I dreamt of reading on my own desk again," she said. Indeed, the school was not merely a place to get education, as it is more of a paradise for Cewang and her schoolmates, many of whom are orphans. While attend-



ing the Shanghai World Expo in 2010, Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo, expressed his country's willingness to rebuild a primary school in the quake-hit area, at whatever cost.

In July 2012, the restoration of Cewang's school was completed under the new name of the Sino-Congolese friendship primary school. "Although our economic

capacity is limited, we should extend help," said Basile Ikoube, then-foreign minister of the Republic of the Congo at the ceremony to celebrate the completion of the construction. Despite pouring rains, Cewang put on her Tibetan robe and performed with her friends the Tibetan circle dance, representing the highest tribute of her culture, in front of the African guests. For her, the

dance was the hidden language of gratitude. "I was not the best dancer. But I tried to dance in the best way I could as a way to say thanks," said Cewang.

SONG OF ENCOURAGEMENT
Ten years after the earthquake, the COVID-19 pandemic is ravaging the world.

In February 2020, when China was battling hard against the virus, Pointe-Noire, the second

largest city in the African country, donated 10,000 medical protective masks to their sister city Suzhou in eastern China. "We are convinced that you will come out as a winner," read a letter written by the Congolese mayor Jean Francois Kando. When the African country is faced with challenges, China did not hesitate to reach out. On May 23, a 12-member Chinese medical expert team arrived in Brazzaville to reinforce the country's fight against the pandemic.

Inspired by the joint battle against the coronavirus, Moukila Ngalipe Tessia Harmanie, a Congolese singer, made a song with Babingui Tambour, a local drum band. "The Congolese love music. Music is a byword for us. Our life would be impossible without music," the singer said. Under the name of "Congo China, hand in hand," their song tells a story of solidarity. "We've got medicines from China to help us battle the virus. What can we musicians do to thank China? We composed this song. Let's go hand in hand and prevail over the virus together," Zoubakela Destin, head of the tambour band, said in Chinese.

NEW CHAPTER

As the year 2020 just came to an end, China and Africa are

seeing a new starting point in their relations. With the first rays of sunshine in 2021, after months of COVID-19 delays, the African continent on Friday started trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. Amid growing expectations towards continental integration, analysts say the AfCFTA implementation is expected to further tap business opportunities China is enjoying with Africa.

On Monday, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi embarks on his official visits to Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Botswana, Tanzania and Seychelles, continuing a long-standing tradition of choosing Africa as the destination of Chinese foreign ministers' first overseas tour each year since 1991. As observers expected a brighter future for China-Africa relations, the story of the Tibetan kids and Congolese artists is also to be continued for the next chapter. "I long to visit the mysterious African country one day, maybe a backpack trip when I'm in college," said Cewang. Destin, who has been passionate about the Chinese culture since middle school, now wishes to perform under China's spotlight. "I can't wait to bring my tambour to China," he added.

XINHUA

NEW YORK

Several experts in New York have tapped their wisdom and mulled ideas in efforts to help the largest city in the United States to recover from the 10-month-long COVID-19 and re-emerge from the economic and psychological impacts of the pandemic, New York Daily News reported on Sunday.

RECOVERY PLAN

An expert has called on NYC to set up a comprehensive plan, positively respond to economic crisis together with health emergency and help communities play a bigger role in the fight against the coronavirus, so that the city can recover from the pandemic better and stronger. "The key to recovery from any disaster is to quickly unify around a recovery plan," said Kathryn Wylde, president and CEO of the Partnership for New York City, a non-profit organization that works with the city's business leaders, government, labor and the civic sector to make a better New York. "We have not done that, in some ways because the disaster is ongoing. Part of that is a leadership problem. Part of that is the nature of the disaster," she added.

Wylde has seen the city rebound before. From her front-row seat as president and CEO of the Partnership for New York City, she watched the five boroughs recover from a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 and the superstorm Hurricane Sandy that wreaked havoc on the city in 2012. The city has responded admirably to the health emergency, but has left it largely up to others to respond to the economic crisis, which, in the long run, might not be so bad, according to Wylde. "These groups are finding out that they basically have to figure out the solution themselves," she explained. "Leaders are going to come together and turn their solutions into public policy. I've been doing that anecdotally, connecting these grass roots initiatives. I think it's going to become the new way to approach problem solving instead of calling 311 and waiting for a government agency to come and fix their problem."

Wylde also said New Yorkers have become overly dependent on local government to solve their problems. "In the 70s the government was broke and had nothing to offer but to get out of the way," Wylde said. "Communities had to

Experts contribute ideas for NYC to revive from COVID-19 pandemic



figure it out and solve their own problems. I really do think that same phenomenon is going to take place as a result of this experience."

FLEXIBILITY, CASH GRANT

Another expert has called on the owners of the eateries and nightlife venues in NYC to have more flexibility, together with cash grant from government, in their efforts to make their businesses recover from the pandemic. Even before the coronavirus crisis, it was challenging to operate a successful eatery or nightlife venue in NYC; innovation and creativity have kept a lot of places from closing their doors, and what they need now is flexibility, said Andrew Rigie, executive director of the New York City Hospitality Alliance, which represents nightclub and restaurant owners. "So much more must be done to give these business owners a fighting chance of survival," Rigie said. "It's not enough to sing the praises of small business. We need concrete action."

Among the ideas Rigie is

putting on the menu is a cash grant to restaurants that would be drawn from the sales tax they generate. The businesses would reinvest the money to help pay staff or the cost of retrofitting their restaurants to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. "It's a quick way for local government to get cash into the pockets of business owners," he said. Rigie would also like to see some action to stop what he said is the exploitation of restaurants by third-party delivery apps like GrubHub and Uber Eats. Those companies should be transparent with the public about the fees, at least 20 percent to 30 percent for each order, that they are charging the restaurants.

He is also urging congressional lawmakers to get behind the RESTAURANTS Act, which would provide 120 billion U.S. dollars in relief through a grant program administered by the Treasury Department. "The biggest challenge for the restaurant industry is the rent," Rigie said. "New York City will not recover unless our restaurants and nightlife are at the core of the recovery."

A third expert has urged NYC to tap more potential from remote learning and adeptly consider model changing in order to better survive the COVID-19 pandemic to re-emerge strong and resilient. Dennis Walcott, president of the Queens Public Library, underlined the need to make remote learning more inclusive by increasing access to computers and Wi-Fi in underserved communities. Not only is that a necessary component to getting education back on track in the city, but it's also a business opportunity for local entrepreneurial tech firms to cash in on, he said. "That's exactly where the synergy comes in," Walcott said. "You have people who are totally knowledgeable in this area who can come in. That type of mentality creates opportunity for entrepreneurs. People have that entrepreneurial spirit inside of them."

Walcott wore a lot of different hats before he became president of the Queens Public Library. He was the city's schools chancellor, a deputy mayor, and president of the

New York Urban League, jobs that inform his ideas about how to move the city forward. Walcott has another business philosophy: If the business model isn't working, change the model. For a restaurant owner forced to close her kitchen, or an out-of-work chef looking to start out on his own, Walcott said the opportunity might come in the form of a food truck or cart.

"People can come up and get their local meals," Walcott said. "You can have that throughout various neighborhoods. There's always a need. I've always been surprised by the lack of service skills in the neighborhoods."

Walcott also said that incentives must be created to tap into neighborhood potential. But, again, he said, it's about the mindset, and changing the model.

"We have to start to pivot mentally in terms of what our potential is," Walcott said. "The more businesses we have going in, the more tax revenue we can generate to make the city a richer place." The goal should not be to get back to where the

city was, and the goal should be to make the city even better, he said.

"I'm always the eternal optimist," Walcott said. "We can't let the city go down the drain. Even if people are leaving the city, there's a whole wealth of people with talents to tap into."

PANDEMIC UNABATED

NYC's COVID-19 test positivity rate on a seven-day average reached 9.08 percent, compared with 9.39 percent one day earlier, Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted on Sunday. The rate was announced on Jan. 1 to top 9 percent, on Dec. 31 to top 8 percent and on Dec. 27 to top 7 percent. It topped 3 percent in late November, which was believed by the city government to signify the arrival of a second wave of the coronavirus, and has remained above the level ever since.

Meanwhile, the mayor said on Sunday that there were 213 new hospitalizations and 3,885 new cases of the coronavirus in the city, adding that "Double down on what works this week -- avoid large gatherings, keep six feet apart and wear that mask." On Saturday, de Blasio tweeted to promote 42 pictures posted by the Mayor's Office under the title of "2020-NYC The Year In Photos," at least 12 of which are about fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. "In 2020, our city faced some of the hardest, darkest, and most challenging moments in our history. But we also saw incredible moments of bravery, compassion, and hope. These are the Photos of the Year," wrote the mayor. "In 2020, New York City faced some of the most difficult moments in our history. We lost our loved ones, our livelihoods, and our way of life. But during the darkest of times, we also saw tremendous bravery, incredible compassion, and hope. These are the photos of the year," the mayor's office said in the preface of the collection.

As of Sunday afternoon, the coronavirus deaths added up to 25,244 and confirmed cases to 439,921 in NYC, according to The City, a project that tracks the spread of confirmed COVID-19 infections and fatalities in New York City, based on information provided by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the governor's office, The COVID Tracking Project and the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

AGENCIES

Embrace responsible parenting to curb child labour, parents urged

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo recently in Geita

AUTHORITIES in Geita Region have called upon the public to embrace responsible parenting to reduce child labor.

Geita town council executive director Eng Modest Apolinary made the call in Geita recently while narrating on strategies used by his town to curb the vice.

Eng. Apolinary said child labor relates to street children adding that the vice is a global issue as is the case in his region where the problem is rampant due to mining activities in the area.

Asked on measures taken to curb the vice in his region, the town director said they had been using a local radio in the area to address the vice.

"We have been using a radio program at Storm FM where a community welfare officer has been going on a weekly basis to sensitise the community on child labor and responsible parenting. Our concern has been with streets in Nyakabale where parents send children to steal gold in the mine. This is very risky as some drown in pools with some injured during the practice," said Eng. Apolinary.

According to the Town Director, the radio campaign has helped as the number of beggars and street children has gone down.

For his part, Maulid Mrisho, 14 Kamarage street chairperson said in the past, the problem was prevalent with children as young as 13 who had completed their standard seven education engaging in labour especially in charcoal and mining

business where parents used them as breadwinners in the family.

"Most parents said they were forced to send children to work because they were too poor to pay for their children to go to school. I advised them to form groups where they got loans from the municipal council and eventually managed to establish business for them to sustain and send their children back to school," said Mrisho.

Mrisho mentions Storm FM as a great partner in the street saying there is no community problem that has gone without their attention saying he has used them to address land conflicts, security and safety issues in his street as well as to address conflict between peasants and pastoralists.

Storm FM has been enjoying support from UNESCO under its SDC project.

The station is located in Geita, a region endowed with the precious stones, a situation that has at times seen children abscond school to earn a quick income for the family.

In Tanzania, the Employment and Labor Relations Act, 2004 prohibits employment of a child under the age of fourteen years. It further prohibits employment of a child under the age of eighteen years in a mine, factory, as a crew in a ship, or any other work site including non-formal settings and agriculture where work conditions may be considered hazardous by the Minister.

However, the law permits employment of a child of fourteen years in light work which is not likely to be harmful to the child's health and development and does not prejudice the child's attendance at school, vocational orientation or a training programme.



CCM secretary general Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa (3rd-L) accompanied is taken around a livestock farm in Karagwe District on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Eliud Rwechungura

Construction progress of Misungwi district hospital impresses minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

STATE minister in the President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government Selemani Jafo has commended the ongoing construction of the Misungwi District Hospital, pledging to raise more funds to complete building the facility.

Jafo made the remarks when he inspected the progress of the hospital construction that will cost more than 2bn / -. The construction of the facility will include an administrative building, maternal

ward, radiation building, OPD, laboratory, laundry building, and sewerage system, and ICT system where 462,855 people are expected to benefit from the healthcare services that are to be provided.

He said the work is well supervised and the completion of the building will benefit the residents in the district "and as government, we'll do what is possible so that the money comes in and the construction continues."

"The building is good and the work has been done properly. What I see here is co-operation

and that's why these buildings are looking good," he said.

Mwanza Regional Commissioner, John Mongella said: "We'll ensure that construction of this hospital and all developmental projects are implemented in line with CCM manifesto."

Acting Misungwi District Medical Officer Raymond Nyasebwa said the construction of the hospital was aimed at strengthening and improving health services for the people of the district and its neighbors, for the financial year 2019/2020 they received 500m/-

from the central government for of the vice.

He said construction of two laboratories and an Outpatient Department (OPD) buildings started on June 11, last year and Misungwi District Council is implementing the project using a "Force account" whereby 156 people have benefited from temporary employment and poverty reduction.

Dr Nyasebwa said that the facility, which is to start offering services next month is in need of 636 staff. Currently, the hospital has 473 staff.



Dodoma district commissioner Josephat Maganga addresses traders yesterday on a decision to move them from outside Dodoma city's Majengo market. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

TSB picks Dutch firm for adding value to sisal crop

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanzania

TANZANIA Sisal Board (TSB) search for sponsors from within and outside the country to assist in adding value to the sisal crop to enable it compete in the world market has started to bear fruit.

Dutch firm, Grosso Sisal has entered into contract with TSB aimed at increasing

sisal production, purchase of modern sisal processing plants to cost more than USD 6 million.

Speaking about the investment, TSB Managing Director Sady Kambona said the only way of implementing the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa's directive was to look for investors to come in and add value to the crop.

"In order we attain 120,000 tonnes of sisal by 2025, we have

already got one investor and we believe we will do well. 2020/25 CCM Election Manifest calls for increase of sisal production from 36,000 tonnes currently produced to 80,000 tonnes.

He added: "The step will not only enable us to boost production, but also to produce high quality fibre to satisfy both the local and foreign markets."

TSB Chairman Mariam Nkhumbi said the investor has

come at an opportune time as the Board was being faced with dilapidated infrastructure including lack of modern sisal processing plants.

For his part, Grosso Sisal Managing Director Nuradin Othman said they have been attracted on how Tanzania's soil is able to produce huge quantities of sisal and believed that the procurement of modern processing plants will enable

production of high quality sisal fibre at international standards.

Apart from making various products including ropes, sisal is also used for making alcoholic drinks, animals' feed and gas.

According to the new arrangement the cinema gets 50 per cent of the revenue whereas 40 per cent goes to filmmaker and 10 per cent is retained by the film board.

TCCIA introduces cashew as new cash crop in Dodoma

By Correspondent Valentine Ofora, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industrial and Agriculture (TCCIA) is set to establish a large cashew plantation in Chemba District, Dodoma Region.

The Chamber has already acquired 20,000 acres of land in the district for the commercial cultivation of cash crop which is currently grown mainly in the southern and coastal regions of the country.

TCCIA regional director for Dodoma, Idd Senge told The Guardian in an interview yesterday that the initiative is partly to correspond to the government's call for promoting of cashew in other regions the country with conducive climate for the cash crop whose nuts are one of the top forex earners for Tanzania.

According to him, the project is being implemented by the Chamber through its subsidiary company, TCCIA CODE in partnership with Dodoma-based N & N Trade Company.

He added that added that apart from cashew, the plan is also to cultivate sunflower as well as cassava in the region.

"As key stakeholders in supporting the government to stimulate economic growth, we have decided to adopt cultivation of cashew crop which will soon become a new cash crop in our region," he expressed.

Moreover, he added if all goes well, the project will also incorporate installation of ultra-modern cassava processing plant with the capacity to process cassava chips for local consumption and later export.

Establishment of the cashew farm will become the second in Dodoma region after the one in Kongwa District which is under the ownership of a group of farmers.

Statistically, Tanzania is currently producing 315,000 tonnes of cashewnuts in a year, which is very low compared to the country's potential which can reach millions of tonnes.

To change the poor record, the government has in recent years launched a special programme which among others, includes to identify and set aside chunks of lands in all regions where the crop flourishes, the target being to produce at least 1 million tonnes by 2025.

So far, already 20 regions have been selected for the major cashew production.

China-Africa cooperation prospers against Covid-19

The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 since the beginning of 2020 has severely affected economic and social development of countries around the world, and disrupted international cooperation as well. Looking at comments on China-Africa cooperation at the end of last year, we can find out that most were positive, but there were indeed negative tones about such cooperation.

These comments fall into five categories, including the argument that China-Africa trade has gone through a free fall, the prediction that China's investment and financing to African countries will continue declining and never rebound, the pessimism about the future of China-Africa cooperation, the exaggeration of the return of Chinese people back home, and the accusation of environmental pollution by Chinese projects in Africa. These arguments and reports seem to be convincing, but in fact are alarmist and lacking in evidence. So what is the truth?

China and Africa have maintained dynamic economic and trade cooperation. China has contributed to Africa's economic growth by over 20% for consecutive years. Despite a gloomy picture of the global market, China-Africa trade was approaching US\$180 billion in 2020. Although it is lower than US\$208.7 billion of 2019, in comparison with other countries, China will remain the biggest trading partner of African countries for the 12th year in a row.

China has opened its door wider to African products. Over 400 African businesses from more than 40 African countries have attended the China International Import Expo (CIIE) for the past three editions, where the Zambian blueber-



ries and Tanzanian soybeans have been imported for the first time to China.

The Ethiopian coffee, Zambian honey, and Beninese cashew nuts were very popular at the third CIIE. The 3000 packages of coffee from Rwanda that had been difficult to sell due to the pandemic were sold out in a short while on line by Chinese consumers. China has also decided to offer financial support to the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), in order to promote a more balanced and diversified China-Africa cooperation.

China and Africa have continued investment and financing cooperation. Investment and financing cooperation is part and parcel of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation. On the one hand, due to the pandemic, all countries face the downward pressure of their economy while China's financing in Africa faces the same difficulty. However, such a decline will not be irreversible. With the easing of the pandemic in the world,

China's financing in Africa will rebound again.

On the other hand, China's investment in Africa was steady in 2020, with direct investment reaching US\$3 billion, which was not easy at all. In June 2020, the Lekki Deep Sea Port Project in Nigeria was launched, having received over US\$1 billion investment from Chinese business through public-private partnership (PPP).

The project will significantly boost the transportation capacity and competitiveness of West Africa, and create a large number of jobs for the local people. Chinese businesses have also invested US\$680 million in the form of build-operate-transfer (BOT) in the JKIA-Westlands Expressway project in Kenya. Currently, the project is well under way in spite of the pandemic, and is expected to be completed beforehand in 2021. All these projects are undertaken through the new models of China-Africa investment and financing cooperation, striving for a new and high-quality China-Africa cooperation. China has

also signed debt suspension agreements with 14 African countries within the framework of G20, and has decided to forgive interest-free government loans that are due to mature by the end of 2020 for 15 African countries, ranking the first among G20 members in terms of deferral amount.

China and Africa have kept the momentum of practical cooperation. The Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 was held in June 2020, making China the only major country that convened a summit with countries across Africa in 2020. China has provided rounds of high-demand supplies to all African countries and the African Union to help them combat COVID-19, and African countries have also been firm in their support to China's efforts on fighting against the pandemic.

We have demonstrated China-Africa solidarity in times of difficulty. The "Belt and Road" initiative is very popular in Africa, with 44 African countries and the AU

Commission having signed the Belt and Road cooperation documents that have entered into such agreements with China globally.

The Chinese government and the AU Commission have recently signed the cooperation plan on jointly promoting the construction of the Belt and Road initiative. The 14th Senior Officials Meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was successfully held recently.

China and African countries have implemented over 70% of the outcomes of the FOCAC Beijing Summit, with priority shifted to the areas of public health, economic recovery and people's livelihood. China-Africa cooperation on digital economy has seen fast growth, with South Africa's mobile operator and China's Huawei jointly issuing the first 5G commercial network in Africa.

TikTok has become the fastest growing social application in South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria. In the first half of 2020, the newly contracted projects undertaken by the Chinese businesses in Africa totaled US\$29.1 billion in value, a year-on-year increase of 33%.

The freight volume of Mombasa-Nairobi Railway and Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, which were constructed by Chinese businesses, was also on the rise despite the difficulties. China is the only major economy that achieved positive growth in 2020, and is accelerating the building of a new development paradigm with domestic and international economic circulations reinforcing each other. The pie of China-Africa practical cooperation will surely grow bigger.

China-Africa people-to-people exchanges have overcome hardships and remain steady. Given the

severity of the pandemic, countries around the world have tightened their border control, thus making people-to-people exchanges more difficult.

Nonetheless, over 1100 Chinese cooperation projects have maintained operation in Africa, and a large number of Chinese technicians and workers held on to their positions in Africa. Bearing in mind Africa's development and wellbeing of its people, China has sent thousands of employees of Chinese businesses back to Africa by commercial and temporary chartered flights.

They are the most beautiful bridge connecting the hearts of the Chinese and African people. China has also sent medical expert teams of 184 people to 15 African countries.

Nearly 1000 medical staff from 40 plus resident Chinese medical teams have chosen to stay in Africa to help African people go through the difficult time. In the second half of 2020, events like China-Africa Youth Gathering, China-Africa Think tank Forum and China-Africa Private Sector Cooperation Forum have been successively held, strongly promoting China-Africa friendship. Certain media and think tanks have spread the news that a large number of Chinese are leaving Africa, which is out of ulterior motives. With the Chinese Spring Festival arriving soon, it is common and understandable for the Chinese people to travel back home for reunion with their families, which is just like westerners going home for Christmas.

More importantly, many of the Chinese returning to China still have their businesses in Africa. As Africa has become their second hometown, they will surely come back to Africa after the festival.

Xinhua

Brexit's choice for EU, UK: Firm friends or nearby rivals

BRUSSELS

The New Year could finally bring a fresh start and a commitment to let bygones be bygones for Britain and the European Union. But don't bet on it. The U.K. has chosen to leave the EU, setting a course away from the continental mainland.

But the two sides' histories have been too intertwined for 1,000 years for the split to be simple. Eleven months after Britain's formal departure from the EU, Brexit becomes a fact of daily life on Friday, once a transition period ends and the U.K. fully leaves the world's most powerful trading bloc. But customs controls, red tape and the residue of bile caused by years of acrimonious divorce talks may provide the sting – not the thrill – of the new.

And despite the 4½-year extraction process, loose ends will sur-



face for months, even years, to come. "For one reason or another, the U.K. is likely to be in non-stop negotiations with the EU for decade after decade," said Charles Grant of the Center for European Reform think-tank. Brexit marks the end of

an awkward relationship. Britain joined the then-European Economic Community in 1973, but never fully embraced the bloc's project of ever-closer integration. The EU was born out of the ashes of World War II and its

delusional, destructive nationalism. As a nation victorious in two world wars and with lingering memories of its imperial past, Britain viewed the pan-European project much differently than, for example, Germany. Still, actually leaving the bloc was long a fringe idea before it gradually gained strength within Britain's Conservative Party. In a 2016 referendum, voters – striking a blow against the status quo – opted by a narrow 52% to 48% to leave.

That political shock is still reverberating. It took 3½ years for the split to happen last Jan. 31 and another 11 months of fractious wrangling to agree on a trade deal. Sealed on Christmas Eve, it satisfies major demands on both sides. It protects the EU market by making tariff-free

trade conditional on Britain continuing to meet high social, workplace and environmental standards.

It allows Britain to claim it regained "sovereignty" because it is no longer part of EU structures like the European Court of Justice. U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson called it "a new starting point for our relationship between sovereign equals." The EU begs to differ.

It considers itself the superior partner, a bloc of 450 million consumers, carried by economic juggernauts like Germany and France, while Britain is a nation of 67 million. It believes the brunt of Brexit's pain will be borne by the U.K.

"We are one of the giants," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. "From a position of strength you can achieve a lot." For British Brexiteers, the blow from erecting new trade barriers is compensated by visions of regained freedom and – a crucial word – "sovereignty." So far, Johnson has given only glimpses of what he plans to do with that sovereignty: forge trade deals around the world, be more competitive through "smarter and better regulation," expand the high-tech sector.

From a member of the EU, Britain will become its economic rival. The EU is wary of Britain's potential to seek an edge by slashing standards and becoming a low-tax "Singapore on Thames" on its doorstep.

That's why the Brexit deal contains "level playing field" restrictions on how far the U.K. can diverge without punishment. Britain may soon bristle against those restraints.

Further tensions, spats and negotiations loom in the future. And the agreement is to be reviewed every five years, reviving a debate that many had hoped would fade. "If you thought this was going to be a one-hit wonder ... then you will be disappointed," said Catherine Barnard, professor of EU law at Cambridge University.

Trust is already in short supply, and recent events gave a taste of what can happen. Much U.K.-EU goods trade goes across the English Channel, and when France decided to stop all crossings on Dec.

20 in response to a fast-spreading new COVID-19 variant identified in England, it created traffic chaos that took days to unsnarl, even after Paris lifted the blockade.

Britain's tabloid press perceived French ill-intent, accusing Paris of trying to force Britain into a Brexit trade deal. French President Emmanuel Macron became "Monsieur Roadblock" giving Britain, in keeping with the Christmas theme, a "kick in the baubles." France denied the border closure was related to Brexit.

But Macron's office issued a statement this week saying that "France will be very vigilant from Day 1" in case Britain "disregards its commitments" under the agreement. While Johnson sets Britain out on a solo course, most EU leaders see cooperation as ever more vital, especially with a pandemic ravaging the world and the United States and China ready to squeeze European nations out of the diplomatic game.

"We should cut through the soundbites and ask ourselves what sovereignty actually means," said von der Leyen. "It is about pooling our strength and speaking together in a world full of great powers."

And in a time of crisis, it is about pulling each other up instead of trying to get back to your feet alone." Brexit has already destabilized the U.K. itself. It has boosted support for independence in Scotland, which voted strongly to remain in the EU in 2016.

Northern Ireland, which shares a border with EU member Ireland, remains economically closer to the bloc than the rest of the U.K. under the departure terms, a status that could push it away from Britain. EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, a European Unionist and Frenchman to the core, sees tough times ahead for Britain.

Barnier said that "when you see today's world, a dangerous, unstable and unjust world, I definitely think that it is better to be together, with our neighbors in a union, a single market, than everyone being in their own corner, with their own interests."

AGENCIES

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 166 00--

WORD-FIT

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

3 LETTERS: SEE, LIT, GET
 4 LETTERS: BACK, UEFA, CAFE, RAGE, EBON, SOON, IDEM
 5 LETTERS: ABODE, AGAIN, LASSO, ELECT, NDAMA,
 6 LETTERS: ELITES, ADHERE, STAGER, PLUNGE, TABOOS
 7 LETTERS: ALLOWED
 8 LETTERS: LEGALESE
 10 LETTERS: BOUNDARIES

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

1 a native of the south
 5 a large perching bird with mostly black plumage
 7 bear native to bamboo forests in China
 8 Kathmandu is the Capital city
 10 the ship built by Noah
 11 Latin from Greek Khorea
 13 break with a sharp cracking sound
 15 accept
 17 movements of hands when you talk
 19 a person who uses something
 20 feel doubt

Down:

1 ill
 2 formal term for on
 3 not imagined or supposed
 4 tolerate
 6 put on clothes
 7 canal connects the pacific ocean and Atlantic ocean
 9 medium for communications
 12 trout
 14 stone in Greek
 16a diving waterbird with a long neck
 17a weapon with bullets
 18 join fasten

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT: FIRE, MARK, KEIT, OVER, LARGE, MODERN, PET, FAMILIAR, SKY, ACCO, OMBRE, MARK, AST, DE, OCCO, UNTS, E, UN, MI, WARA, I

CROSSWORD: 1 SOUTH, 2 ON, 3 SUPPOSED, 4 TOLERATE, 5 BUNTING, 6 CLOTHES, 7 BAMBOO, 8 KATHMANDU, 9 TELEPHONE, 10 ARK, 11 KHOREAN, 12 TROUT, 13 CRACK, 14 STONE, 15 ACCEPT, 16A GREBE, 17B RIFLE, 18 ZIPPER, 19 USER, 20 DOUBT

BUSINESS

DISMISSAL

Blow for middlemen as court backs 50kg potato packaging

NAIROBI

Packaging of potatoes will remain capped at 50 kilogramme at the farm-gate after the High Court ruled, offering relief to farmers exploited by middlemen over the years.

A group of 17 traders had moved to court seeking to quash a 2014 directive by the Agriculture Food Authority (AFA) that potatoes only be packaged in bags not exceeding 50kg, terming it unconstitutional since they were allegedly never consulted. They also wanted the court to issue an order stopping the police from arresting and prosecuting them on the basis of having potatoes packed in gunny bags exceeding the limit.

Led by Mr Julius Mutiga, the traders had urged court to bar government from implementing Section 42 of the Agriculture Fisheries and Food Authority Act, 2013, which makes it illegal to package potatoes in bags of over 50 kilogrammes.

But justice Weldon Korir said in issuing the directive AFA was simply restating the law and therefore the directive was valid. He added that the case had been overtaken by events after coming into force of the Crops (Irish Potato) Regulations, 2019 which replaced the disputed directive.

Justice Korir cited regulation 19(1) & (2) which provides that 'the unit of measurement of all Irish potatoes shall

be the kilogramme. Section (2) states "the maximum weight for each single unit of package of Irish potatoes shall be 50 kilogrammes."

AFA told the court that the disputed directive was issued to curb exploitation of farmers by middlemen who did not adhere to the measurement requirements leading to huge price differences of up to 1000 percent as a result of usage of extended bags of 130-260 kilogrammes.

It added that the directive was guided by international best practice including the International Labour Organization's Convention No.128 of 1967 which recommended a maximum weight of 50 kilogrammes for crop packaging.

The court heard that the recommendation was adopted by Kenya in 2012 through Kenya Bureau of Standards/East African Standard. Further, that the Convention in any case form part of the laws of Kenya by virtue of Article 2(5) & (6) of the Constitution.

The traders had argued that the directive had caused them suffering and losses stemming from harassment by county governments and the police. They also claimed that buyers were refusing to purchase potatoes in the smaller sacks. However, the Ministry of Agriculture said the claim was far-fetched as the farmers have the liberty to adjust prices in line with the size of the package.



Potato farmers package their produce in bags for sale at Mau Narok in Nakuru on April 2020.

CENSURE

Mtatiro warns rogue pastoralists of consequences for 'invading' farms



Tunduru district commissioner Julius Mtatiro.

By Beatrice Philemon

PASTORALISTS grazing their livestock in farms and forest reserve areas in Tunduru District will face consequences including prosecution with possible jail terms if convicted.

Tunduru District Commissioner, Julius Mtatiro said over the phone earlier this week that he is aware of the major challenges facing farmers and conservationists in the district because of an influx

of livestock from other districts in Ruvuma Region.

"As a district, we still have a major challenge with an influx of herds of cattle encroaching on farms and forest reserves which is causing conflicts with farmers but also contributing to environmental degradation," Mtatiro said.

He said his administration appreciates the importance which both farmers and pastoralists play in the food chain of Tunduru but said people have a responsibility to respect rules and regulations.

"It is very important for livestock keepers to follow the law, guidelines and directives issued by the district and village governments," the DC noted.

He emphasized that Tunduru has enough room to accommodate both farmers and livestock keepers but warned against herds of cattle arriving almost daily from neighbouring districts and regions where degradation has already caused droughts.

"Livestock keepers will remain in our district because everyone

has the right to live freely here but we will ensure that animals graze on farms," he vowed while stressing that encroachment of farms by livestock also threatens peace and security in the district.

In Namakambale Ward where livestock encroachment is rampant, district officials have already issued fourteen days to herders grazing their animals in forest reserve to leave such areas of face legal action which include confiscation of their animals.

Speaking on behalf of Songambele and Namakambale residents, Songambele Village Chairman, Saidi Makale said that the order was issued on December 30 last year by district officials following complaints from farmers and villagers.

"We have asked them to leave because they graze their animals on people's farms and inside the village forest reserve which has damaged crops and the environment," Makale said noting that the pastoralists have already destroyed paddy rice fields and cassava farms in the area.

"What these livestock keepers are doing is unacceptable because our families are now facing a threat of hunger due to destroyed crops," he alerted saying that the villagers have also raised the matter with Deputy Minister of Livestock and Fisheries last year. Songolewa Forest Reserve has a total of 10,217.1 hectares of land.

WIRED

NMB e-commerce campaign boosts customer purchases by 50 per cent

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc has recorded a 50-percent increase in the number of customers using digital banking platforms following its campaigns dubbed 'MastaBata Sio Kikawaida' and 'NMB Friday' which allows customers to win prizes.

The campaign is aimed at encouraging and motivating customers to use NMB MasterCard when paying for goods or services through Point of Sales, QR Code or Internet purchase commonly known as e-commerce and it will run for three months.

Speaking during the weekly draw to award winners yesterday, NMB Senior Manager for Cards Operations and Finance, Lupia Matta said the two campaigns have contributed about 50-percent of the customers' use of e-commerce.

During the draw, 40 customers walked away with a 100,000/- each as rewards for using the platforms. "Customers are now getting used to using NMB MasterCard when paying for goods or services through Point of Sales, QR Code or Internet



An NMB Bank Plc MasterCard.

purchase," Matta said.

He said the NMB Friday draw offers a 15-percent discount to prices for sellers who are the bank's business partners countrywide. More than 200m/- worth of prizes are to be won in the three month's promotion.

In the three months of the promotion, there will be weekly draws that will see 40 lucky winners every week walk away with

TZS 100,000/- each. Monthly winners where 12 lucky customers will be walking away with brand new Samsung Galaxy Note 20 phones. The grand finale will witness 12 customers win an all-inclusive trip for two to Serengeti, Ngorongoro or Zanzibar.

Winners of the trip can choose to be accompanied by their spouses or friends and the trips will be fully paid by NMB Bank for 3 days

stay in a five-star Hotel. The same winners' will also be given an option of deciding between the Safari or a range of prizes from Smart TV set to fridges.

NMB Bank is the first bank in Tanzania to issue a secured EMV (Chip and Pin) MasterCard with contactless technology and pioneered the largest roll out of contactless MasterCard payment cards in Tanzania to date.

BACKPEDALLING

Alibaba shares slide as Jack Ma stays away from public eye

BEIJING

The year 2020 was a bumper one for many listed tech titans. However it hasn't been all rosy for billionaire Jack Ma's companies.

The anti-monopoly investigation launched by Chinese regulators into Alibaba Group last month, and the absence of the billionaire founder from the public realm over the last two months, since the collapse of Ant Group's initial public offering, are casting a shadow on the performance of the e-commerce giant's shares.

Alibaba Group's stock price dropped 2.15 per cent in Monday trading in Hong Kong to close at

HK\$227.6 (\$29.35), as investors grew increasingly nervous over regulatory hurdles. The e-commerce company's share price has fallen by a quarter from its peak since the start of the investigation, according to financial services provider Century Financial.

"However, what is important from Alibaba's perspective is China's newly enacted laws and regulations regarding its monopolistic behaviour," said Yogesh Khairajani, a global market strategist at Century Financial.

"The country's policymakers are concerned and view the company as too big as well as risky. Only clarity regarding the policy can remove the current bearishness in the stock." But he added that Alibaba "is still

the best play on Chinese consumers' and will always be on investors' radar once there is more certainty regarding the country's policy.

Even though investors are shying away from Alibaba's stock, that could change as the company's valuations are cheap when compared to its Western peers, Mr Khairajani said. "And it is generally expected that China will not damage the fortunes of its biggest corporate success story."

Alibaba and payments giant Ant Group are facing antitrust scrutiny and questions over risks to financial stability. The unravelling of Ant's \$35 billion IPO in November set in motion a string of decrees regulating

China's technology sector. Stephen Innes, chief global market strategist at Axi, said Mr Ma was instructed to remain in China during the probe by mainland regulators.

"This continues to weigh on Alibaba stocks as Chinese regulators are concerned about technology companies getting too powerful and venturing into financial services, where their monopolistic tendencies can squeeze out banks from a lower fees perspective. Banks do not possess the means or wherewithal to compete with tech sector behemoths."

In a rare move, Mr Ma in October said China's financial system was "stifling" tech innovation. He has since edged away from the public lime-

light since the Ant IPO collapsed. "When the chief executive becomes AWOL, investors do not think that is a good sign," said Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at Avatrade.

"In these difficult times, we need assurance from the chief executive that he has what it takes to pull the company out of this mess and steer the business in the right direction. The fact that we have not heard anything from Jack Ma isn't helping the stock or providing any assurance to investors."

Investors are also worried that the anti-trust scrutiny and tighter regulations will spread beyond Mr Ma's internet empire to other powerful tech companies such as Tencent

Holdings and JD.com. "Investors are shying away from large China tech in favour of smaller tech [firms] that might sneak in through the side door providing tech services that the large tech might not be allowed to complete," added Mr Innes.

Regulators have asked FinTech giant Ant Group to revamp its business model and return to its original business as a payment services provider. The group is reportedly planning to form a holding company to house its wealth management, consumer lending, insurance and payments services as well as MYbank. Under such a structure, Ant's businesses would likely be subject to more capital restrictions.

EFFICIENCY

Shanta Gold completes gold forward sales commitments

By Guardian Reporter

IN a rare feat, East Africa focused gold producer, Shanta Gold Limited has completed all gold forward sales commitments by end last month.

In a statement, Shanta Gold CEO, Eric Zurrin said it has settled all outstanding gold forward sale commitments and thus leaving the London Stock Exchange listed company unhedged.

"With all forward gold sales commitments settled, Shanta will now receive the full benefit of today's strong gold price environment. As a result, we look forward to significantly improved free cash generation heading into 2021," Zurrin said.

He said as of early 2020, the company had sold forward 40,000 ounces to January 2021 at an average price of US\$1,244 / oz. "The forward sales were a



Shanta Gold CEO, Eric Zurrin.

condition of its senior lending facility," the CEO said. In December 2020, Shanta Gold delivered 1,900 oz into the hedge book and settled the final

outstanding 840 oz from operating cash flow.

Meanwhile Shanta Gold Limited has announced the appointment of Yuri

Dobrotin as Group Exploration Manager effective January 1, 2021. Dobrotin who is a global expert in gold exploration with 35 years of experience, joined Shanta from Barrick Gold where he was a Senior District Geologist in Tanzania.

In a recent statement, the company said Dobrotin was also previously Geology Manager at Acacia Mining's Kenyan operations where he was directly involved in the discovery of the high grade West Kenya Project, acquired by Shanta Gold in 2020.

Commenting on Dobrotin's appointment, Zurrin said, "Yuri brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from many of the great gold deposits globally. He was a key member of the discovery team at

the West Kenya Project and joins Shanta at an exciting time with the company owning 2,300 km2 of highly prospective exploration properties in Tanzania and Kenya."

Dobrotin who is Canadian and Australian dual national with first-hand involvement in exploration projects and discoveries of numerous one million plus ounces of gold deposits globally, which have developed into producing mines.

"Exploration is expected to be the primary driver for delivering shareholder value in the coming years," Zurrin added while adding that Dobrotin is also a practicing member of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario, Canada since 2002.

INNOVATION

Nigerian tycoon Tony Elumelu's start-up capital competition starts

By Guardian Reporter

ENTREPRENEURS with scalable business ideas have another chance to apply for mentorship and seed capital from the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF).

Run by Nigerian philanthropist Tony Elumelu, the foundation has opened its application portal for African entrepreneurs for three-months ending March 31. This year the TEF is targeting over 3,000 instead of the usual 1,000 small and medium enterprises as part of its covid-19 recovery plan.

"We know that with TEF's tried and tested Programme, we can execute the largest Covid-19 economic recovery plan for African SMEs and break the cycle of poverty in Africa," said TEF chief executive Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu in a statement.

Selected entrepreneurs get a 12-week online training on managing enterprises, mentorship on transforming business at its early stages, a seed capital of Sh500,000 (\$5,000) and networking opportunities. This is the seventh edition of the TEF's 10-year \$100 million commitment to identify, train, mentor and fund 10,000 African entrepreneurs by 2024.

Normally, the TEF selects 1,000 entrepreneurs based on idea viability, including marketability, entrepreneur's financial understanding as well as leadership and demonstrable entrepreneurial skills. This year, the Foundation will open applications to an additional 2,400 young entrepreneurs which will be done in collaboration with global partners.

Applicants must be above 18 years, operate businesses between idea stage and three years, their enterprises be for profit and based in Africa. Since its unveiling in 2015, the TEF has supported hundreds of entrepreneurs in Kenya who are among thousands of alumni already growing their businesses and improving lives.

The Programme is the \$100 million commitment by African investor and philanthropist, Tony O. Elumelu to empower 10,000 entrepreneurs in 10 years, with the goal of creating millions of jobs and new revenue on the continent.

It seeks to implement Mr Elumelu's Africapitalism philosophy, which positions the private sector as the catalyst for African economic transformation, and an investment approach that values the creation of both social and economic wealth. The Programme has to date empowered over 9,000 beneficiaries from all 54 African countries, with training, mentorship and seed funding.



TEF chief executive Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu.

TECH SAVVY

Safaricom, NCBA win cashless matatu fares platform contract



Fibre Space Limited's founder, Mwakio Ngale, demonstrates to President Uhuru Kenyatta last year how a matatu e-ticket works.

NAIROBI

Safaricom is among a group of lenders and IT companies that have been licensed to offer cashless payments in Public Service Vehicles (PSVs), setting the stage for the ban of use of cash in public transport.

In a notice, National Safety and Transport Authority (NTSA) said the licensed 29 companies will offer a platform for cashless fare payment service. This was in response to a June 16, 2020 tender where NTSA sought tech companies to install mobile software and web applications

for the nearly 200,000 matatus in the country. The digital fare collection system will also have the technical capability to contact trace passengers in the fight against the coronavirus disease.

Once the system is in place, all passengers will be required to pay their fares via mobile money platforms, giving the government access to their identities and personal contact information that is needed to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, which has disrupted lives worldwide. Other top firms permitted to offer the cashless

fare system are Craft Silicon (behind taxi-hailing App-Little), Jambopay, Cellulant (a pan-African payments gateway firm), KCB Bank Kenya, and CBA Bank now NCBA.

An earlier cashless fare payment platform fronted by the government, and which was launched in November 2014, flopped following strong opposition from matatu operators who felt that it was a ploy to monitor their daily earnings for taxation measures. The digital payment system required passengers to get pre-paid cards or use mobile money

for payment of fares in PSVs.

At the time, the stated interest of the government was to eliminate criminal cartels that had infiltrated the PSV industry and to provide the taxman with a platform to track incomes in a sector that grosses more than Sh420 billion annually. The digital fare collection system was also expected to curb employee fraud by matatu crew because it would have allowed owners to track payments in real time.

The money collected was to be remitted in a bank account, making it easier for

vehicle owners to access loans. Technology firms and banks had come up with products to support the PSV e-ticketing system with their eyes on the one percent processing fee, currently estimated at Sh4 billion annually.

The firms included Safaricom, which declared a "partnership" interest in My 1963 commuter card with Mwakio Ngale, a Nairobi-based techie through his IT firm Fibre Spac. Now, another pressing need for the cashless payment platform has emerged in the form of contact-tracing amid the Covid-19

DEVALUATION

Botswana sets currency to lose value faster in 2021

GABORONE

Botswana has set its pula currency to lose value at a faster rate this year, a senior official said Monday, as it seeks to boost export competitiveness after the COVID-19 pandemic has had a deep impact on

diamond sales that are central to its economy. In the biggest shift for many years, the government has set the pula to lose 2.87% this year from 1.51% in 2020.

Already in 2020, the rate marked a big change from previous years when the adjustment was less than

one percent. Botswana uses a crawling band exchange rate regime under which the pula is pegged to a basket of currencies, including the South African rand.

Its value is adjusted upwards or downwards at the beginning of each year using a rate of crawl that

factors in the inflation differential between Botswana and major trading partners. The currency basket was kept at 45% to the rand and 55% to the IMF's special drawing right currencies. "The downward rate of crawl reflects the need to contribute to the easing of real monetary con-

ditions, while supporting domestic industry's competitiveness, in the absence of significant inflationary pressures in the economy," Wilfred Mandlebe, permanent secretary in the ministry of finance and economic development, said in a statement. International diamond sales,

which make up 80% of Botswana's exports, had just begun to recover from a weak 2019 when the COVID-19 pandemic knocked them back again. They dropped 42% to \$1.49 billion in the first nine months of 2020 versus a year ago and production fell 29% to 12.3 million carats.

ACTIVISM

Google employees vote to form trade union, in 'historic' move

SAN FRANCISCO

Workers at Google and other Alphabet-owned companies voted to form a union aligned to the Communications Workers of America to protect workers' rights and "promote solidarity, democracy and social and economic justice."

The new union, named Alphabet Workers Union, will be open to all employees and contractors, including temporary employees, at any Alphabet company. It will have dues-paying members, an elected board of directors and paid organising staff, the workers' union said on Monday.

"This is historic—the first union at a major tech company by and for all tech workers," said Dylan Baker, a software engineer at the company. "We will elect representatives democratically, we will pay dues, and we will hire skilled organisers to ensure all workers at Google know they can work with us if they actually want to see their company reflect their values."

Alphabet, which has more than 120,000 workers, is responsible for vast parts of the internet, including the Search, Maps and Gmail tools owned by Google and the Android mobile operating platform used by millions of people around the world. Other subsidiaries include the Waymo self-driving platform, Verily, Fitbit, and Wing.

"I joined because Alphabet wields disproportionate power ... and is not incentivised to use it in the most responsible way," Greg Edelman, software engineer at Google, said. "I want to see Alpha-

bet act as ethically as possible. The union offers a way to influence Alphabet's culture in the name of ethics," he said.

The company has witnessed a number of skirmishes between employees and management in recent months. Many employees have expressed discontent over the hefty package Alphabet's chief executive Sundar Pichai takes home.

Last month, the company fired leading artificial intelligence researcher Dr Timnit Gebru, who had raised criticisms about structural bias in some of the language used to develop AI. Her dismissal caused outrage among thousands of employees. In January last year, a group of nearly 2,300 cafeteria employees working across Google offices in the San Francisco Bay area unionised after complaining they were underpaid and overworked.

"We've always worked hard to create a supportive and rewarding workplace for our workforce," Kara Silverstein, director of people operations at Google, said in a statement. "Of course, our employees have protected labour rights that we support. But as we've always done, we will continue engaging directly with all our employees," she added.

The unionisation of its workforce comes at a difficult time in the history of the 22-year-old technology company, which has also become embroiled in several anti-trust probes initiated by both US and foreign regulators. "We are glad to welcome the Alphabet Workers Union as members," CWA



Laurence Berland addresses Google employees about how the company put him on administrative leave during a rally in San Francisco in November.

local president Don Tremontozzi, said.

"We are a democratic, member-driven union, with experience building and sustaining worker power at some of America's largest corporations. This is a historic step towards making lasting improvements for workers

at Google and other Alphabet companies." AWU complained that half of the workers are hired as TVCs (temporary, vendors or contractors), without the benefits awarded to full-time employees.

The company has taken on unethical government con-

tracts, like drone targeting for the military, and kept the nature of that technology secret even to the engineers working on those projects, it said. "Workers who have organised to stop these trends have been met by intimidation, suppression and blatantly illegal firings," AWU said.

EU delays decision on Moderna vaccine as blame game heats up

AMSTERDAM

The EU's drugs watchdog held off authorising Moderna's coronavirus jab on Monday despite bringing forward a special meeting, as criticism mounts of the bloc's slow vaccine roll-out. The Amsterdam-based European Medicines Agency (EMA) said it would resume talks on Wednesday on whether to give the green light to what would be the EU's second vaccine.

Under pressure from EU nations to speed up, the regulator had earlier fast-tracked the meeting to decide on approval from January 12 to Wednesday, and then again to Monday. Despite launching its vaccination campaign with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, on December 27, the EU's progress has been much slower than in the United States, Britain or Israel.

"EMA's committee for human medicines discussion on Covid-19 vaccine (by) Moderna has not concluded today. It will continue on Wednesday," the EMA said on Twitter. "No further communication will be issued today by EMA." The European Commission had earlier defended the bloc against criticisms of its slow roll-out, and said its plans would get the EU past "bumps on the road."

"It's obvious that such a complex endeavour is always going to bring with it difficulties," spokesman Eric Mamer told journalists. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine - developed in Germany - is the only one currently authorised for use in the European Union since its fast-track authorisation by the EMA on December 21.

APPRECIATION

Emerging markets start 2021 with a record as dollar stumbles

LONDON

Emerging-market currencies surged to a record on the first trading day of 2021 as traders brushed aside the accelerating spread of the coronavirus.

MSCI Inc.'s index of developing world currencies climbed as much as 0.7% to 1,731.69, surpassing its previous record set in March 2018 before the U.S.-China trade war hobbled risk appetite. The Bloomberg dollar index fell to the lowest in almost three years before regaining some ground as U.S. stocks declined.

Investor sentiment is improving as coronavirus vaccines are rolled out and data point to a broad-based uptick in economic activity, underpinned by unprecedented central bank stimulus. That's pushing investors toward the higher returns of riskier emerging-market assets while undermining the case for the U.S. dollar, the haven currency of choice.

"Uncertainty is diminishing and the strong global growth recovery should favour the rest of the world," said Patrik Schowitz, global multi-asset strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management, which is underweight the dollar. The currency's weakness is likely to be most notable "against the emerging markets foreign-exchange, which should have cyclical upside and is still relatively cheap."

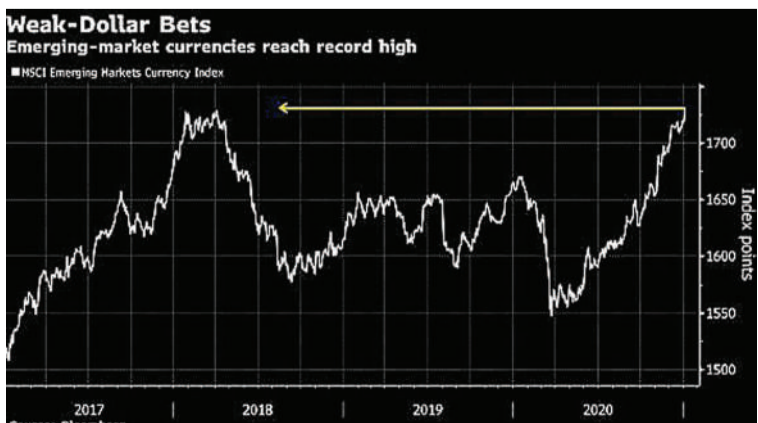
The Chilean peso and Indonesian rupiah were among the biggest gainers for developing-nation currencies on Monday. The euro rose as much as 0.8% against the dollar toward a high last reached

more than two years ago, while the greenback touched the weak-est against the Chinese yuan since June 2018.

"Vaccination is creating more risk appetite," said Ulrich Leuchtmann, head of currency strategy at Commerzbank. "With the developed markets central banks stuck at their respective lower bounds, this is unfolding in a very spectacular manner in EM currencies."

After an initial slump triggered by the Covid-19 outbreak, a rebound in demand for risk assets drove the emerging-market index to a second yearly advance in 2020. Flows may continue through this year as investors take comfort from supportive monetary and fiscal measures as well as the global vaccination drive, according to Piotr Matys, a strategist at Rabobank in London. The rally "reflects a sharp acceleration in capital inflows into emerging markets," he said. This "won't set the tone, which is already positive."

China's 'standout' beneficiary from a weaker dollar thanks to "yield erosion and twin deficits" that are weighing on the greenback, said Patrick Bennett, strategist at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Hong Kong. The onshore yuan rose as much as 1.1% on Monday and breached the 6.5 level for the first time since June 2018. "The markets are following the 2021 buy-everything play book to the tee," said Stephen Innes, a strategist at Axicorp.



A graph showing the trend of emerging markets currencies.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

ITV	CAPITAL	RADIO ONE
<p>WEDNESDAY 6 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazonzezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt</p> <p>10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang</p> <p>19:00 Ijue Sheria</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>23:00 The Base</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>2:00 DWTW</p> <p>THURSDAY 7 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazonzezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang</p> <p>13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:20 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>17:00 Shamsam za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Art and lifestyle</p> <p>21:30 ITV TOP 10</p> <p>22:10 Isidingo rpt</p> <p>00:30 DWTW</p> <p>SUNDAY 10 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazonzezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto Wetu</p>	<p>21:00 Malumbano ya hoja</p> <p>23:00 The Base</p> <p>00:30 DWTW</p> <p>FRIDAY 8 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazonzezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt</p> <p>10:30 Usafiri wako rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Jagina rpt</p> <p>13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base (DJ Show)</p> <p>17:30 Kiislam</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>19:00 Shamba lulu</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipima Joto</p> <p>23:00 The Base</p> <p>00:00 DWTW</p> <p>SATURDAY 9 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazonzezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang</p> <p>13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:20 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>17:00 Shamsam za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Art and lifestyle</p> <p>21:30 ITV TOP 10</p> <p>22:10 Isidingo rpt</p> <p>00:30 DWTW</p> <p>SUNDAY 10 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazonzezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto Wetu</p>	<p>10:00 Isidingo</p> <p>11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>12:00 Movie rpt: Funzo</p> <p>14:00 Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>15:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>16:30 ITV Top 10</p> <p>17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki</p> <p>19:30 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko</p> <p>21:05 Mizengwe</p> <p>21:30 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>22:14 Bongo Movie: Huba</p> <p>00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>Wed 06 Jan</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Culinary delight rpt</p> <p>17:00 Innovation rpt</p> <p>17:30 Innovaion rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Sports Gazette</p> <p>19:30 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>20:00 Series: Itohan</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Dakika 45:</p> <p>22:45 The Décor</p> <p>23:15 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Thurs 07 Jan</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Business edition rpt</p> <p>17:00 In good shape</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the spotlight</p> <p>19:30 Tanzania yetu</p> <p>20:00 Series: Itohan</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Frid 08 Jan</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt</p> <p>12:30 Eco@Africa rpt</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Business edition rpt</p> <p>17:00 In good shape</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the spotlight</p> <p>19:30 Tanzania yetu</p> <p>20:00 Series: Itohan</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death</p> <p>21:00 Shift</p> <p>21:15 Capchat live</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Wednesay</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt</p> <p>17:30 17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Rev</p> <p>19:30 Eco@Africa</p> <p>20:00 Aibu Yako</p> <p>20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sat 09 Jan</p> <p>08:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 Rev rpt</p> <p>09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt</p> <p>10:00 Culinary delight rpt</p> <p>10:30 Innovation rpt</p> <p>11:00 Out n'about rpt</p> <p>11:30 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>12:00 Usafiri wako rpt</p> <p>12:30 Eco@Africa rpt</p> <p>13:00 Business edition rpt</p> <p>13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter</p> <p>14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt</p> <p>17:45 Bundesliga kick off</p> <p>18:15 Capchat rpt</p> <p>19:15 Mizengwe</p> <p>19:30 The Decor</p> <p>20:00 Korean Drama: The Slave hunter</p> <p>21:00 Out n' About</p> <p>21:30 Movie: Street Kings</p> <p>23:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 10 Jan</p> <p>08:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter</p> <p>12:00 Jagina rpt</p> <p>12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>15:15 Aibu yako</p> <p>16:00 Rev rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Decor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt</p> <p>19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights</p> <p>20:00 Korean Drama: The Slave hunter</p> <p>21:00 Shift</p> <p>21:15 Capchat live</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA I</p> <p>06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC</p> <p>06:30 AM NIPASHE</p> <p>06:50 AM MATANGAZO</p> <p>07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN</p> <p>07:10 AM MATANGAZO</p> <p>07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI</p> <p>07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI</p> <p>07:40 AM KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA II</p> <p>08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI</p> <p>08:10 AM KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA III</p> <p>09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA</p> <p>09:10 AM MATANGAZO</p> <p>09:20 AM BRAND TALK</p> <p>09:30 AM KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA MICHEZO</p> <p>10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF</p> <p>10:03 AM DEATH AN- NOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>10:10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO</p> <p>13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN</p> <p>13:10 HRS DEATH AN- NOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>13:30 HRS DJ SHOW</p> <p>16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF</p> <p>16:03 HRS DEATH AN- NOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO</p> <p>18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC</p> <p>19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO</p> <p>20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN</p> <p>20:10 HRS UCHUNGUZI KAMILI</p> <p>21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF</p> <p>21:05 HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA</p> <p>23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF</p> <p>23:03 HRS AFRO TIZII</p> <p>01:00-05:00HRS MUZI-KI MCHANGANYIKO</p> <p>Capital Radio</p> <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM</p> <p>09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA</p> <p>13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO</p> <p>14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101</p> <p>16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA</p> <p>18:00-18:10HRS HABARI</p> <p>18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME</p> <p>21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS</p> <p>22:00-00:00HRS DALA (marudio)</p> <p>00:00-04:00HRS LETE RAHA (marudio)</p> <p>04:00-05:00HRS SPOTI (marudio)</p> <p>THURSDAY</p> <p>05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM</p> <p>09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA</p> <p>13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO</p> <p>14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101</p> <p>16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA</p> <p>18:00-18:10HRS HABARI</p> <p>18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME</p> <p>20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS</p> <p>21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA</p> <p>23:00-01:00HRS MUSIC & JINGLES</p> <p>01:00-05:00HRS LETE RAHA (marudio)</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA I</p> <p>06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC</p> <p>06:30 AM NIPASHE</p> <p>06:50 AM MATANGAZO</p> <p>07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN</p> <p>07:10 AM MATANGAZO</p> <p>07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI</p> <p>07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI</p> <p>07:40 AM KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA II</p> <p>08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI</p> <p>08:10 AM KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA III</p> <p>09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA</p> <p>09:10 AM MATANGAZO</p> <p>09:30 AM BRAND TALK</p> <p>10:00 AM KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA UKIMWI</p> <p>10:03 AM NEWS BRIEF</p> <p>10:03 AM DEATH AN-</p>

WORLD

Political jitters creep up ahead of pivotal US Senate runoffs

WASHINGTON

POLITICAL jitters are creeping up in the United States ahead of two high-stake Senate runoffs in the southeastern state of Georgia, the races that will decide which party controls the upper chamber.

US President-elect Joe Biden and sitting President Donald Trump respectively traveled to Georgia on Monday to rally support for their own party's candidates for the Senate seats.

One of the contests pits Senator David Perdue, a 70-year-old Republican incumbent seeking a second term, against his Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff, a 33-year-old media professional, in a regular election.

In the other race, a special election, Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler, 50, is squaring off against Democrat Raphael Warnock, a 51-year-old pastor at a church in Atlanta, capital of Georgia. Loeffler was appointed to the seat in 2019 after her predecessor retired because of health reasons.

The runoffs, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, will come two months after the candidates' first matchups as part of the elections on Nov 3, 2020, during which neither of them reached the 50-percent threshold for an outright victory, triggering a second round of voting as required by a state

election law in Georgia.

The Senate runoffs, which have together cost nearly US\$500 million just in the past two months for advertising, are extremely tight. Ossoff is only 1 percentage point ahead of Perdue, while Warnock has a 1.3 percentage-point advantage over Loeffler, according to the RealClearPolitics polling average.

Democrats need to win both seats to split control of the Senate 50-50. Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will be the tie-breaking vote once she is sworn into office. For Republicans, they need to win at least one seat to maintain their majority.

"The Georgia Senate runoffs are absolutely crucial to Biden's agenda," Darrell West, vice president and director of Governance Studies at Washington, DC-based think tank Brookings Institution, told Xinhua. "Because they determine which party controls the committees, schedules, and amending process."

If Democrats were in the majority, it would be easier to confirm Biden's Cabinet picks and judicial appointments. If Republicans hold onto the seat advantage, they would be able to largely thwart much of the Democrat's agenda.

The United States is "in severe condition" from the COVID-19 pandemic



Supporters listen as President-elect Joe Biden speaks in Atlanta on Monday as he campaigns for US Senate candidates Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff. (AP)

and the economic depression it engendered, Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua.

"Biden will need to pass emergency bills through most of 2021," he predicted. "A Democratic-led Senate is helpful."

The races in Georgia will also come a day before the new US Congress convenes in a joint session to formally count the electoral votes and certify Biden's victory over Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

A group of Republicans have said they will contest the Electoral College results on that day, a move that has driven a wedge into the party in both chambers of Congress, but their efforts are unlikely to overturn Biden's victory, according to US election pundits and media networks.

Trump hasn't acknowledged defeat and is still pushing for claims of massive election fraud, although dozens of attempts by his legal team and allies to challenge the results in some key states, including Georgia, had been defeated, rejected, or

tossed out.

The president's leaked phone call showed that he directly asked election officials of Georgia, a previously traditional Republican stronghold that Biden took by fewer than 12,000 votes, to overturn its election results, which has caused a strong backlash.

A pair of House Democrats on Monday asked Christopher Wray, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to open a criminal probe into the episode, while some of Trump's allies on Capitol Hill have rushed to defend him and sought to downplay the severity.

Calling the phone call a "big uncertainty" for the Georgia Senate runoffs, West said, "That is getting a lot of media play and could complicate GOP ability to do well in suburban areas."

More than 3 million ballots have already been cast in Georgia ahead of Tuesday's elections, according to the state's Voting System Implementation Manager Gabriel Sterling. The number of the ballots cast has smashed previous records set for a runoff election in Georgia.

Agencies

UK PM announces new coronavirus lockdown for England

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced Monday that England will enter a national lockdown from midnight, the third of its kind since the coronavirus pandemic began in the country.

In a televised address, he urged people across the country to "stay at home" except for permitted reasons, echoing the message back in March 2020.

Under the lockdown, people are only allowed to go to work if it's impossible to work from home, such as construction workers.

Britons are allowed to go out to shop for necessities in-

cluding food and medicines, and to exercise, ideally once a day and locally.

Meanwhile, all schools and colleges will close from Tuesday (except for vulnerable children and those of key workers), and switch to remote learning until the middle of February.

Johnson said schools are "not unsafe" and children are "very unlikely" to be significantly affected by even the new COVID-19 variant, which is said to be 70 percent more transmissible.

But schools may "act as vectors of transmission -- causing the virus to spread between households," he said. The latest development came as



another 58,784 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, marking the highest daily increase in coronavirus cases since the pandemic be-

gan in the country, according to official figures.

It was also the seventh day in a row that new cases have topped 50,000 in Britain.

The country now has a total of 2,713,563 cases and 75,431 deaths.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon also announced that Scotland would enter a new lockdown from midnight on Monday, as well as a shutdown of schools until Feb. 1.

Britain on Monday started the national rollout of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

According to information released by the World Health Organization on Dec. 29, a total of 232 candidate vaccines are still being developed worldwide -- 60 of them in clinical trials -- in countries including Germany, China, Russia, Britain and the United States.

Touadera wins absolute majority in CAR presidential election

BANGUI

FAUSTIN-Archange Touadera, outgoing president of the Central African Republic (CAR), has won the absolute majority in the first round of the presidential election, according to provisional results announced on Monday by the National Elections Authority (ANE), the electoral body of the CAR.

According to the ANE, Touadera received 346,687 votes, or 53.92 percent of all

votes cast. The voter turnout was 76.31 percent. The Constitutional Court will proclaim the final results by Jan 19.

Touadera's main competitor, former prime minister Anicet-Georges Dologuele, came in second with 21.01 percent of all votes cast, according to the ANE.

On Dec 29, the Democratic Opposition Coalition 2020 (COD-2020), a platform of opposition parties of the CAR, called for the cancellation and rerun of presidential and leg-



islative elections.

COD-2020 cited low voter turnout in provinces under threat from armed rebels and electoral irregularities linked to insecurity as the reasons that prompted it to call for a "concertation of the active stakeholders of the nation

before holding the new elections."

Since mid-December, major armed groups of the CAR have forged to launch an offensive against the government. The new alliance, known as the Coalition of Patriots for Change, multiplied the attacks and vowed to "march on Bangui", the capital.

The CAR government accused Francois Bozize, a former head of state whose presidential candidature was invalidated, of having organ-

ized the attacks with the rebels for "an attempted coup."

On Monday afternoon, before the provisional results were announced by the ANE, the Bangui prosecutor's office declared that it had opened a judicial investigation against Bozize on his support for the rebellion.

The polls on Dec 27 took place in relative calm with the presence of the UN force (MINUSCA) across the country, but the rebel offensive continued. Xinhua

UN holds 1st meet with advisers to Libyan Political Dialogue Forum

TRIPOLI

A UN representative on Monday held a virtual meeting with the newly established Advisory Committee of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) to discuss the latter's tasks and other agendas, the UN Support Mission in Libyan (UNSMIL) said in a statement.

Stephanie Williams, acting special representative of the UN Secretary-General in Libya, talked with the committee's officials over its mandate, tasks, expected outcomes, and the timeframe for its work, said the UN mission.

"In her opening remarks, Williams (pictured) reiterated that the committee will play an advisory role and will work for a period of two weeks to produce concrete recommendations to address differences that have emerged over the selection mechanism and the nomination procedures of the executive authority, and to build consensus among the LPDF members," UNSMIL said.

Williams urged the participants to seize this opportunity to expedite the establishment of a unified executive authority, and to work together in order to fulfill the aspirations of the Libyan people.

UNSMIL requested the members of the Advisory Committee to submit written proposals to be discussed in the next meeting scheduled to be held virtually on Wednesday.

UNSMIL on Saturday announced the establishment of the Advisory Committee, whose mandate "will be strictly time-bound and its main mission shall be to discuss outstanding issues related to the selection of a unified executive and to put forward concrete and practical recommendations upon which the plenary shall decide."

Moreover, the LPDF's Legal Committee (LC) held its third virtual session on Sunday, where the members shared proposals for constitutional arrangements for elections, the UN mission said.

The proposals presented a range of options to facilitate the implementation of the Roadmap agreed upon by the LPDF in November 2020.

"UNSMIL's Electoral Team provided a briefing highlighting the necessary sequencing and time-bound milestones related to constitutional arrangements for holding the national elections on the agreed-upon date of 24 December 2021. The LC agreed to resume its discussions at the end of this week," it added.

The Legal Committee is tasked with following up on the work of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State in relation to constitutional arrangements, and to provide the two institutions with recommendations in an effort to reach an agreement on a constitutional basis leading to holding the national elections on Dec 24, 2021.

During the convocation of the dialogue forum held on Nov 7-15, 2020 in Tunisia's capital Tunis, 75 Libyans representing the social and political spectrum of the Libyan society discussed a political roadmap to achieve lasting peace in the war-torn Libya.

The participants agreed to hold general elections in Libya on Dec 24, 2021. They also voted on a mechanism to select a unified executive authority of the country. Xinhua

Iran and Russia preparing meeting on coronavirus vaccines, envoy says

MOSCOW

IRAN and Russia are preparing a personal meeting on cooperation in producing the vaccine against the novel coronavirus, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said in an interview with Izvestia newspaper published on Sunday.

"The phone conversations in April-October 2020 between the presidents of Iran and Russia underlined Iran's interest in cooperation with Russia in the field of producing the coronavirus vaccine and exchanging the experience.

Currently, Russian documents on the vaccines are being studied. It has been decided that soon a personal meeting will take place," the envoy said.

The ambassador also noted that although Tehran had declared the launch of the first phase of testing the first Iranian vaccine on humans, the republic was still considering all vaccines being produced, including the Russian.

On December 22, Deputy Speaker of Iran's Parliament (Majlis) Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi told the Russian media that Iran and Russia were in talks on creating a joint venture on producing the coronavirus vaccine.

To date, two domestic vaccines against the coronavirus have been registered in Russia: a vaccine developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Healthcare Ministry and a vaccine by the Vector State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing.

China evaluating number of high-risk workers in need of COVID-19 vaccine

CHINA is calculating how many people working in high-risk professions, including cold-chain, medical and port workers, will need to receive COVID-19 vaccines, health officials said recently.

Experts said the mass vaccination of ordinary people is likely to be rolled out in the second quarter of 2021, when vaccines are officially allowed to enter the market.

Previously, the Global Time learned that China is planning to vaccinate 50 million people in high-risk groups before Chinese New Year which falls on February 12. That number was not confirmed by officials at the conference.

Tao Lina, a Shanghai-based expert

on vaccines and a former Shanghai disease prevention and control employee, told the Global Times on Monday that vaccination of some 50 million people in high-risk professions before Spring Festival could prevent a potential infection rise caused by the travel rush.

After the first shot, people could produce a low level of antibodies, but after the second shot, the rate of antibodies is likely to reach 95 percent in about a week, Tao said, adding that "the generated antibodies of those 50 million people will return us to a safe Spring Festival."

The Spring Festival travel rush is also known as the world's biggest annual human migration. About

2.97 billion trips were made in 2018 Spring Festival travel rush and about 2.98 billion in 2019. The Spring Festival travel rush will start on January 28, 2021 and end on March 8, authorities said.

But Tao said vaccines against COVID-19 will not be open to the general public until vaccines are officially allowed to enter the market.

Also, after the first 50 million people get vaccinated, the risks of an epidemic will be largely reduced, which reduces the urgency of vaccinating everyone, the expert said.

Only when 70 percent of the population is vaccinated will China reach herd immunity against the novel coronavirus, Chinese officials

said, appealing for the public to take the vaccines.

Wang Qinghua, chief expert from the National Immunization Program of Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention said that building herd immunity requires the majority of people to get vaccinated.

Wang said receiving a vaccination is everyone's right, and it is also everyone's responsibility in order to contain the coronavirus.

Tao said this shows China is determined to reinforce its hard-won fight to contain the virus, as it moves toward mass vaccination.

Tao said Chinese public have confidence in their government and domestic vaccines.

Zheng Zhongwei, director of the Development Center for Medical Science and Technology of the National Health Commission (NHC) dismissed concerns on the safety of Chinese vaccines on Monday.

Nearly 1 million people have been vaccinated voluntarily. China has carried out phase I, II and III clinical trials, which have demonstrated that Chinese vaccines are safe. "There are some minor adverse reactions, but no serious ones," Zheng said.

China is ready for mass production of COVID-19 vaccines and will proceed with the official approval process as soon as possible after the release of phase-III interim clinical data, health officials said at the press

conference.

In the second stage, the population to be vaccinated will expand to groups including the elderly and people with other diseases. "Our goal is to strive to establish the protection of herd immunity, so that the epidemic can be controlled more effectively," Zeng Yixin, an official from National Health Commission, said on Saturday.

The vaccination of key populations has already begun. In addition, health officials stressed that it is still necessary to take personal precautions, as the protection rate of vaccines is not 100 percent.

Global Times

London court rules against Julian Assange's extradition to US over risk to his life and health

LONDON

THE London court has ruled that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange cannot be extradited to the United States over a significant risk to his life and health, Judge of the Westminster Magistrates' Court Vanessa Baraitser announced on Monday.

The judge, who delivered the ruling at London's Central Criminal Court, known as the Old Bailey, acknowledged that Assange had autism spectrum disorder and suffered from depression and could commit suicide. In addition, Assange's condition could deteriorate in solitary confinement in the United States.

Assange (pictured) also is an intelligent individual who could escape any measures aimed at preventing suicide attempts.

So, the risk to his life was a ground for refusing to extradite him. "In these



harsh conditions, Mr. Assange's mental health would deteriorate causing him to commit suicide with the "single minded determination" of his autism spectrum disorder," the Judge said in the ruling.

"I find that the mental condition of Mr. Assange is such that it would be oppressive to extradite him to the United States of America."

Wang Yi: China-Africa friendship emerges still stronger from COVID-19 test - 3

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that the friendship between China and Africa emerged still stronger from the test of COVID-19 in 2020.

Wang made the remarks in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency and China Media Group.

The following is a transcript of that interview on the international situation and China's diplomacy in 2020.

Question: Security in places like the Middle East and Afghanistan is still a cause for concern to the international community. The future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remains uncertain. Would you elaborate on the role China has played in settling international hotspots and the efforts China has made in promoting peace and stability in relevant regions?

Wang Yi: Peace is an eternal aspiration of humankind. As a permanent member of the Security Council and a responsible major country, China has been exploring a distinctive Chinese way of resolving hotspot issues. We follow a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security for the world. We maintain that regional disputes should be addressed through dialogue and consultation. We uphold non-interference in internal affairs, which is a basic norm governing international relations. We speak for justice from an objective and sensible perspective. We seek solutions that suit the regional reality and accommodate the interests of all parties. We have done what we can to safeguard peace and tranquility in the world.

Over the past year, while firmly upholding the JCPOA, we have joined the international community in opposing moves inconsistent with Security Council resolutions. We have put forward a constructive proposal of building a new platform for multilateral dialogue for the Gulf region. We have given steadfast support to Palestine's just cause and firmly upheld the right direction of the "two-state solution". We have continued to advocate the phased and synchronized approach to achieve the two goals of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and establishment of a peace mechanism. We have facilitated consensus-building on Afghanistan's national reconciliation and that among regional players, and supported intra-Afghan talks. We have mediated between Bangladesh and Myanmar in addressing their disagreements, and assisted in maintaining overall stability in northern Myanmar.

Having been torn by wars and conflicts in the past, we Chinese know too well the scourge of turmoil and the value of peace. We hope that hotspot issues will be made to cool down and that peace talks will bring true peace. As for major countries that play a key role in various hotspot issues, we hope that instead of anyone's own selfish interests, they can bear in mind the real interests of regional countries and the well-being of all people in the world, and shoulder due responsibilities and play a constructive role in settling disputes.

Question: Chinese diplomats have fought back at attempts of smearing, scapegoating and interference on international occasions, and fought several tough battles at multilateral fora. China's diplomacy is thus labeled by some and seen as more assertive. What is your view?

Wang Yi: China's diplomacy shoulders the important responsibilities of safeguarding national interests, defending national dignity, facilitating international cooperation, and promoting world peace. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi gives an interview

Committee and with the full support of the Chinese people, we have worked all out to fulfill these responsibilities in an open and thorough way.

China's diplomacy is rooted in the 5,000-year Chinese civilization, and follows the proud tradition of independence and self-perfection fostered since the founding of the People's Republic. We pursue the path of peaceful development and an independent foreign policy of peace. We advocate international law and basic norms of international relations in the conduct of state-to-state exchanges. We uphold equity, justice and other shared values of humanity in handling international affairs. China's diplomacy has acquired a distinct Chinese feature, style and vision.

We accord friends with hospitality and partners with cooperation. But we also have to stand our ground when dealing with those who are not so friendly. We are happy to take well-intentioned criticism and go with helpful suggestions. But we have to respond to defamations and attacks. And more important, we are obliged to speak up for justice when faced with power politics and bullying. This is the responsibility of China's diplomacy and the national character of the Chinese people.

Question: How has COVID-19 affected Belt and Road cooperation? What will China do to restart the cooperation and take it forward?

Wang Yi: COVID-19 has dealt a heavy blow to the world economy and brought challenges to Belt and Road cooperation. That said, instead of stalling altogether, cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has bucked the trend to make new progress. It has demonstrated a strong resilience.

In his important message to the High-Level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation held in June last year, President Xi Jinping proposed developing the Belt and Road into a model of cooperation, health, recovery and growth. This reflects the shared aspiration of the international community and charts the course for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

The year 2020 witnessed BRI partners supporting each other and forging a "bond of solidarity" to control the coronavirus and pursue common development. The China-Europe Railway Express has completed more than 10,000 services, transporting more freight in the first 10 months of 2020 than the whole of 2019. Hailed as a "steel camel fleet", it has helped countries with their COVID-19 response. The Silk Road in the Air has enabled shipments of over 1,700 tons of medical supplies from China, opening up a lifeline in the air. In the first three quarters of 2020, China's non-financial direct investment in

countries along the Belt and Road reached 13 billion US dollars, an increase of nearly 30% year-on-year. Most BRI projects have continued uninterrupted and without layoffs, and a number of new projects have been launched as scheduled. This has brought much-needed warmth to this harsh winter in the world economy and contributed to the efforts of partner countries in fighting the coronavirus, stabilizing the economy, and protecting livelihoods.

Facts abound to show the strong vitality of the BRI. The pandemic has not shaken the commitment of participating countries. Instead, it has highlighted the role of Belt and Road cooperation in powering global development in a post-COVID era.

China is fostering a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. These efforts will not only boost the high-quality development of the Chinese economy but also provide stronger impetus, more opportunities and more effective pathways for Belt and Road cooperation.

China will work with all parties to deepen the synergy between the BRI and the development strategies of other countries, keeping in mind their needs for COVID-19 response and economic recovery. We believe that by bolstering connectivity and economic reopening and by tapping into the potential of new growth drivers such as health care, digital economy and green development, we will be able to achieve higher-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Question: The year 2021 will mark the centenary of the CPC and the launch of the 14th Five-Year Plan. China will enter a new development stage and embark on a new journey. In this context, how will China's diplomatic work better serve the national development agenda? How do you envision China's diplomacy in 2021?

Wang Yi: The year 2021 will be of historic significance to China's national rejuvenation. We will celebrate the CPC's centenary and embark on a new journey of fully building a modern socialist country. The centenary is just the first chapter of the Party's great cause. We in the foreign service will rally closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core and follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. We will continue to advance our major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests, and focus our work on the following six areas:

We will make our best efforts to serve China's development strategies. While ensuring effective CO-

VID-19 control, we will promote better integration of the domestic and international markets and greater complementarity between domestic and global resources. We will endeavor to create a favorable external environment for fostering a new development paradigm and implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan at home.

We will continue to build a new type of international relations. Guided by President Xi's personal involvement in diplomacy, we will work for steady progress in China's relations with major powers, cement solidarity and friendship with neighbors and other developing countries, and further deepen international and regional cooperation.

We will further upgrade opening-up and cooperation. We will advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, tap into the strength of China's enormous market and its potential of domestic demand, boost global recovery with our own growth, and share with the world China's "development dividends".

We will proactively engage in the reform of global governance. The year 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of China's lawful seat at the UN and the 20th anniversary of its accession to the WTO. We will continue to practice multilateralism, host a successful UN Biodiversity Conference, meet global challenges in partnership with others, and promote a more equitable and sound global governance system.

We will actively facilitate mutual understanding between countries. We will better communicate to the world the CPC's strong record of governance, our people's extraordinary journey toward the Chinese dream and China's commitment to peaceful development. We call on all countries to overcome differences, seek common development and embrace exchanges, mutual learning and harmony between civilizations.

We will continue to work for a community with a shared future for mankind. In this context, we will seek to realize a global community of health for all and a community with a shared future in the Asia-Pacific. We will uphold the shared values of humanity - peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, and work with all countries to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

Putin, Merkel discuss possible prospects for joint production of COVID-19 vaccines

WASHINGTON

MOSCOW, January 5. /TASS/. Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have discussed over the phone the settlement in Ukraine from the perspective of the implementation of the Minsk accords and the "Normandy format" agreements, the Kremlin press service said on Tuesday.

"Russian President Vladimir Putin has had a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

They discussed issues related to cooperation in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic with an emphasis on the possible prospects for the joint production of vaccines. An agreement was reached on continuing contacts on the issue between the two countries' health ministries and other specialized agencies," the report said.

Putin and Merkel wished each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Agencies**

US calls Iran's 20% uranium enrichment 'nuclear extortion'

WASHINGTON

THE United States on Monday called Iran's decision of enriching uranium to the 20 percent level at its Fordow facility as "nuclear extortion."

"Iran enriching uranium to 20 percent at Fordow is a clear attempt to increase its campaign of nuclear extortion, an attempt that will continue to fail," a State Department spokesman said in a statement.

"The United States and the international community will continue to look to IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspectors to report the facts on the ground," it added.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced late on Monday that the 20-percent enriched uranium had started at its Fordow facility and had reached the stability level.

According to AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi, the 20-percent uranium enrichment process was launched on Monday as part of Iran's Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, which was approved by the parliament in December 2020.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted on Monday that Iran's action "conforms fully with Para 36 of JCPOA, after years of non-compliance by several other JCPOA participants. Our measures are fully reversible upon FULL compliance by ALL."

The latest move came amid increasing tension between Washington and Tehran. The Pentagon said late Sunday that US aircraft carrier USS Nimitz would remain in the Middle East waters due to "threats from Iran," reversing a previous decision to order the warship back home.

Israel on Monday urged the inter-

national community to take "a determined response" against Iran, with its Foreign Ministry saying that Tehran's announcement of the resumption of 20-percent uranium enrichment "should serve as a wake-up call for advocates of a peaceful approach to Iran."

Japan's top government spokesman on Tuesday said the country was deeply concerned about Iran's latest announcement of a resumption of 20-percent uranium enrichment.

"The government has strong concerns about this move, which is a breach of a nuclear agreement," Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato told reporters.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Monday that Iran has never negotiated its own defense capabilities and will never do so, semi-official news agency Fars reported.

As for Iran's defense capabilities, there has never been and will never be any negotiation, Saeed Khatibzadeh, the ministry spokesman, said at a weekly press briefing held in the capital Tehran.

The spokesman's statement came a day after Jake Sullivan, national security advisor-designate for US President-elect Joe Biden, said Iran's missile program "has to be on the table" in follow-on negotiations, provided Washington re-enters the 2015 nuclear agreement.

The question of Iran's missiles is mentioned in the JCPOA as well as in the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 endorsing the agreement, said Khatibzadeh, commenting on Sullivan's remarks.

The US government actually "knows" that Iran's nuclear activities are of peaceful nature, the spokesman noted.

Xinhua

China-Europe freight trains make institutional innovation to improve efficiency

CHINA-EUROPE freight trains departing Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province, delivered surprisingly remarkable performance despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 2,000 trips were made in the January-November period this year, up 55 percent from a year ago.

The point-to-point transport offered by the freight services were a major reason for the rocketing figure, said Yang Qiling, general manager of the Chengdu International Railway Port Investment & De-

velopment (Group) Co., Ltd. Massive quantities of cargoes were passed on to railway transportation as maritime and air transportation has been impacted by COVID-19. Preventative medical materials were the first to drive the cargo growth handled by the China-Europe freight trains, followed by huge demand for imports and exports, Yang introduced.

A slew of favorable policies also contributed to the growth, Yang explained, citing the Chengdu International

Railway Port, which was approved to be one of the first land port logistics hubs in China in September last year, as well as an economic development zone established in the port August this year. Thanks to the favorable policies, the port enjoys gradually maturing logistics, and a number of foreign trade enterprises and platforms have been established around it.

Institutional innovation leads to constantly improving customs clearance efficiency and service quality.

Home appliance manufacturer Konkka started building assembly lines for TVs in Chengdu's Qingbaijiang district last December, aiming to export its products to Europe. Zhang Wenwu, general manager of the corporation's manufacturing department once worried about the shipping of the products, as the TVs are expected to deliver to a wide range of destinations but in small quantities.

It was the customized transportation services launched by the Chengdu International

Railway Port that eased Zhang's concerns. The services are tailored for clients who book only a single or a few containers of a train, so that Konkka's products can be sent to as many European countries as possible. At present, there are multiple routes being opened, and they run stably in two-way directions.

Since 2017, the Chengdu International Railway Port has launched a "single waybill" mechanism for multimodal transport, so as to relieve foreign trade enterprises' burden

of settlement and financing when they ship cargoes to other countries on rail tracks.

In the past, trade settlement and financing couldn't be finished with waybills as different countries have different rules on rail transport, and waybills were not able to prove the property right of the cargoes. Aiming to reform the standards, operation rules, cargo safety and financial settlement, the "single waybill" mechanism has largely improved trade facilitation.

The first train operated un-

der the mechanism departed Tilburg in the Netherlands for Chengdu in April 2017.

Not long ago, a fully loaded freight train arrived at the Chengdu International Railway Port from Russia. Zhong Tao, who received orders from the train, told People's Daily that small and micro enterprises, which are vulnerable capital-wise, had big troubles purchasing products from overseas, as rail waybills were not able to function when it came to financing.

People's Daily



Gwambina FC players jubilate after one of their team mates had netted for the outfit in a recent Vodacom Premier League's clash, which took place in Mwanza. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Gwambina FC parts ways with coaches

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AFTER losing their Vodacom Premier League (VPL) home match against Biashara United, Mwanza's Gwambina FC's leadership has opted to terminate the outfit's contracts with its head coach, Fulgence Novatus, and his assistant, Athuman Bilali 'Billo'.

Misungwi-based Gwambina FC won promotion to the 2020/21 VPL under the two coaches, the duo has now joined other coaches from some of the domestic top flight's other teams that have as well been sacked midway through the league.

So far a total of eight coaches have been sacked by their teams, with the main reason being a series of poor results in the league that irritated the clubs' bosses.

A few of the sacked tacticians have luckily joined other clubs in the VPL.

Biashara United edged Gwambina FC 1-0 in the league's match which took place at Gwambina Stadium in Misungwi on Sunday.

A carelessly executed pass by Gwambina FC fullback, Hamad Nassor, to his fellow defender inside their team's penalty area was easily collected by Biashara United's striker, Deogratius Mafie, and the forward duly punished the former for their mistake, drilling in for his club on the 15th minute.

Mafie calmly collected the ball and beat Gwambina FC keeper, Ibrahim Isihaka, with a fierce shot.

Gwambina FC's efforts to level matters, thereafter, hit snag given Biashara United's defense was all alert and kept the former at bay.

It was the first game for Gwambina FC's newly recruited forward, Mrisho Ngassa, who was roped in by the side

in the mini transfer period which is expected to come to an end on January 15.

Ngassa, a veteran forward, failed to see to it his new side post victory at the home ground, given the squad went on to concede the 1-0 defeat to Biashara United.

The forward, who has played for various top domestic clubs including Yanga, Simba and Azam FC, has joined Gwambina FC to play part in the outfit's efforts to avoid relegation to the First Division League (FDL).

Gwambina FC as well fielded the outfit's other new forward, Salim Ayee, who had been offloaded by Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, in the clash against Biashara United.

Ayee, who was released by KMC FC for his failure to live up to expectations at the outfit, showed rustiness against Biashara United and was substituted in the second half.

Gwambina FC fielded Ayee to forge a striking partnership with skipper, Paul Nonga, but, until the half time, the side still trailed Biashara United by the lone goal.

In the second half Gwambina FC's tactician, Novatus, replaced Ayee with Rajab Rashid, a change that seemed to add strength to the club's attacking force.

The hosts wasted several opportunities in the half, with one of them coming on the 58th minute in which forward, Japhet Vedastus, shot wide, with only Biashara United's keeper, Daniel Mgone, to beat.

Biashara United, therefore, picked up three points and moved to the fourth place in the VPL's table with 29 points.

Yanga's best goals, assists contributors so far this season

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA are currently on an unbeaten run of 18 games in this season's Vodacom Premier League, which is pretty impressive considering the wholesale changes they made at the start of the season.

A busy transfer window saw Yanga sign 13 new players and releasing 14.

New arrivals included Tuisila Kisinda and Mukoko Tonombe from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club, joining Bakari Mwamnyeto from Coastal Union, Yassin Mustapha from Polisi Tanzania, Carlos Fernandes 'Carlinhos' from Angola, Zawadi Mauya from Kagera Sugar.

Yanga's other new signings are Abdallah Shaibu from USA's LA Galaxy II, Waziri Junior from Mbao FC, Kibwana Shomari from Mtibwa Sugar, Yacouba Songne from Ghana's Asante Kotoko, Farid Mussa from Spain's CD Tenerife, Michael Sarpong from Rwanda's Rayon Sports and Said Ntibazonkiza, who was signed in October and only started playing in December.

A lot of the new signings are starting to click, and the club's head coach, Cedric Kaze, has found a formation that he has gained trust in, and a style of football that is working for the group as evidenced by the results so far.

They are top of the table by a comfortable nine points margin.

One of the problems



Yanga

from last season besides the obvious leaky defence, was the fact that Yanga were unable to break down stubborn defences and they lacked that finesse.

The likes of Saido and Yacouba have immediately helped tackle that issue. But soccer followers must also give plaudits for Carlinhos with his set piece delivery, Kisinda being an attacking threat from the right, and also Deus Kaseke doing a great job.

So who has been Yanga's best goal contributors in terms of goals and assists so far this season?

Yacouba Songne (8)

Former Burkina Faso international is the joint top goalscorer at the club so far with four goals, and he could have got more if he had got chances under the sacked head coach

Zlatko Krmpotic.

He has also got four assists giving him a total score of eight goal contributions.

Deus Kaseke (7)

The year 2020 was an odd one for football largely due to the three-month long break prompted by the COVID-19 outbreak and while it was tough for many, Deus Kaseke would remember it with fondness.

He finished the year as Yanga's second best top scorer with seven goals to his name.

This season he already has four goals and three assists despite starting in only 10 games.

He is continuing to surprise many who believed he would fade away this season with the arrival of all the new signings.

Lamine Moro (5)

Central defender

Lamine Moro received praise from head coach Cedric Kaze after Yanga's 3-1 win over Dodoma Jiji FC last month.

It came after Moro had controlled a delivery from a free-kick by Kaseke before he turned round to smash the ball into the net.

While keeping goals out of their own net is the defenders' main objective, chipping in with a few at the other end is certainly a welcome boost by the defenders.

And Yanga boast one of the finest goal scoring defenders this season. Moro has scored four goals for the outfit this season.

He scored the winner for his team in their second match of the campaign against Mbeya City FC that ended with the former winning 1-0.

He scored the all-important goal against Mtibwa Sugar when he

headed home a corner kick by Carlinhos in the second half at Jamhuri Stadium.

His third of the season came against Mwadui FC in Yanga's 5-0 demolition of the former at Kambarage Stadium in Shinyanga.

Said Ntibazonkiza (5)
It is not often players live up to high expectations, but that is exactly what Burundian international Said Ntibazonkiza 'Saido' has done.

The attacking midfielder, who has played at the highest level in Europe including stints in the Dutch and French top flight leagues, arrived in Tanzania with high expectations on his shoulders and he did not take long to live up to the hype.

Saido signed for Yanga in October last year but was not eligible to play until the mini transfer window officially opened in December has popped up with two goals and three assists in his first three competitive appearances.

Tonombe and Carlinhos are currently all on four goal contributions, which is decent for midfielders, and especially for the latter who has been injured for a lot of the time.

There is also honourable mention for Michael Sarpong who has scored four goals for the outfit.

These are very good signs so early on in the season, and Yanga's goal threat comes from a number of different sources, which is always a great weapon.

Simba SC to face Chipukizi in Mapinduzi Cup tourney January 8

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THIS year's Mapinduzi Cup clash pitting Simba SC against Zanzibar's Chipukizi, which was slated for January 7 at

Amaan Stadium in the Isles, has been pushed to the following day.

The Mapinduzi Cup tournament's Organizing Committee said due to Simba SC's involvement

in the CAF Champions League's first round encounter with FC Platinum of Zimbabwe, which will be held in Dar es Salaam today, Simba's game against Chipukizi will, for that matter, not take place on January 7.

The committee also added that the Mapinduzi Cup's Azam FC against Mlandege's match, which had previously been slated for Friday, will be played on Thursday at the venue, with kick off slated for 8.15pm.

Simba will lock horns with FC Platinum in the second leg of the premier continental club tournament's first round at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Yanga were set to open the Mapinduzi Cup tournament's curtain with a date against Jamhuri of Zanzibar yesterday.

The Mainland Tanzania side has been placed in Group A of the competition with Namungo FC and Jamhuri.

The Mapinduzi Cup tournament's Organizing Committee's chairman, Khamis Abdallah Said, said nine teams have confirmed their participation in the event and they have been put in three groups made up of three outfits each.

"The teams are divided into three groups and

will play two matches and each group will produce one winner and later we will look for the best losers, who will join the three teams to play in the semi-finals," he said.

He said Simba have been drawn in Group B with Mtibwa Sugar and Chipukizi of Pemba, while Azam FC is in Group C with Malindi and Mlandege.

The National Insurance Corporation (NIC) has donated 14,700,000/- to the tournament's Organizing Committee with a view to making the competition a success.

The NIC Managing Director, Elirehema Doriye, informed Zanzibar's Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Tabia Maulid Mwita, that the corporation has decided to inspire the competition after the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar invited organizations, entrepreneurs and sports stakeholders to contribute to the competition.

He said the donation targets to help the Organizing Committee meet running costs for the tournament and present prizes for players in the tournament.

Doriye promised Minister Tabia that the NIC

would continue forging close cooperation with Mapinduzi Cup tournament's Organizing Committee for years to come.

Tabia thanked the NIC for the support and promises the latter has helped Mapinduzi Cup Organizing Committee smoothly run the competition.

The minister said the donation of 14.7m/- will go a long way in making this year's competition a success, given the tournament has grown steadily since its launch in 2007.

Tabia informed the NIC officials that the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar is committed to strengthening various sports including the Zanzibar Premier League, therefore, sports stakeholders' contributions are needed to achieve the goal.

The minister promised that the ministry will continue working with the corporation and invited them to use the media that is under the ministry to promote their business activities.

Zanzibar President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, is expected to be an official guest at the Mapinduzi Cup competition's final on January 13.

Chaneta urges sports stakeholders, well-wishers to support Taifa Cup tourney

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) has appealed to the government and the rest of sports stakeholders to support this year's national netball tournament, Taifa Cup, which started on Sunday in Manyara.

The association made the request during the tournament's opening at Kwaraa ground and Singe Secondary School's court in Babati.

In the association's statement read by the body's assistant secretary, Hilda Mwakatobe, participating teams are facing food shortage, accommodation and lack of transportation for officials and referees.

Hilda stated that Chaneta is seeking over 5m/- to meet the tournament's expenses.

The report disclosed that the tournament was expected to involve 26 teams from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar



The JKT netball team's players participate in recent training in Dar es Salaam to shape up for domestic competitions. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

but due to reasons beyond the squads' control, so far only 10 have turned up for the showpiece.

The participating regions are Manyara, Mbeya, Simiyu, Tabora, Arusha, Mara, Dodoma, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar regions.

Adolf Kopa, Deputy Director of Sports Development

in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, speaking on behalf of the ministry's boss, Innocent Bushungwa, said he would submit the report and challenges presented to Bushungwa.

He commended the Manyara and Chaneta regional leaders for their participation and close-

ness in organizing and running the competition.

The showpiece targets to develop netball and offer Chaneta opportunity to select players, who will form the national team that will represent the country in various regional and international competitions.

The Taifa Cup, which is an annual feature, further gears towards inspiring people to love the sport.

This is the fourth major netball tournament to have taken place since the new Chaneta leadership came to power in 2017.



Carabao Cup can give Manchester United springboard to success

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

MANCHESTER United have spent the best part of a decade in Manchester City's shadow. The 2011 FA Cup was the first of 11 major trophies for the city's blue side after a 35-year wait for silverware, and it can all be traced back to a win against Sir Alex Ferguson's side in that season's semifinals.

As Ole Gunnar Solskjær (pictured) prepares his team to face Pep Guardiola's side in Wednesday's Carabao Cup semifinal, could success offer him the chance to begin a new dynasty at Old Trafford?

The 2011 derby win at Wembley was the first time City had beaten United on the way to success since the 1970s. Yaya Touré's goal in a 1-0 victory laid the platform not only for victory against Stoke City in the final, but a Premier League title success the following season and a trophy-winning mentality that has continued, pretty much unabated, to this day.

It was the moment that Roberto Mancini and Co. realised they could dislodge United from the summit of English football; City have since won four league titles compared to United's two (the last coming in 2013) and finished above their rivals in each of the last seven campaigns.

Moreover, Solskjær oversaw three semifinal defeats with United last season, so the task is straightforward: Shed the "nearly men" tag in major competitions and prove they are ready to become winners again.

There is no question that United are becoming a force to be reckoned with, having bounced back from low moments in the past two years -- beyond including those semifinal defeats, there was an unconvincing Champions League campaign and October's 6-1 defeat at home to Tottenham -- to sit second in the Premier League and with genuine hopes of challenging for the title.

Bruno Fernandes has become a star since arriving from Sporting Lisbon 12 months ago, Marcus Rashford continues to grow into one of Europe's top strikers, and throughout the team consistency is beginning to develop and belief is growing.

But progress has to deliver a tangible reward at some point and Solskjær's United now need to stop knocking on the door and actually find a way of walking through it.

Last season, United were beaten at the final-four stage by City in the Carabao Cup, Chelsea in the FA Cup and Sevilla in the Europa League. Each painful experience was a reminder of how the club has fallen in recent years and a contrast to Ferguson guiding United to victory in each of his first 19 domestic cup semifinals, before the run was ended by Jose Mourinho's Chelsea in the 2005 League Cup.

City also had their near misses before finding the winning formula, though. Their 2010 League Cup semifinal defeat against United was regarded by Ferguson as a crucial win which underlined his team's pre-eminence, but it only served to motivate City to turn the tables.

United must use last season's disappointment to fuel their determination, but Wednesday is about more than getting to a final, it is also about beating City in a win-or-bust situation.

Solskjær has built an impressive record against Guardiola, with three wins, a draw and a defeat in their last five meetings, but that loss was a crucial 3-1 reverse in last season's Carabao Cup semifinal first leg, which gave City the cushion to withstand a 1-0 defeat in the return fixture.

United can rightly claim to have restored balance to the head-to-head rivalry on the pitch against City, but when it comes to winning things, six major trophies have been delivered to the Etihad Stadium since United last won silverware with the Europa League in 2017.

City have shown how one big win can trigger a run of success. Now it's United's turn to do the same by proving they are winners. Wednesday's clash is the perfect opportunity to take the next step.

How does Lampard compare to Chelsea managers under Abramovich?

By Chris Wright, ESPN Toe
Poke writer

It's fair to say that pressure -- if only external, for the time being -- is beginning to mount on Frank Lampard as his Chelsea side continue to falter into the New Year.

The Blues have endured a rough set of results throughout December and early January, having won just once in their last seven outings -- a dreary run that culminated in Sunday's 3-1 home defeat against Man City.

Lampard has the club's worst points-per-game record in the Premier League under club owner Roman Abramovich and the Russian billionaire is not inclined toward mercy when it comes to underperforming managers, having hired and fired 14 different coaches since his arrival in 2003.

Not counting interim appointments Ray Wilkins or Steve Holland, here's a list of those who have come and gone in the years before Lampard, their respective records, and what ultimately signalled their managerial demise at Stamford Bridge.

1. Claudio Ranieri (September 2000 - May 2004)

Games: 199
Win ratio: 54%
Ranieri was already in charge at Chelsea when Abramovich bought the club in the summer of 2003. He lasted just one further season, during which the "Tinkerman" secured the club's highest-ever Premier League finish (second) only to be relieved of his duties a few days later.

Despite being a fairly popular figure in the dugout, the Italian was deemed a remnant of the foregone, pre-Abramovich age and ultimately departed the Bridge having failed to win a single trophy.

2. Jose Mourinho (June 2004 - September 2007)

Games: 185 games
Win ratio: 67%
A brash, energetic, and outspoken coach, former FC Porto manager Mourinho was the perfect embodiment of the new Chelsea ethos: Spend big, win big.

Despite adorning the squad with £100m of expensive new signings, the Blues still finished second behind the Arsenal "Invincibles" during Mourinho (and Abramovich's) first proper assault on the Premier League title.

It all clicked at the second attempt, with Mourinho powering Chelsea to their first top-flight title in half a century before retaining it the following year (2005-06) and then winning a cup double in 2006-07. However, after the 2007-08 season got off to a mediocre start in which his side slipped to fifth, Mourinho stunned the world by walking out on Chelsea (despite having three years left of his contract) after his sour relationship with Abramovich turned irreversibly toxic.

3. Avram Grant (September 2007 - May 2008)

Games: 22 games
Win ratio: 73%
With Scolari axed, the ever affable Hiddink was appointed as Chelsea's new interim manager to see out the season and salvage as much as he could while simultaneously continuing his duties as Russia's head coach.

After breathing life back into an aging squad, Hiddink lost only once during his tenure while propelling the Blues to the Champions League



Jose Mourinho has come up against Lampard this season as Tottenham manager. (Agencies)

2008)

Games 54

Win ratio: 67%

It is claimed that one of the major reasons for Mourinho's displeasure was Abramovich's decision to bring in Grant as "director of football" in the summer of 2007.

The Israeli -- a close personal friend of Abramovich -- was hired to work closely with Andriy Shevchenko, a £31m signing made by the chairman against Mourinho's wishes. Friction over Mourinho's stubborn reluctance to give Shevchenko any game time ultimately contributed to his resignation, after which Grant stepped into the breach despite not holding the requisite UEFA coaching qualifications.

Grant failed to gel with the players or the fans, with many still singing Mourinho's name during his tenure. He lasted just one season but departed having guided his side to the 2008 Champions League final, which they lost to Manchester United on penalties out in Moscow.

4. Luis Felipe Scolari (July 2008 - February 2009)

Games: 36

Win ratio: 56%

Needing a big name appointment to appease the fans, Abramovich took the plunge and hired Scolari, then head coach of the Portugal national team, on a lucrative three-year contract said to be one of the biggest ever handed to a manager.

"Big Phil" lasted just seven months before paying the price mid-season for failing to sustain a convincing title challenge, having fallen seven points behind league leaders Manchester United with three months of the campaign remaining. He didn't even have time to complete his English lessons.

5. Guus Hiddink (February 2009 - May 2009)

Games: 22 games

Win ratio: 73%

With Scolari axed, the ever affable Hiddink was appointed as Chelsea's new interim manager to see out the season and salvage as much as he could while simultaneously continuing his duties as Russia's head coach.

After breathing life back into an aging squad, Hiddink lost only once during his tenure while propelling the Blues to the Champions League

semifinals (which they lost narrowly to Barcelona) and to FA Cup glory in his final game in charge.

6. Carlo Ancelotti (June 2009 - May 2011)

Games 109

Win ratio: 61%

After spending the previous eight years at his beloved Milan, Ancelotti became the sixth manager hired by Abramovich in his first six years at Chelsea.

The Russian owner was intent on ushering in a new era of stability and in fairness, Ancelotti's tenure was fairly serene for the first year, during which he won a league and cup double. However, it came to an abrupt end in the summer of 2011 after the Italian finished his second season without a trophy -- the club's first without silverware for three years -- despite Abramovich bankrolling a huge £50m move for Fernando Torres in the January window.

Ancelotti perhaps suffered the most undignified end to his Chelsea tenure of any other manager post-2003, with the popular Italian being informed of his dismissal in a corridor at Goodison Park before even having time to board the team bus after a 1-0 defeat against Everton.

7. Andres Villas-Boas (June 2011 - March 2012)

Games: 40

Win ratio: 48%

Having enjoyed instant success with a young hotshot from FC Porto before, Chelsea hired Villas-Boas on the back of his stunning league/cup/Europa League treble the previous season. Unfortunately, the enthusiastic Portuguese coach was the same age as several of the elder players in his squad and largely failed to assert any kind of seniority over them during his

short stint.

Nine months later he was gone, with Abramovich pulling the plug after watching AVB flounder in a 1-0 defeat against West Brom which extended his wretched run to just three wins in 12 league games.

8. Roberto Di Matteo (March 2012 - November 2012)

Games: 42

Win ratio: 57%

Already a cult hero at Chelsea, Di Matteo was warmly greeted when he initially stepped up from assistant coach to assume the role of interim head coach in the wake of Villas-Boas' departure.

He then somehow managed to win both the Champions League and the FA Cup within his first 21 games in charge before landing a new two-year full-time contract and getting himself sacked for a poor streak of performances, all inside a whirlwind eight-month period.

9. Rafa Benitez (November 2012 - May 2013)

Games: 48

Win ratio: 58%

Yet another interim, former Liverpool boss Benitez was brought in to steady the ship for the remainder of the season after Di Matteo was axed for letting Chelsea slip too far behind league leaders Man City.

He didn't have long to work his magic, but Benitez still managed to win the Europa League (a feat he first achieved with Valencia in 2003-04) and secure a top-four finish in the Premier League before heading to Napoli.

10. Jose Mourinho (June 2013 - December 2015)

Games: 136

Win ratio: 59%

The "Special One" returned ahead of the 2013-14 season and

quickly got the band back together, reuniting with the Chelsea old guard of John Terry, Frank Lampard, Ashley Cole, Petr Cech and Michael Essien.

The Blues finished third in the first season of Mourinho's second stab, but a summer overhaul saw the title return to the Bridge the following year when the league was won with three games to spare. However, 2015-16 proved to be an annus horribilis for Mourinho, with the campaign getting off to a truly rotten start as Chelsea lost nine of their first 16 games.

With the atmosphere around the club well and truly toxic, the Portuguese was once again sacked by Abramovich in mid-December as Chelsea found themselves just one point above the relegation zone.

11. Guus Hiddink (December 2015 - May 2016)

Games: 27

Win ratio: 37%

With history very much repeating itself as far as Mourinho's demise was concerned, so too did a familiar face return to drag Chelsea out of the mire.

Hiddink agreed to take the reigns for the remainder of the 2015-16 season and promptly went unbeaten in his first 12 games, ultimately delivering a nice, safe mid-table finish -- which is much more of an achievement than it sounds given the mess he inherited.

12. Antonio Conte (July 2016 - July 2018)

Games: 106

Win ratio: 65%

Conte switched from the Azzurri to the Blues when he agreed to take over following his foray with Italy at Euro 2016.

After finishing down in 10th the season prior, Conte proved an immediate success at the

Bridge, thrusting Chelsea back to the top of the league by winning the 2016-17 title in dominant fashion and setting a new record for most wins in a single season (30 wins from 38 games). He then followed up by winning the FA Cup in the 2017-18 season before it all began falling apart shortly thereafter. Indeed, the Blues finished fifth in the league, thus missing out on vital Champions League qualification.

Conte was sacked and replaced, but not before reportedly costing the club close to £30m in legal fees and compensation as the result of legal wranglings that rumbled on for months after his bitter departure.

13. Maurizio Sarri (July 2018 - June 2019)

Games: 63

Win ratio: 62%

With the Conte fallout continuing in the background, Sarri was selected as the man to replace his fellow countryman having excelled with Napoli in his homeland.

Unfortunately, the chain-smoking Sarri wasn't able to adapt easily and while results on the pitch were actually quite good, the Italian had issues communicating fluently and quickly became an unpopular figure with fans.

He won the Europa League and finished third in the Premier League in his first season in charge, but that didn't stop him leaving for Juventus after less than a year in England -- 337 days, to be precise.

14. Frank Lampard (July 2019 - Present)

Games: 80

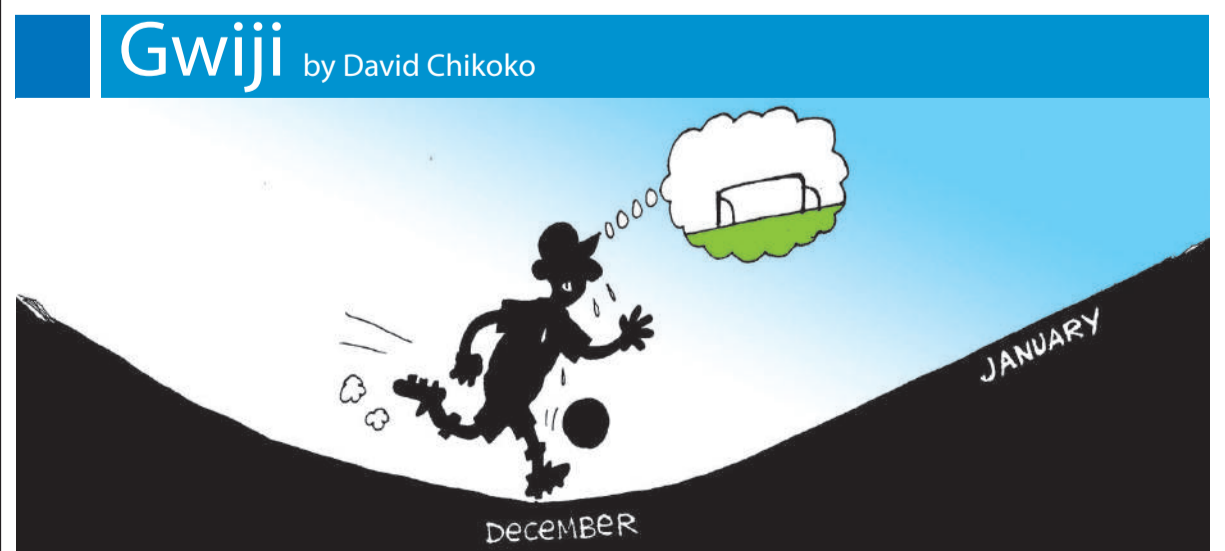
Win ratio: 51.25%

After cutting his managerial teeth with Derby, Lampard was offered the chance to return to his beloved Chelsea in the summer of 2019.

In truth, the Blues were in a bit of bind knowing that not many big-name coaches would be willing to operate, A) without the services of star player Eden Hazard, who had just left for Real Madrid, and B) under the restraints of an impending FIFA transfer ban.

It fell to a bona fide club legend to pick up the gauntlet, and Lampard did so with gusto, brining youth and academy graduates into the first-team and delivering a fourth-place finish in his first season.

Will he be given the necessary time to right the ship and repeat the feat this season? Only time -- and the whims of Abramovich's notoriously itchy trigger finger -- will tell.



SPORT

How does Lampard compare to Chelsea managers under Abramovich?

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TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurata
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

England touring party faces anxious wait on Covid test results

COLOMBO

ENGLAND's touring party in Sri Lanka faces an anxious wait in their hotel rooms just as their preparations for the Test series should have begun in earnest.

England were due to have their first training session of the tour in Hambantota on Tuesday. Instead, the squad was consigned to their rooms as they await the results of a further round of medical tests following the positive Covid-19 result revealed by Moeen Ali on Monday.

Although they underwent both lateral flow and PCR tests on Tuesday, the results are not expected to be announced until Wednesday. Lateral flow tests typically return a result in little over 30-minutes, but are not as accurate.

The PCR tests take longer to analyse but provide more certainty. While the ECB may gain an indication of the extent of the problem from the lateral flow tests on Tuesday, they will await the PCR results before making public comment. The squad are due to be tested again on Thursday.

While the entire party returned negative tests before flying, there will be understandable anxiety both from the England management and the Sri Lankan authorities over the prospect of further spread of the virus.

Sri Lanka has managed to contain Covid-19 to a greater extent than the UK, which has just entered another lockdown and where positive cases have numbered over 50,000 in each of the last six days. A new strain of the virus, which is understood to be far more transmissible, is also spreading rapidly in England. The ECB say they do not know, at this stage, which strain of the virus Ali has contracted.

There may be particular anxiety over the outcome of Chris Woakes' test results.

While the players observed social distancing protocols on their flights, The Guardian has revealed that Woakes travelled from Birmingham to Heathrow in the same car as Ali and has, as a result, been placed in quarantine for a week.

After the vast amount of money spent on charter flights, testing and secure environments, it seems oddly penny pinching not to have provided a separate car for each player.

Ali, meanwhile, is being driven to Galle today where he will be put up in private accommodation arranged for just such an eventuality. Nick Peirce, the ECB's chief medical officer, will also travel to Galle in a separate car to ensure Ali is as comfortable as can be expected.

As a frontline doctor, Peirce has already had at least one part of the vaccine (two jabs, provided at least two weeks apart, are required to maximise the efficacy of both vaccines currently in use in the UK), though it is unclear to what extent this will grant him immunity from the virus.

AGENCIES

Simba SC looks to navigate past tricky FC Platinum



Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIAN champions Simba are set to host Zimbabwean side FC Platinum at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the second leg of their CAF Champions League's first round tie today afternoon.

Sven Vandendbroeck's men fell to a 1-0 defeat to FC Platinum in the first leg in Harare after a first half dire performance showcased by the visitors.

After last season's shocking exit in the CAF Champions League's preliminary stage, Simba would hope to overturn the 1-0 deficit in the second leg to progress to the group stage for the third time in their his-

tory.

Simba, on the one hand, need to win by a two-goal margin to overturn the deficit.

A 1-0 victory for Simba after 90 minutes would take the tie straight to a penalty shootout, but if FC Platinum scores just once, the hosts will need three goals to go through.

The Msimbazi Street side that has already seen off Plateau United from Nigeria 1-0 over two legs in the preliminary round has been boosted by

the return of captain, John Bocco, who is expected to be drafted back into the line up.

The forward, who is also a member of senior national team 'Taifa Stars', was on the sidelines for two weeks and he missed Simba's first leg.

He has though fully recovered from the injury and is raring to go.

Dependable defensive midfielder, Jonas Mkude, is unavailable for selection.

Mkude has been suspended by his

club as he awaits a pending disciplinary hearing following allegations of serious misconduct in camp.

Newly signed Ugandan midfielder, Taddeo Lwanga, could be available for selection but, should he not be, either Mzamiru Yassin or Erasto Nyoni could be given the nod in midfield.

The FC Platinum, on the other hand, made it to the next round after a 4-1 aggregate win over Costa De Sol of Mozambique, winning 2-1 in the first leg played in Maputo before claiming a 2-0 win in the return leg played in Harare.

A goal from Perfect Chikwende in the first half was enough to allow FC Platinum to register a crucial home win for the Zimbabwean club in the first leg against Simba.

The FC Platinum, who have reached the CAF Champions League's group stage in the last two seasons, will be encouraged by Chikwende's form.

Speaking to reporters after landing in Dar es Salaam, FC Platinum's head coach Norman Mapeza maintained their main task was to complete the job they started back home by eliminating Simba from the competition.

"We have come to do the same task of seeking victory and we are ready to get the win and qualify," Mapeza told reporters at Julius Nyerere Airport.

Winners of the two-legged encounter will qualify for the lucrative group stage whose draw will be conducted on January 17, with matches getting underway on February 12.

The aggregate losers of the tie will drop to the 2020/21 Total CAF Confederation Cup play offs.

Coast Region's Mwanakalenge ground set for renovation

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

COAST Region's Mwanakalenge ground, located in Bagamoyo District, is expected to undergo renovation, which will be overseen by the Coast Region Football Association (COREFA).

The ground, owned by ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), much as it is in deplorable condition, has been hosting various soccer tournaments at district and regional levels, with hundreds of fans turning up in the games.

Bagamoyo Constituency's Member of Parliament, Muharimi Mkenge, affirmed the initiative in a recent interview with journalists in the district.

Mkenge had been a guest of honour in the regional soccer league's best nine stage's clash pitting Kiembeni FC against Dunda FC, which took place at the ground and ended with the latter beating the former 2-1.

He disclosed that the ground is popular in the district and the region but it is in poor condition, starting from the football pitch to other facilities.

"I will sit down with my fellow party leaders to see how we can start improving it, starting with having a new turf, after which the next step will follow," he disclosed.

He added that there are many football grounds in the district and other areas in the region but they are all not in good condition.

He said the COREFA therefore has every reason to renovate the venue so it can have good



Morning Star soccer squad's players take part in a recent training in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

quality and play host to various sports, including soccer leagues that are hosted by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

"I would also like to take this opportunity to urge Bagamoyo people to come out in large numbers to witness this tournament as it has brought together teams from different districts," he noted.

The MP wished all participating teams

well, while praying for his constituency's clubs, Bagamoyo United and Kiembeni FC, as well as Chalinze and Msata United from Chalinze, to do well in the showdown.

Mafia Constituency's Member of Parliament, Omary Kipanga, appealed to his constituency's residents to support sports events in the area with a view to

developing youths' talents.

Kipanga made the statement in an interview with reporters, pointing out the sports industry is made up of many sports lovers, who need a lot of inspiration so they can support sports promotion.

He said that Mafia has young people with great potential in a variety of sports, especially football, so it is the sports stakeholders' duty to support the talents.

"The government encourages youths' participation in sports, I would like to take this opportunity to urge Mafia residents and their counterparts hailing from the area to come forward and help our clubs perform well as sports are a source of employment," he noted.

He stated he believes his constituency's side, Black Rhino, which takes part in the regional soccer league's best nine stage, will perform well in the tournament.

He maintained the club has to recruit players who will strengthen the outfit.

"I and my fellow party and government leaders have bid farewell to our young people who traveled to Bagamoyo for the competition, which started on Jan 3 at Mwanakalenge ground, we hope they will do well, we also ask our people to pray for the teams," he said.

He also commended the district football officials for their efforts to manage the clubs, expressing confidence that the officials in collaboration with other football stakeholders will see to it the district enjoys success in the game next season.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

