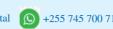


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TANZANIA

WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER, 2020

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Govt endorses mount cable car











Tanzania-China big commercial cassava project being formalised

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

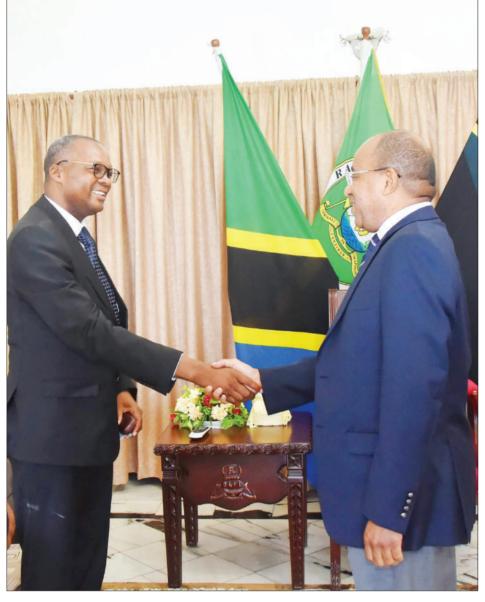
CHINA has entered into a joint venture production contract with Tanzania for the execution of a large cassava project in Lindi Region.

The envisaged project will see the establishment of vast commercial cassava plantations and the installation of factories for processing dry cassava to be exported to China.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Ke said in an interview that the project aims at enabling Tanzania to provide the needed quality and quantity of dry cassava as provided by the market in China.

She said there is a vast and reliable market for dry cassava in China, but Tanzania has to-date failed to tap into this market, a prestigious economic opportunity, due to low cassava

"The problem starts with vou here in Tanzania. Chinese importers are demanding massive tonnage of dry cassava from Tanzania, but farmers here are failing to produce as per the needed tonnage per freight," she



Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi (R) exchanges greetings with the new Minister for Defence and National Service, Elias Kuandikwa who paid a visit to the Zanzibar State House to introduce himself yesterday. Photo: State House

France, EU ink 30m euros pact for cross border power project

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government yesterday signed a 30 million euros (84.5bn/-) grant agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union (EU) to finance the cross-border link of the Tanzania-Zambia energy interconnection project.

The project will upon completion increase reliable electricity supply and allow the two countries to efficiently trade

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Treasury Permanent Secretary Dotto James said the project consists of 620 kilometers of 400KV double circuit transmission lines, starting in Iringa and going through Kisada and Mbeya to the Tunduma border post. The line will continue from Tunduma to Sumbawanga, linking Tanzania's grid with that of Zambia, he said.

"The grant is expected to finance the construction of the Tunduma substation.

including the installation of 400KV/330KV switch gear and a four kilometre transmission line from Tunduma. "This is a very large and important project which will guarantee our country's energy security," he declared.

The grant, issued by the EU and directly managed by AFD, will also involve funding of staff for operation of electricity systems, integration of renewable energy, smart grid technologies as well as maintenance of the lines and substations, plus ensuring project sustainability.

In his remarks, AFD country director Stephanie Mouen said the total cost of the project is estimated at 500 million euros, cofinanced through concessional loans from AFD and the World Bank.

The EU charge d'affaires, Emmilio Rosetti, said the grant was critical for the development of the whole project as it reduces risks in implementation. It facilitates liaison between Tanzania and Zambia on shared costs for substations

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NOTICE OF HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSURE

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'Issue environment permits in 14 days'

By Guardian Reporter

INVESTORS must get environment impact assessment (EIA) certificates within 14 days, the Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), Ummy Mwalimu has directed.

She told the top leadership of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) here on Monday on her first visit to the NEMC head offices that the government was aware that EIA clearance involves NEMC and other agencies but that NEMC plays a central role.

Therefore it has to develop an action plan that would make the various agencies undertake what they need to do in those assessments and investors get certificates in 14 days, she emphasized.

"NEMC must meet other government agencies to sort out issues surrounding the issuance of EIA certificates. It should develop an action plan so that certificates are issued in 14 as the president directed during our swearing in ceremony," the minister elaborated, noting that the action plan would give explicit

TURN TO PAGE 2

Motisun Group chairman Subhash Patel is no more

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has conveyed a message of condolence on the death of Subhash Patel (62), Executive Chairman of the Motisun Group of Companies who passed away yesterday in Dar es Salaam.



"The late Subhash made a great contribution in the industrial sector. He was a friend to all, charming and provided assistance to both the poor and the rich and he never discriminated anyone," the premier said in his message.

"I offer my sincere condolences to family members, relatives and all those who have been touched by his death. The nation has lost one of its patriots, may God rest his soul in eternal peace, Amen," the message intoned.

The message underlined the sadness attending the death of the country's most prominent businessmen who also chaired TURN TO PAGE 2



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Tanzania-China big commercial cassava project being formalised

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stated. "We're set to implement this project so as to ensure Tanzania produces more cassava and at required standards in order to cater for the Chinese market," she said, urging the Ministry of Agriculture to institute a series of initiatives to capacitate cassava farmers to increase their production and productivity.

Currently, China's market ability to take up exports of dry cassava from Tanzania is projected at more than two million tons annually.

In May 2017, Tanzania signed a phytosanitary protocol with China, a bilateral business move which apart from providing the green light for local companies to sell various goods in China; it also opened the market access for local exports of dry cassava.

Currently, there are at least six companies working for dry cassava exportation but the country has yet to reap the economic fortunes from the promised market due to setbacks in the country's cassava production chain.

Nyasebwa Chimagu, Director for Crops in the Ministry of Agriculture, says that the parent ministry is working to implement to push for expanded production and productivity of cassava.

The target is to scale-up cassava productivity from the current eight tonnes to at least 16 tons per hectare by adopting improved technology.

"We are also continuing with efforts to breed more cassava varieties which are pest and disease tolerant, but with high vielding potential. Authorized seed inspectors will effectively be trained to professionally facilitate the production of quality seed," he explained.

To improve agronomic services and technologies to farmers, the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and an agro-technology developer have developed packages such agronomic correct spacing, planting

techniques, fertiliser rates, weed management, pest and disease management as well as ripening time monitoring and harvesting technologies. "The technologies are being disseminated to farmers through various ways, including demonstration plots in major cassava growing areas, with SMS, APP packaging with a specific technology and radio programmes," he said.

The director noted that China's cassava market is very promising and open to everyone, so the government is working to provide all necessary provisions to facilitate market access.

China's market requirements emphasize that the exported products should be free from pests and diseases, free from contaminants such as sand, metal andpesticide residues, a tall order for traditional cassava production.

"Also, the products must be packaged in appropriate packaging materials that conform to regulatory requirements in China," he elaborated.

Pests and diseases of concern to China are fairly numerous, including Prostephanus truncatus (Horn), Trogoderma granarium events, Phenacoccus manihoti (Matije Ferrer), Sinoxylon conigerum Gerstaecker, Achatina Fulica, Meloidogyne spp, Oxalias latifolia Kunth, African cassava mosaic virus (ACMV), Xanthomonas axonopodispv. maniho (Bondar) explained in Vauterin et al, and the Cassava Brown Streak Virus (CBSV).

Due to prolonged rainfall and existence of COVID 19, no cassava was exported in 2020, he affirmed, noting further that the world price of dry cassava is relatively low that does not match with current costs of production in Tanzania.

Tanzania small exports quantities of cassava and cassava products mainly dry chips to Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, China, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, exportation which saw the country fetch at least \$12.93million from 2016 to 2018, he added.



Finance and Planning Permanent Secretary Doto James (C) exchanges Memorandum of Understanding with French ambassador to Tanzania Frederic Clavier after signing 84bn/- loan which will be used for the construction of electricity line from Tanzania to Zambia at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is Europen Union deputy ambassador Emilio Rossetti. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

France, EU ink 30m euros pact for cross border power project

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connecting transmission lines.

The grant will reduce Tanzania's burden for loan repayment by taking on part of the costs, he said, underlining that Tanzania still has an energy infrastructure gap, critical for the industrialization of the country.

Abundant, diverse and renewable energy sources in Eastern and Southern Africa underline the significant potential benefits from regional energy sector integration, he said

The completion of the regional power project is critical for power trade between the Southern Africa power pool and the East African power pool. This improves energy security and quality of supply in the region hence contributing to regional power system integration, he stated.

The line will also enable evacuation of power from energy generation projects currently under construction, he added.

President Mwinyi congratulates Defence minister, vows support

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has congratulated the Minister of Defence and National Service, Elias Kuandikwa for his appointment and promised to continue working with him.

He made the pledge yesterday when he met with him at the Zanzibar's State House. Eng Kuandikwa was accompanied with his permanent secretary Faraji Mnyepe.

Dr Mwinyi expressed his satisfaction with the appointment of Eng. Kuandikwa due to his great leadership ability and promised to give him greater support for effective implementation of his duties in the new post, taking into account that it is one of the union ministries.

President Mwinyi expressed his hopes with the ministry and he'll continue to be close to the Minister in ensuring that he fulfills his responsibilities in parallel with ensuring that the Zanzibar Brigades continue to thrive.

For his part, Kuandikwa congratulated President Dr Mwinyi for being elected as the eight Isles' leader in the October General Election. He described President Mwinyi as a pro-development leader, who is eager to see Zanzibar in the next level in terms of development.

He also lauded Mwinyi for his outstanding leadership when he was the minister, something that simplifies his work, pledging to follow his footsteps in realising the desired mission.

The minister also assured the Zanzibar leader that he will visit the Indian Ocean archipelago on regular basis to accomplish his duties. "I'll continue to learn from you (Dr Mwinyi) on a number of issues for the purpose of reaching the country's desired dreams," he said.

Before being elected as Zanzibar President, Dr Mwinyi was the Minister of Defence and National Service of Tanzania.

Foreign Affairs, East African Cooperation minister Prof. Palagamba Kabudi chairs the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific states ministerial meeting (OACPS) through Video Conference) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. From left are Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister William Tate Ole Nasha, Tanzania ambassador in Belgium Jestas Abouk Nyamanga and Finance and Planning Minister Dr. Philip

By Getrude Mbago

THE country's top think-tank-REPOAyesterday brought together workers from the National **Economic Empowerment Council** (NEEC) to capacitate them with essential skills and knowledge on how to utilize research findings in various economic development plans.

Dr Donald Mmari, REPOA's executive director said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the training is part of the implementation of a special Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two institutions late last year with an aim of accelerating the economic empowerment process in the

"Last year, we signed an MoU which designed to collaborate on capacity building of NEEC policy, dialogue, governance, of programmes; delivery

REPOA empowers NEEC staffs with skills on exploring research findings

resource mobilization as well as facilitated improvements in communication and marketing, so the today's meeting responds to the key objective of the agreement," Dr Mmari said this when opening the three-day training session.

He said that the skills will also help the NEEC technical staff to be able to review outcomes of various researches to identify key issues and gaps which will later be incorporated in development policies.

Mmari further said in celebrating 25 years since its establishment in 1995, REPOA has contributed immensely in the country's social and economic growth through various studies and training which in turn

policies and national laws.

It was recently ranked as the top think tank in Tanzania for the 6th consecutive year and the number 11 of the 612 leading research organisations in Sub-Sahara Africa in the 2019 Global Go to Think Tank Index (GGTI)," Dr Mmari added.

Beng'i Issa, NEEC executive secretary commended REPOA for organising the training, saying that essential session will strengthen the working capacity of the staff.

"NEEC has a big role in supervising the implementation of the empowerment policy in the country, this includes forming strategies, programmes that stimulate economic growth," she

She said that NEEC is committed to continue creating conducive environment for entrepreneurs to thrive in business and stimulate economic activities as well as helping to create jobs and trade opportunities.

"We have been capacitating and supporting small-scale entrepreneurs (SMEs) business management soft loans and markets so as to improve their businesses," she said.

Beng'i further said that the council has also been encouraging locals to participate in mega projects such as gas, water, power and mining so as to gain expertise and income.

Motisun Group chairman Subhash Patel is no more

the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) and was a board member of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).

TPSF wrote on its official twitter page yesterday on how it was touched by the demise of the veteran industrialist.

"We are deeply saddened by the news of Subhash Patel's passing on. The late Patel was TPSF board director, chairman of CTI and a prominent leader within the Tanzanian and East Africa's business community. May the Almighty God rest his soul in eternal peace. Amen."

It said: "Patel left us when we needed him the most as we strive hotels and resorts.

to strengthen the private sector as the engine of the economy and prosperity."

One of his family members said Patel died at his home in Kisutu in Dar es Salaam where he was receiving treatment and is expected to be buried tomorrow (Thursday, December 17) at Hindu Crematory at Kijitonyama in Dar es Salaam.

The late Patel, one of the country's most prominent businessmen owned companies that manufacture plastic goods, cement, corrugated iron sheets, steel bars, power cables, soft drinks, wall paints and also owned Whitesands, Seacliff and Pearlsun

'Issue environment permits in 14 days'

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guidelines to consultants on what to do to hasten the exercise.

The minister urged the council to stipulate obligatory actions that applicants have to take well before filing applications for EIA clearance, specifying that NEMC officials must do their work and facilitate smooth implementation of the projects.

Unimpeded execution of investment projects was paramount in making Tanzania an industrial country by 2025, she declared.

"The intention of the government is to ensure Tanzania has an enabling and very friendly environment for investment and in doing business. Therefore, the question of EIA clearance must be properly addressed and

certificates must be out in 14 days,' the minister affirmed, urging the public to protect the country's environment for the good of the present and future generations.

NEMC Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka welcomed the minister's instructions, acknowledging that it was the council's ambition to ensure it contributes immensely to making Tanzania a responsive investment destination with a positive environment for people investing and doing business in the country. "We shall carry out the ministerial instructions, develop the action plan and ensure certificates are issued in 14 days," he pledged. T he council would ensure zonal offices play an important role in the quick issuance of EIA certificates, he added.



Water minister Jumaa Aweso (2nd R) listens to Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Chief Executive Officer Eng. Cyprian Luhemeja on the implementation of Mkuranga - Vikindu water project after his visit on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Crash costs family three members

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THREE members of the same family died and two others seriously injured after the car they were travelling in rammed into a cargo truck at Changalawe in Mafinga town in Mufindi District, Iringa Region.

Regional Police Commander (RPC) Juma Bwire told journalists yesterday that the accident occurred on Monday around 8 pm when the victims were travelling from Mbeya Region.

He said that the accident involved a Toyota Land Cruiser registration number

T852 AHE and the cargo truck were coming back from Mbeya, (Scania) number T229DFL / T101AGY the property of Amos Mwakajube, a Dar es Salaam resident.

Commander Bwire named those who lost their lives in the accident as Wihanzi Peter (66), one of the famous businessmen in Iringa town, Linda Mhewa (28) with her son Drayden Pastory (10).

He cited the recklessness of the Toyota Land Cruiser's driver as one of the main cause of the accident.

"Wihanzi a famous trader who was residing in Makorongoni area in Iringa town the family members unnecessary road crashes.

the driver (Wihanzi) was speeding something which led him to lose control and rammed into the Scania," he said.

He also named the two people from the Toyota Land cruiser who cheated death as Elika Mwinami (62), a farmer at Makorongoni in Iringa, and Devota Mhewa (16), a student at Kidamali secondary school. The casualties are now receiving treatment at Mafinga hospital.

RPC Bwire further reminded all drivers to adhere to traffic rules and regulations to avoid

Reports show that 80 per cent of accidents in the country were caused by reckless drivers, 12 per cent caused by the mechanical problems of the vehicles, 6 per cent by climate change, while only 2 per cent of the road accidents are caused by poor infrastructure.

The Global figures as provided by WHO in 2018, indicate that each year 1.35 million people die as a result of road traffic crashes, and millions more are injured or disabled while head injuries remain the leading cause of death and disability among motorcycles riders.

Govt endorses cable car installation on Mt Kili

By Guardian Reporter

THE government's plan to install cable car on Mount Kilimanjaro is on top gear, despite criticism from environmentalists within and outside the country.

Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) assistant conservation commissioner, Paul Banga said over the weekend when speaking at the editors and senior journalists meeting held in the country's capital Dodoma.

He said that the government has given TANAPA a go-ahead to the long-awaited cable car project on the Africa's highest mountain, saying: "We're waiting for instructions from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism before we start looking for investors of the project."

According to Banga, installation of the cable car on the mountain is not something new as it happened in other countries like South Africa, UK, Brazil, China, Sweden, Italy, and the Himalayas.

"So, Tanzania will not be the first country to implement such project... there are many countries which executed such project," he said, arraying fears from critics that the project would jeopardise tourism on the highest single free-standing mountain in the world.

He also revealed that the cable car will be installed up to Horombo hut, which is at 3,700 metres out of the mountain's 5,895 metres above sea level.

"And tourists that would be using cable car won't be allowed to continue with the journey to the Uhuru Peak... they will be required to go back to the starting point of the cable car," the official said.

The cable car, according to the authorities will cater to the physically disabled, the elderly, and children; it will also help tourists get up the mountain faster.

Around 50,000 tourists climb the

"So, Tanzania will not be the first country to implement such pro*ject...there are many countries* which executed such project"

iconic mountain annually, bringing tens of millions of dollars to the country, and the installation of the cable car is expected to increase tourist numbers, hence meet the government's target of reaching five million tourists annually by

And the government projects to increase tourism earnings from US\$2.6billion to US\$6billion in the next five years. The government is carrying out a social and environmental impact assessment before construction on the Kilimanjaro cable car system begins.

A quarter-million porters and mountain guides worry of the project, saying it will threaten their livelihoods taking into accounts that the mountain is a source of income for many people in Kilimanjaro and neighboring regions and the country at large. There are about 20,000 porters working between Mount Kilimanjaro and Meru, another mountain nearby.

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By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi revoked the appointment of the President's Secretary, Suleiman Ahmed Saleh who had been at the job for only 40 days since his appointment on November 4, this year.

Dr Mwinyi decision was in accordance with Article 53 of the 1984 Zanzibar Constitution and section 12(3) of the Public Service Act 2011.

A statement from the Zanzibar State House issued yesterday by the Secretary to the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council and Chief Secretary Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee, said Saleh would be assigned other duties.

When he administering the oaths of 13 ministers he nominated after forming his Cabinet, President Mwinyi said leaders he had appointed who would not perform according to his own work pace would be removed from their positions to give room to others.

Before issuance of the letter of revocation of Saleh's appointment, Dr Mwinyi met with members of the Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) at State House and said his government will work together with the private sector to ensure Zanzibar economic growth.

He said his aim was to improve cooperation the private with sector in attaining Zanzibar economic development including

Dr Mwinyi revokes appointment of President's Secretary Saleh

business people.

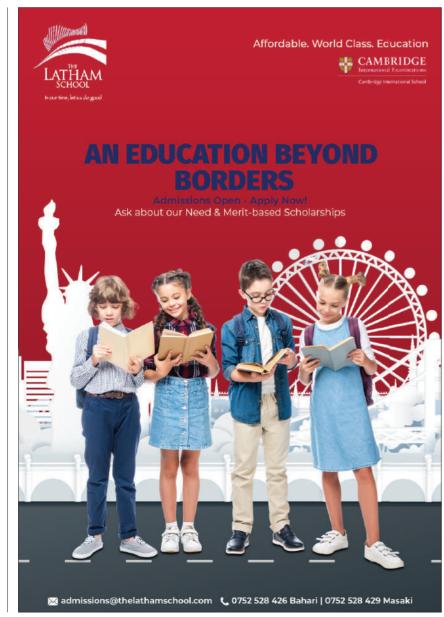
and recommendations on regulatory regimes, of which they were many but there has been confusion in regard to tax payment.

He also said his aim for the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) is to ensure it incorporates all essential issues for investors to simplify their operations including the issuance of permits and licences.

He said there was therefore the need

a friendly environment for the for an open communication avenue between the private sector and the He called on them to offer advices government via mutual discussions aimed at finding solutions to the existing challenges.

In regard to the issue of strengthening local industries, Dr Mwinyi said there was the need to protect the industries including payment of taxes to spur development and assist Zanzibar for employment opportunities. For their part, NCC members said their aim was to work together with the government to boost Zanzibar's business sector.





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Zanzibar acting Health, Community Development, Gender and Children who is also Education and Vocational Training minister Simai Mohammed Said (facing camera) talks with Zanzibar Food and Drug Agency officers yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Sulei

DAS pushes for better coffee farming practices

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

KAGERA Regional Administrative Secretary, Prof Faustine Kamuzora has called on government and private agricultural experts to compete in the provision of training in germinating and planting of coffee seedlings to boost crop yields.

Dr Kamuzora issued the remarks during his inspection of coffee seedlings beds at Maruku Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Maruku) at Maruku Ward in Bukoba District.

He praised Cafe Afrika, the institution engaged in reviving coffee farms in Kagera Region that aims to train farmers in Muleba, Karagwe and Kyerwa districts. He said the region was blessed with good land for coffee cultivation, but farmers have no trainings in improving their crops for higher yields.

He said what was needed was to provide coffee farmers with better farming practices in order to harvest adequate crop - up to 200,000 tonness of raw coffee by 2025.

He said this requirement would be attained if farming experts build on themselves capacity to manage coffee seedlings up to the farmer's harvesting stage.

Daniel Mwakalinga, Cafe Afrika Kagera Region manager said his institution is engaged in providing trainings to farmers and the youth to enable them teach others in their respective

Make regular checkups on lifestyle diseases, expert advises Tanzanians

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIANS have been advised to regularly check their health against lifestyle diseases so that they can easily be identified and take precautions.

Director of Jakava Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), Prof Mohamed Janabi issued the advice when speaking during convocation prepared by Ardhi University (ARU) in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

According to him, none communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, kidney and cancers are increasing all around the world.

Prof Janabi said NCDs remain a serious threat all around the world so there is a need for the society to take necessary precaution and do regular checkup to know their health status.

"The trend shows that globally there is massive increase of none communicable diseases that is why we insist on people to change their eating habit and generally so they can protect themselves," he said, urging Tanzanians to be very careful when taking medicine by following directives by medical doctors instead of using them without any directives from professionals.

"People who have tested and found themselves with high blood pressure must make sure they take their medicine every day as they were told by their doctors and for those of you who are yet to get tested must do that now so that you can know your health status," he said. He further said that for people to be in a safe side they must make sure they do regular exercises.

The main risk factors for NCDs namely smoking, alcohol intake, unhealthy diet and low physical activity are prevalent in both rural and urban communities. The socio-demographic and economic transition has a big role in the current rise of non-communicable diseases in Tanzania.

Specialised cancer ward to cater for three zones

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

RESIDENTS from northern, eastern and central zone regions will no longer have to travel to Dar es Salaam to seek specialised cancer services, thanks to the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) referral hospital for launching 1.8bn/- worth special cancer ward in the area.

The specialised cancer ward will be able to accommodate 47 patients.

Speaking during the launching ceremony yesterday here, KCMC executive director Prof Gileard Masenga said that the construction of the ward worth1.8b was contributed immensely by donors from Foundation For Cancer Care in Tanzania (FCCT) and the Good Samaritan Foundation (GSF).

The government as well as the hospital's staff also contributed to the construction of the ward, he said.

"The ten-room ward is modern having all essential equipment to serve the patients. However, the challenge is lack of of human resources to work in the ward. We have requested the government to support us with the health experts so as to make services much easier," Prof Masenga said.

The event was also graced by the head of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Bishop Dr Fredrick Shoo.

Prof Masenga said that the hospital also lacks radiation treatment services, calling on stakeholders to extend their support as the construction of the radiotherapy building and its machines may cost 7bn/-.

"We really thank government because it had promised to contribute 2bn/- to support the construction of the radiotherapy building," he said.

According to him, since the hospital established cancer services in 2016, it had offered services to a total of 24,823 patients whereby 2,945 were new patients.

Dr Shoo who also serves as chairman of the GSF's board of trustees commended the government for the hospital's support to provide qualified workers who have been doing a tremendous job in serving people's lives.

"We also commend our partners and donors including the Foundation for Cancer Care), Mission One World as well as our fellows from Bavaria church in Germany who donated beds and mattresses for the new cancer ward," he said.

The Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre is one among the four zonal consultant hospitals in Tanzania. It was formally established in 1971 as a zonal referral consultant hospital owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) under the Good Samaritan Foundation (GSF).

KCMC has been carrying out its services to people according to the mission statement, "To render God's healing services to set mankind free from the bondage of sickness, suffering and sin", "To reflect Christ's character of love, mercy, compassion and faithfulness in the course of fulfilling the call to care and heal the sick" and "To share God's grace and love through the power of the Holy Spirit in the course of treating and caring for the sick".

It has been one of the worldclass centres for patient care, teaching and research with leading clinical specialty areas and an internationally renowned research institute.

Govt to speed up firmer indicative price for milk

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

speed up setting indicative prices for milk to benefit dairy cattle keepers.

It has also said there are strategies in place for adding value to the milk products in order to spur competition in both domestic and foreign markets.

The pledge was given here recently by Charles Malunde, Cooperatives deputy registrar interview with this paper soon after a task meeting that involved primary cooperatives in Tanga Region coordinated by Tanga Dairies Cooperative Union (TDCU).

Malunde also called on dairy cattle keepers to abandon traditional practices and opt for modern methods that would bring benefits to them and the nation in general.

Price of milk in Tanga Region is 1,200/- per litre while the exfactory price for the 250ml packet of milk is 600/-, three times more than the price of dairy cattle

We must be well understood.

It is impossible for a dairy cattle keeper who does not feed his cows THE government has pledged to as required, to produce only three litres of milk per day and expect to benefit from keeping livestock,' he aueried.

He added: "Even if the government will raise the price of milk, you cannot use the product for your development, you will just discover it was unprofitable."

He said there was a plan for dairy cattle keepers through their cooperative unions to access loans purchase quality milk breeds and then collect a certain quantity of milk each day as repayment for the loans.

He instructed cooperative officials in the country to take steps against certain primary cooperative officials who defraud dairy cattle keepers by collecting their milk and then sell to private dealers at higher prices without following laid down procedures.

Some of dairy cattle keepers from primary cooperatives who were in attendance said the current milk price has been in place for a very long time, as opposed to the genuine situation following rising production costs.



National Environment Management Council (NEMC) director general Samuel Gwamaka (L) hands over Council's documents to the newly appointed minister of State in Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Ummy Mwalimu yesterday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian

Government advises farmers to join cooperative societies

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has advised farmers to join cooperative societies and move to large scale farming to form linkages with the current mushrooming of food and beverage industries which has increased demand for agricultural raw materials.

Minister of State in the President's Office (Investment), Prof Kitila Mkumbo stated yesterday that the country's industrialisation drive calls for huge amount of raw materials.

The minister made the remarks in Dar es Salaam upon visiting the Said Salim Bakhresa and

familiarisation tour to investors upon his appointment to the portfolio.

"As we put more emphasis on the establishment of industries, we should also ensure that there is the linkage between these industries and the farmers," he noted, adding that the linkage was only possible when the farmers cultivate on large scale under cooperative unions.

The visit was coordinated by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) where the investors have

registered their projects. During his visit to the industry, affairs director Hussein Sufian

Company Limited as part of his he was informed that one of the company's industries, Buguruni Flour Mills, uses imported wheat for processing because of insufficient wheat production within the country.

It came to light that the industry's annual demand for wheat was about 1.1 million tonnes.

"This is a huge opportunity for our wheat farmers if they could come together under the cooperative societies and join their forces for commercial Prof farming," Mkumbo

Bakhresa Group corporate

said the company was in talks with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to see how they can cooperate in empowering local wheat farmers.

"We want to sign Memorandum of Understanding that would make an arrangement how the TADB would bring together farmers to cultivate for feeding our industries with raw materials," Sufian explained.

As a big local investor, which has created over 45000 jobs, the company expressed satisfaction over cooperation from regulatory in authorities addressing challenges facing investors.

Before visiting the Said Salim Bakhresa Company, Prof Mkumbo earlier in the morning arrived at Knauf Gypsum Tanzania Ltd located in Mkuranga district, Coast region.

The industry, to produce gypsum boards, limestone plasters and metal profiles, is expecting to invest over 110bn/by the start of its production next year and will create over 160 employments.

According to the Managing Director of the Knauf Gypsum Tanzania Ltd, Ilse Boshoff the industry would be bringing in \$2.1 million (about 5bn/-) annually to Tanzania from exporting its products.

On his part, Prof Mkumbo said Tanzania needed high quality industries that would add value to the country and create decent employments that protect the dignity of Tanzanians.

"We want industries that would boost export," he insisted, adding that such investments need quick facilitations from regional and district authorities.

Mkuranga District Commissioner Filbert Sanga commented that the district leads in having a large number of industries totaling 90, ranging from small, mid, and large scale

Traditional medicinal remedies

By Giza Mdoe

he air nice and crisp, it still contains a lot of moisture from the just ended rain that poured in the rural Morogoro village. I am here to speak to the old men and women of Isangi village, a famous location for herbalism.

I am accompanied by a rather young tour guide who is familiar with these parts. Having travelled a couple of hours from the commercial city of Dar es Salaam, we had ventured deep into the outskirts of the city to emerge in a rice flooded plain.

We spent the night at our hosts humble house that was interestingly well lit using solar lamps. The Been the rain season, it was no surprise that it poured throughout the night and only let go at dawn.

The natives are happy with the rains, it promises a good harvest but it also maintains the shrubs, herbs and wild plantations in the forests, the source of medicinal plants.

We started our short trek to track down a famous herbalist right when the rain stopped. A few minutes into our walk and the sun started glaring, the air turned humid and thick, typical for the tropics and recipe for disease, parasites and all forms of pathogens but also their antidotes, as we were soon to find out.

"Shikamo" I greet the elderly man that welcomes us through the threshold.

The herbalist turned out to be a short stout old man probably in his late 70s but did not look a day over 40. He worked upright and with a gait, he was jovial and displayed a full set of white teeth. Hi skin was bright, his hair was tidy and well kept. His eyes were bright and sharp, he looked very healthy.

After a short tour of the compound we settled under a tree shade from where he narrated and displayed some of his common herbal remedies.

According to Mzee Juma, as he many diseases that come with the rain season (and actually there are diseases prone to each and every season). However, for all the diseases, he reassured me, there are herbs and roots and various natural concoctions to relieve the

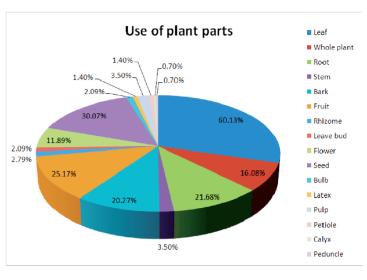
Mzee Juma was also more keen on prevention rather than cure. He, on several occasions remarked that the regular intake of herbs and roots serves to strengthen and protect the body from attack by disease.

"We use the herbs mostly to treat children and when people

are hurt by accident" he said. It was interesting to learn that people in this village rarely fell

sick and the herbalist services were mostly needed to treat

children and accident victims. He showed me various plants, tree barks, roots and berries, which he said can be chewed



Number of plant parts used for medicinal purpose in pie chart

raw or boiled and the resulting concoction '...is very good to protecting the body and keep you health and strong,' he said with a brought smiling and gesturing with a folded arm, flexing his bicep.

Before coming on this assignment I had been developing a soar throat that had by now turned into a running nose and slight cough. Mzee Juma got his first patient of the day. As he spoke he noticed my running nose which seemed more irritating to me than my hosts.

As he went on speaking about the herbal treatment that he uses, he pinched off a leaf from a branch that laid at his feet and gave it to me.

"Tafuna alafu tema," (chew and then spit it) he instructed

I queried whether I should swallow the juices that would result from chewing the raw leaf and he said yes to swallowing,

In Africa, herbalism has been the way of life. Use of various parts of plants to remedy daily ailments and diseases as well as other afflictions that the body suffers, has been common practice in Africa.

Herbalism is resuming in the modern World. Technically, herbalism is referred to as the study of pharmacognosy or the study of plants and other source of drugs to cure the body of disease and injuries.

Now, the use of medicinal plants is common ground for modern science too. Science uses many plant-derived compounds as the basis for most off count pharmaceutical drugs.

PS pledges to address water

"Although herbalism may apply modern standards of effectiveness testing to herbs and medicines derived from natural sources, few high-quality clinical trials and standards for purity or dosage exist," notes a recent

Notably, as Mzee Juma also pointed out to me, the scope of herbal medicine is extended to include fungal and bee products. In Morogoro, use of honey to cure colds, coughs and burns is very common.

Mzee Juma swore by honey and said no house hold should go without a bottle of the natural bee medicine as he called it.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 80% of the emerging world's population relies on traditional medicine for therapy. During the past decades, the developed world has also witnessed an ascending trend in the utilization of complementary or alternative medicine (CAM), particularly herbal remedies.

Herbal medicines include herbs, herbal materials, herbal preparations, and finished herbal products that contain parts of plants or other plant materials as active ingredients. While 90% of the population in Ethiopia use herbal remedies for their primary healthcare, surveys carried out in developed countries like Germany and Canada tend to show that at least 70% of their population have tried CAM at

Sponserd by Embassy of China



By Guardian Correspondent, Tukuyu

RUNGWE District Councillors in Mbeya Region have called on the government to elevate the status of Tukuyu Town in the district to become full-fledged Town Council in order to send services closer to the people.

Rungwe Constituency Member of Parliament Anthon Mwantona submitted the request during the council's first meeting that was called to swear in the Councillors, saying the constituency deserved to have two local councils due to

He said to elevate Tukuyu town's status will assist in enhancing social services to the residents, especially health services from the government procedure to build district hospitals in every

Councillors call for elevation of Tukuyu to Town Council status

Mwantona said even the construction of one new office building for Tukuyu Town Council will reduce the burden of its residents to travel long distances to look for various government services from Rungwe District Council offices.

"I am told that the process to elevate our town has passed through various stages, hence it will be my responsibility to follow up on the matter up from the Minister of State (Office of the President -Regional Administration and Local Government) to carry the matter to its conclusion," he added.

Rungwe District Executive Director Loema Peter said the process to elevate Tukuyu town's status begun at Councillors' meetings, the District Consultative Committee (DCC) and the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC).

He said as of now, the town has all criteria to be elevated hence he was sure the ministry will acquiesce to the request.

Suma Fyandomo, Special Seats MP for Mbeya Region called on the councillors to ensure they work hard to serve the people and abide by the 2010 CCM Election Manifesto.

woes facing Kongwa District

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Eng Anthony Sanga has promised to address water woes in Kongwa District in the 2020/21 to 2021/22 financial

Sanga gave the pledge during his official visit to listen and find solutions of water woes in Kongwa District in Dodoma Region.

"We have issued directives that are implementable and basically construction work of Sugutu Village Water project will start on this Monday and I have been

instructed that the work should take two months to complete, and at Ndurugumi Village a 910m/water project will be constructed and completed within three months," the PS said. Eng Sanga said when completed, the projects will benefit other nearby villages, and called on people whose areas the infrastructures will pass to cooperate by digging trenches for pipes.

Earlier during the visit some residents of Suguta and Ndurugumi villages issued their complaints over acute water scarcity facing them.

Job Ndugai, the of Parliament called on the residents to take care of the water infrastructures to make them sustainable.

"Our youth should be vigilant in taking care the infrastructures to make them last long. They should look for people who make illegal water connections to their homes and farms, this is not acceptable at all," he said.

PS Sanga visit in Kongwa District is part of his visit designed to listen to people's problems on water scarcity in their areas and look for their solutions.

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children is set to launch the National Environmental Health and Sanitation Strategy Plan (2021-25) targeting to strengthening relevant facilities and service delivery as well as curtailing eruption of poor environmentalrelated diseases, chiefly cholera, and diarrhea, among others.

The timely strategy focuses to improve the country's capacity on environmentalhealthandsanitation

Health ministry launches national strategy to curb eruption of poor environmental-related diseases

matters by creating a platform Tanzania Bureau of Standards to allow key player ministries, institutions, and stakeholders to join efforts and expertise in solving numerous setbacks and thus, improve environmental health and sanitation status in Tanzania.

In target, are the ministries of education, water, the Prime minister's Office (Local Government and Regional Administration) Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA,)

(TBS), and Tanzania Rural Road Agency (TARURA).

The constructive development was unveiled yesterday during the opening of this year's Annual Environmental Health Sanitation Conference convenes in Dodoma for four days by attracting environmental health officers and other health experts from all regions, and officers from the ministry of water.

In his opening remarks, Secretary-General in the ministry of health, Prof Mabula Nchembe insisted that environmental health and sanitation was a sensitive area since it deals with the psychological, mental, and physical health of human beings urged the participants to observe their professionalism and ethics in their daily executions.

"You are facing a huge task

public places, schools within the country the environmental health and sanitation situation is still not friendly. You must yourselves demonstrate what sanitation means," he challenged the environment health officers.

He moreover expressed a grave concern over some environmental health and sanitation officers to entertain a negative habit of accepting bribes in order to not and challenges as in most offices, inspection in some areas, urged them to shun away from such malpractice.

He also suggested the need to set up and implement viable mechanisms to monitor and timely remove waste solid materials being produced from hospitals and other health service centers.

Assistant Director, environmental health and sanitation in the health ministry, Dr Khalid Massa said the conference was a platform for the experts to retreat over the sector's performance for the past year, but also, to discuss and share several key inputs for the bright future of the environmental health and sanitation in Tanzania.



HJF Medical Research International, Inc. Tanzania

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Join us in our efforts to end the HIV epidemic in Tanzania. Be part of the winning team to advance global health and save the lives of people living with HIV.

About HJFMRI Tanzania Program

The Walter Reed Program Tanzania (WRP-T) is a collaborative effort that supports PEPFAR-funded HIV prevention and treatment activities in the Southern Highlands and within the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF). HJF Medical Research International, Inc Tanzania (HJFMRI-T) is a local non-profit that has supported these efforts since 2004 for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). PEPFAR activities are conducted in close collaboration with the Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; and the President's Office of the Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), through the Regional and Council Health Management Teams.

HJFMRI-T provides care and treatment to people affected by HIV/AIDS, and has been actively involved in HIV and AIDS programming, providing resources, personnel, and services to the Southern Highlands Zone. The program has expanded from supporting the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital to becoming a hub for anti-retroviral treatment in the zone; to community support through decentralized services, with the overall objective of implementing research, clinical HIV, prevention, care, and treatment services. HJFMRI-T currently focuses specifically on four regions in the Southern Highlands zone, namely Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Songwe and Ruvuma for VMMC services only. The program also supports TPDF to implement comprehensive HIV prevention care and treatment program in 21 sites throughout the country.

Employment opportunities:

HJF Medical Research International, Inc. Tanzania (HJFMRI-T) is seeking qualified candidates to fill the positions listed below:

Cover letters and resumes should be sent by mail through post/EMS/DHL/ or any reliable Courier to the Human Resources and Administration Manager, P.O. Box 6396, Mbeya, or sent through e-mail to recruitment@wrp.or.tz.

NOTE: To be considered, applicants must put the TITLE OF THE JOB in the SUBJECT LINE. "CVs should not include any reference to marital status, birthplace, or tribal or religious affiliations. Any CVs containing this information will not be considered for employment". Applications that are hand-delivered will not be accepted. The deadline for submitting the application is December 31, 2020. Those who do not meet the minimum requirements, as detailed in the job description below, will not be considered

| Job Title | | Senior Training Manager |
|------------|---|---|
| Reports to | : | Operations Director |
| Location | : | Mbeya |
| Duration | : | 12 Months (with an option to renew subject to availability of funds and need) |

General overview

As part of HJFMRI Tanzania we are seeking a Senior Training Manager who will be the point of contact for all technical and general training queries and training administration across WRP/HJFMRI Tanzania. We are looking for a professional Training Manager to ensure the smooth and effective functioning of training events and special projects. the Training Manager should be capable of providing support to the management; design, coordination, and conduct large and small-scale training activities will be conducted throughout the Southern Highlands. S/he will also be responsible for all training administration, scheduling, and coordination of training, while continually seeking to identify improvements to deliver training efficiencies and cost-effectiveness. This role is based in Mbeya, Tanzania, and will involve traveling to for fieldwork.

Duties and Responsibilities

- · Update and expand the TRAINSMART database including entry of all training events, administer training records and the input of training qualifications in conjunction with the Head of Departments
- Liaise with training providers both internally and externally in relation to course coordination, facilitation including liaising with MOH and other stakeholders and be responsible for associated training administration such as training schedules, bookings, pre and post course work (where relevant), evaluation sheets, certificates etc.
- Record recommendations for training based on an annual needs analysis conducted with Line Managers, HR, and other relevant departments
- Design and apply assessment tools to measure training effectiveness, together with relevant
- Heads of Departments and the CQI department • Track and report on training outcomes
- Provide feedback to training participants and management
- Evaluate and make recommendations on training material and methodology Coordinate with the Events Manager to ensure logistics for training activities are complete
- · Establish and maintain relationships with external training suppliers
- · Manage training budget and maintain in-house training facilities and equipment Continually evaluate procedures to monitor and analyze course effectiveness.
- · Coordinate regular training review boards with managers, CQI department and internal training providers to ensure current and future learning needs are addressed; training provision is efficient and effective.
- · Identify internal and external training programs to address competency gaps
- Partner with internal stakeholders regarding employee training needs
- · Organize, develop or source training programs to meet specific training needs • Inform employees about training options and map out training plans for individual employees
- · Maintain employee training records
- Build and distribute an internal training prospectus covering what training is available, dates, and times employees and managers can access. Recommend ways to promote and improve communication of training opportunities across HJFMRI-T.
- Responsible for assisting the HR Department and the business with the facilitation of all -Training and following up with managers and individuals where required.

Knowledge and Qualifications

- · A Bachelor's degree in a related field, a holder of MPH or/and MBA will be an added
- · Knowledge of TRAINSMART will be an advantage.
- · Five years' work experience in coordinating multiple training especially in HIV/AIDS
- · Should have knowledge in adult instructional and learning theory and principles, instructional design, training methodologies, learning management systems, and competency assessment
- · Previous experience of working within a similar training role and environment. Experience in database management.
- Excellent IT skills. · Good communication and negotiation skills
- · Tenacious with a 'can do' attitude
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.
- · Confident presentation skills with the ability to translate health and technical data for
- communication to non-technical personnel

Location : Mbeya

Duration : 12 Months (with an option to renew based on the availability of funding and need)

The Program Pharmacy Technical Advisor (PPTA) is the technical lead personnel responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating all supply chain activities for HJFMRI/WRP-T HIV/ AIDS programs. He or she works closely with the Associate Director of Clinical Services and the Logistic Management unit of the Ministry of Health Community Development Gender Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC), Medical stores Department (MSD), local partners and stakeholders for the development and implementation of supply chain procedures in support to adequate medicine quantification, procurement, warehousing, inventory management, ordering/issuing, and distribution.

The PPTA provides technical leadership and direction for developing and implementing innovative strategies and activities to support the strengthening of supply management systems in the Southern Highland Zone. The PPTA will also work with other WRP Regional teams to develop and deploy appropriate logistics management information systems that support the planning and monitoring of supply chain operations. He or she supports supply chain capacity-building efforts and ensures that systems and processes are in place to assure the continuous availability of key program commodities. The PPTA ensures activities are based on the annual HJFMRI-approved Supply chain work plan. The full-time position is at HJFMRI/WRP Office in Mbeya, Tanzania, with 40% and 5% Domestic and Foreign travel, respectively, and reports to the Associate Director of Clinical Services.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist the Associate Director of Clinical Services in the development of Supply Chain work plans and budgets as they relate to supply chain activities. Provide input into updating and implementing the annual work plan and budget for PEPFAR supported Medicine for Opportunistic Infections.
- Provide technical assistance to WRP Regional teams and local partners to quantify HIV/AIDS products and other key commodities, including establishing appropriate forecasting and supply planning mechanism and information systems to assure the availability of data necessary for adequate quantification.
- Collaborate with the WRP Regional Teams and local partners to ensure that effective and efficient warehousing and distribution systems are in place for HIV/AIDS medicines and other key commodities.
- Participate in identifying and prioritizing capacity development activities to strengthen national and regional level pharmaceutical supply chains, and build expertise in monitoring and supervision in collaboration with WRP Regional Teams and other relevant team members and partners. Develop and implement appropriate training and supervision programs.
- Provide technical assistance to WRP-SC team and other treatment partners on OI medicine issues, including drug product quantification, procurement, and distribution.
- Represent the HJFMRI/WRP program at various technical meetings with other cooperating agencies, collaborating partners, senior government officials, and/or donor agencies in matters related to the supply chain.
- Provide technical assistance to assess current HIV/AIDS pharmaceutical management practices and develop action plans and recommendations to address priority issues to improve the related supply chain's effectiveness
- Provide TA to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for inventory management and other aspects of supply chain management that will assure the availability and quality of medicines and other commodities.
- Provide supervision to other SCM team members and be held accountable for their performance management (including regular results, check-ins, formal appraisals, supportive supervision, rewards, training, coaching, and career development support).
- Monitor and document progress of activities toward achieving results of the supply chain activities of the approved HJFMRI/WRP-T work plan through periodic measurements of indicators.
- Participate in developing regular quarterly and semi-annual reports on the work plan for Supply chain activities for HJFMRI/WRP HI/AIDS program as needed. The PPTA is also expected to draft regular activity progress reports, closely monitor activities assigned to the Regional SC team to meet results and budget targets.
- Provide technical assistance to WRP Regional team and other treatment partners in the area of Pharmacovigilance
- Produce any other ad hoc reports or updates on activities, as required or requested by
- Make regular presentations of results and progress to stakeholders. Participate and make representations on relevant program work in technical meetings as needed.
- Facilitate the work of external consultants as required.
- · Undertake other relevant activities as requested by the Associate Director of Clinical
- Organizing and Coordinating Commodity and Performance review meetings in Mbeya, Rukwa, Ruvuma, Songwe, and Katavi Regions,
- · Assist the Regional teams in the development of Scope of works and budgeting of all activities related to supply chain, commodity management, and performance review
- Organize for the necessary logistics involvement for teams to conduct the meetings. Liaise with Region Technical Coordinators to consolidate meeting resolutions (supply chain
- and commodity management) and share with teams of implementers In collaboration with Regional Technical Coordinators, R/CHMTs supervise implementations
- of all agreed resolutions (supply chain and commodity management) at the site level.
- Works with the various Departments Lab, M&E, Outreach, CQI, Contracts, and program teams (Advisors), for Identification and prioritization of Expectations and Core Essential activities for implementation by WRP Regional teams.

Knowledge and Qualifications

- A basic degree in pharmacy (Bachelor Pharmacy or it's equivalent) with the added advantage of Masters of Public Health
- Five years of post-training experience as a practicing pharmacist
- · Three of these should be in direct HIV/AIDS service provision.
- Three years' experience in planning and budgeting pharmacy-related commodities
- Five years' experience in logistics management information system
- Understanding of MOHCDGEC structure and operating system
- Understanding the policies and practices of the Tanzania national commodity management
- Basic understanding of the USG commodity management system Basic training and experience in adherence counseling are preferred.
- Leadership and management experience is preferred. · Demonstrated ability to build and maintain relationships with senior colleagues, particularly
- interacting with government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and donor agencies
- Good communication skills
- Proficiency in the use of the English language, both oral and written
- · Basic computer skills, including use of software-based recording and reporting of pharmacy

Location : Mbeya

Duration : 12 Months (with an option to renew based on the availability of funding and need)

General Overview

This position is responsible for day to day transactional accounting operations of HJFMRI-T operations. The Senior Accountant will serve as a point person for accounting and provide supervision, coaching, and support to program staff and any other junior accountant in the department. He / She is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable accounting policies and procedures, laws, and regulations requirements.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide leadership and supervision of other department accountants (s) Ensuring daily accounting activities are executed with the right ethical practices.
- Perform accounting activities to include financial reports, bank reconciliations, general ledger entries, and other general accounting functions.
- Ensure the document workflow's efficiency within the department from the point request is
- made, approval, final payment, and reconciliation. · Maintain, monitor accounts, and finance helpdesk to ensure that issues raised by other staff
- are responded to and resolved timely. Maintain and reconcile petty cash accounts monthly to be reviewed by the accounting
- manager, Maintain robust financial reports in compliance with organizations' policies and procedures.
- Responsible for GL entries and accurate recordkeeping to support entries and transactions. Ensures timely monthly and annual accounting close.
- · Resolves accounting issues, concerns, and questions on time to ensure smooth and efficient program operations and to report.
- · Provides monthly accounting reports to finance and accounting staff for review. Assist in Payroll preparation monthly, payroll reconciliations, and resolving all payroll related
- · Reviews vs. prepare monthly reconciliations of all balance sheet accounts. • Trains project accounting staff on HJFMRI procedures and policies.
- · Assist with the preparation of financial reports for the US Government, institutional funders, and private donors as needed
- Respond to routine HQ accounting-related inquiries Provides support for internal and external audit support
- · Review the completeness and accuracy of regional office and country office monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports package submissions, resolve related problems and provide guidance to the country offices to resolve them appropriately.
- Maintain vendor files and related accounting records, such as leases and contracts Manage accounts payables, receivables, payroll, travel advances, and international wires
- Supports or leads on special projects as needed.

- Any other responsibilities as assigned by the accounting manager, in support of the team.
- **Knowledge and Qualifications** Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, or related field.
- ACCA/CPA (T) is an added advantage · Five years minimum accounting and auditing experience, preferably in a nonprofit or international development environment
- · Four years of supervision experience in mid to large accounting department · Knowledge of and familiarity with accounting systems/packages
- · Experience managing staff · Ability to use good judgment and professionalism; experience in decision-making
- · Excellent analytical skills Excellent Microsoft Excel skills and experience with QuickBooks accounting software
- · Experience with US government regulations a plus · Accuracy and attention to detail
- Ability to meet communicated schedules and deadlines
- Strong skills in internal controls and accounting standards.
- · Ability to function effectively both autonomously and on complex/sensitive issues and
- High level of professionalism, transparency, and integrity in the overall production of work.
- · Excellent written and oral communication skills in both English and Kiswahili · Willingness to abide by all ethics and compliance policies of HJFMRI
- Location Mbeya : 12 Months (with an option to renew based on the availability of funding and need)

Duration

HJFMRI-TZ seeks to hire a self-motivated and talented General Accountant. The purpose of this position is to ensure the accuracy of entries; timelines of payments and financial reporting to the program are done without delay. The position holder has to perform balance sheet reconciliations and provide advice and support to staff in financial management.

Duties and Responsibilities

- · Prepare documents by scrutinizing and verifying that all required attachments have been supplied before documents are channeled for approval, posting, and payment process.
- · Post entries into Quick Book daily.
- Ensure all entries posted into QuickBooks comply with the International Financial reporting standard, GAAP, and QuickBooks accounting and reporting manual.
- Initiating payments into the banking system or writing bank checks while ensuring segregation of duty is strictly for each paid document strictly observed between posting and payments
- Ensure payments and all other processes comply with internal control policy and other
- Prepare and submit all documents posted and paid through the bank to the senior accountants daily for QB check application and reconciliation purposes.
- · Maintain the document workflow system and ensuring the document workflow template is fully updated with daily posting and payments made. · Ensure all payments are correctly scanned and submitted to HQ.
- · Reconcile financial discrepancies and errors as reported by collecting and analyzing account information.
- · Answer accounting procedure questions by researching and interpreting accounting policies and regulations. • Enforce internal policies to program staff, e.g., Training SOP, Travel advance policy, Mpesa
- policy, and other program policies. · Prepare financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends, as directed by the Senior Accountant and/or Accounting Manager.
- Maintain professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in
- professional societies. Prepare the monthly payroll entry for review by the Senior Accountant.

Manage statutory deductions, NSSF, PPF, and PAYE Files monthly.

- Prepare monthly closing schedules for review by Senior Accountant. Reconcile bank accounts and clears any discrepancies in the balances by researching and
- analyzing the account information. Maintain and reconcile petty cash accounts on a monthly basis to be reviewed by the Senio
- Accountant Manage timesheets and make the follow-up. Where necessary, scanned them to HQ.
- Work with other program staff to understand program activities and appreciate the existing linkage with finance. · Take the initiative to understand budget preparation, implementation, and monitoring
- process and the program's overall financial management. Work while observing the Professional Code of Conduct (PICCO). Professional behavior, Integrity, Competence, Confidentiality, and Objectivity. The general accountant is directly obligated to report any misconduct observed or heard against these codes to the immediate supervisor or the appropriate reporting channel.
- · Undertake other assignments assigned by the senior accountant, accounting manager, and Senior Finance Director.

Knowledge and Qualifications

- · Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or relevant field. CPA/ACCA is an added advantage.
- Deadline-oriented, Reporting Research Results, SFAS Rules, Time Management, and Data **Entry Management**
- Experience working in accounting with an international NGO, health-related NGO especially
- 1-2 years of QuickBooks Enterprise or similar electronic accounting software experience
- Knowledge of the full accounting cycle.
- Highly proficient in Excel and Word applications. High level of deductive reasoning.
- Ability to problem-solve and take the initiative to resolve issues.
- Excellent communication (verbal and written) in English and Swahili.
- · Exceptional follow-through skills. Ability to meet deadlines.

Duration : 12 Months (with an option to renew based on the availability of funding and need)

Location : Songwe

Regional Strategic Information Lead will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of SI activities for both medical and community partners within their designated region. These include

S/he will support the development and harmonization of effective monitoring and evaluation systems, support capacity building and training activities on SI topics, ensure and logistics and communication across different program areas (medical, research, and outreach) as it relates to data used to inform programmatic decision making.

The Regional Strategic Information Lead will provide feedback to Strategic Information Director through weekly, monthly, and quarterly analysis of key program performance indicators by reviewing historical trends, identifying programmatic gaps, and providing appropriate solutions to address challenges. Additional responsibilities include collaboration with RHMT (regional health management team), CHMT (council health management team), and outreach implementing partners to provide mentorship regarding data management, quality, and use.

Supervisory duties include capacity building and mentorship of Strategic Information officers to improve national M&E systems, use of data, and timeliness of reporting.

The Regional SI Team Lead is responsible for ensuring the quality of data prior to final report compilation. S/he also will collaborate with the District Program Management Officer & Outreach Program Officers to prepare monthly, quarterly, semiannual, annual narrative reports. The Regional SI Team Lead report to the Strategic Information Director. This position will be based in the assigned region in the Southern Highlands.

General Overview data collection, data quality assurance, data compilation & reporting, and data analytics & use.



Duties and Responsibilities

- · Monitor progress of targets (regional and district) and disseminate analysis to Strategic Information officers through IMPACT and DATIM dashboards.
- Ensure the availability of standardized Monitoring and Evaluation tools at district and partner levels.
- Supervise Strategic Information officers to ensure quality data collection and reporting weekly, monthly, and quarterly, and ensure all reporting deadlines are observed.
- · Monitor current data collection and management solutions to identify programmatic gaps and develop solutions in collaboration
- · Review and analyze weekly, monthly & quarterly district reports to identify challenges in program implementation and to enhance
- the quality of reporting and communication. · Develop data visualization to identify and track regional program performance through IMPACT dashboards and other analytic
- tools and implement strategies to increase data use and demand across program staff.
- · Oversee implementation of district-level quarterly data quality assessments through analysis of district and facility-based
- · Conduct final review of data into IMPACT/DATIM on a monthly & quarterly basis prior to submission to SI Director and other relevant staff. · Participate in field-based supportive supervision activities to include monitoring, technical assistance, and training visits with
- HJFMRI staff at the district level, involving internal and external stakeholders. · Liaise with program staff to review and analyze weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports to identify program implementation
- challenges and enhance reporting and communication quality. · Work with Strategic Information officers to build data clerks and data assistants' capacity through recommendations of best practices for data collection, data quality assessment, and reporting using national reporting tools to inform programmatic
- decision-making. · Collaborate with HMIS and DDIU advisor to support health information systems, data demand, and information use at the region

Knowledge and Qualifications

- · Bachelor's degree, preferably in Information Technology, Computer Science, Data Management, Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Public Health, Statistics, or any related discipline. Master's Degree in related field will be of added advantage.
- · A minimum of three years' working experience at a similar position
- · Computer literate in Microsoft Excel, Word, Access, and database administration.
- Technical knowledge of data management policies and procedures · Expertise in DHIS2, DATIM, IMPACT, CTC2 database, pharmacy module, Electronic Medical Records (EMR), and others.
- · Ability to communicate technical data to non-technical audiences
- · Excellent data management and data visualizations skills
- · Ability to analyze and interpret data for decision making.
- · Competent in using Statistical Analysis Packages (SAS, STATA, SPSS, EPI Info) and other analytical software (GIS and Tableau).
- · Strong organizational skills and ability to work in a team-oriented, culturally diverse environment.
- · Ability to resolve problems and identify appropriate solutions to improve data management and use. Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail.
- · The ability to plan work and meet deadlines.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English & Swahili.
- · Demonstrated initiative, creativity, and flexibility in problem-solving
- Ability to think strategically and work in a fast-paced environment
- · Ability to effectively prioritize projects, schedules, and deliverables
- · Ability to travel in Southern Highland up to 50% of the time, building the capacity of the regional team, facility-based health care providers, RHMTs, and CHMTs.
- · Experience in organizing and facilitating training, workshops, and meetings.

| Job Title | : | Strategic Information Regional Outreach Coordinator (2 Positions) |
|------------|---|---|
| Reports to | : | Regional Technical Coordinator |
| Location | : | Rukwa and Katavi (1 Position) |
| Duration | : | 12 Months (with an option to renew based on the availability of funding and need) |

General Overview

The Strategic Information Regional Outreach Coordinator will monitor and evaluate initiatives, programs, and projects, both new and established, providing accountability and ensuring efficiency and success endures for Community Partners. S/he will provide feedback to the direct supervisor for establishing, modifying, and monitoring key program-level performance indicators to report and record physical progress for specific programs and projects within all program areas of HJFMRI, specifically community outreach and any other newly established projects ensuring agreed deliverables are met.

S/he also oversees regular project progress reports and collaborates with the Regional Strategic Information Lead to prepare weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual, annual, and narrative reports. Work closely on developing and implementing the work plan to monitor progress and evaluate project activities and innovations' effectiveness. S/he will be responsible for identifying M&E needs, designing and maintaining data collection systems, and ensuring that all necessary information from routine data collection, special studies, reporting, analysis, and use for evidence-based decision making. S/he will be responsible for ensuring the data collected is comprehensive, clean, and valid. S/He will assist in HMIS, Data Quality Assurance, and Data Demand Information Use training activities at Outreach Partners Level.

Duties and Responsibilities

Contribute towards developing project documents and guidelines for M&E. In collaboration with his/her direct supervisor, the SI director, and other stakeholders, s/he will contribute towards the development of an M&E framework and an M&E plan for the program. In collaboration with the M&E Department

- · Contribute to the development of the M&E framework for the project.
- · Develop targets and distribute them to the community partner.
- Develop community indicators for tracking performance for all
- Develop a plan for monitoring and evaluation of the Outreach project activities · Ensure project indicators (Donor required indicators and Program level indicators) are well captured in various data collection tools
- · Develop systems for data quality assessments at the community level.

Data Management and Analysis

- · Keep abreast of developments regarding program changes and progress to advise and recommend tools and strategies to increase program performances and community partner's results.
- · Suggest ways to facilitate data collection and the flow of data within Program field teams.
- · Identify strengths and weaknesses in existing data collection and management systems and propose solutions for community Partners.
- · Perform field visits to ensure the quality of data collected by Programs and to verify the accuracy of reported data for community Partners.
- · Analyze changes and patterns in KPI indicator data and performance reports to make recommendations to Program staff.
- Review and analyze weekly/monthly/quarterly reports to identify the causes of potential bottlenecks in project implementation and to enhance the quality of reporting
- Assist in posting data to the DATIM and IMPACT on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual, and annual basis after such data has been reviewed by HMIS Advisor, SI Director, and other Program Directors and Managers

System Development

- · Define and implement the key project performance indicators (KPI) and monitor them throughout the projects. Propose strategies to increase data use and demand amongst Outreach Partners
- Assist Program staff/ partners in clarifying project information needs.
- · Support project/program staff on ways to properly document, organize, and capture program progress.
- · Participate in creating and revising data flow charts, tools, and data collection procedures under the supervision of the SI Director
- · Review the performance of existing management information systems to help identify potential modifications or resources.

Communication and Reporting

- Ensure all reporting deadlines are observed at the regional teams
- Communicate with regional staff in case of any issues that need emergence to follow up through the M&E department · Review and analyze reports to identify the causes of potential bottlenecks for community partners
- · Contribute to the M&E monthly journal.
- · Assist HJFMRI program to strengthen HJFMRI staff and community partners' capacity in an effective way to collect, analyze, and utilize data at the regional. · Conduct data analysis and report project performance trends to the SI Director quarterly for program review meetings, using the
- specified template. • Participate in periodic meetings with community partners and other stakeholders on a district and region to discuss achievements,
- challenges, and lessons learned
- Document best practices and areas that need improvement and share with all stakeholders
- Be proactive in responding to emails; s/he will be required to respond to emails within 24 hours.

Capacity building for partners

- · Work and build capacity of community partners to develop and implement the program at the partner level, develop performance monitoring plans, including identification of performance indicators; performance reporting systems; field-based technical assistance and monitoring of M&E system:
- · In Collaboration with Regional Strategic Information Lead strengthens community partner capacity to collect, collate, and report data using national recording and reporting tools and use data for management and programmatic decision-making.
- · Build capacity of Outreach partners to conduct data quality assessment at the partner level, and train staff to do data verification.
- · Conduct field-based monitoring, technical assistance, and training visits with project staff, stakeholders, funders, etc.

Knowledge and Qualifications

· A degree in Social or Behavioral Sciences, Epidemiology, Public Health, Health Informatics, Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Statistics, or a related discipline. Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Swahili with proven ability to document and articulate results. Minimum 4 years in monitoring and evaluation focused on supporting HIV/AIDS /PEPFAR activities with a Knowledge of USAID and PEPFAR policies and guidance.

| Position | | Human Resources Advisor (1 Position) |
|------------|---|---|
| Reports to | : | Senior Manager, Human Resources |
| Location | : | Mbeya |
| Duration | : | 12 Months (with an option to renew based on the availability of funding and need) |

General Overview

The Human Resource Advisor is responsible for ensuring all Human Resources functions within HJFMRI Tanzania align with the demands of having a motivated and committed workforce. The incumbent will be responsible for ensuring a meritocracy in recruitment, developing and devising appropriate training and development plans tailored to make staff competent to their roles, ensuring an effective performance management system in place that supports the realization of the program (PEPFAR) targets. It also needs him/her to have a broad knowledge of employee movements within the organization and be well versed with employee's contracts management and management of employees exit as per Laws governing employment relations in Tanzania. The position needs an individual with outstanding knowledge of Human Resources operations in an international NGO setting and an understanding of Tanzania labor law.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Administer HR policies and practices relating to employment, employee relations, salary administration, benefits administration, orientation, and employee services. Participate in development, implementation, and revision, as needed.
- Plan human resources in conjunction with Heads of Departments by coordinating staff placement, restructuring, deployment, and redeployments to ensure appropriate utilization of the available human resources. This may include advising on the best HR practices related to recruitment, training and development, performance appraisal, compensation, and benefits.
- Maintain compliance with Tanzania employment and benefits laws. Advises on issues related to labor matters and represent the organization to CMA and labor tribunals when necessary.
- Assist supervisors in developing Key Performance Indicators 'KPIs' for staff by ensuring the appraisal process contributes to the organization's performance. Advise the management about the steps needed to take any disciplinary action against a staff member according to HJFMRI
- policies and procedures. Assist in conducting investigations when employee complaints or concerns are brought forth Point of contact for all HJFMRI personnel issues, managing personnel records, and general HR files and ensuring their
- Any other ad hoc tasks as requested that underpin the Organizations' vision and values while considering the credibility and reputation of the HR department

Knowledge and Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources or business-related field from a recognized institution.
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role in an international NGO setting.
- In-depth knowledge of Tanzania Labor Law and HR best practice
- Knowledge of HR systems, Microsoft Office, and databases. Good report writing skills and the ability to make recommendations for improvements.
- Strong organizational skills and ability to work in a diverse team as well as independently
- Good oral and written communications with the ability to initiate and draft correspondence
- English language fluency required.

| Job Title | : | Community Based HIV and AIDS Services (CBHS) and Linkage Advisor |
|------------|---|---|
| Reports to | : | Associate Director, Clinical services |
| Location | : | Mbeya HQs |
| Duration | : | 12 Months (with an option to renew based on the availability of funding and need) |

General Overview:

The CBHS and Linkage Advisor will serve as the primary technical expert and contact HJFMRI/MHRP Community Based HIV and AIDS Services (CBHS) activities at the organizational and community levels. S/he will facilitate the development, modification, and/or adaptation of appropriate CBHS strategies, to improve clinical and community access to and use of HIV prevention, care, and treatment and support services. The CBHS and Linkage Advisor are expected to collaborate across technical areas to strengthen the continuum of HIV Prevention, Testing to Care, and Treatment. The incumbent will be a link person between community services and clinical services and ensure community initiatives, innovations and efforts are reflected in the provision of HIV care and treatment services at health facilities throughout the continuum of care. Further, the incumbent will be responsible for liaising with local and national organizations, including faith-based organizations, for facilitating the expansion of CBHS services at the health facility level and in the community settings. The CBHS and Linkage Advisor will build local partner organizations and HJFMRI/MHRP staff to deliver high-quality CBHS services in Tanzania's Southern Highlands.

Duties and Responsibilities

Program Quality and Management

- Provide technical leadership in the development of approaches and strategies for mobilizing partner organizations and communities for the establishment or strengthening of CBHS strategies and activities;
- Liaise and consult regularly with the relevant authorities, partner organizations, Health facilities, community leaders, and beneficiaries in the planning, design, and implementation of HJFMRI/MHRP and partner CBHS activities;
- Develop integrated, innovative, and gender-sensitive interventions for the provision of comprehensive CBHS services;
- Engage community partners and organization in the provision of HIV testing services at supported communities Engage community partners in making follow-up contacts elicited during index testing s either at facility or community level.
- Involve the supported community partners in actively linking HIV positive clients to care and treatment services at the facility level Engage the community partners in tracing MISSAPs and Lost to follow up to improve retention of people living with HIV
- Engage the community in creating demand for HIV services, including Viral load monitoring, VMMC services, CECAP, TB screening, and IPT. Ensure community partners' activities and efforts are reflected in the daily provision of HIV care, treatment, and support services.
- Build the capacity of the partner organizations and government technical staff to deliver high-quality CBHS services; Provide on-going support through coaching, supervision visits, and mentoring to partner organizations and WRP staff in implementing CBHS activities:
- Document, consolidate, and disseminate knowledge and information regarding best practices, lessons learned, and proven approaches both within and outside of HJFMRI/MHRP;
- Ensure quality implementation, the achievement of results for activities within the HJFMRI project and within partner projects, and collaborate with other program departments to ensure effective tear
- · Collaborate with partners to develop quality assurance (QA) mechanisms and ensures that QA mechanisms are in place and
- · Facilitate and provide overall leadership and sound advice at facility and community settings and improve client adherence to ART and retention Care and Treatment services Develop annual work plans, budgets, and reports for CBHS activities; and ensure integration of project activities into broader WRP
- yearly plans and the Outreach Department work plans; Extend technical support to local partners in preparing and submitting timely monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports; Travel within the Southern Highlands for program management, continued service development, implementation, and service
- Liaise with the M&E Department to ensure that CBHS components are functional (e.g., clarity of indicators, quality of M&E data collection tools, data quality, and reporting). Liaise with the facility staff to ensure that clients enrolled in ART are linked to CBHS to improve adherence to ART and retention
- Support Associate Directors Clinical services and Community as well as Facility Team, especially in identifying areas requiring
- policy influence and support implementation and development of long term plan. Participate as a member of the national CBHS Technical Working Groups, HIV USG Tanzania Team providing technical expertise
- in the area of CBHS activities ensuring programs are in line with the USG HIV and AIDS in-country strategy; Develops and maintain good working relationships with other partners, governmental and non-governmental, within the five
- Provides monthly reports to the Associate Director, Clinical Services;

Program Compliance/Financial Management Support

- Provide financial management support to the Finance Department on CBHS and Linkage Program budget through monthly/quarterly wire Forecast and budget modifications as required.
- Work closely with the Finance Department to ensure effective use of program funds.
- Conduct periodic follow-up with implementing partners to support efforts with overall program efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and compliance.

Coordination and Communication

delivery evaluation.

- Ensure implementing partners participate in relevant coordination meetings at the district, regional, national, and international
- Work closely with relevant support teams (procurement and finance) to ensure systems are in place to enable timely receipt and distribution of all program materials.
- Maintain strong communication within the program team, Technical Advisors, regional staff, in-country stakeholders, and other sister HJFMRI offices as appropriate.

· Perform other duties as requested by Associate Director Clinical Services and support required by the general program.

Knowledge and Qualifications Degree in Medicine, Master's Degree in Health-related field or Master's Degree in Public Health and/or other HIV and AIDS-related

Other Duties

discipline. Knowledge and skills in organizing health campaigns including CBHS desirable At least five years of progressive responsibilities in HIV program management and technical experience in clinic and

Knowledge of the current developments and best practices in the field of HIV and AIDS prevention, globally and in Tanzania

- community-based settings, preferably in an outreach context;
- At least four years of experience with CBHS programs; Demonstrable experience in developing health education materials a plus;
- Proven skills in analysis, communication, networking, advocacy, and negotiation. Fluency in English and Kiswahili required.
- Ability to use standard software applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.) Good communication skills; ability to troubleshoot; ability to work independently and supervise others.
- Must be diplomatic and culturally sensitive, with excellent communications skills. 50% travel required
- Ability to work both independently and as an effective team member Diplomacy, tact, and strong negotiation skills
- Self-motivated and able to work without close supervision
- Able to prioritize work, multi-task, and meet deadlines

Guardian EDITORIALS.OPINION

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Mini grids hold great promise for electrifying remote areas

communities remain isolated from larger, traditional_ grids due to geographic and economic constraints. The electrification of the global off-grid rural population remains a major task of many and developed developing countries, and according to the International Energy Agency in the 2013 World Energy Outlook, mini-grids represent the most cost-effective way to provide universal electricity access to these populations.

Due to new technology innovations that have resulted in declining costs both for mini-grids and energy generation sources, specifically solar and wind power, mini-grids have the potential to electrify remote areas that would otherwise remain outside of a grid connection.

Mini-grids are a cost-effective and timely solution for more isolated areas in which connection to the main electric grid is unavailable, and represent a practical option for meeting the energy demand in sub Saharan Africa, South and East Asia, and Small Island Developing States.

Millions of people remain without access to electricity today, and the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** commit the global community to provide a solution. The map on the right demonstrates energy disparity between developed countries such as the US, China, and Europe while South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia still have many communities that lack reliable, sustainable, affordable energy. Mini-grids are currently being viewed as one of the most effective solutions to bringing energy to rural populations where the energy demands are such that individual stand-alone systems such as nanogrids are impractical but where the population is large enough to require a larger grid system.

A vital component of a mini-grid electric system is on-site, reliable source of energy generation. Traditional mini-grid generation for remote areas came from diesel engine alternators, which incurred high running costs, low efficiency and high maintenance. To obtain the reliability of a fossil fuel powered grid with greater sustainability, hybrid energy systems can be used to integrate renewable energy technologies with diesel generators, batteries, and inverters.

The main concern with generation is the fluctuation in load demand that imposes varied power requirements from the generation system. These fluctuations can vary throughout a single day, from day to day, or even on the scale of weeks to months, which necessitates flexible mini-grid generation. In the case of limited power generation without a source of energy storage, peak loads can demand more power than the mini-grid generation is capable of supplying, which results in brownouts or blackouts.

In the same vein, multilateral development lender, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has committed US\$20 million to a US\$50-60 million COVID-19 recovery fund for companies which distribute solar home systems and clean cooking stoves and set up green mini-grids and other offgrid renewable systems across the continent.

The directors of the AfDB recently agreed to allocate US\$20 million from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa set up by the Danish government in 2011 - and thereafter backed by public funds from Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the U.S. and the U.K. - to its new, Covid-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform. Three cofounders of the initiative, selected by competitive means, will supply a further US\$30-40 million to the program, an AfDB press release affirmed over the weekend,

World leaders must stop wars as we are surpassing another bleak milestone

OVERNMENTS, NGOs, other international organisations and social scientist have defined forced displacement in a variety of ways. They have generally agreed that it is the forced removal or relocation of a person from their environment and associated connections. It can involve different types of movements, such as flight (from fleeing), evacuation, and population transfer.

The International Organisation for Migration defines a forced migrant as any person migrating to 'escape persecution, conflict, repression, natural and human-made disasters, ecological degradation, or other situations that endanger their lives, freedom or livelihood'.

According to UNESCO, forced displacement is 'the forced movement of people from their locality or environment and occupational activities,' with its leading cause being armed conflict. According to researcher Alden Speare, even movement under immediate threat to life contains a voluntary element as long as an option exists going into hiding, or attempting to avoid persecution.

According to him 'migration can be considered to be involuntary only when a person is physically transported from a country and has no opportunity to escape from those transporting him. This viewpoint has come under scrutiny when considering direct and indirect factors which may leave migrants with little to no choice in their decisions, such as imminent threats to life and livelihood.

Forced displacement (also forced migration) is the involuntary or

coerced movement of a person or people away from their home or home region. This movement may have been caused by a variety of factors including natural disasters, violence, ethnic cleansing, individual or group persecution, droughts, civil wars, deportation and population transfer. The UNHCR defines 'forced displacement' more narrowly as: displaced 'as a result of persecution, conflict, generalised

violence or human rights violations'.

The number of people forced to flee their homes passed 80 million in 2020, the UN refugee agency said in a report released recently in

According to UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends report on forced displacement, the figure includes 45.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs), 29.6 million refugees and others forcibly displaced outside their country, and 4.2 million asylum seekers.

The report said persecution, conflict, and human rights violations were the main factors forcing people to flee.

Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Somalia and Yemen all contributed to driving new displacements in the first half of 2020.

"We are now surpassing another bleak milestone that will continue to grow unless world leaders stop wars", said Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Sahel region, which is battling a brutal militant insurgency, has also seen fresh displacement according to the report.

The UNHCR said plans to resettle refugees were affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus.

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By Mesfin H. Beidu

N the following article, Mesfin Hagos (founding member of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in the 1970s who served as Minister of Defense in the 1990s), the most authoritative voice on Eritrean military affairs, reveals the extent of Eritrean involvement in the Ethiopian war.

In an address to his country's parliament on November 30, 2020, Ethiopia's Prime Minister confirmed Eritrean support to his ongoing war against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the regional government of the northern regional state of Tigray.

Prime Minister Abiy told parliamentarians that Ethiopian soldiers who survived TPLF attack on the night of November 3 were ordered to withdraw into Eritrea where they were provided shelter and the space and provisions to recuperate. He flew there with three of his generals to reorganize the troops for a counterattack on Tigray from Eritrea.

What Prime Minister Abiy did not tell his audience was the fact that, according to sources in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, in the run up to the current conflict, a large number of Ethiopian elite units had slowly trickled into Eritrea as part of a security pact between Abiy and Eritrean president Isaias Afwerki.

Hidden from public view at an ad hoc base in Gherghera, in the outskirts of Asmara, these units were expected to be the hammer and the Northern Command the anvil to strike out of existence the TPLF. TPLF preempted this scheme in what it called "anticipatory defense", which forced both Abiy and Isaias to improvise leading to the eruption of conflict.

Abiy did not disclose to the Ethiopian public and international community that even more federal troops were airlifted into Eritrea following the outbreak of conflict on November 4. In the 48 hours before TPLF's bombing of Asmara on November 14, local sources counted close to 30 military airplanes flying in thousands of soldiers from Ethiopia. Subsequent flights transported more soldiers into the Eritrean seaports of Massawa and Asseb.

The Prime Minister also hid from the world the Eritrean military's direct involvement in combat along the entire border that Eritrea shares with Tigray regional state as well as inside Tigray. The following information is pieced together from three different sources: first, reliable sources inside the Eritrean Ministry of Defense; second, Eritrean opposition intelligence sources in Sudan and Ethiopia; and finally, anecdotal pieces communicated

from friends and relatives, including some academic researchers. When the reorganized and

Eritrea's role in Ethiopia's conflict and the fate of Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia

reinforced Ethiopian troops launched a series of offensives into Tigray from Eritrea along four frontlines, Eritrean support units provided intelligence and logistics, their heavy weapons gave cover to advancing federal troops, and eventually took active part in combat. Reliable sources have confirmed injury and death of a large number of Eritrean soldiers, including senior officers, fighting deep inside Ethiopia.

Through Zalambesa alone, the Eritrean President sent in the 42nd and 49th mechanized divisions and the 11th, 17th, 19th and 27th infantry divisions. On reaching Edaga-Hamus, south of Adigrat and north of Mekelle, these divisions were reinforced with an additional five Eritrean divisions, including the 2nd brigade of the 525th commando division. He also unleashed the 26th, 28th, and 53rd infantry and 46th and 48th mechanized divisions on the Adwa front along with only one division of the Ethiopian federal army. In addition, the TPLF claims that Eritrean technical and combat units also took active part in the Alamata front, southeast of Mekelle. The same TPLF sources also claim that they have Eritrean prisoners of war although they are yet to present them to the public - live or in recordings.

Although Eritrean army divisions have been shrinking in size in the past twenty years and their individual capacities are shriveled, put together they are a formidable force. Their combined technical knowhow (intelligence and weaponry) as well as tactics and strategy expertise and experience can deliver blistering firepower against any adversary.

Either approving of or oblivious to President Isaias' role in the planning, initiation and execution of the ongoing Ethiopian civil war, the international community commended his uncharacteristic silence in the fact of repeated TPLF rocket attacks on Eritrean towns. Abiy Ahmed's complete media and communication blackout ensured that Eritrea's intervention remained above scrutiny and censure.

Exacting vengeance and becoming the regional strongman

Beside the Eritrean President's delusions of grandeur and parallel desire to appear as the regional strongman in the Horn of Africa and beyond, one has to look at the past two decades to understand his vindictiveness. During the 1998-2000 conflict against TPLF-led Ethiopia, Isaias Afwerki refused to listen to our colleagues' warnings against going to war; and, when he did, he refused to listen to common sense and practical advice from

former army and intelligence chiefs, each of whom had had far more combat leadership experience than himself - although he had overall command as the leader of the movement and government. As a result, he badly mismanaged the war and lost terribly, with grave consequences for Eritrea and Eritreans. Stubborn as he is, he dug in and stayed the course of regional confrontation for the subsequent twenty years that cost him dearly.

President Isaias ruthlessly held on to power and kept Eritrea on a war footing, frustrating any prospect of recovery or normalcy. With every year that went by, his significance diminished and his legacy tarnished.

He blamed the TPLF for all this and did everything in his power to make them pay for it. He saw his own vindication in TPLF's demise and every case of TPLF domestic repression and external belligerence was an opportunity for him until Abiy came to power and outdid Isaias in that task. The unlikely bond between the dashing new Prime Minister and the aging President is a marriage of convenience that centered around the singular goal of liquidating the TPLF. I will spare the details of what followed and led to November 4, but the writing was on the wall: a conflict was inevitable.

Caught in a jam - desperation of Eritrean refugees in Tigray

In the past two decades of unbridled President Isaias's repression, some half million Eritrean youth, elderly unaccompanied minors fled their country. In the context of the conflict between the two countries, Ethiopia readily accepted those fleeing Eritrea and, with the help of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), housed them in some six refugee camps in Tigray and Afar regional states. As a sign of what was to come, in January 2020 Abiy Ahmed's government changed its policy toward Eritrean refugees at the behest of the Eritrean President: newly arrived Eritreans were no longer granted automatic protection as refugees, although the Tigray regional government continued to accept them and let

them stay unmolested.

When the current conflict broke out, there were close to 100,000 officially registered refugees in the four camps in Tigray alone and many thousands more in Tigrayan towns. While the refugees in the Afar region of Ethiopia have all along been in precarious conditions, those in Tigray were suddenly caught in the crossfire when the conflict broke out.

It was first rumored that several refugees were either killed or wounded in the fighting close to their camps around the town of Shire. The fact that UNHCR personnel were ordered to leave Tigray and employees of Ethiopian federal government's Agency for Refugee & Returnee Affairs (ARRA) simply did not show up left the camps unattended to. The total communications blackout made it impossible to find out what exactly was going on in the camps. But as the war dragged on, we are able to piece together the grave danger that the refugees are facing.

To begin with, all the camps have now run out of the measly supplies of basic necessities that they were left with. Sources have also reported that the Eritrean military entered some of those camps and marched an unknown number of refugees out of camp at gun point. The Shimelba refugee camp is even reported to be under the control of the Eritrean military that is preparing to send a large number of them back to Eritrea. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, said on November 29 that he was very concerned about the fate of the Eritrean refugees in the war zone amid reports that some have been abducted by the Asmara government, a regime that has absolutely no regard for international norms or opinion.

The way forward

The Ethiopian government is duty bound under international law to protect refugees. It is the duty of the international community to ensure that the Ethiopian government, as the host state, abides by its international obligations in this regard. A clear, timely and unambiguous message must be conveyed to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed about the dire consequences of not living up to its legal responsibility towards the refugees and asylum seekers. This cannot be achieved in isolation of the quest for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

And peaceful resolution of the Ethiopian conflict is unlikely to happen so long as President Isaias Afwerki is determined to wreck vengeance on the TPLF, and as long as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed entreats him to do so and actively entertains his regional ambitions. The international community has to tell President Isaias in no uncertain terms that continued intervention in internal Ethiopian affairs bears grave, direct consequences.

Mesfin Hagos was a founding member of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in 1970 and rose to be its liberation army's most celebrated field commander. On Eritrea's independence in 1991, he served as Minister of Defense. He is the only senior Eritrean official to have resigned his post. He now lives in Germany.

TALIRI unveils opportunities in Tanzanias livestock industry

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

HE livestock industry in Tanzania plays an important socio-economic roles that include contributing to building a strong national economy, household food supplies and incomes, employment opportunities as well as nurturing natural resources.

It is also noted that livestock supports improvement of soil fertility status for crop farming.

The country has a total area of 945,000km2, whereby 62,000km2 of the surface area is covered with water, and 60 million hectares is rangelands that are suitable for livestock production.

The available rangeland resources with diversity of forage species are also suitable for grazing to the available 33.4 million cattle; 21.3 million goats and 5.65 million sheep, more than 1.85 million pigs, 47.4 million indigenous poultry and other non-conventional species such as donkeys and rabbits.

As per the 2012/13 National Panel Survey, 50 per cent of all households keep livestock (4.6 million households), 62 per cent of which are rural and 23 per cent urban, with ownership patterns dominated by chickens (86 pc households), goats (48 pc), cattle (35pc), pigs (9pc) and other livestock 10 per cent.

Traditional breeds dominate Tanzania livestock sector with Tanzania Short Horn Zebu is the most widespread cattle breed in the nation.

Agro-pastoralists households account for 80 per cent of livestock production, pastoral communities 14 per cent and remaining 6 per cent comes from the commercial ranches and dairy sector. Sheep and goats are widely distributed and adapted to many agro-ecological zones.

Opportunities

However, there are still many opportunities for making Tanzania livestock industry more profitable such that it could contribute into the transformation of the national economy through agro-industrialisation.

Giving a special exclusive interview to The Guardian, Acting Director General (DG), for the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), Dr Jonas Kizima said the opportunities include a large number of indigenous and adaptable stock, abundant land and water resources, vast rangelands with adaptable pastures and forages, domestic and external markets and marketing outlets, manpower resources and an enabling policy.

He elaborated that management aspects (feeding strategies, animal health care, and housing) contributes to 80 per cent of performance of animal in terms of productivity.

He highlighted that, if all farmers in Tanzania (small to large farmers) could observe management aspects of animal husbandry, Tanzania livestock sector could be among the leading country, whereby breeding programmes could follow when management aspects are well organised.

However, he observed that transformation of the livestock industry will depends heavily on the government and other stakeholders involvement in addressing the imminent challenges that include inadequate investment in feed resource management and development so as to curb irregular feed supplies, climatic changes and weather uncertainties, diseases outbreaks, inadequate investment in livestock infrastructure and rural infrastructure as well as low micro and macro credits to facilitate investments.

Other challenges, according to Dr Kizima include low genetic potential of the indigenous livestock, poor management of land, water and pastures, low animal health and standards to meet conditions set by international livestock trade, inadequate infrastructure for livestock and livestock products as well as prevalence of diseases.

He expressed that the potential to increase both livestock production and productivity, and its contribution to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) exists, as the land carrying capacity of up to 20 million Livestock Units has not been utilized.

Pertaining to situational analysis of the livestock industry in Tanzania, Dr Kizima stated that the livestock industry can be categorized into two major production systems namely extensive and intensive.

The intensive system, though limited in size, has been receiving more emphasis in investment and im-



provement because of its contribution to the market oriented economy," he pointed out.

On the other hand, he detailed, the extensive system, which is mostly pastoralism is a production system based on seasonal availability of forage and water thus resulting into uncontrolled mobility.

"This system comprised the large number of animals owned by individual farmers which have the potential for increasing levels of production, export, employment and improving the welfare of farmers if management practices are put in place." he added.

He emphasized, the country has been endowed with diverse and favourable climate and agro- ecological zones from humid, semi-arid areas as well as favorable macroeconomic policies.

"The contribution of the livestock industry to the economy is not limited to its share in the total GDP as it plays other roles such as supplying food products, and thus, contributes to food security. Moreover, the industry is vital in converting forages and crop residues into edible products," he added.

Revealed other advantages, he said livestock acts as inflation free, store of value and investment channel, but also, source of income and employment mostly in the rural economy. "The sector also provides hides and skins and other byproducts," he said.

Current research and development effort in improving livestock productivity

"There are notable efforts in improving livestock productivity in the country that began since early 1990s to date,"

"These include breeding and selection programmes in cattle, sheep and goats as well as improvement of pasture and forages that entail grass, herbaceous legumes and tree fodder," he informed.

As part to improved performance of the sector, he said TALIRI has been partnering with key local institutions such as Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) to conduct both, on station and on farm activities in collaboration with regional and international institutions such as International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), the Danish International development Agency (DANIDA), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation (SAREC), the Norwegian

Agency for International Development (NORAD) and Heifer Project International (HPI), just to mention a few.

"Different programmes on various aspects of livestock improvement and husbandry have so far been implemented in various agro- ecological zones including the Northern zone of Tanzania (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro), Eastern zone (Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Morogoro), Southern Highlands (Iringa, Mbeya, Songwe and Njombe), Lake zone (Kagera, Mwanza, Simiyu, Mwanza and Shinyanga) and Central zone (Dodoma and Singida)," he elaborated.

He said at the TALIRI Mpwapwa center, the institute is implementing the Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET) project, an advanced cattle breeding procedure.

MOET programme help to improve the growth of dairy sector and meat industries in the country, and the programme also seeks to increase income and employment to the livestock communities.

"This initiative is vital as the meat cattle to be produced (bulls and heifers) will have a market weight of 400kg, contrary to local Zebu that are usually at 250kg market weight," he said.

Dr Kizima said the produced crossbred dairy cattle (adapted to environment) will have the capacity to produce more than 10 litres of milk in a day, saying presently, indigenous zebu cattle produces between 1 and 3 litres of milk a day.

According to him, efforts are on multiplication of the Mpwapwa cattle, improving its potential in milk production from 2300 litres per lactation to 2800 litre per lactation as well evaluation of its performance in various agro- ecological gapes.

Through the programme, he said, random sample of Mpwapwa cows are crossed to Danish Red to produce F1 Mpwapwa crosses whose level of Bos taurus blood will be 54 per cent.

Other efforts, he added, is Phenotypic and Genetic Characterization of the Fipa and Iringa red cattle

populations.

"This study considers the two main indigenous cattle strains (Fipa and Iringa red) that are raised by the indigenous people of the Southern Highlands of Tanzania for many years. The main objective of this study is to characterize the phenotypic and genetic attributes, the production systems, the desira-

ble traits that are of special interest to the community that keep them and the risky status of these cattle populations for present and future generations," he expressed.

He said preliminary results on the Fipa cattle depicted that this population is in a reasonable number and its animals have almost uniform features of body size and conformation, horn size, orientation and spacing. The cattle have both Zebu and Sanga features though the Zebu features dominate.

"Moreover, the results further showed that Fipa cattle are mainly kept for draft power such that about 35 per cent of the cattle herd composition is made of castrates. On the other hand, some poor management practices have been observed in the Fipa farming community, including poor calf rearing practices that lead to high mortality rate (50 per cent) per annum, and negative selection of breeding bulls of high vigour for castration and eventually draught purposes," he pointed out.

Immediate actions towards beef production

Among current actions include improving productivity of beef breeds through strategic cross-breeding.

The beef industry in Tanzania is constrained by low genetic potential of existing stock, inadequate fattening infrastructure, inadequate marketing system, prevalence of animal diseases, inadequate feed resources, weak livestock farmers organisations and inadequate technical support services, to mention but a few.

"This project focuses on improving the quantity and quality of beef for improvement of living standards of livestock farmers through improved income and food security through breeding suitable beef cattle that fit pastoral and agro-pastoral production environments," he informed.

He detailed that, the programme based on upgrading the Boran cattle using Beef Master Semen up to 75 per cent. "Growth rate at specific ages is an important criterion for selection of females and males in this programme. Considerable attention is given to body weights at 36 and 72 weeks of age," he added. Efforts in tackling challenges and

capitalize opportunities on beef There are several strategies and options that need to be embraced so as to have a bouncing and mushrooming livestock industry that is bound to contribute more to the household and national economies.

"In a nut shell, orientation of physical, financial and intellectual resources has to do with increase in levels of investment that is over and above the current levels," he observed.

He itemized some of the strategies as review of taxes, tariffs and policies so as to create more conducive climates for investment and growth of production and agroprocessing ventures and local, national and regional levels.

Others are encouraging investment in feed resource development through pasture farms establishments, paddocking, irrigation, however, according to him, this has to consider land demarcation and granting of land occupation rights to investors, both small, medium and large scale. Land use planning for livestock farming has to be emphasized to create a sense of responsibility to farmers to owned lands and hence sustainable measures which ensures availability of forages and good pastureland management.

The other strategy include establishment of an enabling and supportive environment for joint village land use planning and for the protection of rangelands, investment in livestock breed improvement as well as pastures and forages improvement for beef production.

"With these strategies, land conflicts can be reduced highly," he assured.

He said the current and past effort foreseen in the livestock industry in Tanzania are part of a broader processes of agricultural transformation that aim at improving productivity and increasing incomes at household and national levels, he unveiled.

According to him, efforts as local government reforms, land ownership, investment in rural and urban infrastructure and improved social service delivery are highly needed.

"These reforms are intended to contribute towards the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty. It is therefore envisaged that a sustainable and more productive livestock industry shall be attained through cooperation and collaboration between public and private sectors," he added.

About TALIRI

The Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) is a body corporate under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries established by TALIRI Act Number 4 of 2012.

The Institute has seven research centres that are strategically located in seven agro-ecological zones of Tanzania mainland. The centres are (regions in bracket) TALIRI Mpwapwa and Kongwa (Dodoma), TALIRI Mabuki (Mwanza), TALIRI Naliendele (Mtwara), TALIRI Tanga (Tanga), TALIRI Uyole (Mbeya) and TALIRI West Kilimanjaro (Kilimanjaro).

Regional conflicts add to Somalia's security concerns

BY INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY

ENYA and Ethiopia have been key allies in Somalia's peace and security matters for over a decade, especially in the fight against terror groups such as al-Shabaab. Besides their bilateral engagements, both countries are major troop-contributors to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

However their alliance has weakened recently due to their differences in political views, diplomatic relations and security problems. Kenya's diplomatic ties with Somalia are challenging Nairobi's role in the country, while Ethiopia's focus on Somalia seems to be shifting to the war in Tigray.

Both issues threaten the operational capabilities and effectiveness of AMISOM in implementing its mandate. This could give al-Shabaab the chance to boost its activities in Somalia and beyond.

Somalia became a failed state due to a protracted civil war after the demise of president Siad Barre, a dictatorial ruler, in 1991. AMISOM has been supporting Somalia's transition to restoring a state presence for over 13 years. Its current mandate includes supporting Somalia's government in building the capacity of security forces and disrupting and degrading al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups.

Ethiopia's Tigray conflict raises concerns about a possible security vacuum in some areas of Somalia



Diplomatic and security challenges in the Horn of Africa threaten AMISOM's capability in Somalia. File photo

AMISOM is a multidimensional peace support operation with nearly 20 000 forces on the ground mainly from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi and Djibouti. After many years of operation, AMISOM intended to transfer its responsibilities to Somalia's security forces and leave by the end of 2021. But this plan is facing setbacks. Somalia's election in early 2021 was seen as a critical stage for implementing the mission's exit, but poll-related problems could negatively affect the plan.

After an electoral deal was reached in October 2020 between Somalia's federal government and its

member states, key electoral committees were assigned to handle the processes of organising the polls. However the electoral committees' composition raised controversy, with the 14 presidential contenders largely opposed to the teams.

They say the committees have spies and civil servants loyal to the incumbent President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed. The presidential contenders threatened to boycott the elections unless committee membership was reviewed

Another internal problem that affects AMISOM's operational effectiveness and its exit plan is tension between

the government and its federal member states, especially Jubaland State. Relations deteriorated due to political disagreement over power sharing. While the member states want a semi-autonomous region, the central government wants centralised power.

Strong relations between Ethiopia and Kenya matter for AMISOM, and their weakened alliance is worrying

These internal problems coincide with Somalia's worsening diplomatic relations with Kenya since 2019 over a maritime territorial dispute. Somalia recently expelled Kenya's ambassador and recalled its ambassador to Kenya for apparently meddling in the upcoming elections. Kenya denied the accusations. The diplomatic fallout could negatively affect AMISOM, especially if Kenya withdraws its troops.

The other external challenge for AMISOM comes from Ethiopia, who has supported peace in Somalia by deploying military forces independently since 2006, and as part of AMISOM since 2014. All these forces help fight al-Shabaab and build Somalia's security forces' abilities.

Although there's no confirmation from Ethiopia, reports say it withdrew some 3 000 of its non-AMISOM troops. This came after an armed conflict erupted in the country between Ethiopia's federal government and Tigray regional state in early November. This has raised concerns about a possible security vacuum in some areas of Somalia.

Obama and Biden: Political lives and lessons

By J Brooks Spector

OME years ago, this writer was working in Lagos, Nigeria, for several months, and I found myself searching for something interesting and different to read in the long evenings, especially those where the light came from candles or a generator. Rummaging through the American Consulate library, I came across Ulysses S Grant's memoirs of his military life – beginning with his early days as a young officer and on through to his final victory against the Confederacy in April 1865.

Grant had written his memoir at a furious pace, knowing his death from cancer was just months away, and, in fact, finishing it just a few days before he died. Mark Twain published the memoir in two volumes. By virtue of an audacious direct door-to-door sales campaign across the country, Twain revived the then-desperate financial circumstances of Grant's estate through a massive wave of sales, providing a substantial inheritance for his widow and children, even if Grant himself did not benefit from it.

Ulvsses S Grant has often been derided as a mediocre president at best; one who allowed the fast-talking, shady con-men and grifters of his age to despoil his two terms as president. In recent years, however, there has been a resurgence of interest in and respect for Grant. This has evolved from some new biographies and television series about him. They have brought to the fore evidence that Grant's strong pro-Reconstruction policies for black economic emancipation in the South – the American version of the radical economic transformation of its day – could well have created a more equal society in America, if only they had been fully implemented by other government officials.

The memoir Grant himself had written was an unstinting account of his rise through the military, accepting his mistakes where he thought he was to blame and explaining his strategy for the war and the need for fatalities and destruction to save the nation.

In fact, in his military career, he had set out (and largely created) the basic doctrine of modern industrial warfare. In command during the Civil War, he had melded telegraphic communication, command, control, rapid rail transportation, industrial mass production of war materiel and the deployment of large, well-supplied, well-trained conscription armies, together with a strong grasp of the strategic goals of the war, rather than a hunt for immediate tactical victories. Moreover, in contrast to the usual orotund Victorian style of so many other writers of his time, Grant employed what was nearly an unadorned, spartan prose style, making it easily accessible to modern readers without any of the head-scratching about what he meant in all that fancy phraseology.

Years before I discovered Grant's writing, like so many others, I had also been captured by an oral history of the life of Harry Truman and related material, compiled by historian Merle Miller. Entitled Plain Speaking, it seemed to capture precisely the style of the former president, his brisk speaking and unadorned thinking, as well as his penchant for some salty language about those whom he disliked or disdained for policy reasons.

The volume gave Truman a space to



Former US president Barack Obama (L), and president-elect Joe Biden.

making, and how he decided he would stick with a decision once he had fully and completely made up his mind. There is the famous story, for example, of how, after he had decided to authorise the first use of those two nuclear bombs designed to bring World War 2 to an end, Truman had said that at having made up his mind, he then made a ham sandwich, poured himself a glass of buttermilk, ate this evening snack and then went to bed where he said afterwards that he had "slept soundly". No second thoughts. No selfrecriminations. The book is actually a wonderfully entertaining read, even if the reader must now deal with claims (and evidence) Miller essentially made up some of the best, the juiciest anec-

There is clearly something attractive about the biographies of or autobiographies from famous leaders. Such works almost automatically find a wide readership. There are literally thousands of books each about Abraham Lincoln, about Napoleon Bonaparte, about Adolph Hitler, about Winston Churchill (or by him), and about Franklin Roosevelt. (And Julius Caesar's books on his military adventures retain their attraction two thousand years later.) Of course, it helps if the subject is a wartime leader. That adds to the drama and the consequentiality of the words to be read.

In contemporary American circumstances, it has become common that former senior officials will sign wellpaying contracts to turn their experiences, revelations and observations about the nature of their service, and who they served, and at least a few embarrassing secrets about the principal they served.

Typical of this was the recent book by former national security advisor John Bolton about his time in the Trump administration. If a book is by a president or their spouse, the publisher's advance becomes even bigger and expectations that much higher. This is true even if most of these books are pretty much a slog.

If the president has been martyred, as John F Kennedy was, a torrent of hagiography (and later, more objective historical analysis) has flowed forth. Even now, authors continue to make clear his processes of decision look for heretofore unknown personal

gems among what surely is thoroughly combed archival material. Within the first several years of his death, in fact, a veritable shelf of thick volumes came from former White House staffers and family members, such as Arthur Schlesinger Jr's A Thousand Days, Theodore Sorensen's Kennedy, Roger Hilsman's To Move a Nation, or, a few years later, Robert Kennedy's Thirteen Days, among dozens of other volumes. This latter volume, stripped of its obligatory bow to the Kennedy legend, is actually an excellent text for studying presidential decisionmaking under extreme pressure, as in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

This continuing fascination with presidential memoirs helps to partially explain the extraordinary response greeting the first volume of Barack Obama's memoir, A Promised Land. Of course, Obama's place in history as the first African American president has made his recollections even more noteworthy, just as did the crises of his presidency. But the fact he was already known as a graceful writer added to the public's anticipation of his memoir. Within a few weeks of its release, the book has already sold over a million copies - with the promise of many more to follow.

Obama's memoir is the first of two volumes and this first one, by itself, is over 700 pages long. Accordingly, it is surprising it only covers his presidency roughly up to the killing of Osama bin Laden, meaning there are still six years left to chronicle. When that second volume is finally released, together, this will be a monumental written record for future historians and policy thinkers to parse, analyse and dispute, especially as they conduct their own research in the archives.

A Promised Land does not linger in much detail over Obama's early life. That ground was largely covered in his first book, Dreams From My Father. This new book goes into significantly more depth about his early years in politics, as a state legislator and then his Senate career, however. This could easily have been subtitled: Barack Obama Learns about the Realities of Politics and How it is Played.

For those fascinated about how a politician, any politician, begins to think they could become a president, how their presidential campaign begins, then coalesces, encounters challenges and struggles, and, then, finally, builds momentum towards eventual success, the section on Obama's 2008 presidential campaign is fascinating. Just how does a politician find the people who can help them; how do they make choices about issues and priorities to highlight; and most importantly, how does a candidate own up to his mistakes and deal with adversity? The description of how Obama coped with the fallout over the video-tape of Rev Jeremiah Wright's jeremiad about American racism and how Obama turned that into his own embrace of race as a topic he simply could not ignore for his campaign is a miniature essay on its own on Barack Obama's own relationship with questions of race and racism in public life.

Obama's description of his early crises, such as legislation addressing the 2008-9 financial collapse, or the struggle to pass the Affordable Care Act are rich, nuanced discussions of the complex negotiations with both Republicans and Democrats in Congress in order to gain sufficient support to see legislation through to passage. And these were in the period where the Obama administration was dealing with a Congress in which both the House and the Senate were in the formal control of his own Democratic Party. These parts too can stand on their own as monographs on the difficulties of creating policies to address national emergencies.

Similarly, Obama's discussion of his administration's efforts at the Copenhagen climate change conference offers insights into the human elements of what could easily – too easily – become abstract discussions of abstruse things like cap and trade for emissions, carbon taxes, and the balance between developed and underdeveloped nations in reducing pollution. But the portrayal of Obama and his staff literally barging into a meeting of BRICS representatives and others, and offering a back of the envelope deadlock-breaking proposal is vivid and entertaining.

Obama's description of his official visit to Beijing contains the very human recognition of how fatigue can afflict leaders and their senior aides. As Obama wrote of one state dinner, following an impossibly long day, "After five days on the road with our clocks turned upside down, our entire crew was running on fumes; at the table next to ours Larry Summers was fast asleep, his mouth open and his head lolling back, causing Favs [speechwriter Jon Favreaul to shoot out an email to the group: 'It looks like SOMEONE's in need of a second stimulus.' "Fortunately there was no international crisis that night!

In this memoir, Barack Obama also offers insights into the dynamics of his own nuclear family - from the tensions that arose from his various political campaigns to the way he and his wife, Michelle, found ways to keep the lives of their two daughters as normal as possible while in the White House. Still, as president, Obama cannot avoid being wistful for the normal life of others.

As he wrote, "...it was around this time that I started having a recurring dream. In it, I find myself on the streets of some unnamed city, a neighbourhood with trees, storefronts, light traffic. The day is pleasant and warm, with a soft breeze, and people are out shopping or walking their dogs or coming home from work. In one version I'm riding a bike, but most often I'm on foot, and I'm strolling along, without any thoughts in particular, when suddenly I realize that no one recognised me. My security detail is gone. There's nowhere I have to be. My choices have no consequence. I wander into a corner store and buy a bottle of water or iced tea, making small talk with the person behind

the counter. I settle down on a nearby bench, pop open the cap on my drink, take a sip, and just watch the world passing by. I feel like I've won the lottery." That is someone with a realistic sense of self, and a lack of pompous self-importance.

Towards the end of his second year in office, Obama's narrative described how his team had begun to think through a more nuanced Middle East policy, addressing the complicated balance between pressing authoritarian regimes for greater human rights and the need to preserve stability in the region. But, as he wrote, "I was heartened by the fact that we were starting to steer America's foreign policy machinery in the right direction. If only our timing had been a bit better." This, of course, was at the precise moment of the explosion of the "Arab Spring". What it shows, of course, is that a president can be hostage to events and developments over which powerful leaders have little or no control.

Even for those events for which it could be assumed the president and his staff have rigorous control via the most technologically complex gear imaginable, it turns out he was forced to give the command to the operation's commander to commence the assault on Osama bin Laden's hideout via a borrowed, non-secure, open cellphone, during Obama's official visit in Brazil. As Obama explained, "...with those four words, spoken into a device that had probably also been used to order pizza, I initiated the first new military intervention of my presidency."

Late in this volume, Obama is given to musing about how it seems national unity only seems to coalesce around events like the death of bin Laden, rather than whether he could "rally the country so that our government brought the same level of expertise and determination to educating our children or housing the homeless as it had to getting bin Laden; if we could apply the same persistence and resources to reducing poverty or curbing greenhouse gases or making sure every family had access to decent day care." Stepping back from himself, he worries his staff would see him as a hopeless utopian for even thinking about these kinds of ambitions.

In fact, this second sight is one of the great virtues of A Promised Land. Obama is both the detailed and precise narrator of his trajectory, as well as the clear-eyed outside observer, sitting judgment of the musings of this hopeless utopian, and of his reluctant compromises at nearly every turn of the wheel. In contrast to Obama's own mem-

oir, Joe Biden – American Dreamer by Evan Osnos is a political biography of a man who had served Obama loyally for two terms as vice president, and, at the time of the book's publication, was, then, improbably, on course to win the presidency for himself. Osnos is a staff writer for The New Yorker magazine and his book has evolved out of a series of pieces he wrote for his magazine about Joe Biden. In the past several years, as he travelled with Biden or interviewed him on various occasions, it is clear Osnos became increasingly fond of Biden, and that he admired his ability to transcend political adversity, illness, and family tragedy.

Almost 2 bln people depend on health care facilities without basic water services - WHO, UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS

ROUND 1.8 billion people are at heightened risk of COVID-19 and other diseases because they use or work in health care facilities without basic water services, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNI-CEF) has said in a report.

The report - Global progress report on WASH in health care facilities: fundamentals first - comes as COVID-19 is exposing key vulnerabilities within health systems, including inadequate infection prevention and control.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are vital to the safety of health workers and

patients yet provision of these services is not prioritized. Worldwide, one in four health care facilities has no water services, one in three does not have access to hand hygiene where care is provided, one in 10 has no sanitation services, and one in three does not segregate waste safely.

The situation is worst of all in the world's 47 least developed countries (LDCs): one in two health care facilities does not have basic drinking water, one in four health care facilities has no hand hygiene facilities at points of care; and three in five lack basic sanitation services.

The report's preliminary estimates indicate that it would cost roughly one U.S. dollar per capita to enable all 47 LDCs to establish basic water service in health facilities. On average, 0.20 dollar per capita is needed each year to operate and maintain services. According to the report released on Monday, immediate, incremental investments in WASH have big returns: improving hygiene in health care facilities is a "best buy" for tackling antimicrobial re-

It reduces health care costs because it reduces healthcare associated infections (which are costly to treat). It saves time as health workers do not have to search for water for hand hygiene. Better hygiene also increases uptake

This all adds up to a return of 1.5 U.S. dollars for every dollar invested.These services are especially critical for vulnerable populations, including pregnant mothers, newborns and children. Improving WASH services in health care facilities is particularly important around childbirth when far too many mothers and newborns suffer and die, including from preventable conditions like

Better WASH services could save a million pregnant women and newborns' lives and reduce still-births.

The report provides four recommendations, which include implementing costed national roadmaps with appropriate financing and monitoring and regularly reviewing progress in improving WASH services, practices and the enabling environment.

Global WASH and health partners have shown their support for meeting global and country WASH in health care facility targets. By 2020, over 130 partners have committed resources, of which 34 have made dedicated financial commitments totaling 125 million dollars.

Nevertheless, implementation of the 2019 World Health Assembly Resolution on WASH in health care facilities is uneven. Of the nearly 50 countries for which WHO and UNICEF have data, 86 percent have updated standards and 70 percent have conducted initial assessments which show that these areas are generally on track.

Yet just a third of countries have costed national WASH in health care facility roadmaps and only 10 percent have included WASH indicators in national health systems monitoring.More catalytic global funding, technical support, and domestic resourcing is needed to keep health care workers and patients safe and protected.

An opportunity exists to build on existing efforts and commitments and integrate WASH in health care facilities in all national COVID-19 plans, vaccine distribution and economic recovery packages.

Data published by WHO in October indicate that COV-ID-19 infections among health care workers are far greater

than those in the general population: Health care workers represent less than 3 cent of the population, but account for 14 percent of global COV-ID-19 cases reported to WHO.

The data in this year's report include statistics for 165 countries, from surveys representing 760,000 facilities.

Compared to last year's baseline report, estimates were available for 125 countries with data from surveys representing 560,000 facili-

The data on county progress in implementing the World Health Assembly Resolution represent 47 countries. It is the first time these data have been compiled and analysed.

Xinhua

Adesina and three others win Academy of Public Health's 2020 top distinguished fellowship award

ABIDJAN

THE Academy of Public Health, the flagship body of the West African Institute of Public Health, has named African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina and three other eminent persons as winners of its 2020 Distinguished Fellowship Award.

Adesina, World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Tedros Ghebreyesus, Leith Green- to make a difference in their slade of JustActions and Win- work, the Academy said in a rica's economies and health

nie Byanyima of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, were nominated by young public health professionals across Africa for their demonstrated leadership in working to ensure equity, better health and wellbeing for

The four have been recognized for their style of transformative leadership which inspires emerging young leaders in public health to strive statement at the weekend.

"Dr. Akinwumi Adesina of the African Development Bank was particularly recognized for his action leadership in quickly moving the AfDB to provide the financial bulwark to the African Union as well as some of its member states to help curb Africa's COVID-19 pandemic. He was also noted for engendering thought leadership through the AfDB to shape actions in the COVID and post COVID era for Afsystems.'

The Distinguished Fellowship Award is the highest fellowship rank in the "Roll of Fellows "of the Academy, leading the Roll of Fellows for their exceptional leadership and service to humanity in making a difference in the lives of people and inspiring young leaders to also excel in their public health work."

Ghebreyesus won for leading the WHO to provide an equity-focused COVID-19 response that leaves no one

behind, including his approaches towards eliminating "vaccine nationalism" in the wake of the pandemic, while Greenslade was recognized for leading a global awareness on childhood pneumonia, leveraging on public-private and philanthropic partnerships. Byanyima was chosen for her "unwavering" work to ensure that HIV/AIDS key populations impacted by COVID-19 are not forgotten.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a ceremony to honor the recipients will be held in 2021, the Academy said, adding that the recipients were being notified of their recognition and date for a virtual investiture.

"I am greatly honored to be selected to receive the Distinguished Fellowship of the West African Academy of Public Health together with Dr. Tedros, Winnie Byanyima and Leith Greenslade! Africa and the rest of the world will overcome this pandemic against all odds", Adesina said.

The West African Institute of Public Health is the leading regional non-state health development organization working in enabling environment, professional training and education, research standards, consulting and advisory services. The Institute is a membership-based body that focuses on building a strong network of highly skilled and competent public health practitioners. It is also the keeper of the regional charter of public health.

Nordic Development Fund approves \$8.8 million grant for African Water Facility

By Special Correspondent

THE Nordic Development Fund (NDF) has approved \$8.8 million in grant funding to the African Water Facility for projects in the Sahel and Horn of Africa.

The board of directors of the NDF approved the grant funding to bolster investments in COVID-19 recovery and preparation for investment of water supply, sanitation and integrated water resources management projects.

The AWF is a Special Fund established in 2005 by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), and hosted and administered by the African Development Bank (AfDB). The NDF, a Nordic international finance institution established by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden in 1988, focuses on the intersection of climate change and development in lower-income and fragile countries.

NDF managing director Karin Isaksson: "We are very pleased to build and leverage on our relationship with the AWF to support Build-Back-Better and Greener, climate-resilient approaches. We also welcome the possibility to provide access to Nordic knowledge, technology, and potential partnerships on innovative water and sanitation solutions by financing a long-term consult-

The funds will support the AWF's COVID-19 Recovery Through Water and Sanitation in Africa programme, an initiative that relies on a climate-resilient approach to prepare investment in water sector projects that will benefit the vulnerable and underserved poor urban communities, including the displaced, in the two targeted regions.

The proposed programme advances an existing partnership of the AfDB, the AWF, the NDF, Denmark and other potential donors aimed at slowing and preventing transmission of COVID-19.

The program's estimated budget is \$34.6 million, of which the Danish government will contribute a grant of \$23.8 million. The Bank and AWF will provide a grant of \$1.1 million. Governments in the targeted areas are expected to provide in-kind contributions.

The Nordic Development Fund is a partner in a number of ongoing Bank trust funds, including the ClimDev Special Fund and the Off-Grid Energy Access Fund. NDF has previously extended grant funding to AWF to finance a call for proposals for preparation of climate-resilient water infrastructure and water resource project in Sub-Saharan Africa.



culture, human and social development Wambui Gichuri: "This grant will enable the African Water Facility to fulfill its mandate of investment-ready project preparation and its climate-resilient approach to interventions in water supply, sanitation and integrated water resources management.

"The Bank is particularly pleased that the programme will place a special emphasis on the needs AfDB acting vice president for agri- of poor, underserved and displaced persons as well

as on gender equity in access to water and sanitation and facilitating job creation for youth and women."

In the target countries, the average rate of access to safely managed drinking water facilities is 53.8%; the average rate of access to safely managed sanitation facilities is 23.4%; and the average proportion of population with handwashing facilities at home is 22.4%. This situation constrains the use of water and sanitation as a measure to contain the spread of Sustainable Development Goals.

COVID-19 and other water-related infectious diseases.

The AWF assists African countries to mobilise financing and apply the funds to address water supply and sanitation needs, to enable the countries meet the African Water Vision 2025 as well as water-related

Tanzania farmers distrust fertiliser quality, are less willing to pay for it

ILLINOIS, USA

SMALLHOLDER farmers in sub-Saharan Africa use fertiliser well below recommended rates, contributing to consistently low agricultural productivity. Farmers in Tanzania and Kenya, for example, apply just 13 kilogrammes of fertiliser per hectare, compared with 165 to 175 kilogrammes in India and Brazil. Low use directly affects cereal yields, which average 1.2 to 1.7 metric tons per hectare, compared to 4 to 4.5 metric tons in South America and

A new study from the University of Illinois finds farmers have misconceptions about fertiliser quality and suggests those misconceptions are a major reason for low applica-

"Farmers were not using much fertiliser; that's well established in the region of Tanzania where we were working. In discussions with farmers we heard again and again the explanation was they thought the fertiliser was fake or bad, and they didn't want to buy it," says Hope Michelson, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics (ACE) at U of I.

"I'd heard this in other, similar locations where I'd worked with farmers," Michelson says. "We decided to focus on this question of quality: Is the fertiliser bad?"

Michelson and her colleagues conducted a case study in Tanzania to gain more insight into fertiliser quality and farmers' beliefs and willingness to buy it.

Anna Fairbairn, then-graduate student in ACE and coauthor on the study, spent a year collecting data throughout Tanzania's Morogoro Region.

Fairbairn first conducted a census to identify all shops in the region selling fertiliser. She drove with her team along primary and secondary roads for weeks, stopping at any shop that looked like it might sell fertiliser. They interviewed all dealers about their practices and prices. Then, "mystery shoppers" posing as farmers purchased more than 600 fertiliser samples from 225 dealers, recording prices and other details about the transactions. The samples went to laboratories in Kenya and the U.S. for analysis.

The researchers included three types of fertiliser that are important for agricultural production in Tanzania - urea, calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN), and diammonium phosphate (DAP). The lab results showed just a small percentage of samples were marginally out of compliance with industry standards. They did not indicate widespread evidence of the fraud and quality problems that farmers worried about. These results are consistent with findings from numerous academic studies and from international organizations like the International Fertiliser Development Centre conducted in recent years.

"It makes sense that the quality is good. Urea fertiliser

of the cheapest fertilizers. You would have to dilute it with something even cheaper, and there are not very many options. So it is not likely to happen," Michelson notes.

After the quality analysis, Fairbairn and her assistants interviewed 165 farmers in 12 villages across the region. They set up a "store," where they showed farmers samples of urea - the most prevalent fertiliser for small farmers - and asked how much they would be willing to pay for them.

"We found evidence that farmers worry about the quality of the fertiliser in the marketplace, and that impacts their willingness to pay for

is difficult to adulterate, and it is one it. This can affect the amount of ferevidence that farmers' beliefs are not tiliser they're buying, and whether converging to the truth - of good qualor not they purchase fertiliser at all," Michelson states.

After the farmers' initial responses, the researcher would tell them that the fertilizer had been lab tested and shown to have adequate nutrition content. This information increased the farmers' willingness to pay by about 50 per cent.

Michelson says there may be several explanations for the farmers' distrust in fertiliser quality.

"These farmers are operating in contexts with weak regulatory systems and may be broadly suspicious. It is interesting and significant to find ity fertilizer in the marketplace - over time," she states.

Michelson says farmer distrust could be exacerbated by the difficulty in observing the effect of fertiliser on crop yields.

"You could be applying at the wrong time, or not applying enough. Weather is also a factor driving crop yields. You can't always tell if the fertiliser is doing anything because of the rainfall variability factor. Farmers could blame these things on the fertiliser not being good quality," she says.

An important factor that may influence the beliefs the researchers identified is the appearance of the fertiliser.

"We find evidence there is an enormous problem with fertilizer in the marketplace that looks bad. It may be dirty or have clumps, sticks, and small amounts of impurities in it," Michelson notes. "More than 30 per cent of the samples we purchased had this sort of problem."

Wholesalers import urea through the port of Dar es Salaam, where it gets bagged and transported into the country. Inadequate storage facilities and transportation resources can result in a compromised appearance that has no bearing on quality and effectiveness.



Stanbic Bank Moshi branch manager, Oppi Igolola (R) hands over one of 50 desks worth 4m/- to Zablon Mangare (L) a representative from Moshi municipality. The bank's donation is for Uhuru primary school in Mawenzi, Moshi as part of the bank's initiatives to support to the education sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FEATURES

Guardian

Biden's pledges could spur more migration. But in a pandemic, the border is unprepared

LOS ANGELES/MONTERREY, Mexico

FTER spending eight months of 2019 in a makeshift tent camp in the dangerous Mexican border city of Matamoros, Israel Martinez abandoned his hopes of seeking asylum in the United States.

Beaten down by the cold and unsanitary conditions in the encampment, Martinez accepted a free flight back to his homeland of Honduras in January 2020.

Last month, his house was severely damaged by flooding during back-to-back hurricanes. And in January, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden, who has promised to relax some immigration restrictions at the U.S.-Mexico border, takes power. Those factors have prompted Martinez and others to start making plans to return.

Thousands of newly hopeful migrants in Central America have recently joined WhatsApp and Facebook groups dedicated to organizing northbound caravans, slated to begin leaving the region in the coming weeks. Biden's Jan. 20 inauguration is a frequent topic. "Remember, Trump leaves on the 20th," one person wrote in a group planning to leave Honduras on Jan. 15. "If people arrive before then, they'll have problems.

U.S. border officials and shelter directors along the border are concerned about the effects of a major surge in migration in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, as is the Biden transition team, people familiar with the team's discussions said.

A new wave of migrants could create an early crisis for the incoming administration as it seeks to fulfill campaign promises to roll back the harsh policies of U.S. President Donald Trump, while still deterring unregulated travel across the southern border.

Reuters spoke with seven shelter organizations, including three of the country's largest, in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California. Many said they wanted Trump's policies to be reversed as quickly and safely as possible, but feared pandemic-related factors - including reduced shelter capacity, fewer volunteers and medical workers, a lack of government testing of migrants, and fewer donations - would make it difficult for them to cope with a surge without additional resources.

The Biden campaign website says the new administration will "dramatically increase U.S. government resources to support migrants awaiting assessment of their asylum claims and to the organizations providing for their needs."

The Biden transition team has been meeting with advocates to listen to suggestions for how to cope with a surge, a source familiar with the discussions told Reuters. Migrant advocates interviewed by Reuters said they have yet to receive concrete commitments from incoming officials.



Migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. queue for food at an encampment of more than 2,000 migrants, as local authorities prepare to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Matamoros, Mexico March 20, 2020. (File photo)

Biden has promised "on day one" of his administration to end the Migrant Protection Protocols, or MPP, the controversial Trump program implemented in 2019 that forced Martinez and tens of thousands of other asylum seekers to wait in Mexico pending U.S. immigration court hearings.

The Biden transition has not yet said if it plans to repeal a separate COVID-19-related order put in place by the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in March that allows U.S. authorities to quickly expel almost all border crossers.

On a call with reporters on Monday, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner Mark Morgan said immediately reversing Trump's policies on the border would lead to a "full-blown crisis in a couple of weeks.

Three people familiar with discussions among Biden transition officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that the team recognizes the importance of implementing an orderly process to dismantle MPP to avoid any rush to the border and said unraveling the program will take time.

Another person familiar with the issue said public health concerns regarding the coronavirus will be a key factor in planning how fast to proceed.

VOLUNTEERS 'DRAMATICALLY REDUCED'

El Paso, Texas-based Annunciation House, one of the country's largest shelter organizations, took in around 150,000 people from U.S. immigration authorities in fiscal year 2019, director Ruben Garcia said. As many as 1,000 people arrived at its facilities each day during peak times that spring, he said, requiring a "Herculean effort" to respond.

Annunciation House mobilized thousands of volunteers and enlisted churches as makeshift shelters and rented hotel rooms in blocks. Now, Garcia said, "We're running into the reality that people are saying, 'Ruben, in this pandemic, there's just a lot of people who aren't going to want to help." He is facing reluctance from overflow spaces while his own shelters have reduced capacity due

Many of Annunciation House's short-term volunteers are older retirees who are more vulnerable to the coronavirus. At the same time, as the pandemic has hurt jobs and incomes, donations have dropped off. The organization does not receive government support for its work.

Teresa Cavendish, director of the Casa Ali-

son, Arizona, said COVID-19 had "dramatically reduced" the organization's active roster of 400 volunteers and 150 medical providers because many are vulnerable to the coronavirus, or now have other commitments.

For example, the shelter's main doctor is now running a COVID-19 ward in a Tucson hospital, she said. The organization has also seen financial donations drop by 75-80%.

Michael Smith, director of The Holding Institute in Laredo, Texas, which helps migrants as well as the local community, said his shelter had lost many volunteers and been forced to introduce new pandemicrelated restrictions that have halved its bed capacity.

Donations have also fallen because "in Zoom church, you can't pass the plate," he said. He has cut weekly community food distributions from 30 pounds to 25 per household in an effort to stretch resources, and is now shopping online for "backup plan" camping tents in case arriving migrants need to sleep outside.

'NOWHERE TO LIVE'

Garcia, the Annunciation House director, said he wished migrants would "stay put" for first week of January, just before a few months as the coronavirus vaccine is tas program that runs a large shelter in Tuc- rolled out. "It's going to add an element of

manageability that is going to be desperately needed," he said.

But back in Central America, migrants like Israel Martinez say they cannot wait.

"Look at how sad this is," Martinez said in a video shot on his cellphone for Reuters as he waded through the streets of his San Pedro Sula neighborhood, still filled with ankle-deep water more than two weeks after the second hurricane made landfall.

The first time he left Honduras, Martinez said, he was fleeing threats from a ruling party politician, who had threatened to jail him for working for the opposition.

Now, with his neighborhood in ruins and shelters for storm victims at capacity, his reasons are simpler.

"I have nowhere to live," he said in a phone call from an elementary school where he is sleeping with his wife and their six children, aged six to 21. The family is planning to leave for the United States in the Biden takes office.

Agencies

Work together to promote green Belt and Road

By Yu Yichun

N recent years, projects of cooperation in environmental protection technologies and green industry have been implemented in the joint pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

To build a green Belt and Road, China has worked with relevant countries to enhance cooperation in conserving the environment, protecting biodiversity and tackling climate change, launch green infrastructure projects, make green investment and provide green fi-

According to data released by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, in the first half of 2020, the share of renewable energy investments was higher than that of fossil fuel energy investments in Belt and Road projects.

Fabiano Faria is a manager of the second phase of the Belo Monte 800KV ultra-high voltage (UHV) direct current transmission project in Bra-

Boarding a helicopter with his binoculars and digital camera, Faria and his colleagues flew a total of 67 hours in 12 days to inspect the 2,500-kilometer transmission line built by the State Grid Corporation of China.

The line transmits clean electricity from the Amazon Basin in northern Brazil to mat Gert Grobler pointed out

the populous south, crossing dense forests, vast plantations and rolling mountains.

During the construction of the project, the Chinese company employed over 600 plant and animal experts for the environmental protection work to minimize the impact of the project on the environment, Faria said.

"The iron towers are tall so as not to hurt the trees. Moreover, the experts also did a good job in restoring the environment such as soil stabilization and reforestation," he introduced.

Since it started operation one year ago, the longest 800kV UHV transmission line in the world has met the electricity needs of about 22 million people, playing a vital role in promoting Brazil's economic growth and the pursuit of green energy.

On the reddish-brown hills of the Great Karoo Plateau in southern South Africa, white wind turbines operate slowly to generate electricity that can meet the needs of the nearby De Aar.

As the largest wind power project in South Africa, it generates about 760 million kWh of green power for the area each year, saving 215,800 tons of standard coal and reducing 619,900 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. It is expected to meet the electricity demand of 300,000 local households.

Senior South African diplo-



Photo shows wind power equipment to be shipped to Chile at the Lianyungang Port in Lianyungang city, east China's Jiangsu province through the Maritime Silk Road in November. (File photo)

that South Africa, a major electricity producing nation in Africa, generates 40 percent of all electricity on the continent, but over 90 percent of the country's electricity is produced from coal.

The new energy project undertaken by a Chinese company is changing the energy structure of South Africa, the diplomat said, adding that the project also conforms to the country's national plan of reducing its dependence on thermal power and developing clean energy, thus making important contributions to promoting green development

in Africa. In Britain, the largest energy storage project in Europe developed by China Huaneng Group Co., Ltd.–the British Mendi Battery Energy Storage Project began cold state commissioning on Aug. 25. This marked the project's entry into the final stage of development and it is scheduled to be put into commercial operation by the end of the year.

Britain has witnessed rapid development of renewable energy, but it still faces the intermittent and volatility of power output. After its completion, the Mendi battery energy storage project will mainly participate in peak shaving

and frequency modulation, fast frequency response, black start, capacity market and other services of the British power market.

The project can also provide emergency support power supply in the event of an accident in the country's major power grid and improve the safety and stability of power system operation.

The European Union (EU) and China enjoy great cooperation potential in specific emission reduction targets and post-epidemic economic recovery, and even in accelerating the transition to a greener global economy, said Lutz Weischer, head of International Climate Policy at Germany's environmental organization Germanwatch.

China is vigorously advancing ecological progress, and EU-China green cooperation will lead the world's green cooperation and development, Weischer noted.

"By advocating green development, Belt and Road projects have promoted sustainable local production practices," said Marcos Freitas, head of the International Virtual Institute for Global Change under the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Freitas added that China has actively advocated the concept of eco-friendly development in the joint pursuit of the BRI, and the building of a green Silk Road has become an important measure to implement the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and gained broad sup-

People's Daily

Guardian www.ippmedia.com

BUSINESS

INCENTIVE

Prof Shemdoe assures CTI strong support to deliver on JPM pledges

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has insisted that it is committed to address challenges facing investors in the country while commending Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), for being in the forefront in solving some of its members' hurdles.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Trade Professor Riziki Shemdoe when officiating the launch of Manufactures Information Portal (MIP) which is an investment made by CTI to help its embers communicate easily.

Prof Shemdoe said President John Magufuli has made it very clear that any public official frustrating investors will be taken to task hence warning his ministry's lieutenants to heed the Head of State's directive.

"I hope you heard the President's speech when he inaugurated the 12th Parliament recent that in the next five years, his government will give

the private sector unique incentives which show how his government will prioritize investors, the majority of which are CTI members," he noted.

He said CIT's investment in the MIP is a result of the partnership between the confederation and Trade Mark East Africa aimed at creating a prime source of information on procedures and requirements of manufacturing and associated industries in the coun-

"It is my hope that through the portal, existing and aspiring manufacturers will have access to the much needed information on regulatory procedures and requirements necessary to establish and run successful operations while complying with all government regulations," the Ministry of Industry and Trade highest civil servant noted. He said the CTI portal aligns well with government digital investment initiatives such as Tanzania National Business Portal under his ministry. Briefing the PS, CTI Policy Specialist, Frank Daffa said the



Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Trade Professor Riziki Shemdoe

confederation believes that having predictable business environment is essential to maintaining a competitive advantage in both domestic and foreign investment markets.

"Specifically we commend initiatives to improve the business environment through preparation and adaption of the blueprint for regulatory reforms. We are happy that the government has already started taking numerous measures such as the implementation of reforms from the blue print recommendation leading to the removal of 173 nuisance fees," Daffa hinted. He said the launched portal is a result of CTI's own initiative due to demand but received support from Trade Mart East Africa and its partner UKAID, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Irish Aid. "The Portal provide practical solution to the challenge of access to information facing manufacturers hence contributes to easing of compliance to regulations, procedures and reduce the cost of doing business by making regulatory information relevant to them easily available," he

AFFORDABILITY

Customers can buy Zantel's cheap smartphone by paying 1,000/- daily

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of the public can now own one of the cheapest smartphones in the market being offered by Zantel called Smarta by paying 1,000/- daily for 39 days through Ezypesa wallets.

Head of Zantel in Zanzibar, Mohamed Mussa said paign dubbed 'Habanahabahununua Smarta' customers cash and that's the reason will be able to save money in that we have created a plattheir Ezypesa wallets starting form where customers can

of39,999/- get one at any Zantel shop.

Mussa stated that as a digital lifestyle company, Zantel has seen need to create a simple and reliable payment platform that will reduce the burden of paying in cash for the handset.

yesterday through a cam- everyone is capable to purchase a smartphone through from 1,000/- and shortly after pay in instalment without

reaching the devices' price destructing their daily basic expenditures," Mussa said.

The Head of Product and Pricing at Zantel, Aneth Muga said apart from individual savings, customers can also ask for a helping hand from friends and relatives to contribute directly to their Ezypesa saving as a way to "We understand that not help them speed up paying like YouTube, Google, Face-

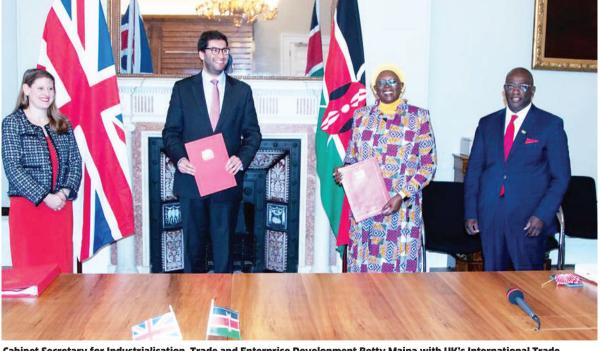
"Our quest is to ensure everyone has access to digital world and enjoy all the benefits that come with it including socialization and

doing business through ecommerce. Through this service we are paving the way for everyone to own a smartphone in the market," Muga

Smarta is currently the most affordable smart device that is 4G enabled and comes with all smart applications book and WhatsApp enabling even the low incomers to have access to digital lifestyle offered by Zantel in the local market.



Zantel's head of product and pricing, Aneth Muga explaining how Eazypesa customers can pay in instalments for their Smarta smartphone during a press briefing held in Zanzibar yesterday. Right is Zantel head in Zanzibar, Mohammed Mussa. Photo courtesy of Zantel.



Cabinet Secretary for Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development Betty Maina with UK's International Trade Minister Ranil Jayawardena during the signing of the new Kenya-UK trade deal in London, United Kingdom.

FREE-TRADE

Kenya to gradually remove taxes on UK goods in pact

NAIROBI

KENYA will gradually remove taxes on imports from the UK after seven years following a trade pact the two countries signed Tuesday last week.

Mr James Duddridge, the UK minister for Africa, said the deal– strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) – is aimed at "doing more trade with less friction" between the UK and the six-nation East African Community bloc.

The pact, which will now have to be ratified by respective lawmakers, preserves duty- and quota-free access for exports originating from the EAC free trade area (FTA) after the UK formally leaves the European Union bloc at the end of this month.

The UK minister said there is a window of seven years from the time the agreement comes to force for non-agricultural goods from the UK to start enjoying preferential import duties, a gradual process which will take 25 years. "This is not an opening up of (market) liberalisation on day one. It is phased over seven

to 25 years," Mr Duddridge told the Business Daily in

Kenya's import tax rates currently ranges from zero (largely for raw materials) to 10 percent (for intermediate goods) and 25 percent (for finished goods) based on EAC Common External Tariff (CET), while sensitive goods attract duty as much as 35 percent or even

The rest of the EAC states - whose exports are shielded from tariffs because they are classified as Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) - sat out of negotiations with the UK. "Kenya came forward as a close partner and also as a lower middle income it was going to suffer straightaway whereas low-income countries which are subject to general system of preferences wouldn't expect any major effect," Mr Duddridge said.

"The UK relationship and trade with Kenya is incredibly important, and if we could not have signed a deal, it would have been very problematic particularly for Kenya's revenue but also for the tea drinkers in the UK." The deal between Nairobi and London is

ECO-FRIENDLY

N. Cape solar farm to power Amazon's South African data centres

CAPE TOWN

THOUGH Amazon.com is staying mum for now on details of its planned "utility-scale" renewable energy project in South Africa, it has emerged that it will source the power from a giant solar farm to be built in the Northern Cape.

The project, which has already been approved by energy regulator Nersa, is being led by local solar energy experts The SOLA Group. It

will supply 28GWh of solar power, "wheeled" via Eskom's grid, to Amazon facilities each year, including the recently launched data centres in Cape Town built by Amazon's cloud computing subsidiary, AWS.

Construction will begin early next year. Amazon said on Thursday that it is adding 26 new "utility-scale" wind and solar projects around the world, including its first facility in South Africa, bringing the total number of such projects to 127.

The new renewable energy projects are located in South Africa, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, the UK and the US. The projects will deliver a total of 3.4GW of electricity production capacity. Amazon's renewable energy investments announced to date will supply 6.5GW of capacity.

The SOLA Group will be responsible for developing the project in South Africa and will build, own and operate the 10MW solar facility. The project will be majority black owned, with Mahlako a Phahla Investments, a black women-owned and operated energy and infrastructure investment holding com-

pany, owning 45%. Another investor is African Infrastructure Investment Managers, through the Ideas Fund, one of South Africa's largest domestic infrastructure equity funds and one of the largest local investors in renewable energy.

Sought-after licence

The SOLA Group executive director Chris Haw said in a statement that although the concept of "wheeling" energy using Eskom's infrastructure has been in place since 2008, administrative barriers have hindered uptake. "This project ... has also received a sought-after generation licence from Nersa, a milestone that similar projects have struggled to achieve," Haw said.

The Nersa process requires a

signed power purchase agreement and fully developed project to obtain approval, he explained. "This creates contractual challenges because many inputs, such as the foreign exchange rate, are still fluctuating while the application process is under way. The high standard of development required for submission means that Nersa are not handing out licences to projects that won't proceed, which is a very good thing.

PROMOTION

TTCL in major price cuts as competition in market intensifies

By Guardian Reporter

CUT throat competition in the market has continued to intensify price war among major telecommunications companies with state owned TTCL Corporation announcing significant price cuts for data and voice.

Announcing the major price reductions in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TTCL Corporation's T-Pesa Director, Lulu Mkude said customers who use the telco's mobile money platform to top their airtime will get more voice call time, text messages and megabytes for internet connection. T-Pesa to T-Pesa transactions will be offered free of charge.

"During this end of year festive period, we have come up with a number of offers to customers to ensure that they

spend the holidays communicating cheaply with friends and relatives," Mkude said saying TTCL Corporation is in the market to ensure that the majority of Tanzanians have access to reliable and affordable services.

She said through 'Bando Tam Tam Plus' which debuted into the market yesterday, the telco's subscribers will get 600 megabytes, five minutes of talk time and 30 text messages per day for only 500/-.

Subscribers who buy a 5,000/- bundle will get 2.2 gigabytes of data, 20 minutes of voice call across all networks and 300 text messages. "We are also offering a new bundle called 'Jisoti' which is tailor made for people who use internet connection and making calls," she stated while encouraging customers to use TTCL's digital plat-



TTCL Corporation's T-Pesa director, Lulu Mkude speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday when she announced 'Bando Tam Tam' and 'Jisoti' bundles. Photo cour-

forms to transact or buy airtime that TTCL customers have ac- already employing thousands in order to benefit.

"But we also have a network ever they are," she assured while products and services. "Rudi ny-

cess to all of our services wher- of Tanzanians as agents of its of agents countrywide to ensure emphasising that the telco is umbani kumenoga," Mkude ad-

vised consumers saying the state owned telco has reliable but affordable services for the majority Tanzanians.

STIMULUS

Treasury plans Sh100bn SME loans cover entity

NAIROBI

THE planned entity, which will take a similar approach as the Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company for home loans, targets to partially cover Sh100 billion in loans extended to cash-strapped micro-, small- and mediumsized enterprises (MSMEs).

Acting director-general for Budget, Fiscal and Economic Affairs at the Treasury Albert Mwenda said the launch of the pilot State-backed Credit Guarantee Scheme last week would provide useful market information to help set up the proposed third-party credit risk mitigation fund.

"Ultimately, we intend this scheme to be (led and) man-



Acting director-general Budget, Fiscal and Economic Affairs Albert Mwenda.

aged by the private sector," he said, adding the approach was backed by evidence across the world showing risk assessment for borrowers should be left to the lenders. "This scheme will ultimately be anchored in a private company owned jointly by banks and government. It will really be a publicprivate sector scheme and that is more sustainable."

The Treasury will cover up to 25 per cent of the loan in the event of default in the pilot phase, which was in June allocated Sh3 billion, with the lenders shouldering the remainder of the loss.

The allocation to the guarantee fund will rise to Sh10 billion in the financial year starting July 2021 following an approval by the Cabinet in September.

While the Treasury has capped credit to be covered under the scheme at Sh5 million, participating lenders have an open hand in pricing the loans based on individual borrower's risk.

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Saturday asked KCB, NCBA, Co-op, Absa, DTB, Stanbic and Credit Bank – participants in the pilot phase of the scheme – to charge single-digit interest.

DIGITIZATION

Electronic -commerce businesses race to attract holiday shoppers

KIGALI

E-COMMERCE businesses are scrambling to attract festive shoppers, anticipating a rise in traffic driven by demand from customers who have resorted to online shopping due to the novel Coronavirus pandemic.

Although it may not be clear at the moment how people will spend, online businesses will be looking to lure customers through targeted discounts, as well as gifts and vouchers. For one thing, people in the e-commerce business say there is always a surge in demand for goods and services during holidays.

"We definitely always see a surge in traffic and this has always been the trend from the end of November all through December," says Clarisse Iribagiza, the chief executive at Shypt, which provides infrastructure for e-commerce businesses. Companies like hers are anticipating a rise in demand, and they are doing all they can, including scaling up their platforms to accommodate the shopper traffic to ensure minimal disruptions.

"We have been making upgrades over the last couple of weeks and will continue to do so all through the New Year given the number of vendors we support," she noted. Traditionally, the holiday season was a period where hundreds of shoppers flock stores but this year may be different as physical distancing and other Covid-19 restrictions may limit movement.

Nicole Umuziranenge, a marketing executive at Vuba Vuba

Africa, 'strongly' believes that ecommerce companies are likely to increase online sales during the festive season. "Reason being that the pandemic has now forced people to easily adapt to online shopping," she notes, adding that now customers expect more from delivery applications and internet

The new normal

Umuziranenge asserts that the pandemic has fundamentally changed consumer purchasing behaviour in 2020, insisting that now consumers are more likely to adapt to a "new normal as we continue to abide by Covid-19 prevention and restriction."

What that means is that businesses are racing to design initiatives aimed at luring people to buy online. One of such initiatives is a campaign, "Foodie Festive", designed by Vuba Vuba to create awareness to buy online. However, considering what characterized this year, it's all going to depend on consumer spending, according to Remy Lubega, the owner of Kimironko Market, a grocery delivery platform.

"In any way, we anticipate some more traffic because it's a holiday period," he says. "We are coming up with some offers, we started "Black Fridays" where people get 10 per cent discounts on whatever they buy." Online businesses are also racing to give back to their regular shoppers, rewarding them with gifts and discounted vouchers to shop more, as well as partnering with banks to come up with targeted promotions.



A Vuba Vuba agent attending to a client in Kigali.

INVESTMENT

US\$800m in funding behind Ethiopia telco licence, Liquid datacentre drive

ADDIS ABABA

A United States development funder, the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has availed US\$500-million to back a consortium of regional and international telecommunication firms with their bid to acquire a mobile licence in Ethiopia, while also advancing US\$300-million to support Liquid Telecom's datacentre expansion across the continent.

Ethiopia is considered to be a lucrative growth frontier for telecommunications investment and the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has already opened investment bids for two private mobile telecom op-

There are also plans to partially privatise the state-controlled Ethio Telecom, which has largely been criticised for cutting connectivity in the crisis ravaged Tigray region, currently at the centre of civil conflict. There has been concern that the worsening humanitarian crisis would unnerve potential investors in the telecommunications market.

However, the government of Ethiopia is pressing ahead with the processing of bids for the two mobile permits and the Finance Ministry has confirmed that bids will close at the end of March next year.

International telecommunications

group Vodafone, along with Vodacom and Safaricom are bidding for the mobile license as a consortium and have previously said that they would need up to US\$1-billion to build and operationalise a mobile network in Ethiopia. Their bid has now been strengthened with funding from the

The loan, to be advanced to the Vodafone-led Global Partnership for Ethiopia, will be used to "finance the design, development, and operation of a new private mobile network provider" provider in the country as well as "the acquisition of a mobile network provider" license, according to the US funding organisation.

China for deeper cooperation with **Turkey and Qatar**

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for deepening cooperation with Turkey and Qatar as he held telephone conversations with his Turkish and Qatari counterparts, respectively, on Monday.

During his call with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Wang said that China and Turkey should solemnly commemorate their 50 years of diplomatic ties, deepen political mutual trust and cooperation and push their relations to a higher level.

Since the beginning of the year, China and Turkey have worked closely in the provision of medical supplies, sharing experiences in combatting the virus, and on the third phase of clinical trial of a COV-ID-19 vaccine, Wang said.

Turkey's decision to purchase Chinese vaccines reflects its trust in China, and China is willing to assist Turkey whenever necessary, Wang

Political mutual trust is the foundation of the strategic cooperative relationship between the two countries, Wang noted.

China and Turkey share common concern in fighting terrorism and maintaining national security and stability, Wang said, adding that the two sides should oppose blatant "double standards" when it comes to fighting terrorism.

Noting that the East Turkestan Islamic Movement is a global terror group designated by the UN Security Council, Wang said that it is the obligation of all countries to combat the group, and China is willing to carry out more in-depth anti-terror cooperation with Turkey.

For his part, Chavushoglu congratulated China on successfully containing the pandemic, and praised the country's achievements in vaccine research and develop-

The Turkish side hopes to take the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and China next year as an opportunity to further deepen cooperation with China and improve bilateral relations, said Chavushoglu.

The Turkish side will not allow anyone to undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said.

China-Qatar

In a separate phone call with Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Qatari deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Wang said that China and Qatar should deepen practical cooperation in the fields of energy, infrastructure and investment.

Both heads of state have exchanged phone calls and letters this year, which fully demonstrates the strategic mutual trust and close relationship between China and Qatar, Wang noted.

OPTIMISM

Dubai's Alcazar Energy bullish on renewables as demand for clean energy picks up

ABU DHABI

DUBAI'S Alcazar Energy, backed by Mubadala Investment Company, is bullish on the growth of the renewables sector in the Middle East and North Africa as demand for clean energy accelerates amid concerns about climate change.

"Necessity for affordable energy in these emerging markets is of very large magnitude," Daniel Calderon, co-founder and chief executive of Alcazar Energy, said. "That is the exciting part of renewable energy. What we have seen in the last seven years is very small fraction of what we hopefully ... stand to see in the next ten years."

Middle Eastern countries like Jordan, which depend on energy imports to meet up to 90 per cent of their requirements, are opting to generate energy

through solar to plug demand and lower their spending. The kingdom has launched a number of renewable rounds to tap the private sector in building clean energy capacity.

Energy exporters in the Middle East such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also switching from gas, and are looking to add more renewable capacity to meet power needs. Dubai aims to generate 25 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable sources by 2030 and 75 per cent by 2050 as part of its clean energy drive. Abu Dhabi, the hydrocarbons centre of the UAE, is looking to generate half of its power requirements from clean sources by 2030.

The UAE capital is building a massive 2 Gigawatt solar power scheme in Al Dhafra, which was awarded to a consortium led by Abu Dhabi National Energy

Company (Taga), Masdar, EDF and Jinko Solar in July.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, is pursuing an ambitious renewable power strategy and plans to add 60 gigawatts of clean energy capacity to the national grid by 2030. Of this, 40 gigawatts will come from solar photovoltaic plants, 16 gigawatts from wind turbines and 2.7 gigawatts from concentrated solar power.

"When you look at the Mena region ... [it] needs quarter of a trillion dollars [in investment] during the next ten years alone to be able to meet the requirement that it has in the renewable energy," Mr Calderon said.

Alcazar Energy operates seven renewable projects in the region with an investment of over \$700 million. It recently started the commercial operations of its wind farm in Jordan, which is



Daniel Calderon, co-founder and chief executive of Alcazar Energy.

jointly financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector and the Europe Arab Bank. Despite rapid development of renewable projects in the region, the investment is still very low in the sector, Mr Calderon said.

"Jordan now has 16 per cent of power being produced from renew-

able energy sources. Similarly Egypt was only starting seven years ago and today it has the largest solar complex in the world. All that progress so far is only single digit billion dollars of investment," he said.

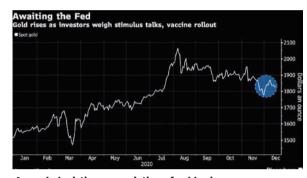
The company is currently considering raising up to \$700m through a green bond or selling some of its assets to global infrastructure investors to refinance its debt and fuel its expansion. Mr Calderon, however, did not provide details on when the company plans to issue a bond or sell its assets.

"We have been talking to typical bond investors. There is quite an interest for people to come and invest because of the better status Egypt and Jordan have for international investors. That's one opportunity in front of us we are considering," he said.

Alcazar is also seeing interest from global infrastructure funds in investing in the renewable energy space in the Middle East. Global funds have so far largely poured capital into built hydrocarbons assets in the Middle East.

"As part of an exercise, we have also received approaches from equity investors," Mr Calderon said. "These are long term infrastructure investors who typically go into large energy companies in Europe or North America and don't invest in renewable energy investments in Egypt or Jordan or North Africa and it is exciting that we were able to bring investors."

APPRECIATION



A graph depicting appreciation of gold prices.

Gold goes up as stimulus, Fed and fresh lockdowns support advance

NEW YORK

GOLD advanced as investors weighed the prospects for a US spending package and possibility of further action from the Federal Reserve at its last meeting of the year, against the progress on the roll-out of vaccines.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers delivered details of a \$908 billion relief package, splitting it into two parts in recognition of deep differences over state aid and a liability shield for employers. With Joe Biden now confirmed as president by the Electoral College, leaders in Congress need to find a way to get one or both parts through the House and Senate before the last of the relief provisions from earlier stimulus expire at the end of the year.

Bullion's path in recent weeks has been dominated by developments on vaccines and prolonged stimulus talks in the US, with prices set for the first quarterly loss since 2018. Still, the metal may get some support after the Fed meets Tuesday and Wednesday, with markets expecting fresh guidance on asset purchases. In addition, the haven may get a boost from fresh anti-virus curbs being rolled out in major economies including Germany and the UK.

"Prices are looking vulnerable again but should once again be saved by the Fed," said Edward Mova, senior market analyst at Oanda Corp. "Economic scarring will undoubtedly make it easier for the Fed to continue to provide more accommodation and that could make many traders want to jump back

Spot gold rose as much as 0.4% to \$1,835.17 an ounce and was at \$1,832.75 at 11:39 a.m. in Singapore, after a 0.7% drop on Monday. The precious metal remains about 20% higher this year after hitting a record in August. Silver climbed 0.8%, platinum added 0.1% and palladium advanced 0.3%. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index was flat after losing 0.2% Monday.

The first Covid-19 shots were administered by US hospitals Monday, an initial step in a drive to immunise millions. At the same time, New York is headed toward a full shutdown if hospitalisations continue to rise, Governor Andrew Cuomo warned. Separately, London will be placed under England's toughest curbs from Wednesday, the same day Germany starts a hard lockdown.



Prices are looking vulnerable again but should once again be saved by the Fed," said Edward Moya, senior market analyst at Oanda Corp. "Economic scarring will undoubtedly make it easier for the Fed to continue to provide more accommodation and that could make many traders want to jump back in

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

| ITV | PGM | SCHEDULE |
|-----|-----|----------|
| | | |

Uwanja wa Mazoezi

| 6:00 | HABARI |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 6:40 | Kumekucha |
| 7:00 | Habari |
| 8:00 | Al Jazeera |
| 9:00 | Watoto wetu |
| 10:00 | Shika Bamba 5 |
| 10:30 | Mjue Zaidi rpt |
| 11:15 | Chetu ni chetu rpt |
| 12:15 | Korean drama rpt: Hwaran |
| 13:45 | Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salva |
| | Skin |
| 16:00 | Igizo rpt: Mizengwe |
| 16:20 | Igizo: Mtego |
| 17:00 | Shamsham za Pwani |
| 18:00 | Jiji Letu |
| 18:15 | Korean drama: Hwarang |
| 10.00 | lungu Kuu |

19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 ITV TOP 10 22:10 Isidingo rpt

00:30 DWTV

| SUNDAY 13 Dec | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 5:30 | Uwanja wa Mazoezi | | |
| 6:00 | HABARI | | |
| 6:40 | Kumekucha | | |
| 7:00 | Habari | | |
| 8:00 | Al jazeera | | |
| 09:00 | Watoto Wetu | | |
| 10:00 | Isidingo | | |
| 11:40 | Igizo: Mizengwe rpt | | |
| 12:00 | Movie rpt: Bado natafuta | | |
| 14:00 | Tamasha la Michezo | | |
| 15:30 | Mwangaza | | |
| 16:30 | ITV Top 10 | | |
| 17:30 | Kipindi cha kikristo | | |
| 18:00 | Jiji Letu | | |
| 18:15 | Manishi | | |

18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Mizengwe 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa 21:30

Bongo Movie: Mwanaheri

Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild

MONDAY 14 Dec Uwanja wa Mazoezi

Skin

22:14

00:05

6:00 HABARI

6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo

9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa

11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera News 12:30 Mtego rpt

12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt

13:55 Habari za saa 14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild

14:55 Habari za saa Meza huru 15:00 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00

Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii

19:30 Isidingo Habari 21:05 Dakika 45

Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base

Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV TUESDAY 15 Dec

Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo Habari za saa

Kumekucha Kishindo Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa

11:00 The Base rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kesho leo rpt 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt Habari za saa 13:55

14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru

17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Mapishi rpt Uchumi na biashara 18:30 19:00 Jarida la wanawake

Watoto wetu

16:30

19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania yetu 21:30 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild

23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 16 Dec 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI

6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt

10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt Habari za saa 12:55 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild

14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 19:00 Ijue Sheria

19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV

THURSDAY 17 Dec

Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI Kumekucha HABARI

Kumekucha Michezo Habariz a saa Kumekucha Kishindo

9:00 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa

11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al jazeera 12:30 ljue sheria rpt Habari za saa

Ripoti Maalum rpt Tanzania vetu Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt:

Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base

18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo

20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

HABARI

Kumekucha

FRIDAY 18 Dec Uwanja wa Mazoezi

6:00

7:30 **HABARI** Kumekucha Michezo 8:00 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo Isidingo 9:30 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 11:00 The Base 12:00 Al Jazeera

12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Rock City marathon rpt Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild

15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu 18:00 18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Isidingo Habari 20:00

23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV SATURDAY 19 Dec

21:05

23:00

Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha

Kipima Joto

Habari

7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt Korean drama rpt: Hwarang

Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild 13:45 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe Igizo: Mtego

16:20 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00

18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba

Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 ITV TOP 10 22:10 Isidingo rpt 00:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 20 Dec Uwanja wa Mazoezi

HABARI Kumekucha 7:00 Habari Al jazeera

09:00 Watoto Wetu Isidingo Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 11:40

Movie rpt: Mwanakheri Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10

17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapish

18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari

21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Mizengwe 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa

21:30 Mjue Zaidi Bongo Movie: Kizaizai 00:05

Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild

CAPITAL

Sat 12 Dec 08:00 Al iazeera

09:00 Rev rpt Turning the Spotlight rot 09:30 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt Out n'about rot 11:00 11:30 Sports Gazette rpf

12:00 Usafiri wako rot Eco@Africa rpt 12:30 Business edition rpt 13:00 Korean Drama rpt: The slave 13:30

Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:30 Tanzania Yetu rot 17:15 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe The Decor 19:30

Korean Drama: The Slave hunter 20:00 Out n' About 21:00 21:30 Movie: Knight rider 23:00 Series rpt: Godwin 01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 13 Dec

08:00 Aliazeera In good shape 09:00 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt Korean Drama rot: The slave 11:30 hunter

12:00 Jagina rpt Bundesligga Kick Off rot 12:30 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Itohan 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Rev rpt Dakika 45 rpt 16:00

16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:00 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 19:30 20:00 Korean Drama: The Slave hunter

21:00 Shift Capchat live 21:15 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 14 Dec 06:00 Al jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death Club 101 (via Capital Radio) Series rpt: Itohan

Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt

Meza huru 19:00 The Décor rpt Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Itohan The Monday Agenda

Capital Prime News Kipima Joto

00:00 Al Jazeera

Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death Series rpt: Itohan

16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt Series: Itohan 20:00

20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 16 Dec

Al jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death Club 101 (via Capital Radio) Series rpt: Itohan Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt

17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: Itohan Telenovela: Lover her to death 20:45

21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera

06:00 Al Jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape Meza huru Turning the spotlight

17:30 19:00 19:30 Tanzania yetu Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death Capital Prime News

Capchat rpt

Al Jazeera

Frid 18 Dec

23:00

Thurs 17 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death Club 101 (via Capital Radio) Series rpt: Itohan

16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev

19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Aibu Yako Local Pgm: Business Edition

Telenovela: Lover her to death Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt

WORLD

US Attorney General Barr steps down as Trump election defeat confirmed

WASHINGTON

U.S. Attorney General William Barr will step down next week, he said on Monday, shortly after the Electoral College confirmed President Donald Trump's loss to Democratic Presidentelect Joe Biden.

Barr, who had angered Trump by not supporting his incorrect claims that the Nov. 3 election result had been tainted by widespread fraud, said he would leave office on Dec. 23, a little less than a month before Biden is sworn in on Jan.

Deputy Attorney General Jeff Rosen will take over as acting attorney general after Barr's departure, Trump said.

"Our relationship has been a very good one, he has done an outstanding job!" Trump said of Barr on Twitter.

A White House official told Reuters that Barr resigned on his own accord.

Trump lashed out at Barr on Twitter over the weekend after the Wall Street Journal reported that Barr knew earlier this year about an investigation into Biden's son Hunter's taxes.

Trump retweeted a comment from radio host Todd Starnes saying Barr should be fired for not disclosing the probe during the campaign. "A big disappointment!" Trump said in his tweet.

Barr's fate in the waning days of the Trump administration had been in question since he said earlier this month that a Justice Department investigation had

found no sign of major fraud in the election, contradicting Trump's claims.

Trump's legal team accused Barr of failing to conduct a proper inquiry into the allegations.

Barr's resignation letter was released shortly after he briefed the president about the Justice Department's review into the Trump campaign's voter fraud claims. In it, Barr pledged the allegations "would continue to be pursued."

The White House official said Barr's meeting with Trump was amicable.

In the letter, Barr also praised what he called Trump's historic record, saying he had helped boost the economy, strengthen the military and curb illegal immigration.

"I am proud to have played a role in the many successes and unprecedented achievements you have delivered for the American people," Barr wrote.

Biden beat Trump by 306 to 232 votes in the state-by-state Electoral College that chooses the president, as well as by more than 7 million ballots in the popu-

concede and continues to promote his baseless voting fraud allegations, which have been repeatedly rejected by state and federal officials.

Trump has pursued a series of legal challenges in numerous states, but he has not managed to prevail in any of

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court ways that benefited Trump's politi-



Attorney General William Barr

rejected a long-shot lawsuit by Texas that was backed by Trump and a number of other states seeking to throw out voting results in four states, dealing what is seen as the fatal blow in his quest to undo his election loss.

CORE TRUMP SUPPORTER

Barr has long been a staunch Trump ally, drawing scorn from Democrats and many of the department's own career prosecutors who have accused him of putting Trump's personal interests ahead of those of the

"William Barr was willing to do the President's bidding on every front but one. Barr refused to play along with President Trump's nonsensical claims to have won the election," Democratic House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said in a statement.

"Whomever Joe Biden chooses as Despite that, Trump has refused to the new Attorney General will have a tremendous amount of work to do to repair the integrity of the Department of Justice," Nadler added.

Prior to the 2020 election, Barr repeated Trump's unfounded claims that mail-in ballots could be subject to fraud, and he also intervened in several high-profile criminal cases in cal allies such as Michael Flynn and Roger Stone.

In May 2019, Barr tapped federal prosecutor John Durham to investigate Obama-era intelligence and law enforcement officials for possible crimes in connection with their early stage probe into whether Trump's 2016 presidential campaign colluded with the Russian government.

On Dec. 1. Barr disclosed he had elevated Durham to the role of special counsel in October so that he could continue his criminal investigation - a move that will make it politically difficult for Biden to remove him from the post until the probe has concluded.

Noah Bookbinder, a former federal prosecutor who is now executive director for the progressive advocacy group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics, said on Monday that Barr "has done tremendous damage to the Department of Justice and to the American people's very faith in our justice system.

"It is beyond ironic that Barr seems to have been pushed out for not going quite far enough to abuse his position for Trump's benefit, however unconscionably far he did go," Bookbinder's statement said. "The reason may be ridiculous, but good riddance."

Putin congratulates Joe Biden on **US presidential election victory**

MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin has sent a telegram to Joe Biden to congratulate him on the US presidential election victory, the Kremlin reported yesterday.



"In his telegram, Putin wished every success to the president-elect and expressed confidence that Russia and the US, who bear special responsibility for global security and stability, could, despite their differences, help solve many problems and challenges that the world now faces," the Kremlin noted.

The Russian leader also noted that the Russian-American cooperation based on principles of equality and mutual respect would meet the interests of both nations and the entire international community.

"For my part, I am ready to cooperate and maintain contact with you," Putin said in his message to Biden.

On December 14, the US Electoral College convened and confirmed Biden's election victory. The Democrat received 306 votes, while incumbent President Donald Trump secured 232 votes.

With 538 electors, a candidate needs to get 270 votes to be elected to the office of President of the United States. In late November, Trump, who has still not conceded, said that he would leave the White House only if the Electoral College voted for Biden.

In light of this remark, the procedure which is normally considered a formality drew enormous media spotlight.

Uganda to accelerate use of renewable energy in bid to reduce carbon footprint

KAMPALA

CHINESE and Ugandan engineers are putting the final touches on the Karuma Hydropower Plant, Uganda's flagship project that promotes clean energy and limits its carbon footprint on the Nile River.

Kenneth Kiyingi, a civil engineer at the 600MW power plant in the northern part of the country, told Xinhua in a recent interview that the facility epitomizes a generation of clean energy and promotes sustainable development.

Kiyingi said taking a green approach was a major element from the design to the actual construction of the 1.7-billion-U.S.-dollar power plant.

The project was constructed in an environmentally sensitive area, the Murchison Falls National Park, which has rich flora and fauna. A bigger part of the power plant was built underground

to limit the footprints on the surface. Kiyingi said structures on the surface have also been designed and constructed in a way to conserve the environment. Kiyingi said generating and using renewable energy is

one of the solutions to the worsening effects of climate He said while the initial cost of establishing renewable

energy is high, in the long run, the cost on the environment is much less.

Mary Goretti Kitutu, minister of energy and mineral development, told Xinhua that the country is generating and using clean energy is a key area of sustainable devel-

Electricity generation in Uganda showed an abrupt decline in 2006 as water levels in Lake Victoria dropped.

The intermittent supply pushed the country to rely on thermal generated power which increased the country's carbon footprint. Kitutu said the situation has since changed and the country is pushing for increased uptake of renewable energy.

Uganda heavily relies on hydro power generation and its potential is about 5,300MW, Kitutu said, adding the country would soon have a total generation capacity of 2,000MW once the Chinese constructed Karuma Hydropower Plant comes online.

The Karuma plant would make power more affordable by reducing tariffs by 17.5 percent, according to the gov-

Simon D'Ujanga, minister of state for energy, told reporters on Nov. 30 that the utilization of the power plant is expected to reduce the rate to 5.34 U.S. cents/kWh from the current 6.47 cents/kWh.

Thanks to the Chinese-built 183MW Isimba hydropower plant last year, Uganda has already achieved the target of 5 cents per unit of electricity during off-peak hours for extra-large consumers like industries. In the medium and long-term, according to D'Ujanga, the Ugandan government will develop large and small hydropower projects and pursue nuclear, solar and wind power plants.

Audio says Nigeria's Boko Haram behind abduction of schoolboys

MAIDUGURI

AN audio message from a man identifying himself as the leader of Nigeria's Boko Haram said yesterday that the Islamist group was responsible for the kidnapping of more than 300 students from an all-boys school in the northwestern state of Katsina.

Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is forbidden" in the local Hausa language, has waged an insurgency in the northeast of Nigeria since 2009 but has not previously claimed any attacks over to the northwest.

The man purporting to be the group's leader, Abubakar Shekau, offered no proof for



Passers-by walk past the main gate to the Central Mosque in Daura, Katsina State, Nigeria, on Feb 15, 2019. File photo

the claim. Reuters was unable to verify the audio and Nigerian authorities did not immediately comment.

In a region where criminal gangs often rob and kidnap civilians for ransom, gunmen took the boys from the Governra town on Friday. Katsina state authorities say some managed to escape but around 320 were still missing. "We are behind what hap-

ment Science school in Kanka-

pened in Katsina," said the man in the audio, which reached Reuters via a Whatsapp mes-

"What happened in Katsina was done to promote Islam and discourage un-Islamic practices as Western education is not the type of education permitted by Allah and his holy prophet."

No video footage was released of the missing boys.

Spokesmen for the presidency, police and army did not immediately respond to messag-

West Africa's porous borders mean other Islamist groups operating in the wider Sahel region could form alliances with jihadists in northeast Nigeria. Boko Haram carried out

es and calls seeking comment. Analysts have warned that

the 2014 kidnap of more than 200 girls from a school in the northeastern town of Chibok. Since then, about half of those girls have been found or freed, dozens have been paraded in propaganda videos, and an unknown number are believed to have died.

More than 30,000 people have been killed since Boko Haram began its insurgency, which aims to create an Islamic

Malaysia PM wins budget vote in parliament, affirms majority

BY BLOOMBERG

MALAYSIA Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has survived his latest leadership test after lawmakers approved his 2021 budget during the final vote in the lower house of parliament.

According to House Speaker Azhar Azizan Harun, 111 members of parliament (MPs) voted in favor of the spending plan, versus 108 who were against. The budget's defeat would

have been tantamount to the prime minister losing a vote of no confidence, based on Westminster parliamentary con-

The vote re-establishes the razor-thin parliamentary majority Muhyiddin controls since rising to power in March. The government has been dogged by repeated concerns about its strength and durability amid infighting. Fitch Ratings earlier this month downgraded

Malaysia's rating, saying the government's narrow majority "implies persistent uncertainty about future policies."

The main equities index reversed an intraday loss to gain 0.7 percent at the close, as investors cheered the passage of the budget. The ringgit ended little changed at 4.0553 per dollar.

"The budget's passage proves that the Perikatan Nasional government is a caring government," Trade Minister Azmin Ali said in parliament.

Budget amended The past few weeks saw op-

position MPs failing multiple times to block portions of the US\$78 billion spending plan, after allowing the budget to pass during the first vote on Nov 21. The government last month amended the budget in order to appease lawmakers from both sides of the divide who threatened not to support

Muhyiddin's victory is unlikely to quell dissent for long. On Monday, veteran MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah broke ranks from the ruling coalition to appear alongside longtime rival former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad. The duo expressed the urgent need to revive the country's economy, and said self-serving politicians were to blame.

South Sudan's peace process still shaky two years after signing peace deal

JUBA

THE peace implementation process in South Sudan remains worryingly slow after two years of signing the 2018 revitalized peace deal between the government and opposition, experts have warned.

South Sudan on Sunday marked the anniversary of the conflict that broke out on Dec. 13, 2013, with experts observing that most of the crucial aspects of the peace deal, like the security arrangement are not yet fully implemented.

Rajab Mohandis, the executive director for the Organization for

the agreement is getting stalled as the country marks the 7th anniversary of the conflict that killed tens of thousands and displaced millions both internally and externally.

"The unfortunate part is that the peace agreement that was signed is getting stalled, it is no longer being implemented as expected, most of the deadlines of the agreement so far have been missed," Mohandis told Xinhua.

Speaking to Xinhua on Monday, he disclosed that despite President Salva Kiir, First Vice President Riek Machar and other parties to the peace deal having

Responsive Governance, said that established the transitional unity government and other institutions as mandated by the peace deal, several of these things remain dormant.

"While we are aware that the parties agreed that they would reconstitute the parliament, state governments and county governments, there are institutions that have already been reconstituted, for example, Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) commission. These institutions have been reconstituted, but they are not adequately funded to discharge their mandates," said Mohandis.

"The agreement has not been

adequately delivered to ordinary citizens and this is a very serious point of concern that the agreement is not meeting its intended objectives," he added.

Both Kiir and Machar last week agreed to fully reconstitute state and county governments after several months of disagreement.

The parties had been in disagreement over the appointment of Johnson Olony to head the northern oil -rich Upper Nile state. "It is a worrying development, even if they form these institutions there is very little hope that these institutions will be very effective because we have already had institutions

effective," said Mohandis.

Olony, a member of Machar's Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In-Opposition (SPLM-IO) which is in a power-sharing government with President Kiir's SPLM, remains a divisive figure for having defected in 2015 from the government to the opposition at the height of the conflict.

Since October, this year the South Sudan army (SSPDF) and SPLA-IO under Machar have been clashing, especially in Moroto training center in Central Equatoria with the latest clash taking place in Dinji training center in Maban County in Upper Nile state.These clashes established, but they are not even involve SPLA-IO troops assembled

for training before being part of the unified forces with government troops estimated at 83,000 personnel. Mohandis revealed that the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) since 2017, remains the major achievement as it's largely holding despite intermittent clashes in some parts of the country that threaten to unravel the peace deal.

There is already a violation of the ceasefire, there are ongoing clashes between SSPDF and SP-LA-IO in Moroto. This is despite the ceasefire holding since 2017," said Manyang Gatwech, executive director of the Center for peace and advocacy.

Xinhua

Bosnia's peace deal must not be changed - Lavrov

SARAJEVO

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergev Lavrov said on Monday that any attempt to change the USbrokered Dayton peace agreement that ended Bosnia's war 25 years ago may have "grave consequences".



Lavrov (pictured) was speaking on a visit to Bosnia on the anniversary of the day when the peace accords, agreed previously in the US air base in Ohio, were signed in Paris by the then presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia, all parties to the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

"We are witnessing the efforts to bring down the Dayton, to erode it ... this may cause risks and grave consequences," Lavrov told a news conference in East Sarajevo.

He said the deal must not be changed in any way, referring to comments by some Western diplomats and Bosnian politicians that the agreement, which was made to stop the war, needs to be upgraded to enable Bosnia to make progress forward with reforms.

The peace deal ended the war among Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) in which about 100,000 people were killed and two million were moved from their homes.

But a quarter of century later Bosnia, which was split into two autonomous regions, remains dysfunctional, with reforms blocked by the rival ethnic leaders. The two regions are the Serb-dominated Serb Republic, and the Federation shared by Bosniaks and Croats, all linked via a weak central government.

Upon his arrival, Lavrov first visited Milorad Dodik, the Serb member of the country's three-man presidency, in the Serb Republic's government office just outside the capital Sarajevo.

He urged the closure of the office of an international peace overseer in Bosnia which was set up as part of the Dayton deal, saying that international protectors should have left the country "long ago".

Dodik has repeatedly said that any changes to the Dayton structure would be the reason for the Serb Republic to secede from Bosnia.

Lavrov is scheduled to separately meet the leader of the largest Croat HDZ party on Monday evening.

Alassane Ouattara sworn in to serve third term as Cote d'Ivoire president

ABIDJAN

COTE D'IVOIRE'S President Alassane Ouattara officially inaugurated on Monday his third term as head of Cote d'Ivoire at the presidential palace in Abidjan.

This is the first time that an elected president has been sworn in on the Constitution in Cote d'Ivoire.

The oath-taking hearing was conducted by the President of the Constitutional Council, Mamadou Kone, in the presence of members of this institution.

An audience of high-level personalities including a dozen heads of state and government mainly from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), diplomats accredited in Cote d'Ivoire and civilian personalities, and national soldiers, among others, attended the ceremony, including the former leaders from other countries such as Nicolas Sarkozy (France), Goodluck Jonathan (Nigeria) and Ernest Bai Koroma (Sierra Leone), as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, Jean-Yves Le Drian.

On behalf of the Constitutional Council, Mamadou Kone congratulated President Alassane Ouattara.In a solemn address. Alassane Ouattara said he was "proud and grateful" for the renewed confidence in him.

"It is with great honor and responsibility that I took the oath," said Alassane Ouattara, before making the commitment to "fully" assume his office.

Alassane Ouattara condemned with "the greatest firmness" the murderous violence during the ballot

and insisted that "these acts must not go unpunished". He also noted the economic momentum that Cote d'Ivoire is experiencing with a "marked improvement" in the living conditions of the populations and a "reduction in poverty".

"For this new mandate, we will offer more opportunities to every Ivorian, the priority will be centered on the education, training and employment of young people," he said."We will ensure that the structural transformation of the economy creates jobs", continued Alassane Ouattara not without insisting on other priorities, including the empowerment of women and the improvement of the quality of care offer.

Alassane Ouattara also made a commitment to promote national reconciliation and social cohesion. notably through the resumption of dialogue with the opposition for the holding of legislative elections " in the first quarter of the year 2021".

Alassane Ouattara was declared re-elected with 94.27 percent of the vote in the first round of the October 31 presidential election. Xinhua



Alassane Quattara

Building on past achievements and launching a new journey for global climate actions

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At the Climate Ambition Summit **12 December 2020**

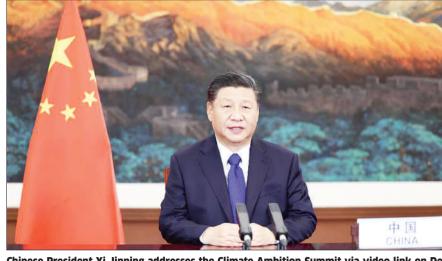
Your Excellency Secretary-General António Guterres.

Dear Colleagues,

IT gives me great pleasure to join you in this Climate Ambition Summit. Five years ago, world leaders showed utmost political resolve and wisdom and adopted the Paris Agreement on climate change. Since then, the implementation of the Paris Agreement has received extensive international support and participation. At present, the international landscape is evolving more rapidly and COVID-19 is triggering deep reflections on the relationship between man and nature. The future of global climate governance is drawing greater attention. In this context, I wish to make three proposals:

First, we need to close ranks and make new advances in climate governance that features cooperation and win-win. In meeting the climate challenge, no one can be aloof and unilateralism will get us nowhere. Only by upholding multilateralism, unity and cooperation can we deliver shared benefits and winwin for all nations. China welcomes all countries' support for the Paris Agreement and their greater contribution to tackling climate change.

Second, we need to raise ambition and foster a new architecture of climate governance where every party does its part. Following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, all countries need to maximize actions in light of their respective national circumstances and capabilities. At the same



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses the Climate Ambition Summit via video link on Dec. 12, 2020. (Xinhua/Ju Peng)

time, developed countries need to scale up support for developing countries in financing, technology and capacity building.

Third, we need to boost confidence and pursue a new approach to climate governance that highlights green recovery. Mountains and rivers green are mountains of silver and gold. It is important to encourage green, low-carbon ways of life and production, and seek development opportunities and impetus from green development.

China has made important contributions to adopting the Paris Agreement and has made active efforts toward implementing it. I announced in September that China would scale up its nationally determined contributions and adopt more vigorous policies and measures. We aim to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Today, I wish to announce some further commitments for 2030: China will lower its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by over 65 percent from the 2005 level, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 percent, increase the forest stock volume by 6 billion cubic meters from the 2005 level, and bring its total installed capacity of wind and

solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts.

China always honors its commitments. Guided by our new development philosophy, we will promote greener economic and social development in all respects while pursuing high-quality development. We will take solid steps to implement the targets just announced, and contribute even more to tackling the global climate chal-

Colleagues,

As a Chinese poem reads, "Heaven does not speak and it alternates the four seasons; Earth does not speak and it nurtures all things." Earth is our only and shared home. Let us build on past achievements, work together to make steady progress in implementing the Paris Agreement, and launch a new journey for global climate actions.

Thank you

'Democracy prevailed,' Biden says after **US Electoral College confirms his win**

LANSING, Mich./WILMINGTON, Del.

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden delivered a forceful rebuke on Monday to President Donald Trump's attacks on the legitimacy of his victory, hours after winning the state-by-state Electoral College vote that officially determines the U.S. presidency.

"In this battle for the soul of America, democracy prevailed," Biden said in a prime-time speech from his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. "Now it's time to turn the page, as we've done throughout our history - to unite, to heal.'

Monday's vote, typically a formality, assumed outsized significance in light of Trump's extraordinary effort to subvert the process due to what he has falsely alleged was widespread voter fraud in the Nov. 3 election.

California, the most-populous U.S. state, put Biden over the 270 votes needed to win the Electoral College when its 55 electors unanimously cast ballots for him and his running mate, Kamala Harris. Biden and Harris - the first woman, first Black person and first Asian American to become vice president-elect - will be sworn in on Jan. 20.

In a roughly 13-minute speech, Biden, the Democratic former vice president, called for unity while voicing confidence that the country's democratic institutions had held in the face of Trump's attempts to reverse the election outcome.

"The flame of democracy was lit in this nation a long time ago," Biden said. "We now know that not even a pandemic or an abuse of power can extinguish that flame."

Biden emphasized that Trump and his allies filed "dozens and dozens" of legal challenges to the vote totals without success, including a Texas lawsuit that asked the U.S. Supreme Court to invalidate four states' results. The court, including three Trump appointees, rejected the bid with no dissents last week.

He also noted that his 306-232 margin in the Electoral College was the same as Trump's 2016 victory, which the Republican described as a "landslide."

Under a complicated system dating back to the 1780s, a candidate becomes U.S. president not by winning the popular vote but through the Electoral College system, which allots electoral votes to the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on congressional representation. (Here's a graphic on how the Electoral College works: tmsnrt.rs/3lUKcgv)

In 2016, Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton despite losing the national popular vote by nearly 3 million ballots. Biden won the popular vote in November by more than 7 million votes.

Electors are typically party loyalists who are unlikely to break ranks, and few observers had expected Monday's vote to alter the election's outcome. With Trump's legal challenges floundering, the president's dim hopes of clinging to power rest in persuading Congress not to certify the Electoral College vote in a special Jan. 6 session - an effort all but certain to fail.

Trump had also pressured Republican lawmakers in battleground states that Biden won, such as Pennsylvania and Michigan, to set aside the vote totals and appoint their own competing slates of electors. But lawmakers largely dismissed the notion.

"I fought hard for President Trump. Nobody wanted him to win more than me," Lee Chatfield, Republican speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, said in a statement. "But I love our republic, too. I can't fathom risking our norms, traditions and institutions to pass a resolution retroactively changing the electors for Trump."

THREATS OF VIOLENCE

Some Trump supporters had called for protests on social media, and election officials had expressed concern about the potential for violence amid the president's heated rhetoric. But Monday's vote proceeded smoothly, with no major disruptions.

In Arizona, at the beginning of the electors' meeting there, the state's Democratic secretary of state, Katie Hobbs, said Trump's claims of fraud had "led to threats of violence against me, my office and those in this room today," echoing similar reports of threats and intimidation in other states.

"While there will be those who are upset their candidate didn't win, it is patently un-American and unacceptable that today's event should be anything less than an honored tradition held with pride and in celebration," Hobbs said.

In Lansing, Michigan, where Trump supporters on Facebook had urged protesters to gather outside the state Capitol, only a handful showed up. Bob Ray, 66, a retired construction worker, held a sign that read: "Order a forensic audit," "save America" and "stop communism.'

Electors received a police escort to and from the building. One elector, Marseille Allen, told MSNBC



President-elect Joe Biden

she wore a bulletproof vest at the urging of family and friends.

A small group of Republicans who claimed to be electors for their party sought to gain access to the Capitol building as the proceedings were getting under way but were refused entry by police.

They asked for a slate to be delivered to Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer, but the officer at the door told them he would not deliver the paperwork and that they should contact officials independently.

Trump said late last month he would leave the White House if the Electoral College voted for Biden, but he has since shown little interest in conceding. On Monday, he repeated a series of unsupported claims.

"Swing States that have found massive VOTER FRAUD, which is all of them, CANNOT LEGALLY CER-TIFY these votes as complete & correct without committing a severely punishable crime," he wrote on Twitter.

Trump's sole remaining gambit is to convince Congress to reject the results in January.

Under federal law, any member of Congress may object to a particular state's electoral count during the Jan. 6 session. Each chamber of Congress must then debate the challenge before voting by simple majority on whether to sustain it.

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives is sure to reject any such challenge, while senior Republicans in the Senate on Monday dismissed the idea of overturning the result.

China's deep-sea manned submersible Fendouzhe completes 10,000-meter sea trials

CHINA'S deep-sea manned submersible Fendouzhe, or Striver, returned to Sanya in south China's Hainan province on Nov. 28, after completing 10,000-meter sea trials.

On Oct. 10, the submersible departed from a dock at the Nanshan Port in Yazhou Bay of Sanya for 10,000-meter sea trials in the Mariana Trench, the world's deepest natural trench in the western Pacific Ocean. Since then, it has delivered successful outcomes.

Fendouzhe first broke the 10,000-meter milestone on Oct. 27 and set a new national diving record of 10,909 meters on

On Nov. 13, a joint operation of the manned submersible and its deep-sea lander was carried out at the 10,000-meter seabed. The operation, the first of its kind in the world, was also live-streamed. By Nov. 19, Fendouzhe successfully completed 13 dives, eight of which exceeded a depth of 10,000 meters, in the Mariana Trench.

Fendouzhe is the world's first manned submersible capable of carrying up to

three divers for the 10,000-meter deepsea diving operation. The record was enabled by China's independent research capability and a number of home-made products regarding several key technologies and important materials. Over 96.5 percent of the submersible's core components have been independently developed by China.

Extreme water pressure is the first challenge that requires dealing with during a 10,000-meter deep-sea exploration. Cloaked in perpetual darkness and extremely low temperature, the Mariana Trench is one of the most extreme areas on Earth.

At 10,000 meters down in the trench, the submersible has to cope with about 1,100 atmospheres of pressure, which is equivalent to 2,000 elephants stepping on a person's back. How does Fendouzhe move freely at a depth of 10,000 meters?

The key lies in its manned cabin. As a core and key component of a deep-sea manned submersible, the manned cabin is a hardware guarantee and safety barrier for humans to reach down to 10,000

meters deep in the ocean and indicates a country's strength in manned submersible technology.

Given the extreme pressure conditions at a depth of 10,000 meters underwater and Fendouzhe's target size and thickness requirements, the materials used in China's previous deep-diving submersibles couldn't meet the standard.

The Institute of Metal Research under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), together with many Chinese companies and research institutes, overcame key technical bottlenecks through investigation and research experiments, and developed new titanium alloy material Ti62A, successfully solving problems such as the strength, toughness and weldability of materials for the manned cabin. To avoid risks of collision in the dark deep sea with complex terrain, Fendouzhe requires the precise command of its control system.

To this end, researchers with the CAS tackled a series of technical problems in a complex deep-abyss environment and enabled functions of the submersible's control system such as online intelligent fault diagnosis based on data and model prediction, fault-tolerant control based on online control distribution, and autonomous collision avoidance in the seabed.

"The neural network optimization algorithm we designed enables Fendouzhe to realize automatic cruising according to the seabed terrain, and fixed-point navigation, hovering and positioning," said Zhao Yang, a researcher at the Shenyang Institute of Automation under the CAS and deputy chief designer of Fendouzhe.

Zhao added that the performance indicators of its horizontal and vertical navigation control have reached the international frontier level.

Researchers also equipped the submersible with two flexible and strong "arms." "The submersible uses two hydraulic manipulator arms we designed for its 10,000-meter deep-sea operation. Each 7-joint arm with 6 degrees-of-freedom control and a weight-carrying capability of more than 60 kilograms can cover the sampling basket and its front areas and has strong operation capabilities," said a researcher. **People's Daily**



St. Mary's Primary School's pupils dance to the tunes of various songs during the school's nursery school graduation ceremony, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Ngorongoro Heroes lose to Saudi Arabia in friendly

By Correspondent Ismail Tana

TANZANIA's national U-20 soccer side, Ngorongoro Heroes, conceded 1-0 loss to Saudi Arabia's U-20 side in an international friendly match, which took place at Prince Muhammad Bin Fahd University Stadium in Khobar, early this week.

The victory means Saudi Arabia have avenged their 1-0 defeat to the same opponents, led by head coach Jamhuri Kihwelo, in the first clash which took place on Thursday last week.

Ngorongoro Heroes have used the Saudi Arabia tour to prepare for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U-20 finals to be held in Mauritania from February 14 to March 4 next year.

Ngorongoro Heroes' midfielder, Khelfin Salum Hamdoun, one of the team's key performers, missed the second friendly against Saudi Arabia after breaking his finger in training.

Saudi Arabia requested a rematch with Ngorongoro Heroes after the first had ended with the latter posting 1-0 victory over the former.

Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach, Kihwelo, diclosed one player, Hamdoun, missed the

He said: "Hamdoun had injured his finger during training, so, he will miss today's game against Saudi Arabia, which is a rematch."

"He was injured while battling for the football with his teammate at practice so he will not be part of the squad that will play but he is doing well," he said before the duel.

After qualifying for the AFCON U-20 finals via settling for the second spot in the 2020 Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-20 Championship, played in Arusha early this month, Ngorongoro Heroes headed to Saudi Arabia for friendlies and training.

The games, according to Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), will help the Ngorongoro Heroes gain experience in international matches, heading into next year's AFCON U-20 Championship in Mauritania.

team in the final of the 2020 CECAFA U-20 Championship, which was also the qualifiers for next year's AFCON U-20 Championship.



National U-20 football team, Ngorongoro Heroes.

Government all out to promote artists

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE government is set to organize an awards ceremony for domestic artists with a view to contributing to promoting the artists in and outside the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, said that the ministry is set to organize the awards ceremony that will be able to introduce different artists' talents to neighbouring

In his tour of the Tanzania Film Board, Bashungwa noted that artists have been doing a good job but they lack exposure, therefore, through the awards they will be able to work hard and promote themselves externally.

"We have plenty of artists with different talents but their works are only known locally, through the awards ceremony, other countries will be able to see talents and thus give them exposure in their respective countries," Bashungwa added.

"We want to promote different artistic works done by our fellow countrymen by

finding them market in and outside the country," he stressed.

He further pointed out that artists that are based outside Dar es Salaam look to have been forgotten by the Tanzania Film Board, given the city's artists enjoy much attention from the body compared to their fellows based in other regions.

The body, according to the minister, has offices in every region in the country that can cater for artists outside the city.

Bashungwa also said that the government is in the process of uniting all three entities (the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA), the National Arts Council (BASATA) and Tanzania Film Board), which deal with artists, to operate under one roof in order to make it easy for artists to acquire all necessary artistic services at one place.

The Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Abdallah Ulega, said that the ministry is now working on how to benefit artists through their works while they are still alive and how the artists' families benefit from the former's works whilst they

SPORTS

Mwadui FC head coach lifts lid on decision to resign

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SHINYANGA's Mwadui FC's head coach, Khalid Adam, has decided to resign from his post following the team's poor performance in this season's Vodacom Premier League.

The decision came a few days after the outfit's 5-0 loss to the league's leaders, Yanga, in a clash that took place at the Kambarage Stadium in Shinyanga.

Mwadui FC has conceded the biggest number of goals in the league, which means the squad has the weakest defense in the league.

They have conceded a big number of goals in a single match, including a 5-0 loss to defending champions, Simba Sports Club, at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 31.

They went on to lose 6-1 to JKT Tanzania at the former's backyard, Mwadui Complex, in Kahama on October 25.

Adam Omary, JKT Tanzania striker, scored a hat-trick for the team in the duel, which turned out to be the domestic top flight's first hat-trick this

Mwadui FC is languishing in the the Vodacom Premier League's relegation zone and is also the outfit with the most inferior goal difference.

Adam said despite the poor results, the main reason for his departure was due to the club's officials blaming him while they had not made any major signing this season.

"This team have no major signings, no player has been paid his salary, I know how I prepared my players going into the match knowing that we have an agreement as our salaries are still



unpaid," Adam said.

He disclosed he was surprised that Mwadui FC's interim leadership expressed displeasure at the outfit's humiliating loss to Yanga whereas the latter have a better team than the former.

"The new chairman is telling me to stay away from the team because we lost to Yanga, now Yanga have many competent foreign players in their starting 11 while we have bought free players," the coach noted.

He added: "I congratulate my players for playing all the time with dedication while they are not being paid."

Mwadui FC is positioned second from in good players.

bottom of the domestic top flight's log with 10 points, winning three matches, losing 11 matches and drawing one.

As for Mwadui FC's interim leadership, the side's chairman, Nurdin Selemani, said that they tolerated Adam enough while the team produced a series of bad results.

Selemani stated that after the Mwadui FC against Yanga match's results, they decided that there was no need to continue with him.

The chairman claimed that they had tolerated the gaffer right from the main transfer window as they gave him green light to sign players but he did not bring

Zubeir Katwila aims at improving Ihefu FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL)'s Ihefu FC posted the team's second win after beating Kagera Sugar 2-1 at the former's home turf Sokoine Stadium in

Ihefu FC notched the side's first VPL victory on September 13, cruising to 1-0 victory over Ruvu Shooting at the Sokoine Stadium.

Goals netted by skipper, Joseph Kinyozi, Ngorongoro Heroes lost 4-1 to Uganda's U-20 on the 38th minute and Issa Ngoah on the 54th minute where enough to see Ihefu FC edge Kagera Sugar.

> Ihefu FC has, as a result, moved one position up in the domestic top flight's standing as the club battles relegation to First Division League (FDL). Kagera Sugar's consolation goal was

> scored by Sadat Mohammed on the 60th minute of the game as they now sit 10th in league's table. After the game, Ihefu FC head coach,

> Zubeir Katwila, who joined the squad this season from the 2020 Mapinduzi Cup champions, Mtibwa Sugar, had a lot to say, highlighting the game and his new squad's plans during the mini transfer window.

He said: "I told my players, let's play respectfully and carefully so as we can be able move into the safe positions of the Premier League table and they did as the way I instructed them, I respected our opponents because they have been getting good results whether they play at home or

Katwila also disclosed his club plans to sign experienced players in the mini transfer window.

He stated: "I hope to add experienced players to my team, if you look at my squad, I have many young players, I will need to have experienced players to be able to calm the team pressure when we are under pressure as in today's game against Kagera we were leading by two goals but we were under massive pressure because there are no experienced team-mates to calm and raise their voices during such moments."

He, further, spoke of his desire to add new players to the defensive position as well as attack due to the team having shortcomings in the mentioned areas.

He disclosed: "Omary Kindamba has played center back today, with his natural position being a right back, this is due to a shortage of defenders, with a section of them serving suspension and others on yellow card, this has aroused my desire to jump into the mini transfer market so as to have the ability to increase the scope of players in the defensive line.'

He stated: "On the attacking side Omary Mponda is slowly making appearances in every match as a substitution due to his low match fitness level, he missed about four matches due to injuries, skipper Joseph Kinyozi has as well returned from



lhefu FC skipper, Joseph Kinyozi (L), goes for an aerial ball whilst under pressure from Kagera Sugar defender when the clubs locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place in Mbeya early this week. Ihefu FC cruised to 2-1 victory over Kagera Sugar. PHOTO:

an injury lay off, although he scored today, I need to add more players to improve my squad and have more options in attack and players who can decide results of the match when called upon."

After the victory, Ihefu FC has moved to 17th position in the VPL standing with 10 points after taking part in 15

Mwadui FC sits at the bottom of the VPL standing as the squad flirts with relegation to the FDL

Arsenal won't find better boss than Arteta - Pep

LONDON

PEP Guardiola says Arsenal will not find a better manager than Mikel Arteta.

Arteta has come under fire after a run of five Premier League games without a win that has left Arsenal 15th in the table, just five points above the relegation places.

But Guardiola has urged the club to keep faith with his former Manchester City assistant and says he is confident the Spaniard will turn things around at the Emirates.

"Arsenal doesn't have a better manager that leads this club -- in this year and the next -- that is better than him," said Guardiola.

"I don't have to give publicly my support because he has it and he knows that he has it. He's one of the best managers I've ever worked with, of course, and seen directly.

"I'm pretty sure he will turn over and will do it like everyone expects. But sometimes when a club comes from not a good period, sometimes it needs time.

"I would say [if I was] part of the board at Arsenal, I will not have any doubts about his quality and capacity to put Arsenal in the place like Arsenal deserves to be."

Arsenal technical director Edu also threw his support fully behind Arteta, saying there was no internal talk about a managerial change amid calls for stability.

In quotes appearing in The Mirror, Edu said: "I think the club needs stability right now, we have faced so many changes. It is not

about Edu, Mikel, it is about stability. Now is the time to try and be a stable club in the old sense - externally and internally, we need that.

"Since we arrived here we have been changing, changing, changing, now is time to be stable and together at the same time."

Meanwhile, City will welcome West Brom to the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday looking to move to within three points of leaders Tottenham and Liverpool, who meet at Anfield on Wednesday.

Sergio Aguero trained on Monday and could feature after missing the 0-0 draw with Manchester United because of a stomach com-

Gabriel Jesus has struggled for form in the absence of Aguero and has gone six games without a goal but Guardiola says the Brazil international contributes far more than just putting the ball in the net.,

"I love him so much," said the City manager at a news conference on Monday.

"What he's able to do is one of the reasons why we concede few goals, and few chances is thanks exclusively to him.

"Without him we would concede more chances. And sometimes I give credit to the other ones. Of course, he wants to score goals and he will do it.

"I want his goals but his contribution is as the best striker in the world doing something that no other striker can do for the team."

Liverpool's Klopp hails 'true legend' Houllier

LONDON

CURRENT Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp paid tribute to former Reds boss Gerard Houllier, who died aged 73 on Monday, calling the Frenchman a "true coaching legend".

Houllier won four major trophies, including an unprecedented treble in 2001, during a six-year spell as manager of the Premier League giants.

and he is a true coaching legend," Klopp, who has won the Champions League and Premier League titles with Liverpool, told the club's website.

"He was really influential in the game. A great coach, but a human being who gave you a really warm feeling when you were around him. For all of us it is a big loss and a really sad day."

Houllier helped Liverpool become a consistent force in English football again after a barren spell in the late 1990s.

Last season's Premier League triumph under Klopp ended a 30year wait for a top-flight league title, while Liverpool's only other major honours in the 90s were the 1992 FA Cup and 1995 League Cup.

Houllier lifted both those trophies, as well as the UEFA Cup,

during his third season in charge, before his side also beat Manchester United to win the 2003 League

"I met him before I came to Liverpool and I knew him a little bit then," said Klopp, who took over at Anfield in 2015.

"When I arrived here, one of the first messages I received -- and I didn't even know he had my number -- was from Gerard Houllier...

"He was really supportive from "He is a true Liverpool legend the first day. Between now and then, always messages came in after big games, big defeats, big wins and all these kind of things.

> "In between, Gerard really texted and told me, 'That was right... that was wrong... I know the situation...' and all this kind of stuff.

> "He was a really, really, really nice and gentle person. I miss him now already."

> Houllier, who also coached the French national team, Paris Saint-Germain and Lyon, was instrumental in the development of Liverpool's former Melwood training

> "Melwood at the time was a really modern place and that was because of him -- he was a really modern coach, he played a specific way of football," added Klopp.

Virus spike sees EPL games in London closed to fans again

LONDON

LONDON's six Premier League clubs won't be allowed supporters at games again after the British capital was placed under the toughest level of coronavirus restrictions due to a spike in cases.

The decision by the British government, which takes effect on Wednesday, leaves only four top division clubs in areas where a maximum 2,000 fans are allowed in stadiums. They are Everton and Liverpool on the west coast, and Brighton and Southampton on the south coast.

Authorities in Manchester have been pushing for the northwest city to drop into the second tier of COV-ID-19 restrictions to allow the partial return of supporters for the first time since March.

Fans are being shut out of Arsenal, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Fulham, Tottenham and West Ham only two weeks after they were allowed back, with London entering the third tier of

"I'm slightly disappointed," Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said. "Even though we are in tier two and we've had fans in for a game already, I did feel that it should have been a level playing field for fans. If some clubs can have them and some can't.

"We've seen, I think, already or felt it on the pitch, the backing that they give you and what it does to the game. I think that should be pretty level."

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the government must take swift action after seeing "very sharp, exponential rises" in Greater London. He said in some areas cases are doubling every seven days.

It means, in the midweek round of Premier League matches, only the meeting of the top two on Wednesday is due to have a crowd when 2,000 fans are allowed to see champion Liverpool host leader Tottenham..

How Barcelona signed 13-yearold Messi with a napkin (1)

BY Sam Marsden, Jordi Blanco and

SPORTS

"IN Barcelona, on Dec. 14, 2000, in the presence of [Josep Maria] Minguella and Horacio [Gaggioli], Carles Rexach, FC Barcelona's sporting director, hereby agrees, under his responsibility and regardless of any dissenting opinions, to sign the player Lionel Messi provided that we keep to the amounts agreed upon.'

The above words, scribbled on a napkin following a game of tennis in Barcelona, have gone down in football history. They were hastily written by Rexach, Barca's sporting director at the time, in an attempt to assure Jorge Messi that the Catalan club was committed to signing his son. Rexach signed the napkin, as did the agents, Minguella and Gaggioli, as witnesses.

Messi's father had grown anxious about his son's future because of Barca's apparent hesitation to complete a deal. There was a debate behind the scenes at Camp Nou about the merits of signing a 13-year-old, but within minutes of watching him during a trial game in Barcelona in September 2000, Rexach was convinced they had to act. When the prospect of Messi moving elsewhere arose, with the threat of Real and Atletico Madrid being offered a chance to sign him, Rexach took matters into his own hands to settle the family's nerves.

Twenty years later, Messi has scored more than 600 goals for Barca and is closing in on Xavi Hernandez's appearance record for the club of 767 games. (He's also two goals shy of tying Pele's record for the most goals for one club.) He also has been named the best player in the world a record six times and is considered by many to be the best player of all time.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the napkin, ESPN spoke to the three men who signed it: Rexach, Minguella and Gaggioli, along with Barca's president at the time, Joan Gaspart, about the events leading up to a moment of improvisation that would change the club's fortunes over the next two decades.

Discovering Messi

Messi joined his local team, Newell's Old Boys, as a 6-year-old in 1994, and videos of his amazing skills at that age have since gone viral. However, news didn't travel so fast at the time, and he remained relatively unknown outside of Rosario. As he got older, word did get out, but the fact Messi had been diagnosed with a growth hormone disorder -- and needed treatment to help his body properly grow and develop -- put off clubs in Argentina, including River Plate. The treatment was expensive for a teenager with no guarantees of success. It was an expense they either couldn't afford or didn't want to gamble on, and Messi needed a club willing to pay for the treatment.

Messi's luck changed in 1998, when the Argentine-born agent Gaggioli, a resident of Barcelona for many years, received a call from two contacts in Rosario, Fabian Soldini and Martin Montero. Two years later, Gaggioli, with the help of Minguella -- an agent who had worked with Barca on many deals in the past, including the signing of Diego Maradona -- and Rexach managed to get the Messi family over to Barcelona.

Gaggioli: Everything started in 1998 when two of my contacts, Soldini and Montero, who had a football school in Rosario, told me about this kid. Messi was 11 when they first called me to speak about him. My idea was to wait a little, until he was 12 or 13, because he was very little at the time. They never hid that he would need injections [to aid his growth]. They kept sending me videos.

Once things began to progress, I organised a meeting in Buenos Aires and [the agent] Juan Mateo came from Porto Alegre. We spoke about getting a video to Minguella



Messi is only one goal away from tying Pele's long-standing record for the most goals with a single club, and his Barcelona journey officially began 20 years ago on Dec. 14. (Agencies)

to try and get a trial at Barcelona. Messi's family told Soldini and Montero that they wanted a big club and somewhere the family could all go and live together. That was Barcelona because [I was there], but at the time it could have been a club in Madrid, given I had a proposal to move there that never came to fruition.

By February 2000, I had already seen videos of how Lionel played, and I knew this kid was crazy good. The possibility for me to work in Madrid came up, and I would have offered him to Real Madrid or Atletico, but in the end I stayed in Barcelona and Rexach accepted the proposal of a trial.

Minguella: One of the people I trust most in the world of football has always been Juan Mateo. He was the one who called me on the telephone excited that he'd found an exceptional talent in Rosario, who was playing for Newell's youth team and how, when he got the ball, he always headed directly for the opponent's goal. Technology then wasn't what it is now. Now you can connect in any place in the world and see everything in an instant, but then I had to get them to record some videos and send them to my home.

When I saw the footage, I almost couldn't believe it. He was a very small player, but with an exceptional talent, who headed straight for the goal with the ball

Rexach: Gaggioli spoke to me about Messi in Montevideo, Uruguay. I'd been in Brazil watching players and in Montevideo, on the way back to Barcelona, he told me that I had to change my plans and travel to Rosario to see a phenomenon. When I asked about his age and position and he told me 13, my first reaction was there's no rush ... but his enthusiasm when speaking about him took me back. So I made a decision that could have been criticised at the time: I proposed to Horacio that he arrange a trip to Barcelona for the kid and his parents so that we could check him

out over a couple of weeks. I didn't know anything else of Messi, personally, until I saw him one afternoon -- I don't know the exact date -- on the pitches next to the Mini Estadi. A game had been arranged with some of the kids from the youth teams. When Messi arrived in Barcelona, I'd made it clear a kid would be coming for a trial, but I had to leave -- I think for Australia -- and I wasn't in the loop until I got back. Later, I heard that he had played in different games, but no one had dared make a decision.

What I will never forget is that a walk of three to four minutes, whatever it takes to walk around the pitch, took me 15 minutes because I was stunned and excited watching him, seeing what he did with the ball, his movements, his dribbles and his vision. I knew that was him, without anyone telling me, because he was the smallest on the pitch by a long way and I could see something very different in him. I got to the bench, sat down and I told the two coaches that were there: "Sign him. Don't even think about it. And if anyone asks, tell them it's my decision."

Gaggioli: When I saw him for the first time, I didn't realise how little he was. He came to Barcelona for the trial on Sept. 16 until Sept. 30. Jorge Messi, Soldini and I watched the trial games together. Lionel stood out straightaway. He touched the ball like no one else. There were nerves, but Lionel soon dispelled them. It was a wonderful experience and Rexach said that he was already convinced that the club had to sign him.

Gaspart: I didn't know who Messi was. It would be easy to say I did, and that I fell in love from the first day, but that's not the case. Rexach spoke to me about Leo; he deserves all the credit. He came to me and said that

we cannot let this exceptional kid who has come over from Argentina escape. He said he was different to anything he'd ever seen. And when a sporting director of Rexach's standing says that ... I didn't just give him permission, I encouraged him to get it done.

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And I repeat: [I did it] without knowing anything about Leo.

The risk of losing Messi

Despite Rexach's conviction that Barca should sign Messi, the club took its time after that September trial. There were doubts about investing in someone so young. Messi and his family were between Barcelona and Buenos Aires, and as time passed, with no news from Barca, they began to get anxious.

As the Christmas period approached, those involved in helping bring Messi over to Spain began to think about taking him to other clubs. Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid were mentioned.

Gaggioli: Rexach had already decided [to sign him], as had the late Joan Lacueva, who ended up paying for the start of his hormone treatment, but the club hadn't decided. They said it was crazy to sign Messi. Things weren't going well at Barcelona at all and the club was close to bankruptcy. Montero came in November to try and sort the problems, but he didn't manage to. Montero then called me and told me to talk with Rexach and warn him that we can't hold on any longer. And he told me that if we weren't going to sign, Messi would go for trials with Real Madrid or Atletico.

Rexach: I don't know if there were other teams interested at the time, I don't think so. We had here, at the club, a kid very different to anything we had seen before. It was, I don't know, like a gift, a unique chance for as much as there was risk involved. They said to me at the club, "Listen, Charly, he's 13 years old and we don't know what can happen in the future ..." They didn't want to take a risk on such a young kid. But I knew we had to sign him to stop him going elsewhere and then regretting it.

Minguella: River Plate had him on trial for a couple of days, but decided not to sign him in the end. For that reason, when the chance to travel to Barcelona came up, the player's dad didn't have much to think about.

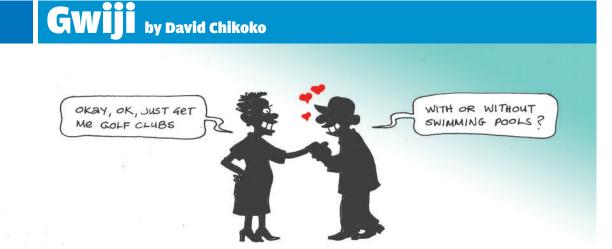
Part of the trial was a game with kids of Messi's age and a team from [the next age bracket above]. It was arranged after we spoke with Rexach about the kid coming to Barcelona. The best thing they could do was watch him. Charly had the president's confidence and is a legend at Barca, so there was no one better than him to give [Messi] the once-over.

Rexach reacted the moment he saw him play. After a few minutes, he said he had to be signed, that he was unique. Also at that game was Quimet Rife and various ex-Barca players who were working in the academy at the time. Messi was different to the rest and it confirmed what we had seen in the videos Juan Mateo had sent me from Argentina: he always looked to get to goal.

Gaspart: I didn't know anything about the trial and didn't even consult anyone after speaking with Rexach. I already said it was his decision ... Well, the final word had to be mine, as the president, of course, but the credit is all Charly's.

Messi's signing came a few months after [Luis] Figo's exit, which was really hard for the club and deserved a book of its own. Everything that happened in that August I would not wish upon anyone, and as you can imagine, at that moment, Messi was not a priority for the club.

Continues tomorrow



Cuardian www.ippmedia.com

How Barcelona signed 13-year-old Messi with a napkin

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Radio personality Gadner Habash (L) hands over 1m/- cash prize to Grace Mella who emerged as the winner of 'Serebuka' dance in a recent ceremony held in Dar es Salaam PHOTO : CORRESPONDENT

Tanzania to set up new Olympic Africa Center

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA plans to open a third Olympic Africa Center, Olympic Africa-Tanzania chapter disclosed on Monday.

Chairman for Olympic Africa-Tanzania chapter, Henry Tandau, issued the comments at the end of this year's edition of a competition known as 'Futubo Net Special', which was held at Filbert Bayi School in Kibaha,

He said currently the country has two centers, one in Zanzibar and the other one at Filbert Bayi School.

The Kibaha event, which was held from November 27 to last Monday, was organized by FUNDA CIO and International Olympic Committee

The event was attended by more than 500 pupils and students from Mavurunza, Ulanzi, Mkunza and Nyumbu secondary schools, and Filbert Bayi Kimara and Kibaha schools.

Tandau said the Olympic centers are vital in the development of sports among young people around the country.

He said the idea of hosting 'Futubol Net Special' edition 2020 was reached with the aim of giving students and pupils the opportunity to play, especially at a time sporting events were cancelled in many countries.

"We want to have more Olympic Africa centers, currently we have only two centers but plans are underway to see to it many centers are opened in the country, the centers help to nurture students' talents, today (Monday) we have witnessed young people showing their talents, that is what

Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) Chairman, Gulam Rashid, who was the guest of honour at the event, hailed Olympic Africa for the 'Futubol Net Special' edition 2020, saying it was a great opportunity for young people to be involved in sports.

Rashid said the aim of 'Futubol Net Special' edition 2020 was not for children to compete but rather to show their talents and enjoy playing. At the event, the participants displayed their talents in basketball and

All participants were awarded medals and other prizes. In football, eight teams, namely Giraffe, Serengeti, Simba, Killer, Scorpion, Black Fire, PS Nine and Tiger, competed.

The basketball event involved teams, Elephant, Chicago, Lakers, Lion

Tiger team lifted the top honour in soccer, the basketball event's trophy was won by Zebra team.

12:00 Weekend Movie (r) 13:30 Kali 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 5SELEKT

17:55 Kurasa 18:00 eNewz

18:30 Music/Soap

19:00 EATV SAA

19:45 MJADALA

20:00 DADAZ (r)

21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

TONIGHT @ 7:00



EATV SAA 1

Coverage of the days current events accompanied by Interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

Simba SC braced for KMC FC scalp in VPL



Simba Sports Club's players listen to their coaches' instructions after the side's recent training in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO:

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

ON form Simba SC will hope to continue the squad's dominance over Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, who the former host today in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) midweek game at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba have a perfect record in four league fixtures against KMC FC and they come into the game buzzing with confidence.

They are unbeaten in the last eight matches in all competitions including winning three leagues games in a row. Simba, lately placed second on the VPL table with 29 points, can cut the points' gap with leaders Yanga to five points with victory on the day.

Simba will also open up a four point-lead over third-placed Azam, who faltered once again with a 2-2 home draw with Namungo FC at the Azam Complex in the city on Monday night. Recent injuries to strikers, Meddie Kaggere and Chris Mugalu, have made Simba a low-scoring side, they have scored only four goals in their last four games across all competitions.

Kagere and Mugalu are fit again, having played in weekend's away tie against Mbeya City FC.

Captain John Bocco is the club's top scorer with nine goals across all competitions this season and will today hope to add open up a gap at the top of the scoring charts with another goal.

Sven Vandenbroeck-led Simba have improved defensively having kept five clean sheets in a row including back-to-back ones against Nigeria's Plateau United in the 2020/21 CAF Champions League's preliminary round ties. As for KMC FC, they go into this game on the back of a 1-0 away loss to Mtibwa Sugar last weekend.

The results ended their four-match unbeaten run in the league which included three wins and one draw.

Coach Habib Kondo's charges are fifth in the league standings with six wins, and three draws from their opening 15 outings.

A win over Simba could move KMC FC to fourth place in the VPL table, courtesy of a superior goal difference the team have over Ruvu Shooting. The KMC FC has speedy players in their team in the likes of Hassan Kabunda and Emmanuel Mvuvekure.

This gives them complexity and they also have a solid defence line, which has players including Andrew Vincent and Israel Mwenda who can

New signing, Reliants Lusajo, is the top scorer for KMC FC as he has bagged four goals in the league, while winger Kabunda has netted three goals in this campaign.

The last time the sides met, Simba prevailed with 2-0 victory in league action in February, with Luis Miquissone grabbing a brace.

Ihefu FC will bounce back in VPL, says Katwila

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

IHEFU FC's head coach, Zuber Katwila, says his team's 2-1 win over Kagera Sugar in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeva early this week, will motivate his side to do well in their remaining fixtures.

Prior to the victory, Ihefu FC was anchoring the league's table with seven points.

The Mbeya club's three points in the match against Kagera Sugar have seen them move to second from bottom of the league's standing.

Katwila said he is confident that morale in his team is now high.

On Saturday, Ihefu FC will play away to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC and Katwila said his team are looking forward to getting good results.

"The win on Monday has boosted morale in the team and I'm confident that we will do well in our coming games," he said.

"The game on Saturday aganist KMC FC will not be easy as our opponents are also good and they are

looking for better results," he noted. The coach said his charges have been playing well only that they were lacking punching power.

"In one interview, I told the media that winning matches is a gradual process, I is not an overnight thing, if you looked at our last match, we played well and our opponents equalized in the last minute of the match, that was the indication that we are going in the right direction,'

On Monday, Ihefu FC's goals were scored by strikers, Joseph Kinyozi and Issa Ngoah, while Kagera Sugar's goal was netted by Sadat Mohamed.

Prizes, talent galore as 'Serebuka' campaign reaches home stretch

By Guardian Reporter

THE festive season is here with us and, as usual, it will be accompanied by unbridled joy, smiles and excitement and awesome parties with an air of electric feeling everywhere as people savour the good things of life, celebrating the season and expectantly ushering in the New Year.

But what a better way to celebrate the season than winning millions of shillings at a time when all and sundry are working hard to raise some discretionary income that will help them join their colleagues in treasuring the moment!

Already, there are some chosen few, who are now swimming into millions and are looking forward to a sumptuous celebratory period, thanks to Serengeti Breweries (SBL)'s campaign, dubbed 'Serebuka', which has had the firm splashing millions in cash prizes to the winners of the campaign's bonanza that started in August this year.

'Serebuka' (loosely translated 'let's enjoy to the fullest'), is sponsored by SBL's two most popular premium beer brands, Serengeti Premium Lager and Serengeti Lite. The campaign seeks to reassert Serengeti trademark enviable position as the brand that powers socialization nationwide through its wide selection of truly Tanzanian brands.

The beer-maker organized the campaign that has been running for the last three months to, among other objectives, 'stimulate Tanzanians to celebrate life to the fullest'.

Anitha Msangi, SBL's Head of Beer, says the 'Serebuka' campaign is for all Tanzanians and it is meant to cheer-up consumers and ensure that they have that rare opportunity of enjoying themselves as they enjoy the company's loved brands.

And true, Tanzanians have been enjoying themselves to the fullest because, according to Anitha, the promotion involves lots of music, drama, rib-cracking jokes, comedy, sports and others-all spiced by the country's most renowned celebrities-with upcountry regions also getting an opportunity to participate in the enthralling encounter.

"We have had fun-filled challenges that are graced by famed local celebrities who are regaling Tanzanians with entertaining moments throughout the campaign period," Anitha said as SBL awarded the top performers at the tail-head of the campaign recently.

There were scores of winners of various prizes but Dbaba Tz's from Mwanza, Grace Tima Mella and Juma Omary Laurent of Dar es Salaam respectively, who stole the show, with each of them pocketing 1m/-, a most cherished award at a very opportune moment.

Expressing her gratitude to Serengeti Premium Lager for the 1m/prize, Grace stated that she looked forward to continue participating in SBL's future campaigns, adding that the prize demonstrated SBL's concern for its consumers.

Dbaba TZ's elatedly said: "The prize has come at the most appropriate time when we are approaching the festive season. Thanks to 'Serebuka' campaign because I will now have a very enjoyable festive season this year!" According to Anitha, besides the

prizes, 'Serebuka' campaign also offered a most sought-after opportunity for bourgeoning artistes and youth with budding talents to bring them to light, giving them the appropriate exposure that could open doors to their future prosperity.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



