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TANZANIA

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY, 2021

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‘Zanzibar national debt soaring’



National Pg 4
ICT potential in service delivery



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Advice on control on alcohol board



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Public city council loans



Govt unveils ten-year plans to lift beekeeping, forestry

By Getrude Mbago

THE government yesterday unveiled two 10-year master plans for the beekeeping and forest sub-sectors, designed to unlock Tanzania's potential in honey and timber production, processing and export.

Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan would have formally graced the occasion to launch the National Beekeeping Research Master Plan and the National Forest Research Master Plan in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Her speech said Tanzania is currently producing way below its capacity and the new strategies seek to change things for the better, with the launch coinciding with the opening of a three-day international scientific conference on forest and honeybee products' value chains, meant for the development of sustainable livelihoods and an industrial economy.

Tourism and Natural Resources minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro read the VP's speech, underlining that although Tanzania has the potential to produce over 100,000 tonnes of honeybees products annually, the country manages only 30,000 tonnes.

The VP commended the ministry for coming up with the strategies, urging key institutions, stakeholders and experts to support its implementation so as realise expected outcomes.

"I have been told that the strategic plans focus on investing heavily in research, modern factories, value addition, tree planting and a number of works so as to bring about the transformation of the sectors. These plans should be supervised well to achieve the goals," she affirmed.

Despite the potential of forest and beekeeping, the rich biodiversity in natural forests, there are a number of constraints that still hinder the growth of the sector, like increased destruction of forests fuelled by human activities. It also faces low research and development action to drive innovations needed to support value chain development, the speech underlined.

The ministry and key players must also invest in technological innovations and creativity to market honeybee and forest products inside and outside the country, she emphasised.

"We have to ensure that we come up with more strategies to ensure that we invest heavily in research, modern factories to produce quality forest products so as to improve the value chain," she said.

She reminded district councils to ensure that they plant at least 1.5m trees annually to support environmental conservation efforts, underlining that the conference would come up with strategies to increase production of

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Margreth Mselewa (R, foreground), headteacher of Ruangwa District's Mitope Primary School, briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the school's premises yesterday on the ongoing construction of classrooms. Photo: PMO

Muhimbili puts out nurses' localised training manual

By Henry Mwangonde

THE first nursing profession textbook written in Tanzania to guide in diagnosis as well as teaching in colleges has been launched with a call for more research to curb challenges facing the profession.

The book covers 'nursing diagnosis for academic and

clinical practices in Tanzania,' written by Muhimbili National Hospital employee Wilson Fungameza who is attached to the MNH branch at Mloganzila, on the outer reaches of the city of Dar es Salaam.

MNH Executive Director Prof Lawrence Museru said at the launch that the manual is the first to be locally written on the nursing profession



This young man has shown the way - that nursing is a profession and one can be trained from down to the last point. Let us develop the nursing spirit," he said.

"This young man has shown the way - that nursing is a profession and one can be trained from down to the last point. Let us develop the nursing spirit," he said.

In appreciating the effort, MNH purchased 50 books and promised to purchase more to stock all its departments.

On his part, author

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Dr Mpango, discharged, recounts disease ordeal 'Ndulu held torch of a prosperous Africa'

By Guardian Correspondent, Doda

FINANCE and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (pictured) was yesterday discharged from the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital here and narrated how he lived with an oxygen tank for some 14 days.

Addressing reporters within the hospital premises he said he feels well and had started doing

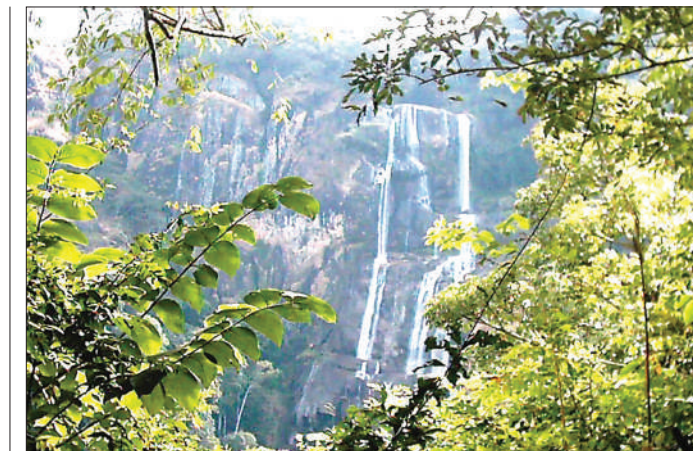


some of his work before actually going out of hospital. He said he was being attended by doctors at home for 14 days before being compelled to be hospitalized, where he lived with an oxygen tank for another 14 days. The day of discharge was the third since he exited oxygen treatment, he specified. He had profound sentiments for the way President Dr John Magufuli was constantly follow-

ing up on his condition and phoning him each day, sending his personal doctors to attend to the minister.

He also expressed gratitude to Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma, National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai and scores of other concerned people who were following up on his condition.

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Encroachers ravage protected wetlands

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A KEY wetland protected by international conventions within Kilombero Valley is under threat due to unchecked human activity, an ecologist has declared.

Presenting a strategic view of the conservation and protection of water resources in nine basins countrywide here yesterday, Asukile Kajuni, an ecologist with GEO Network Ltd consulting firm, said that overgrazing, artisanal mining and agriculture are now commonplace within the Kilombero Valley Ramsar Site (KVRS).

A Ramsar site is a wetland area designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Kajuni described the area as immensely important to the nation and to the world due to its precious wetlands resources and ever-depend-

able rivers - enriching the soils and making the lands more fertile for agriculture.

He aired the need for the government to consult with other stakeholders so as to take swift action to control environmental degradation on the Kilombero catchment that supports a strong agricultural sector.

The valley connects to the largest block of the Eastern Arc Mountains, the Udzungwa, with the protected areas of Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Kilombero Nature Reserve, and Udzungwa Scarp Forest Nature Reserve. The new challenges undermine the cohesion and capacity of the landscape to hold in place critical ecosystem outputs needed for sustaining biodiversity and local livelihoods, he stated.

Raising public awareness on environmental conservation and water resources management, tree planting and sustainable farming, plus

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi signs a condolence book in Zanzibar yesterday following Zanzibar First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad's death in Dar es Salaam mid-last week. Photo: State House

Dr Mpango, discharged, recounts disease ordeal

FROM PAGE 1

He openly sobbed recounting how he heard of the death of his former teacher, Professor Benno Ndulu, along with Chief Secretary John Kijazi and Zanzibar First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad.

Meanwhile local organizations continue to receive messages of condolence on the death of ex-BoT Governor Ndulu, from former colleagues in Africa and abroad.

Among them is Prof Kingsley Amoako, who narrated how he met and worked with the late academic and later central bank administrator:

"WHEN I set out to establish the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) more than 12 years ago, I consulted many close associates and confidants. I had a kernel of an idea—that Africa needed an African-led organization to help support governments to implement policies to sustain growth by diversifying production, increasing export competitiveness, embracing technology, and creating productive jobs.

But I needed help from others to turn that idea into a reality. I needed expertise, guidance and sound judgment. So, I didn't think twice about turning to Prof. Benno Ndulu, who of course did not think twice about helping out.

Like all of Africa's economic community, I was deeply saddened by Benno's sudden passing. He was a brilliant economist, and an even better person. He was generous, affable, and committed to the vision of a prosperous African continent. Whatever endeavor he chose to pursue, he excelled at—and he left Africa the better for it.

Our paths first crossed decades ago, after Benno had helped found the African Economic Research Consortium. At the time, I was Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and he and I found shared goals around the need to build better research capacity in Africa so that policymakers had more tools for smart, informed policy design. It goes without saying that Benno was a pioneer in his thinking.

While serving as the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania, he played a central role in macro-economic reforms that stabilized the country's economy and helped rebuild and restore trust in Tanzania's financial systems—a fundamental precondition to economic growth and progress.

Benno had assumed his role at the central bank when I sought his advice on creating ACET. He was generous with his time and counsel, despite the demands of the position he held. I set up an advisory board of economists, chaired by Nobel Laureate Prof Joseph Stiglitz, to help us think through ACET's mission and ensure that we set the right research agenda. Benno eagerly joined.

In 2019, after retiring from the central bank, Benno formalized his relationship with us at ACET by joining the Board of Directors. I was honored and thrilled that he chose to continue bringing his expertise to our mission.

Benno was a deep and transformative thinker, and in his passing, Africa has lost an invaluable intellectual asset. And many of us have lost a friend. Let us honor his legacy by continuing to work toward the prosperous Africa he forever envisioned."

(The author is President and Founder of the African Center for Economic Transformation)

Muhimbili issues nurses' localised training manual

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Fungameza said he has been pushed by the gap in documents and books to guide nurses in the country, as books being used currently in teaching and diagnosis are from abroad.

The guest of honor at the event, Dr Thecla Kohi who is a member of the MNH board of trustees and a veteran nurse said the book will be a reference to nurses as for years to come as there has been no such document locally adapted, earlier.

Tanzania with a population of over 50m is in the midst of critical human resources shortage within a health crisis. In fact, the country counts on just 5.2 clinical health workers per 10,000 people, one fifth of the optimal ratio recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO has several times called upon governments and other stakeholders to heavily invest in midwifery development, ranging from education to practice with appropriate regulatory frameworks to improve health outcomes for women and infants, the trustee underlined.

Govt unveils ten-year plans to lift beekeeping, forestry

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quality honey and forest products, identify challenges facing their value chains, along with fighting invasion of forests and water sources.

Due to efforts taken by the government and stakeholders to strengthen local production of forest products, imports of the products have gone down to 25,000 cubic meters in 2020 from 95,000 cubic meters in 2015, with export volumes rising to 90,000 m³ in 2020 from 33,000m³ earlier.

People must stop conducting agriculture or sending livestock to forest reserves, the emphasised. Deputy minister Mary Masanja noted that the conference has brought together scientists, decision-makers, development partners, innovators, members of the business community and others from various countries.

The forum provides a platform for sharing knowledge and promoting discussions on how to develop forest and honeybee value chains to fuel

industrialization, she stated.

"Forest and honeybee resources in many countries are the main sources of goods and services to the surrounding communities. The benefits provided by forest ecosystems include goods such as timber, food, fuel and bioproducts, along with ecological functions of carbon storage, nutrient cycling, water and air purification plus maintenance of wildlife habitat," she elaborated. Dr Revocatus Mushumbusi, acting director-gen-

eral of the Tanzania Forests Research Institute (TAFORI) said the country's development of sustainable value chains for forest-based products is critical to ensure social, economic and environmental benefits.

Reports show that Tanzania has 33.7m to 48.1m hectares of forest and woodlands, comprising of 55 percent of the country's total land area, he added.



Experts from the East African Community partner states attend a preparatory meeting in Arusha city yesterday pending a virtual summit of the bloc's heads of State limned up for next week. Photo: Correspondent Asraj Mvungi

Encroachers ravage protected wetlands

FROM PAGE 1

strengthening the enforcement of environmental and water-related regulations are among checks that need to be in place, he elaborated.

"When we're developing this plan in the Wami-Ruvu basin, we witnessed herds of livestock, uncontrolled farming and mining on river banks, a situation that increases siltation on water sources and rivers. This poses a

serious threat to people's livelihoods downstream," he said, urging effective measures to reverse the degradation. Areas affected by overgrazing are Mofu village in Kilombero District, Mgeta in Mvomero District, where uncontrolled farming on hills has detrimental impact on Morogoro River that berths water moving into Ruvu River—the main source of water for Coast Region and the city of Dar es Salaam, he stated.

Kilosa District has been also affected, thus responsible authorities need to chip in to address the budding environmental crisis, he further stated. Wami-Ruvu Basin Water Board (WRB-WB) chairman Hamza Sadiki said: "We have decided to start assessing the damage to these water sources in order to come up with strategies to maintain those sources for the benefit of the present and future generations." The board had already identified the

needs of various stakeholders in the water sector based on the present and future water use projections, proposing measures that if implemented will enable sustainable access to water. Kilosa District Executive Director Asajile Mwambambale commended the Wami-Ruvu board for coming up with the plan involving various stakeholders to support the proper use of water resources in mining, agriculture and livestock rearing in the district.

If the program is sustainable and water use laws are enforced it will save water sources now at risk from various economic activities for the benefit of future generations, he stated.

Ezron Charles, Assistant Regional Administrative Secretary, said that implementing the plan will help the region to maintain water resources in the Wami Ruvu Basin to ensure water security for the present and future generations.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (C, gesturing) makes remarks at a pavilion at an exhibition held in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the sidelines of the three-day international scientific conference he had just opened. The theme of the conference is: Forest and Honeybee Products Value Chains for Development of Sustainable Livelihoods and Industrial Economy. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Z'bar national debt is soaring'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister of State in the President's Office (Finance and Planning) Jamal Kassim Ali yesterday said that national debt has reached 896.2bn/- which is sustainable and allows Zanzibar to borrow from productive projects for economic growth and development.

Ali (pictured) said when responding to queries raised by members of the House of Representatives, who contributed to the Zanzibar economy, development plan and budget estimates for the 2021/22 financial year.

According to him, external debt has reached 691.5bn / - where 95.9 per cent is guaranteed and paid by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania including major clean and safe water projects while 4.1 percent is under the revolutionary government of Zanzibar.

The minister said the domestic debt has reached 204.9bn / -, of which the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) is 51.7bn/- and the bond from the Bank of Tanzania (BOT) is 154.1bn / -.

He said that by December 2020, the average national debt-to-economic ratio is 22 percent below the international average of 50 percent, noting: "The rate indicates that the debt situation is resilient and Zanzibar has the ability to borrow money for more strategic projects that are productive in boosting the national economy."

He told the house: "The national debt-to-economic ratio has reached 22 per cent, this indicates that our debt is resilient and we can borrow more in



productive strategic economic growth projects."

He said the government would borrow money from key projects by involving the private sector including port construction and the blue and energy economy investment sector.

Ali said that blue economy projects are the priority of the Isles' government in achieving its goals of seeing Zanzibar achieve economic growth and become a hub of trade in the east and central African region.

"We are focused on investing in the blue economy in partnership with the private sector which we have given the opportunity to partner with to see us make great strides in economic development," he said.

Majaliwa calls for more parental responsibility

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on parents and guardians to ensure that they reduce the children's responsibilities at home and enable them do their homework.

Majaliwa made the call yesterday when speaking to teachers, students, and parents soon after inspecting the infrastructure of Mitope primary school in Ruangwa District.

The Prime Minister said if the children have time

to study and rest it will help them to improve their academic performance and fulfill their educational dreams.

The premier urged parents and guardians to ensure that students are provided with all the necessary equipment for the school such as uniforms,

notebooks as well as monitoring their academic dynamics.

"It is high time for parents to make close follow-ups and make sure that our children come to school and enter the classrooms. We should also check their exercise books and when we see they are not

doing well we should consult teachers." For his part, Ruangwa District Commissioner, Hashim Mgandilwa has said he will make sure he works with his fellow leaders to continue to effectively manage development activities.

He also promised to continue to effectively manage all development funds provided by the government for Ruangwa District so that they can be used effectively.

Earlier, the head teacher of Mitope primary school, Margaret Mselewa said teachers

are well prepared to ensure that all Standard Seven pupils pass their exams by 99 per cent. She said that in the results of last year's examinations their school had a total of 21 students who all passed and were enrolled in secondary schools.




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'ICT has potential to better service delivery to citizens'

By Guardian Reporter

Ministry Communication and Information Technology Permanent Secretary Dr Zainab Chaula has said that the government recognises and will continue honouring the private sector's contribution in improving and promoting ICT in the country.

She made the remarks yesterday in Dodoma when opening the stakeholders' meeting aimed to discuss promotion of ICT in schools and health centres in the country.

"The government values very well all the efforts of our stakeholders including development partners in stimulating ICTs investments and development in the country, we all know that the private sector is the engine of the country's economy, so will continue working with them closely to improve the ICT sector," Dr Chaula said.

She said that due to technological changes in the world, ICT has also taken a centre stage in service provision, that's why the government decided to invest heavily in the sector and supervise to ensure that all services provided goes in line with in line with the country's ICT Policy of 2016.

Dr Chaula said the government has constructed the National Information Communication Technology Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) so as to support so as to send communication services in every corner of the country and thus contribute to the country's economic development.

She said that the fiber backbone infrastructure helps to stimulate economic growth by opening up opportunities for investors and users of local and foreign telecommunications services.

Mulembwa Munaku, the ministry's director of ICT said the meeting also aimed to discuss on the strategy to put in place specific mechanisms on how to distribute the ICT technologies to the schools and health centres.

He said the ministry will supervise the private institutions in the implementation of the strategy so as ensure that it produces positive outcomes.

Shule Direct managing director, Faraja Nyalandu commended the government for developing the strategy to promote and improve the use of ICT in schools so as to support smooth learning and teaching for the country's development.



The government values very well all the efforts of our stakeholders including development partners in stimulating ICTs investments and development in the country, we all know that the private sector is the engine



Ummu Mwalimu (facing camera), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), holds talks in Tanga city on Monday with, among others, Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (3rd-L) and Tanga regional administrative secretary Judica Omari (2nd-R). Photo: Correspondent Asenga Iscar

Avocado farmers call for indicative prices

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

AVOCADO growers and stakeholders have urged the government to set indicative prices of the produce so as to enable farmers to benefit from it to increase productivity.

Speaking during the stakeholders meeting here, the farmers decried that they have been spending much

in producing the crop but earn little at the end due to uneven prices in the market.

Organised by the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA), the meeting brought together stakeholders and key players to discuss the process of obtaining the international accreditation certificate of international standards.

Officiating the conference, Ruth Msafiri, Njombe

District Commissioner acknowledged that having indicative price for the avocado crop is vital because it is one of the produce which has high demand in the local and international market.

"It is high time the crop could have its indicative price as it is in other essential crops, farmers have been toiling day and night to produce the crop, so supporting them to benefit from

the work is important," she said.

Ruth said that majority of farmers are still grappling to benefit from the farming as traders have continue to purchase the produce at low prices.

"Without setting indicative prices, farmers will continue to toiling yearly with their incomes remaining the same, it hurts to see farmers selling avocado at a very low

price of 1200/- to 1500/- per kg," she said.

Musa Chidinda, agriculture officer said that having the accreditation certificates will enable farmers to access international markets and thus sell more and improve income.

"It is high time also for the farmers to think on improving their farming; this includes adopting modern practices so as to produce

quality products that meet international standards," he said.

TAHA food safety and standards coordinator Naimana Daniel said towards having a respectable price of avocado needs co-ordinated from the government, stakeholders and farmers.

"Having the accreditation certificates will enable the farmers to penetrate to sev-

eral markets globally, these will stimulate the avocado growers to also invest in quality produce and packaging," he added.

Elly Hongoli, secretary of the avocado growers network in Njombe urged authorities to support more farmers to access the training on the accreditation certificate as the majority of them fail to attend due to high costs.



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Implementation of Mbeya Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority's Mwashali-Isyesye water infrastructure project in progress, as witnessed yesterday. Sources said it is expected to be completed next week. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Zanzibar Alcohol Prevention and Control Board has acted against the law, says Mkuya

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FORMER Finance minister Saada Mkuya Salum has said that the Zanzibar Alcohol Prevention and Control Board has violated the law and the Constitution by allowing six companies to import alcohol instead of three.

Saada who is a Nominated member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, made the remarks when debating the Zanzibar economy, development plan and budget estimates for the 2021/22 financial year tabled last week in the House.

She said that section 33 (1) of the law regulating and regulating the import, storage, sale, and distribution of alcohol No. 9 of 2020 has set a limit on only three companies that are required to be licensed to import liquor in Zanzibar.

She said that the Zanzibar's House of Representatives is responsible for legislating and the Liquor Board has erred in issuing more than three permits, which she claimed is contrary to the law, which came into force immediately after the President of Zanzibar signed in May 2020.

"The law is very clear that the board is supposed to allow only three importers, I wonder as to why the board allowed six companies," Saada said.

"Today we hear that the board does it because the government needs to collect revenue. Reaching six importers is breaking the law and that is against the country's constitution."

She said that there has been an increase of bars in Zanzibar, citing Mbweni Street as an example, whereby in every one kilometer there are more than nine bars.

Chaani Representative, Nadir Abdulratifu, said it was unfortunate that the alcohol law had been broken 10 months after it was approved by the House of Representatives and came into force in January this year.

He said all companies that have been granted additional permits to import liquor in Zanzibar will be doing business in violation of the Alcohol Act No. 9 of 2020.

Chairman of the Alcohol Prevention and Control Board Abdulrazaki Abdulkadiri said they have been forced to issue such permits to more than three importers to protect government revenues.

Zanzibar's liquor law stipulates that the bars should be established 1,000 meters from the area of social services such as schools, hospitals, madrasas or houses of worship.

TPRI to use spray planes to fight off invasion by desert locusts

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

HEAD of Pesticide Spraying and Pest Control from the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI), Eng Julius Mkenda said a special plane to fight off the invasion of desert locusts has begun inspecting the areas invaded by the locust swarm. The locust swarm invaded villages that

are close to the Tanzania-Kenya border.

"We've started to control them so that they shouldn't bring impact and the temperature that favors them has dropped to 24 °C. These locusts sleep somewhere and we're making close follow-ups to see their breeding sites before spraying them," Mkenda said.

The locusts stormed villages

of Eworendeke, Orbomba, Oltepes, and Sinya all located on the Tanzania-Kenya border.

Longido District Council executive director, Dr Juma Mhina urged residents of the district to continue to take safety precautions against desert locusts invading their areas.

He said this when he went to inspect areas that were

infested with locusts, especially Kimakuwa Village and Tingatinga area.

Dr Mhina said the work to destroy the locusts was expected to begin at dawn on February 23 this year.

"This drug is strong, so let me remind the public to take precautions even for four days to avoid the side effects of these pesticides," said Dr Mhina.

On Sunday, Agriculture Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda said that the government will from Monday start using spray planes to fight off the invasion of desert locusts which have been attacking crops in Longido and Simanjiro districts in Arusha Region.

He urged the residents to be patient as the government has taken all precautionary

measures against the locusts insisting the fast-moving insects will be controlled as experts from the ministry have been deployed to control the invasion.

"We are going to use spray planes to kill the desert locusts which have been attacking crops with devastating effects in Longido and Simanjiro districts. Our experts are collaborating with

officials from the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) who are led by Acting Director General—Dr Ephraim Njau.

The minister cautioned residents in the two districts from touching and eating the dead grasshoppers because they are killed by poison. He urged village and ward executives to inform the residents on the on-going spraying exercise.

the Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania

For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

Request for Applications for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Consultant

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking to subcontract a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Specialist to develop a GESI action plan geared to reinforcing activities under Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT). The work will improve program design, implementation, and measurement of results. Applicants should have extensive experience in developing Gender related strategies and action plans as well as training project staff on GESI related topics. Knowledge of USAID requirements for GESI integration is a plus.

About Us:

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals and the environment, we strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference.

On November 05th, 2018, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) launched the Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) project funded through a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project is designed to address the primary threats to natural forest cover and the chimpanzee population in the Gombe Masito Ugalla (GMU) landscape. It aims to protect chimpanzee populations and their habitat in western Tanzania while improving household income from the sustainable use of natural resources and the establishment of microenterprises and private sector partnerships that reinforce conservation behaviors.

Application Procedure:

To be able to access the full & detailed consultancy advert and Terms of Reference (ToRs), please visit the JGI career web portal at: www.janegoodall.org. Please send a cover letter describing why you are the right candidate for this work and your current CV to the following e-mail address: jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz ONLY. All applications should be submitted by 5.00pm Tanzania time on March 03rd, 2021. Please note that only the shortlisted applicants will be contacted for a full proposal.

For any queries regarding this consultancy, please contact us through the following office general line: +255282988178.



Gem Tanzanite Ltd executive Osman Abdulsattar Tharia (L) attends to people who visited the firm's pavilion at an international mining exhibition held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

China's poverty alleviation model instructive for Africa, says expert

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

CHINA's successful poverty alleviation model is instructive for Africa in its efforts to grow economies and lift millions out of poverty, an Ethiopian expert has said.

"The Chinese model is not just lifting people out of poverty, but both the country's GDP and its development are going in sync with the poverty alleviation program," Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, professor of public policy at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, said.

"Without economic develop-

ment and good economic management, there is no way we can alleviate poverty in any country or in any given nation...the Chinese model will serve very well for Africa to follow," he said.

The expert, who served as an economic advisor to the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, added the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation could be a perfect platform for Africa and China to share experiences in poverty alleviation.

Regarding poverty alleviation, the expert said China has great

expertise and is willing to cooperate with other countries in pursuing that goal, as he underscored China's huge achievements in lifting hundreds of millions of its people out of poverty.

Costantinos said that China, through the South-South Cooperation, aspires to contribute to global efforts in alleviating poverty.

"It's very important that the South-South Cooperation is driven by China because China has resources... Africa could be supported very, very strongly with Chinese participation," Costantinos said.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
TASAC



PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPLEMENTATION OF EXCLUSIVE MANDATE IN CLEARING AND FORWARDING OF ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) was established under section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 as a maritime administration responsible for regulating maritime transport services, maritime environment, safety and security. The Corporation is further mandated to carrying out the clearing and forwarding functions, documentation in relation to shipping agency, ship tallying services and shipping agency.

Section 7(1)(a) of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 gives exclusive mandate to TASAC to carry out clearing and forwarding functions in relation to import and export of minerals, mineral concentrates, machineries, equipment, products or extracts related to minerals and petroleum, firearms and ammunitions, live animals, Government trophies, fertilizers, industrial sugar, domestic sugar, edible or cooking oil, wheat, oil products, gas, liquified gas and chemicals or any liquid related products. The Corporation is further mandated under section 65 of the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendment) Act No. 3 of 2019 which amended the Tanzania Shipping Act Cap 415 to carrying out exclusive mandate in clearing and forwarding of fertilizers, industrial sugar, domestic sugar, edible or cooking oil, wheat, oil products, gas, liquified gas and chemicals or any liquid related products.

Stakeholders and the General Public are hereby informed that with effect from Monday 15th March 2021, TASAC will commence executing its exclusive mandate of clearing and forwarding of additional products that is fertilizers, industrial sugar, domestic sugar, edible or cooking oil, wheat, oil products, gas, liquified gas and chemicals or any liquid related products.

In view of the foregoing, shippers, consignees or their agents are required to submit all documents for clearing and forwarding of imports and exports of additional items as specified under Section 7(1)(a) of the Act as amended, which are to be declared to the Commissioner for Customs and Excise with effect from Monday, 15th March 2021. The documents should be submitted electronically and in hard copies to the Manager Clearing and Forwarding, TASAC Head Office located at the PPF Tower, Ohio Street/Garden Avenue, 8th Floor (Wing 802), Telephone No.: +255(22)2127 314, Mobile +255 737 792 444, Emails: importcfa@tasac.go.tz; exportcfa@tasac.go.tz for imports and exports respectively.

Applicable tariff for services rendered can be accessed through TASAC website address: www.tasac.go.tz with effect from Monday, 01st March 2021. The tariff is as provided under the Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shipping Business Fees, Charges and Commissions) Order, 2021(GN. No. 181 of 2021).

Stakeholders and General Public are urged to take note that any person who performs or facilitates performance of any function which has been exclusively mandated to TASAC commits an offence in accordance with Section 7(3) of the Act, Cap. 415.

**Director General
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation**

PPF Tower Building 8th Floor, Garden Avenue/Ohio Street,
P. O. Box 989, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania, Tel: +255 222 127
314, Fax: +255 222 127 313,
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Mkuranga District Council readies to promote local tourist attractions

By Beatrice Philemon

VILLAGE governments and ward offices in five villages in Mkuranga District Council will soon come up with new plan aimed at promoting tourist attractions found in their localities.

Mkuranga District Council, Tourism Coordinator, Pembe Mlekwa said yesterday that to start with, right now Kwale, Mwandege, Shungubweni, Vikindu and Kisiju-Pwani villages are at the initial stage to prepare a marketing plan with support from tourism coordinator in Mkuranga DC.

The marketing plan will be used for conservation, protection and promotion purpose for the tourist attractions they have in their localities.

"During the preparation of the marketing plan, village and ward offices will be trained on how to safeguard their tourist attractions and how they can use business opportunities found in their respective areas to earn cash to improve their livelihood and implement village development projects," he noted.

Also villagers will be trained on how to establish small projects through the tourism potentials they have within their respective areas.

They have decided to embark on this programme after obtained awareness from the district council on how they can use the tourism potentials they have within their localities to earn cash and implement village development projects they have.

Highlighting on the tourist attractions found in Kisiju-Pwani, he said Kisiju Pwani is endowed with historical sites, nice beaches along the coastline suitable for sport especially snorkeling for children and women, cultural tourism, mangrove forests, a wide range of fish species, fish market, traditional canoe and modern boats.

Furthermore, Kisiju-Pwani is the largest fisheries landing sites and is the only place where fish landings are recorded.

Both local and foreign tourists keen to visit in this area, Kisiju-Pwani is different from other villages in Mkuranga because it is a port town that will find everything they need

in terms of cultural tourism, marine sports and is a place where people from Dar es Salaam region and other areas come to buy fish species for domestic and commercial use.

Also a large part of fish and fish products sold in Dar es Salaam region are coming from this area.

While Kwale village is endowed with a lot of tourist attractions that include Shiraz Grave that is one of the oldest graves in the area which dates back to the Islamic era, sports ground, Kudra natural well, worship areas, Shaban Robert Memorial Play Ground, baobab tree to mention few.

The district will begin to create awareness to local communities to conserve the tourism potentials they have within their localities because "We believe involving communities to conserve and protect what they endowed with will be safe," he said.

"We will create awareness as we have discovered that some local communities living close to the forest reserve are cutting trees for agricultural activities, charcoal making, building materials and cattle grazing inside the forest reserve that affect our eco-tourism.

African environment ministers appeal for healthier financing to boost green recovery

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) has urged robust financing to boost implementation of a continental green recovery program.

Barbara Creedy, president of AMCEN said that financial support towards the African Green Stimulus Program (AGSP) will help tackle the negative socio-economic and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We want to, more importantly, harness the opportunities which this approach brings for the continent," said Creedy during the just ended fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

She said that AMCEN member states plan to mobilize additional financial and technical resources to upscale and enhance the implementation of the portfolio of programs within the 12 key priority areas.

Creedy who is also minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment of South Africa said the program will upscale and enhance the implementation of environmental interventions on the continent.

The program targets improving air quality, enhancing chemicals and waste management and promoting the circular economy.

Creedy said that AMCEN member states will continue efforts to conserve, protect and enhance the resilience of Africa's environment and natural resources as part of their determined effort in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

She called for the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) regional presence in Africa.

"We believe such strengthening will continue to promote an efficient and effective delivery of UNEP's mandate in the region," said Creedy.



Kassim Bakari (L, gesturing), a tour guide with Pangani Coast's Cultural Tourism & Library Information Centre, has a word with a tourist visiting a Pangani (Tanga Region) stretch of the Indian Ocean beach on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Sensitise the public on loans from city council - director

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

COMMUNITY development officers in Arusha have been tasked to provide education on entrepreneurship to groups of women, youth and people with disabilities so that they benefit from the ten percent loans offered by the city council.

Arusha city council executive director Dr John Pima made the call here yesterday when speaking to community development officers.

Every council in Tanzania allocates 10 percent of its revenue collections to improve citizen livelihood economically. These funds are provided as a loan with no interest to groups of women (4 percent), youth (4 percent) and people with disabilities (2 percent).

Dr Pima expressed his optimism that if those groups are well informed and got loans they would

be able to establish economic activities.

"What is important here is that education should go hand in hand with emphasizing the establishment of business or productive activities so that everyone who gets a loan reap the benefits," he said.

Dr Pima said the council has done well on the whole issue of providing loans to beneficiaries and uplifting them economically.

"But it has been found that some of these groups, have failed to set up productive projects and some of them have been found to be spending money contrary to the intended objectives and creating problems in recovery," he said.

Dr Pima said he believed that if the officers worked properly the groups would be educated and take action in their activities, using the money they earn for the intended purposes.

Give elite women more political space, activists urge Z'bar leaders

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR human rights activists yesterday urged senior politicians to provide more space for elite women to take part in building socio-economic development of the Indian Ocean archipelago.

They made the call in Zanzibar when speaking at training aimed at providing opportunities for dialogue and building better foundations to enable women to hold leadership positions under the auspices of the United Nations Women (UN Women).

The one-day training was organised by Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) Zanzibar.

One of the participants, Thuwayba Jeni Pandu said the emergence of elite women who want to get into

leadership positions has been creating fears among senior politicians as they feel that they will be replaced, something which isn't the case as everyone has equal rights.

In this environment, many female academicians fail to achieve their political goals due to the ongoing fear from those who are in leadership positions, something that denies the public from getting better and credible women leaders.

She also cited lack of financial muscles as a challenge that inhibits women to get top leadership positions because there is belief that a leader must have money before being elected.

Shadida Omar from Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO) said that women face a number of challenges

including being denied from carrying out door-to-door campaigns during election time. "This is one of factors that make women on this island fail to get into the political arena." Another participant, Huzaima Ally Hamdani said that in order for women to achieve their goals, democracy must be respected otherwise most women will not run for office again.

Citing last year's election, Huzaima said women lacked the opportunity to supervise their votes due to lack of IDs, a challenge that may also affect many women in future elections.

"In Zanzibar, women make up more than 50 percent of the electorate so it is clear that if women support their counterparts they will be able to succeed."



A Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Sendeas Agency (TEMESA) expert (2nd-L) shows Energy deputy minister Stephen Byabato (L) how a power cooling station works. This was during the latter's visit to Singida Region on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Scientists begin vaccine trials on pigs in effort to beat African swine fever

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

SCIENTISTS at the Nairobi-based International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) on Tuesday began testing ten vaccine candidates to help reduce deaths of pigs from African swine fever (ASF).

Lucilla Steinaa, principal scientist at ILRI, who is leading the vaccine research, said the vaccine trials are an important first step in managing ASF, and the first anywhere to test a vaccine based on genotype, which circulates in central and east Africa.

"ASF is a highly contagious transboundary disease with a fatality rate of 100 per cent, and there is currently no vaccine or treatment," Steinaa told journalists in Nairobi.

The disease is present in more than 25 countries in Africa, causing enormous disruption to the pork sector, and deterring potential pig farmers.

Scientists have been researching ASF since early 2000. However, there is still some way to go before a vaccine is proven efficacious, safe and approved for use in the field.

According to the scientist, they have used CRISPR technology, a simple yet powerful tool for editing genomes, to reduce the time needed to isolate viral mutants from five years to little over a year, accelerating vaccine development.

CRISPR technology allows research-

ers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.

ASF was first detected in early 1910 in Kenya and has since found its way to Asia and Europe. "It is currently present in around a dozen countries across Asia, notably in China, where an outbreak in 2018 is believed to have caused losses of up to 50 per cent among the country's 400 million pigs," she added.

Hussein Abkhallo, a scientist and technical lead of the CRISPR-Cas9 at ILRI, said that besides accelerating ASF vaccine development effort, CRISPR technology has significant potential for making vaccines for other livestock pathogens such as, *Theileria parva*, a parasite that causes East Coast fever, a fatal cattle disease.



ASF is a highly contagious transboundary disease with a fatality rate of 100 per cent, and there is currently no vaccine or treatment

Nine African nations on track to join solar 'gigawatt club'

By Kiran Pandey

OF the 37 countries that are part of the solar 'gigawatt club', only two – South Africa and Egypt – are from Africa. But this might change soon with nine more African countries ramping up solar capacity, said the first annual African Solar Energy Outlook 2021 report released by the Africa Solar Industry Association (AFSIA) on February 16, 2021.

Nations with installed capacity to produce 1 GW of solar power form the 'gigawatt club', an unofficial tag.

The nine countries that are developing their solar infrastructure are Algeria, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Namibia, Ethiopia, Morocco and Botswana, the report

said. Nearly half the world's population without access to electricity (591 million) is in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the International Energy Association. This new report provides policy directions for ensuring development of affordable energy through solar.

It provides a country-by-country snapshot solar generation status and key drivers of successful solar development across 54 nations in the African continent. Natural gas accounts for 98 per cent of the energy mix in Algeria but the country aims to generate up to 22 gigawatts of green energy by 2030. Of this, 13.6 GW will be solar, according to government sources.

In Zimbabwe, where over 91 per cent people do not have access to electricity, solar will be key to ensuring access to affordable energy.

Private sector will play a major role in helping Zimbabwe go solar, the report predicts. The sector, which has been struggling with erratic power supply and grid shutdowns for years, is now planning sizable projects to serve their consumption as well as the grid, said the report.

Ethiopia and Botswana are expected to gain from a more traditional approach of international tenders and should reap the benefits of this approach through bottom-low tariffs, according to the report.

On the contrary, the governments in Zambia, DRC and Angola have awarded private developers direct contracts for significant capacities without going through a tender.

Morocco has been appreciated in the report for its transparent and efficient tender and development process over the years.

The existing solar champs, South Africa and Egypt, will continue their solar journey and add sizable capacities to

MSF calls on European Council to facilitate global production of Covid-19 medical tools

BRUSSELS, Belgium

AHEAD of a European Council meeting on 25-26 February, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) urged the European Union (EU) to take urgent action to promote greater global access to COVID-19 vaccines and other lifesaving health technologies.

For equitable distribution of all COVID-19 medical tools, the EU must stop blocking the intellectual property (IP) waiver proposal at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and facilitate the transfer of health and vaccine technologies by pharmaceutical corporations in Europe to manufacturers in low- and middle-income countries.

At the start of the pandemic, EU leaders set out bold aims that provided hope for a global response to fight the pandemic. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described the COVID-19 vaccine as "our universal common good."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron called for widespread production globally "without hassle with intellectual property rights." Unfortunately, the EU's actions have contradicted these ambitions, at times hindering other countries' ability to control the pandemic.

The EU has reserved billions of vaccine doses for itself, undermining


global equitable access. Recent commitments by some G7 members to share doses must urgently catalyse all EU member states to follow suit immediately to ensure all frontline healthcare workers and high-risk groups are protected.

However, such commitments will not resolve the vast global inequity, nor address the need to facilitate diverse supply and production globally.

Since the beginning of the pandemic,

MSF teams have been providing COVID-19 treatment and prevention in different communities throughout the southern African region, including in South Africa, Eswatini, Malawi and Mozambique.

With the onset of the second wave and new variants of the coronavirus in the region, these countries are struggling to respond to this pandemic that is overwhelming their health systems.



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

INVITATION TO BID: NO. ITB/2021/SUP/001
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAME AGREEMENT
FOR THE SUPPLY OF JET A1 FUEL

- 1. Background:**
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites reputable and qualified suppliers to submit firm offers for establishment of a frame agreement for the supply of Jet A1 Fuel
- 2. Eligibility:**
Suppliers duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process.

Kindly download the tender documents in the below link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jHiwNjB5M9CCz9uQlpJS24hTM4fkWtG?usp=sharing>

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

CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Pre-bid Conference meeting will be held	Monday 03 rd March 2021
Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Friday 15 th March 2021 at 235900 hrs EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Wednesday 30 th March 2021 at 1600 hrs, EAT

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

CONDOLENCES



Hubert Kairuki Memorial University



Prof. Benno Ndulu

Hubert Kairuki Memorial University is deeply saddened by the loss of **Prof. Benno Ndulu**, who until his death was the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the **HKMU** Endowment Fund. We extend our sincere sympathies to the family, relatives and friends genuinely touched by the loss.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Strong governance of fisheries vital for many African nations

AFRICAN countries should strengthen their fisheries governance frameworks, in order to deter and stop illegal fishing, and these may include ratification or accession to international and regional fishery agreements; and resolutions as well as implementation of these into domestic legislation to facilitate national actions against illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing operators.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) is an issue around the world. Fishing industry observers believe IUU occurs in most fisheries, and accounts for up to 30 per cent of total catches in some important fisheries. Illegal fishing takes place when vessels or harvesters operate in violation of the laws of a fishery. This can apply to fisheries that are under the jurisdiction of a coastal state or to high seas fisheries regulated by regional fisheries management organisations. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), fisheries and aquaculture department, illegal fishing has caused losses estimated at US\$23 billion per year.

Unreported fishing is fishing that has been unreported or misreported to the relevant national authority in contravention of applicable laws and regulations. Unregulated fishing generally refers to fishing by vessels without nationality, vessels flying the flag of a country not party to the regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO).

The drivers behind illegal, un-

reported and unregulated (IUU) fishing are similar to those behind many other types of international environmental crime: pirate fishers have a strong economic incentive - many species of fish, particularly those that have been over-exploited and are thus in short supply, are of high financial value. Since no one reports catches made by pirates, their level of fishing cannot be accurately quantified.

Tanzania has managed to control illegal fishing on the beaches along the seashore where the problem has been more or less eradicated. We should not relent in the fight but all surveillance centres should be provided with modern equipment. In the past dynamite fishing was rampant along the country's beaches but the trend has been reversed following several operations to arrest illegal fishermen.

The ministry responsible should implement various strategies, including establishing surveillance centres at the great lakes, beaches along the sea and boundaries through the Multi Agency Task Team (MATT).

Others include Operation Johari that was launched several years ago as part of a regional crackdown on international unreported and unrepresented (IUU) fishing on the western rim of the Indian Ocean.

It was undertaken with law enforcement agents from the Deap Sea Fishing Authority, the Tanzanian Navy and Multi-Agency Task Team (MATT). Other measures included Operation Sangara on Lake Victoria.

We have every reason to give private sector greater support

THE private sector is the part of the economy, sometimes referred to as the citizen sector, which is owned by private groups, usually as a means of enterprise for profit, rather than being owned by the state.

The private sector employs most of the workforce in some countries. In private sector, activities are guided by the motive to earn money.

A 2013 study by the International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank Group) identified that 90 per cent of jobs in developing countries are in the private sector.

In free enterprise countries, the private sector is wider, and the state places fewer constraints on firms. In countries with more government authority, such as China, the public sector makes up most of the economy.

States legally regulate the private sector. Businesses operating within a country must comply with the laws in that country.

In some cases, usually involving multinational corporations that can pick and choose their suppliers and locations based on their perception of the regulatory environment, local state regulations have resulted in uneven practices within one company. For example, workers in one country may benefit from strong labour unions, while workers in another country have very weak laws supporting labour unions, even though they work for the same employer. In some cases, industries and individual businesses choose to self-regulate by applying higher standards for dealing with their workers, customers, or the environment than the minimum that is legally required of them.

There can be negative effects from the private sector. The private sector must include activities that promote national unity in their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes. If the corporate sec-

tor could step forward to help civil society on national unity, it would be investing directly in the nation's stability, which was critical for business to flourish and economic activities to grow.

Indeed the corporate sector has not done much, for example, to promote unity or to help civil society groups to play their role in fostering national unity. It could not be denied that the corporate sector had made significant contributions in other areas such as the environment, health care education and helping the less privileged, but more could be done for unity.

We should pay tribute to the respective corporate companies for having delivered that social responsibility towards many charities, they should as well spare a thought to fulfilling a greater social responsibility towards our nation.

No social responsibility was greater than ensuring that our nation succeeded in uniting the diverse communities that make up our society. It is important to emphasise on support from the local private sector since foreign funding for unity programmes would not be advisable in the larger interest of our nation.

National unity is one area where Tanzanians should exercise total sovereignty in determining the destiny of our nation. All peace-loving Tanzanians be fully committed to promoting a culture of peace, harmony and unity. Even if economics, science and information technology are the driving force of this era and in the future, we must not lose sight of racial harmony and unity.

In the final analysis, economic development would not be meaningful without understanding, harmony and unity among the people. Building unity in a multiracial society is our nation's biggest challenge. The challenge that is key to our very survival.

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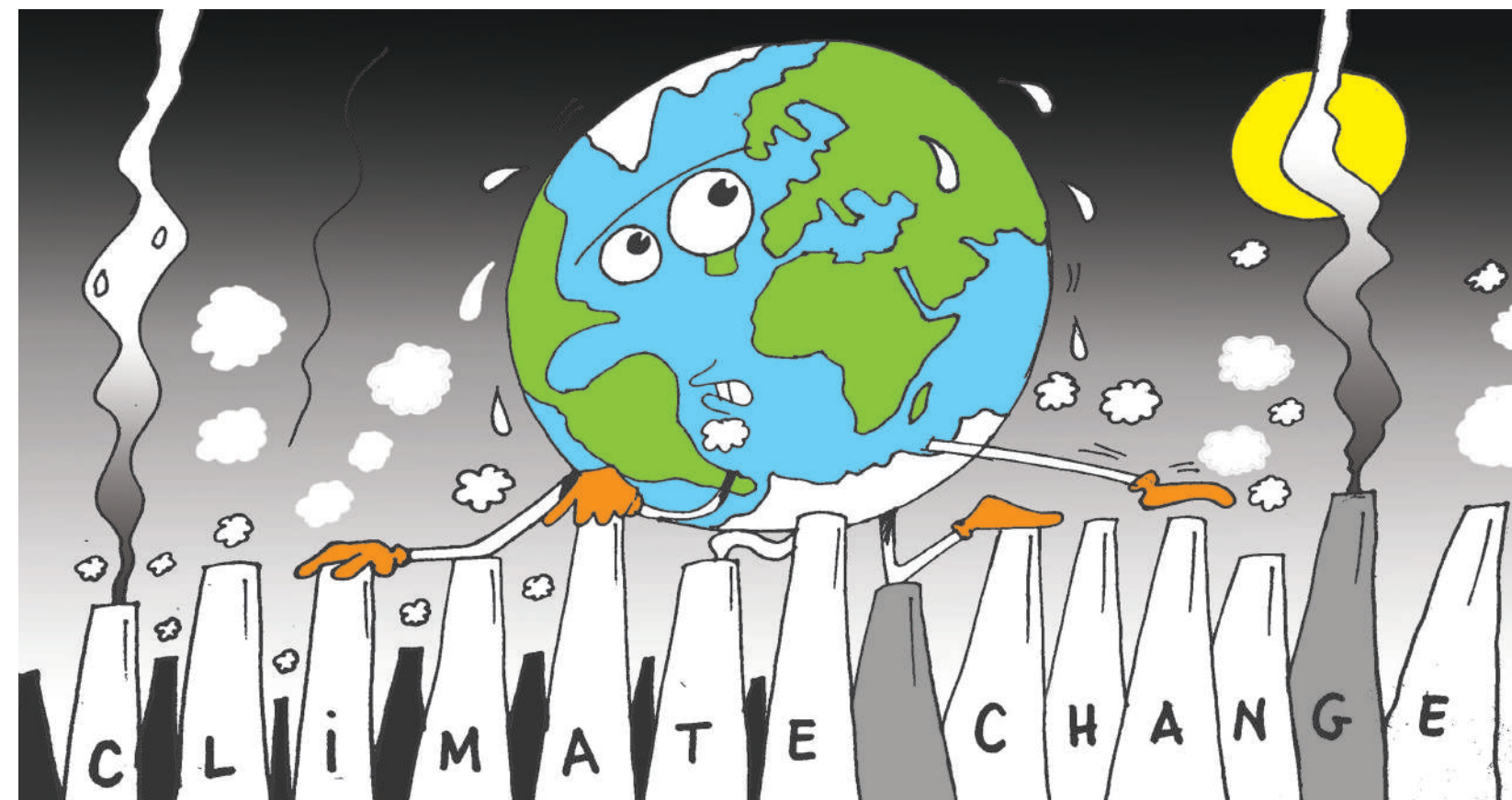
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How to prevent the nation's disintegration

By Franklin Nnaemeka Ngwu

WITH the appointment of new service chiefs, many people feel relieved and think that President Muhammadu Buhari is finally listening to the pulse of the nation.

Some have even argued that the appointment is a clear indication and a proactive way of addressing many insecurity issues in the country such as the Sunday Igboho's eviction order, Governor Akeredolu's riot act against criminal herders in Ondo forests and the ongoing clashes between the military and Eastern Security Network in Imo State.

There is no doubt that it was expedient to change the service chiefs given their long stay in office and escalating insecurity issues in the country, but the question is if the change will bring the needed solution to our increasing insecurity challenges. I do not think so! Like other major problems we have in Nigeria, the insecurity situation we have is far beyond change of service chiefs.

Moreover, the way the service chiefs and other appointments are made with clear preference and domination of a section of the country in comparison to the unquestionable exclusion and marginalisation of another section of the country contributes to the insecurity challenges and the Nigerian question?

Let it be known that the continuous use of policy of preference and marginalisation in the appointments and governance of the country, particularly by the current government, will never create a stable and prosperous Nigeria. It is a natural law that what is bad is bad and will never sustainably grow and what is good is good and will sustainably grow.

Nigeria's governance is structurally deeply flawed and unless and until we address the flawed structure, we will never experience sustainable stability and progress. It is the consequences, or the vacuum created by our flawed structure that has led to the emergence of non-state actors and powers such as Sunday Igboho, Nnamdi Kanu, Yerima Shettima and others.

Anybody or section that is excited that his/her section (or tribe) is dominating the



government and as such the flawed structure should remain is short-sighted and unpatriotic even to himself, his family and tribe.

In about two years, Buhari will be referred to as a former president and as it has happened before most of the major beneficiaries of this government will be excluded in the next government. If this is the case given the transitory nature of power, is it not in the interest of the current major beneficiaries of this government to support and push for a sustainable structure of governance that will better serve their interests and that of others in and out government.

Let me reiterate that while changing of the service chiefs is important, it will not solve the insecurity problems we have. Focusing on change as a solution to the insecurity challenges is like focusing on symptoms without attending to the causes. As earlier stated, the main cause of most of our problems such as insecurity, limited diversification of the economy, poor revenue generation, poverty, unemployment and deep-seated corruption is the structure of governance we have.

It is a structure that enervates patriotism and encourages nepotism; it is a structure that promotes laziness and decimates interests in hard work and innovative thinking. It is a structure that lacks trust worsened by its moderation by a legal system that is not understood, not accepted, not internalised resulting in a high inclination for non-compliance. It is a structure of

unproductive engagement and buccaneering.

It is a structure focused on competition for power rather than competition for inclusive growth and development. It is a structure destined to fail and that is currently and glaringly failing in our presence! Denial of this abundantly evident fact can only be described as lack of patriotism and postponement of the possible disintegration of the country.

Irrespective of the disposition of the president, our governors and the All Progressives Congress, APC, Nigeria is already heading into an irreversible crisis if urgent steps are not taken. This is not about blaming the elite or the unending suspicion and lack of trusts of some sections of the country. It is about the glaring and existential threats to Nigeria's continued existence as one country! There is an immediate need to rethink and adopt a better structure of governance in Nigeria.

As the president will like to leave a legacy, the crisis we have in Nigeria is a kind of serendipity for Mr. President. No achievement or legacy will be greater than for the president to be remembered as the leader that bequeathed Nigeria with a governance structure that is inclusive and pro-growth.

A starting point will be for the president to quickly engage with relevant arms of government such as the National Assembly, the Nigerian Governors Forum, the National Council of

States, the Civil Society, traditional rulers and others with a message and advocacy of hope and conviction on the need for a better structure of governance through some form of power devolution from the centre to the states.

While it might not be possible to address all the issues at the same time, an encouraging and impactful way to start will be to select some items from the exclusive list widely perceived to be better handled by the states and move them to the concurrent list.

These will include roads and railways, police, judiciary and mineral deposits. While there are so many other items, starting with the above five items which are central to the current crisis we are having in many parts of the country will signify that we are headed in the right direction.

When added with a constitutional provision for the presidency to be rotated among the current six geo-political regions of North-central, North East, North West, South East, South-South and South West, a deep sense of inclusiveness and oneness would have been created. The Giant of Africa will be reborn given the immense potentials and opportunities that will be liberated and utilised. We pray that PMB will heed to the prayers of majority of Nigerians!

Dr. Ngwu is an Economist/Associate Professor of Strategy, Risk Management & Corporate Governance, Lagos Business School and a Member, Expert Network, World Economic Forum

Capitalising on context: What if the value of news isn't what's new?

By Chris M. Sutcliffe

SUBSCRIPTION growth is expected to scale far more quickly than digital advertising. So, it is fair to say that many papers' survival is predicated on perfecting a paywall strategy.

To that end, subscriptions are becoming a primary consideration for publishers. According to PWC's Media Trends 2020-2024 report, it is one of the few bright spots for newspapers, growing from US\$4.5bn in 2019 to US\$7bn by 2024.

As a result, few accusations raise hackles in digital news like the suggestion that someone's paywall strategy is wrong. We've seen that discussion play out many times between adherents of hard paywalls and the advocates for metered models.

Now, though, there is growing sentiment that there may only be two or three big subscription players in any one niche. Consequently, rather than focusing on the terms of access, we are now talking about points of differentiation between what is included in each package.

Paywall packages

At some titles, non-news products round out the subscription bundle, making it more appealing overall. For example, The New York Times' Crosswords and Cooking products have long driven subscriptions.

And they actually appear to be growing in importance to the company's subscription strategy. In its latest earnings call, CEO Meredith Kopit Levien also confirmed that the Times' plans to build a subscription service around its review site Wirecutter.

However, few outlets have the funds or the products to be able to bundle additional products into their news subscriptions. The points of differentiation for most have to come from their core content.

For regional publishers making a play for subscription revenue, that uniqueness comes from the fact



that they are the only provider of local news in the area.

National titles must differentiate in other ways, however. That might be a star columnist, or an edition-based publishing method as we've seen employed by The Times of London.

Or it could even be putting the core product - the news - outside the paywall itself. And that's where we get back to the accusation that people are doing paywalls wrong. Indeed, putting news outside a paywall is a grievous, unforgivable sin to some in the industry.

High value, no cost

We saw that with the reaction to news sites like The Financial Times and The Atlantic making their coronavirus coverage free-to-access. That was despite arguments from some of us that doing so would benefit their subscription businesses in the long term.

Even so, putting critical news outside the paywall is hardly unprecedented. But what if a national title were to put all of its rolling news outside the paywall, and instead rely on old content to convert people to subscribers?

That's exactly what the Daily Nation, Kenya's largest national title, is planning to do. Per Nieman Lab's write-up: "To read Nation articles more than seven days old... users will have to pay up."

Essentially, the value proposition shifts from free-to-

access to paying for content that, in the world of digital news, is practically ancient.

So, can an approach like this work? Can you effectively sell a "news" subscription where the content you're charging for isn't, well, new?

Deep dive archive

To answer that question, we need to look at other types of publications that have made access to archives the core tenet of a subscription.

National Geographic, for instance, recognizes that its back catalogue is hugely appealing to potential subscribers. In fact, it made a separate landing page for those primarily interested in its archives as opposed to jumping in via a new issue.

Esquire sells access to its back issues dating back to the early 1930s, as a standalone service, as does Motorsport with issues back to 1924.

The New Yorker includes transcribed versions of its old articles in its metered model. In addition to its own plans for a paid-for archive, Playboy is launching a podcast series based on its historic interviews.

Exact Editions operates a business that runs specifically on offering access to back-catalogue bundles - and its managing director, Daryl Rayner, said a few years ago: "A large proportion of our partners' magazines are earning more from institutional subscriptions than

they are from app sales in iTunes. It is an important market not to be neglected."

I can't imagine that the propensity to pay for archives has fallen even as more people become willing to pay for digital subscriptions.

If not strictly news, these are news-adjacent articles, hopelessly out of date and yet hugely valuable. They are snapshots of a given time in history; small wonder that people will pay for access.

Beyond the back issue

Beyond the appeal to the consumer of archived feature writing, however, there is undoubtedly still inherent value in news archives. If there weren't, there would never have been a drive to collect microfiches of old editions in libraries.

While it has done so with no eye to charging for access, the Internet Archive has digitised "almost the entire back catalogue" of the Editor and Publisher.

As Joshua Benton writes: "Newspapers' archives are an incredible storehouse of information about the history of our country. And too many of those archives are, as E&P's were, left crumbling in some storage facility or hidden away on unindexed rolls of microfilm."

It's a social service to archive these old stories, and doubly so at a time when digital news is frequently ephemeral. The half-life of news is infinitesimal.

This was a concern as far back as 2009. And it's only become more important as audiences wise up to the nature of digital news publishing. They appreciate having resources like this to the point that they will pay for it, as the British Library found when it began selling access to its archive of newspapers.

Value proposition

So, why is there reluctance to make these archives the core tenet of a news subscription as Kenya's Daily Nation has done, rather than

hitching our future to up-to-the-minute coverage?

It's partly due to a discrepancy between what journalists and editors value versus what audiences consider worth paying for. I recently spoke to Ramus Kleis Nielsen, the director of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, about that dissonance.

Nielsen argues: "When news organisations who are turning to reader revenues are trying to sell subscriptions, that light is very focused on us and not very focused on the public that we aim and claim to serve. They are the ones who have to convince."

"You don't need to convince me or journalists that what we do is important, or that we want more people to engage with it and even pay for it. You need to convince the people who aren't doing it."

This is because those of us who work in journalism focus on the now, on being first. And, therefore, we can lose sight of what audiences actually need: context.

It's natural that we should fear putting our most valuable content out there for free. This is why hackles raise whenever someone brings it up. But if what we value isn't what audiences value, how can we know what they think is really worth paying for?

More crucially, those archives offer perhaps the most valuable point of differentiation from rivals. "Breaking" news is easily replicable online. And, while it's important, it isn't necessarily uniquely valuable. What is valuable is the analysis - the context - built around that news.

As with the viral "Who is the banana republic now?" column that the Daily Nation found drove subscriptions, that evergreen content - abundant in newspapers' archives - is both differentiator and draw for audiences.

A Digital Content Next report. Chris M. Sutcliffe is an independent journalist.

Africa's elephants are going hungry because there aren't enough fruits on trees

By Emma Bush

THE behaviour and life cycles of the largest animals on the planet are incredibly important for the healthy functioning of our planet's life support systems.

Unfortunately, many big species now face extinction owing to their value in the illegal wildlife trade and their vulnerability to habitat degradation as well as because they often come into conflict with humans.

The African tropics host many of these remaining mega-fauna or large animals like gorillas, elephants and hippos, but all these species are now losing ground. African forest elephants, for instance, have a population just 10 per cent of their potential size, occupying 25 per cent of their potential range.

Given the influence these large animals have on the functioning of our world and how vulnerable they are to extinction, it's more important than ever to monitor and restore the health of their remaining populations and the safe havens that support them.

We wanted to know how elephants are faring in Lopé National Park, a 5,000-sq-km protected area in the heart of Gabon, where researchers at the site have observed some of the highest densities of forest elephants ever recorded.

The park has a rich diversity of wildlife, including forest elephants, chimpanzees, gorillas and mandrills. Many of these wildlife species rely on wild forest fruits for food.

In a recently published paper, we analysed 32 years of valuable data about tree behaviour and found that there was a massive collapse in fruiting events between 1986 and 2018.

In 1986, pioneer primatologist Caroline Tutin started monitoring food resources for wildlife at Lopé by recording monthly observations of flowers, fruit and leaves in the canopies of hundreds of marked trees.

Field researchers at the site still continue to record these observations each month. This effort has resulted in the longest unbroken record of individual tree reproduction in the tropics, representing a priceless resource for monitoring environmental change.

Our analysis found that there was an 81 per cent decline in the probability of encountering ripe fruit. This means that, on average, elephants and other animals would have found ripe fruit on one in every ten trees in the 1980s but now need to search more than 50 trees to do so.

We found matching declines in flowering too, indicating that the problem is not pollination or fruit maturation but something earlier on in the chain of fruit production.

Once we knew about this, we had two questions: What is causing this decline? And what impact is this decline having on the many wildlife species that depend on fruit?



Drop in physical condition

Elephants are the largest fruit-eating animals in the central African forest ecosystem. They have an average biomass of over 3.5 tonnes at our site, meaning that they require large amounts of food to satisfy their nutritional needs.

Elephants have a broad diet that includes fruit, grass, other vegetation and even tree barks - but previous research at Lopé showed that fruit is dominant in their diet.

We collated a large photographic database (80,000 images) of elephants dating back to 1997 and invited experts in forest elephant ecology to assess the body condition of jumbos in these images using a systematic scoring system.

Using these newly-derived data, we found an av-

erage 5 per cent drop in physical condition of forest elephants at Lopé since the beginning of the photographic record in 1997 and a more concerning 11 per cent decline since 2008.

We don't yet know the consequences of this decline in body condition for elephant populations, but the effects are unlikely to be benign. This is especially when coupled with other pressures such as illegal hunting in the wider region.

Incredibly, before the climate crisis had become widely accepted as a threat to species and ecosystems, Caroline Tutin predicted the changes illustrated in our paper. In 1993 she discovered that some Lopé tree species depend on a critical drop in night-time temperatures during the long dry season to trigger flowering.

In years when temperatures in the dry season did not dip below 19°C Celsius these species produced no

fruit and in an unusual year when this same drop in temperature occurred outside the dry season, some of these species produced fruit out of season.

Tutin suggested that as temperatures continued to increase, largely induced by climate change, species such as these would likely reproduce less often if they missed out on this critical temperature to trigger flowering.

We don't yet know for sure if this decline in fruiting is caused by climate change. However, our previous work shows that global warming has resulted in an increase of almost 1°C Celsius in average night-time temperatures in Lopé during the study period.

What now?

The fruit famine witnessed in Lopé National Park could be happening across the African tropics but we have no concrete evidence to that effect because, unfortunately, long-term ecological data like these are very rare.

Maintaining support for consistent long-term monitoring is challenging and severely underfunded, even in richer parts of the world, despite the fact that this information is desperately needed to enable countries to prepare for - and respond to - environmental changes.

The year 2020 was supposed to be a turning point for the climate and biodiversity crises, with both the UN Summit on Biodiversity and UN Climate Ambition Summit scheduled to take place at the end of the year, but Covid-19 rightly took over the international agenda.

However, with ever-increasing global temperatures and the approach of a key UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) this year, it's vital that the world takes stock of the environmental situation.

We must have a concerted plan to transform the way we manage forests, food, fisheries and climate if we are to move towards a healthier and more sustainable world.

This has resulted in a fruit famine and, based on a body condition score applied to archived photographs, an 11 per cent decline in the physical condition of the elephants at our study area since 2008.

The implications of this finding are that even where forest elephants and other mega-fauna are relatively well protected from external threats such as hunting, global human pressures including the climate crisis could affect their survival.

A collapse in fruiting also means that the forests themselves may be undergoing significant change, with some tree species possibly reproducing more slowly than required to support a healthy population.

Emma Bush is a scientist with the UK's Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

'Economic opportunism in response to COVID-19 wreaks untold havoc'

By Special Correspondents

IN their quest to bolster economies battered by the pandemic, governments in Brazil, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Peru have set aside social and environmental safeguards in favour of destructive development projects that are harming indigenous communities and the forests they care for, according to a just-released Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) report.

Open-pit mines, industrial agriculture plantations, infrastructure mega-schemes and hydropower complexes are among the projects fuelling a rise in human rights abuses and deforestation in five countries that contain the majority of the world's tropical forests.

"This research proves beyond question that the behaviour of governments and commodity producers in these five countries conflicts directly with growing demand in consumer nations for supply chains that are free of human rights abuses, deforestation and biodiversity loss," said Dr Myrna Cunningham, President of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) and speaker at a press briefing held last week to release the new report.

"Now we must ask: how will the global community respond to these findings? During the Covid-19 pandemic, governments have not only failed to stop land grabs and human rights violations by corporate actors but have rewritten and reversed hard-won policies that are vital to any strategy aimed at protecting human rights and stopping the destruction of priceless ecosystems."

Entitled "Rolling back social and environmental safeguards in the time of Covid-19," the report cited examines how the governments of the world's most tropically forested countries have used the economic devastation wrought by the pandemic to justify recalling social and environmental legal protections.

The report was jointly produced by researchers at the Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic at Yale Law School, the School of Law at Middlesex University in London, and FPP, in collaboration with several indigenous peoples' organisations in the five countries.

Based in part upon interviews with communities affected, the report also draws upon five country-specific studies co-authored by national researchers and indigenous peoples' organisations and support groups.

"It is wrong to prioritise economic development over the protection of indigenous peoples' rights and tropical forests, especially during a pandemic," said FPP director James Whitehead.

He elaborated: "In 2021, two big international conferences will address climate change and the frightening loss of biodiversity globally. This study provides yet more evidence that the international community and businesses need to urgently maintain and strengthen protections for human rights and tropical forests and proactively support indigenous peoples to secure and protect their territories."

As documented by a growing body of evidence, in-



igenous peoples and local communities play a crucial role in averting climate change, biodiversity loss and pandemic risk.

Indigenous peoples have been shown to outperform other forest managers in preventing deforestation, which has particular significance in tropically forested countries that are home to some of the most carbon-rich and biodiverse lands on the planet.

"The pandemic can never be an excuse to trample upon human rights and destroy our planet," said Joan Carling, director of Indigenous Peoples Rights International, adding: "Rolling back environmental and social protections in the name of promoting economic recovery is adding insult to injury for indigenous peoples."

The report discusses four major findings - one being that states are prioritising the expansion of the energy sector, infrastructure, mining, logging and industrial agriculture in or near indigenous territo-

ries without protecting the rights of indigenous peoples.

Two: States are not enforcing domestic and international law prohibiting land grabbing and are instead facilitating illegal deforestation, agribusiness expansion and mining that are affecting indigenous territories. As a result, deforestation surged in 2020 and will likely increase in 2021.

Three: States have developed and are enacting land-use and planning policies and regulations that weaken current social and environmental safeguards, and violate indigenous peoples' rights, especially those protecting rights to consultation before projects that affect their lands begin.

Four: Indigenous peoples who try to assert their rights are facing increased violence, arrests and criminal prosecution.

"Indigenous peoples are seeing their rights stripped away as the lands that have long been their homes are being stripped away as

well," said James Silk, Binger Clinical Professor of Human Rights at Yale Law School.

He added: "Corporations in the extractive industries have aggressively pushed governments to let them exploit resources on indigenous lands, promising economic revitalisation, but ignoring the devastating effect on Indigenous communities. The result is a cascade of human rights violations and accelerating contributions to global warming." The report sets out the urgent actions the governments of tropically forested countries need to reverse these dangerous rollbacks and strengthen protections for indigenous peoples and their territories. It calls for stronger regulation of global supply chains linked to rights abuses and deforestation and urges international investors and financiers to apply rigorous safeguards to respect human rights and protect forests in all financing for Covid-19 recovery projects and programmes.

Many nations embrace the large-scale exploitation of natural resources as an economic stimulus strategy despite a long list of research detailing how this approach causes social and environmental harm and often fails to generate long-lasting and equitable economic benefits.

More targeted research has shown that massive oil-palm plantations contribute a meagre percentage to Indonesia's GDP, while generating large-scale human rights abuses and deforestation.

Research also shows how the largely unregulated plunder of the mineral resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo has fuelled the country's endemic economic and political insecurity.

"How states respond when indigenous peoples assert their land rights is often highly problematic," said Cathal Doyle of the School of Law at Middlesex University, London.

Doyle elaborated: "Indigenous Peoples' rights are hugely underemphasized in government decisions and some indigenous peoples are criminalised for their natural way of life.

"They have rights that exist on paper, but governments do not respect these rights. In such contexts, the law can be used as a weapon to silence and oppress those defending their lands."

National case studies

Express delivery services gives a boost to China's rural industries

By Li Xinping, Zhu Jiaqi

THE rapid development of express delivery services in rural areas is tremendously facilitating China's rural industries.

Statistics indicate that over 30 billion express packages were shipped to and from China's rural regions last year, and the exchange of industrial products and farm produce between urban and rural areas totaled 1.5 trillion yuan (\$232 billion). The use of express delivery services was improved in the sales of potatoes, sweet potatoes and corns.

In 2020, express delivery outlets have been established in almost all Chinese townships and over 50 percent of Chinese villages. They not only vitalized the development potential of rural industries, but also released the consumption potential of farmers, said Liu Jiang, a researcher with the Development and Research Center of the State Post Bureau.

River snail rice noodle, a local specialty of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, has been enjoying huge popularity across China in recent years. It has grown into a business of 10 billion yuan in Liuzhou, the second largest city of the autonomous region.

Last year, Liuzhou sold 10.5 billion yuan of packed river snail rice noodle, and its daily production reached 3.25 million bags. More than 77.6 million parcels were shipped by China Post, up 142.7 percent from a year ago.

Baile village, Taiyangcun Township of Liuzhou is home to massive sweet bamboos from which pickled bamboo shoots, a major ingredient for the river snail rice noodle, are made. According to Huang Yugui, who runs a sweet bamboo plantation base in the village, the pickled bamboo shoots produced in the village are sold to all parts of the country. "We ship pickled bamboo shoots almost every day, and sometimes we ship more than 1,000 kilograms a day," he told People's Daily.

To assist the development of the river snail rice noodle industry, major express delivery companies have established outlets in villages and take relevant orders as a priority. They even tailored exclusive shipping routes for the business.

"Seventy to eighty percent of our business is related to the industry, and the industry is now a new growth point for Liuzhou's express delivery," said Xu Zhifang, head of Liuzhou Municipal Postal Administration.

"Before express delivery companies set up outlets in our village, we had to go to the township to sell the pickled bamboo shoots," Huang introduced. Now, the express delivery outlets in the village are enabling the



A courier (left) in Suixi County, Huaibei, east China's Anhui Province picks parcels at a corn processing enterprise in Chenlou village, Suntuan Township, June 8, 2020. (File Photo)

man to ship his products to everywhere, and his annual income also surged from 60,000 yuan to 90,000 yuan.

Since the last year, the Postal Administration of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has been actively promoting express delivery services in rural areas. It carried out in-depth cooperation with market entities such as rural cooperatives, improved terminal logistics networks, and improved service capabilities, to further

vitalize the rural economy.

Last year, the autonomous region sold 1.08 billion yuan of farm produce through postal and express delivery services. The shipping volume of passion fruits, duck eggs and other local specialties also surpassed 10 million pieces.

According to China's State Post Bureau, the country will keep enhancing efforts to bring express services to

villages, striving to cover all villages in the east with direct express services before the end of this year. Meanwhile, 80 percent of administrative villages in central China and 60 percent in the west will also be offered such services

People's Daily

Experts urge Tanzanian farmers and business to be innovative, ensure survival amid Covid-19

By Getrude Mbago

AS COVID-19 continues to ravage the health and people's livelihoods across the globe, Tanzanian farmers and stakeholders across agricultural value chain are challenged to be innovative and focus more on producing products which are in high consumer demand amid the pandemic.

Executive director of the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO), Revocatus Kimario says the world is currently experiencing several challenges brought by the pandemic, urging farmers to change and start thinking on the major products with high demand globally.

He says that even though Covid-19, has affected almost all sectors across the globe, Tanzanian farmers can still continue to reap big if they invest their efforts in producing what people needs in the meantime.

"We have to be creative; we should stop complaining at all, there is still a very big opportunity for farmers and traders to benefit from horticulture despite COVID-19 challenges," Kimario told 'The Guardian' in an exclusive interview.

He wants the farmers to form groups and take advantage of the ongoing mega projects in the country to supply their produce.

According to him, SUGECO has conducted a study and found that Tanzania has a very huge market of fresh produce which is yet to be filled by local farmers and traders.

He says that the survey found that there is high demand for spices, vegetables and fresh fish but still local farmers and traders were decrying the lack of market.

According to Kimario, the majority of farmers think that sending their produce abroad is the most payable business, a perception which needs to be changed.

"Farmers should now start engaging on high valued crops like vegetables, short-time fruits, mushrooms, aquaculture and poultry in the areas where they are and they can experience good profit thus transforming their lives," he says.

He acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected farmers and traders due to several measures taken by countries including lockdowns, travel restrictions and closing of borders where the majority of farmers are facing challenges in transporting their produce.

Kimario says that the country needs to undergo youth mindset transformation to change their negative perceptions towards agriculture in a bid to attract more youths in agribusiness undertakings, a move that will curb the current unemployment challenge.



According to him, this can be done through provision of education to youth on entrepreneurship initiatives through training, practical field work and making easy access to capital through provision of loans with lower interest rates and grants to attract their effective involvement in the agribusiness.

"SUGECO is doing its best to change youth mindset on agriculture, we have trained a number of Tanzanians in the country that managed to transform their lives through embarking on modern agriculture, so I hope if these efforts will be accelerated, the country could witness rapid change of the sector," he says.

Janet Maro, executive director of Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) urges farmers to first conduct a market survey before embarking on cultivating a certain crop.

She says it is better for the farmers

to spend time, walk around or search on the internet to see what the market needs the most at the particular time.

"As the World is grappling to fight the second wave of Covid-19, majority of global markets are accessible due to travel restrictions and other conditions, but still Tanzania farmers can earn a lot in the local market, there is high demand of fresh produce in our markets, so I advise farmers to be innovative and produce what can be sold easily," she says.

He named some of the farm produce which have high demand now in the market as species, nutritional flour, peas, sunflower oil, brown rice, beetroots and other organic food products.

Maro says that in its several projects to support farmers, SAT is currently working with some 857 small holder farmers in Mvomero,

Morogoro Rural supporting them to conduct organic farming and thus connect them to markets.

Lucas Ngandi, an onion farmer in Mang'ola, Morogoro says several horticultural producers might consider turning to growing less risky crops due to challenges in the market.

According to him, the just ended onion harvest season has been a mess for him as he has ended up getting losses due to challenges in the market price.

President John Magufuli in his several public speeches has been emphasizing Tanzanians to keep working hard, saying those that have decided to lockdown their countries will need food from Tanzania.

He wants Tanzanians to invest more efforts in farms so as to produce enough food to feed the country and others for export.

"We may not see the impact at present but I am sure, there will be a serious food shortage in the coming years because demand will be high in countries that are on lockup. Demand will be high there because their people have stopped being productive... That will be the right time for those of us who work hard to help our colleagues because they will have no food," he said.

In its report dubbed 'Impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods in Eastern Africa' issued last year, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) urged countries to maintain open borders for the trade of goods and services (including agricultural inputs), especially for critical value chains while ensuring sanitary and human health inspections amid Covid-19 pandemic.

The FAO also urged for countries to also guarantee the safe movement of agricultural workers, including pastoralists within countries and across borders in compliance with international standards and national public health guidelines. In essence, policies should ensure access to goods and services while reducing risks of transmission.

The organization also advised countries to enhance access to digital technologies and services and encourage their use to minimize face-to-face transactions while allowing provision of a wide range of market-oriented services along the value chain.

Cognizant of the digital divide between rural and urban areas, policies should promote different actors (public sector, private sector and civil society organizations) to support farmers' production and marketing activities and raise communities' awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stakeholders want harmonised system of data capturing management across the SADC bloc

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

KNOWLEDGE management and data capture stakeholders in the SADC region have called for harmonized system of data capturing management in the SADC countries.

They said data harmonization helps to get all data required from different fields or sectors at a single window. Unfortunately many countries in the region have no single window, instead each Ministry, institutions and departments have their own system of data capturing depending on their needs.

They were speaking at Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-Pillar 4/ knowledge management and data capture National Stakeholders meeting convened in Dar es Salaam on Monday by Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA).

CCARDESA is a SADC subsidiary created by Member States in 2010 to coordinate regional cooperation in agricultural research and development.

Vida Mahava from Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) said that the countries in the region don't have the harmonized system of data capturing management. Every Ministry, Institution, department has its way of data capturing. Most of the countries are based on information communication knowledge management but not on data capturing systems.

"So, we see this as a challenge and we need to work on it as a country. We need to have a coordinator at national level and other ministries, and department should be taken on board," she said.

She believes that although it is a process but under the coordination of CCARDESA this can be done.

"We have agreed on having a national coordinator who will organize different Ministries and departments so that we have harmonized system on data capturing," she added.

We have a lot of areas of improvement simply because under the system we have the team that works on Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) that coordinate different information where as Malabo issues are being made.

In another development the stakeholders hailed Tanzania for having a good system saying it is better than other countries because there is a team under the Ministry of agriculture under policy and planning that is working on it and it is in place.

Dr Richard Kasuga from TARI said good data collection is vital. He said the main chal-



Dr Richard Kasuga from TARI (R) lead participants from government ministries and departments during discussions on Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-Pillar 4/ knowledge management and data capturing at a national stakeholders meeting in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

lenge in most countries is that they have systems which are not speaking to each other. "We need harmonized data capture and the systems that speak to each other. Each department is working in silo we need to break the silos," he said.

We are meeting in Dar es Salaam to respond to the need for a country to have good data collection systems as far as agriculture sector is concerned and also to respond to the call on Malabo declaration," he added.

Consultants from CCARDESA Dr. Stephen Opiyo and Fally Masambuka said that the issues of not getting the required data are similar in several countries in the region adding that the guidelines provided make it harder for some SADC countries to have harmonized data capture.

"We have been working on several countries. Even before this consultative meeting we have done our research. We had to zero down and say what is the problem,

why people not reporting on the Malabo declaration and SDG's the way they are. So, from this meeting, I realized that there are challenges that are beyond the countries that I feel like the AU has to come in and address those challenges," said Fally Masambuka.

However, the consultants hailed Tanzania for having strong structures compared to other countries saying it is better.

Stephen Opiyo said although there are some challenges but at least there is a good coordination in the Ministries, calling on the government to do more efforts to get required data at a single window as per Malabo declaration.

Echoing the Consultant remarks, Dr. Richard Kasuga from TARI said that is positive remark and a good gesture that Tanzania under the government of Dr. John Pombe Magufuli is doing good and a quite number of things are moving forward very

well including infrastructures and data management.

The meeting drew representatives from the Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Tanzania Meteorological Agency, and National Bureau of statistics among many others and the main theme was to ensure that they contribute to the call of establishment a system of data capture and knowledge management in the country.

The Centre for Coordination of Agriculture Research and Development (CCARDESA) is a Sub-Regional Research Organisation established in 2010 by SADC Member States to coordinate agricultural research and development in the SADC region. CCARDESA was formally launched in July 2011 and became operational in 2013. It partners with national, regional, and continental institutions to advance the regional agricultural research and development agenda.

Ebola infects 14, kills 9 in Guinea, DRC: Africa CDC

ADDIS ABABA

TWO African countries, Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), have reported 14 Ebola virus cases and nine deaths so far, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said Monday.

The Africa CDC, the specialised healthcare agency of the 55-member African Union, reported a fatality rate of 64.3 percent in the two countries.

Since the last report, one new confirmed case, two new deaths and no new recoveries have been reported in the DRC, the Africa CDC said, adding that three new suspected cases were reported in N'zerekore, Guinea.

The Africa CDC, which emphasized that the number of Ebola cases and deaths mainly included cumulative probable and confirmed ones, stressed that the official figures showed that the DRC had seven cases and four deaths while Guinea had seven cases and five deaths.

According to the Africa CDC, neither of the Ebola virus-affected countries has so far reported recoveries. New outbreaks of the deadly Ebola virus disease in the two African countries are sending new jitters to Africa as the continent is still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Africa CDC last week announced that it would deploy an emergency response support team of experts in Guinea to help the country fight the new Ebola outbreak.

The Africa CDC also said that it will call for an emergency meeting of experts to better coordinate emergency responses in Guinea and in neighboring countries across the region, in collaboration with the West African Health Organization. The 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola virus outbreak claimed over 11,300 lives, with over 28,600 recovered cases.

Ebola is a highly contagious hemorrhagic fever that causes a range of symptoms including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, generalized pain or malaise and in many cases internal and external bleeding.

Security and community: Safeguarding operations in Mozambique

By Charnè Hundermark in Maputo

WITH substantial offshore gas discoveries coming to over 100 trillion cubic feet, Mozambique has seen an influx in foreign investment aimed at driving liquefied natural gas (LNG) developments in-country.

But though major energy and infrastructure projects are indeed spurring job creation and a rise in local activity, the risk of the “resource curse” – in which resource-rich countries fail to fully benefit from their resource wealth owing to immediate expropriation of resources and lack of reinvestment in the economy – presents a major challenge to both local communities and project developers.

To safeguard LNG operations and ensure sustainable project development, oil and gas players must join forces with local government to co-implement standardised security regulations and foster community cooperation that showcases tangible benefits and prioritises local empowerment.

In recent months, there has been a proliferation of security threats to Mozambique’s LNG industry with the rise in militant Islamic group attacks in the Cabo Delgado region – home to the country’s large-scale LNG developments.

To mitigate the threat to its operations, French major Total even withdrew staff from its LNG site last month.

In an opinion piece, African Energy Chamber executive chairman NJ Ayuk notes that the violence in Cabo Delgado is jeopardising one of Mozambique’s most promising paths to economic growth and diversification: the strategic development of the area’s offshore gas reserves.

The situation in Cabo Delgado has, therefore, emphasized the need for standardised security regulation which, if implemented effectively, can establish an investor-safe environment and safeguard operations.

According to C. Derek Campbell, CEO of Energy & Natural Resources Security Inc., a primary regulatory and operational challenge in Africa is the lack of a consistent security framework that guides owners and operators of critical energy infrastructure on how to ensure resiliency and continuity for assets and operations.

Through the implementation and execution of security-specific regulation, Mozambique can establish a protected business environment for stakeholders and



stimulate sectoral growth.

Additionally, the increase in physical security threats has brought attention to the benefits of government collaboration with LNG developers.

In a bid to address the rise in attacks, Total signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Mozambique in August 2020. This saw the establishment of a joint task force to ensure the security of LNG project activities.

This form of collaboration demonstrates the advantages of security cooperation and has the potential to increase safety on-site.

In addition to institutionalising a security framework, dealing with security risks should go beyond established risk management protocols. One of the primary drivers of community unrest and retaliation concerns the lack of socio-economic development directed to-

wards the local population.

To prevent this trend and ensure long-term, sustainable development, LNG projects have a critical role to play in establishing community cooperation through mutual beneficence.

Ayuk notes that the oil and gas industry should work with the Mozambican government to ensure that benefits of natural gas monetisation extend beyond short-term job creation and projected government revenues.

Instead, LNG projects should ensure immediate and tangible benefits for local communities through outreach programmes and oil money-management strategies, including an agreed percentage of LNG revenue set aside for local communities.

Community outreach programmes and the establishment of mutual LNG benefits comprise effective strategies that, according to Ayuk, will transition Mozambique from react-

ing to attacks and crises to proactively preventing violence and setting the stage for a more secure future.

The sustainability of LNG project developments can often be determined by community support, achieved through community empowerment and active participation. As mentioned, increases in physical security threats and vandalism can often be attributed to poverty alleviation, socio-economic development and higher standards of living not being realised, despite significant energy potential.

Therefore, by prioritising local content and capacity building through the training of – and outreach and skills transfer to – the local community, LNG projects can both safeguard operations and ensure long-term success for projects.

“I already believe that community members stand to benefit from Total’s Mozambique LNG and other gas initiatives because of the long-term opportunities they will create to ease the area’s widespread energy poverty, support capacity building and contribute to economic diversification and growth,” says Ayuk.

“Communities could invest fund returns into programs that translate into improved quality of life and job opportunities. As a result, disenfranchisement, desperation and violence would decrease,” adds the AEC executive chairman.

Mozambique’s ongoing security threats can be addressed through community participation and cooperation – and can also be as well as reinforced through security regulation and government support.

In this way, LNG projects can ensure the safe continuity of operations alongside facilitating increased investment in the country and long-term industry success. The success of the country lies not only in the success of its energy industry but also in the energy industry’s ability to translate LNG revenues into tangible social and economic benefits.

Africa Oil & Power is working with the Mozambican government towards promoting investment in energy and diverse sectors, including agriculture, industry, tourism, construction and logistics in 2021.

On March 8-9 it will host a Presidential Award ceremony and Workshops Day in the Mozambican capital, preceding the Mozambique Gas & Power 2021 conference and exhibition.

How rich is Saudi Arabia? The kingdom does the math in balance sheet overhaul

DUBAI

SAUDI Arabia wants to demystify its finances. The kingdom is working on creating a consolidated balance sheet of its assets and liabilities which will include items currently kept off the oil-rich economy’s books, including the investments and debts of its powerful sovereign wealth fund.

“The main purpose of this programme is to have a financial equivalent of an MRI of the government balance sheet,” a Finance Ministry spokesman told Reuters, adding that it would include assets and liabilities that are currently “off-balance sheet”.

Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman has put Public Investment Fund (PIF), Saudi Arabia’s main sovereign wealth fund, at the centre of reforms aimed at diversifying the economy of the world’s top oil exporter away from fossil fuel.

Under the prince’s chairmanship, PIF has transformed from a sleepy sovereign wealth fund into a global investment vehicle making multi-billion dollar bets on hi-tech companies such as Uber as well as other equity investments and pledging tens of billions of dollars to funds run by Japan’s Softbank.

Its financial statements are not published and it does not feature in the kingdom’s budget, which is publicly available.

Gulf countries don’t typically publish information about their overall debts and assets but the PIF’s riskier investment profile and infusion of state funding have made its opacity an issue for some investors.

“Transfers of wealth from liquid pools of assets like central bank reserves into PIF’s less liquid (and less transparent) investments increases the overall risk profile of the public sector balance sheet,” said Kirjanis Krustins, a director in Fitch’s sovereign team.

“Debt investors would tend to see the government and its key government related entities such as PIF as representing substantially the same risk. Thus the leveraging up of the broader Saudi complex could at some point impact the government’s own borrowing costs,” he said.

The government media office did not respond to a request for comment.

ARAMCO BILLIONS

The government started working in the second half of last year on the so-called Sovereign Asset and Liability Management (SALM) framework and the spokesman said it was a ‘long-term project’ with no decision yet made on when and how its results would be disclosed.

“If we use benchmarks we will see countries spent a couple of years to implement the consolidation phase,” he said of the project.

The PIF’s finances are formidable.

Its assets have swelled to \$400 billion as of 2020 from \$150 billion in 2015, with the fund bolstered by an expected \$70 billion payday from Saudi Aramco, the state oil company, for PIF’s stake in a petrochemical giant and a \$40 billion transfer from the central bank’s for-



Saudi woman walks at the Saudi stock market (Tadawul), in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia March 9, 2020. (File photo)

eign reserves.

It was also the recipient of nearly \$30 billion in proceeds from Aramco’s initial public offering in 2019.

The fund has raised \$21 billion in loans between 2018 and 2019, and is finalising a new facility expected to be over \$10 billion in size, sources have said.

THE ‘NORMAL’ WAY

Despite Saudi’s oil wealth, creating enough jobs for the kingdom’s young population is one of the biggest challenges facing Prince Mohammed, known in the West as MbS.

The government has been pushing through economic policies since 2016 aiming to create millions of jobs and reduce unemployment to 7% by 2030. But fiscal austerity to contain a yawning deficit has slowed investment, and the coronavirus crisis last year pushed unemployment up to a record 15.4%.

To get the deficit down from an eye-watering 12% of GDP last year to a shortfall of 4.9% by the end of this year, Riyadh has slashed capital spending.

It is relying instead on the PIF to fund some of the major infrastructure projects to help boost growth, including NEOM, a \$500 billion high-tech business zone, and the recently announced “The Line”, a 1 million inhabitants carbon-free city in NEOM, expected to cost between \$100 billion and \$200 billion.

PIF plans to inject at least 150 billion riyals (\$40 billion) annually into the local economy until 2025, and to increase its assets to 4 trillion riyals (\$1.07 trillion) by that date, Prince Mohammed has said.

“MBS understands that unless the economy grows at a rate above 6.5-7%, the youth unemployment rate will stagnate or grow – and that is a ticking time bomb,” said Khaled Abdel Majeed, MENA fund manager at London-based SAM Capital Partners, an investment advisory firm, commenting about transfers of state funds to PIF.

“Doing things the ‘normal’ way through ‘normal’ channels will take more time than is available.”

Agencies

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
09.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05 HRS	DURU ZETU
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	AFRO TIZII

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE

CAPITAL RADIO

WEDNESDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-21:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
21:00-22:00HRS	SPORTS
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA(marudio)
00:00-04:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)
04:00-05:00HRS	SPOTI(marudio)

BUSINESS

Airtel fights jail push in SportPesa dispute

NAIROBI

EXECUTIVES of telecoms company Airtel have launched a fight against contempt of court charges which put them at risk of fines or jail terms after the mobile operator was sucked into a dispute between the State and betting firm, SportPesa.

The mobile operator is seeking protection against a contempt suit filed by the betting firm which has accused it of failing to unblock gaming pay bill accounts and short codes used by its partner Milestones Games Limited despite a court order to do so.

The dispute kicked off last year after the State-run Betting Control and Licensing Board (BCLB) stopped Milestone from operating under the popular SportPesa gaming brand, saying the trade name had been appropriated from its rightful owner Pevans East Africa Limited.

The regulator also prohibited Milestones from using the short codes 29050 and 79079, pay bill numbers 521521, 9555700 and 955700.

Milestone challenged the decision and on December 3, 2020 obtained a court order allowing it to continue operating.

BCLB officials and Airtel, however, refused to reactivate the short codes and paybill numbers—prompting the betting firm to return to court to press for contempt charges.

Airtel in its defence, however, said as a regulated entity it had an obligation to comply with directives of the regulator, unless served with a court order suspending the directive.

Airtel's legal manager, Lillian Mugo, revealed that on November 3, 2020, the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) and the BCLB wrote to the mobile phone operator, directing it to terminate the short codes/USSD codes and pay bill numbers issued to Pevans due to compliance issues pending conclusion of investigations.

The mobile operator said the deactivated short codes and paybill numbers were issued to Pevans and could not be transferred to Milestone.

"That in compliance with the said directive, Airtel did suspend all its services as offered to Pevans Ltd which included the contracts, short codes/USSD codes and paybill numbers in favour of Pevans Ltd, which suspension still stands to date," Ms Mugo said.

The CA, she said, also told Airtel to desist from reactivating the short codes and the paybill numbers earlier

assigned to Pevans, until advised to do so.

Milestone moved to court seeking to have BCLB chairman Cyrus Maina and six other board members jailed for contempt of court. The betting company also wanted Airtel, Safaricom and CA officials jailed for contempt.

"To preserve the dignity of court and inviolability of the judicial process it is imperative that this application be heard forthwith and in particular the errant Respondent and its board members be penalised for contempt of court," the company said through its lawyer Willis Otieno.

Ms Mugo said Airtel entered into two contracts with Pevans to facilitate disbursement of Pevans' payment to third parties using Airtel's money transfer service.

Pursuant to the contracts, Airtel allowed and issued various short-codes/USSD codes and pay bill numbers assigned in favour of Pevans to be used on its platforms.

Ms Mugo argued Milestone had not demonstrated that Airtel violated its rights as alleged and the contractual relationships.

Milestone, she said, had never approached Airtel for a partnership with regards to Airtel's money services or issuance of short-codes or pay bill numbers.

"That Airtel will suffer irreparable loss and prejudice if the orders prayed against it in the application are granted as currently (as the matter stand) there is no relationship whatsoever (contractual or otherwise) between itself and Milestone," Ms Mugo said.

Under the terms of the contract, she argued, neither Airtel nor Pevans would transfer or assign any of its rights without express consent of the other. She added any assignment to Milestone without Airtel's express consent was therefore void.

Mr Maina, the BCLB chairman, said Milestone moved to court to challenge a letter that had already been overtaken by events because the genesis of the complaint has since been withdrawn.

He said Milestone was given a fair hearing before its bookmaker's licence was cancelled and that there was nothing barring the firm from making a fresh application.

"Due process was strictly followed to that effect and it was indeed given a fair opportunity to show cause in writing and also accorded a fair hearing where it was even represented by an advocate," Mr Maina said.

Geita Gold emerges overall top performer in the mining sector

By Guardian Reporter

GEITA Gold Mining Limited has emerged winner in three key categories and overall best performer of the mining sector for the financial year 2019/2020 at awards given by the Government during the annual Tanzania Mineral and Mining Investment Conference at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam.

In an event officiated by Vice President, Samia Suluhu, GGML was recognized for its outstanding contribution to the mining industry in Government revenue

collections, performance in environmental and safety issues as well as in executing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects for the period 2019/2020.

Speaking shortly after receiving the awards on the sidelines of the conference, GGML's Vice President (Sustainability), Simon Shayo expressed appreciation for the Government's recognition and pledged to continue working with all stakeholders in the mining industry to ensure the Government's vision of increasing the contribution of the mining industry to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is realized.

"Emerging winners in tax, environment and safety categories as well as in our sustainable community investment is testament to our vision to become the leading global mining company.

"This recognition also ascertains our position as a key development partner to the Government of Tanzania and is aligned to one of our core values - to ensure that the communities surrounding the Mine are better off for AngloGold Ashanti having been there," affirmed Shayo.

"Over the past 21 years, GGML has been an active participant in the initiatives that the Government

of Tanzania has been undertaking to improve the mining industry's potential, including engagement and consultative processes that are regularly championed by the Ministry of Minerals.

"GGML will continue to work with the Government and other stakeholders to attain and hopefully surpass the target for the Mining sector to contribute 10% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025," the GGML Vice President Sustainability further explained.

This year, GGML was also one of the main sponsors of the two-day conference which ended on 23 February 2021.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents the award to GGML official, Simon Shayo after the company emerged winner in three key categories and overall best performer in the mining sector for financial year 2019/2020.

Banks cut deposit rates to eight-year low

NAIROBI

INTEREST on fixed deposits dropped to an eight-year low on bankers' reduced appetite for savings following a slowdown in demand for loans.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data shows that the deposit rate dropped to 6.3 per cent last December from 7.1 per cent in December 2019. This is the lowest level since February 2013.

The fall is linked to a rise in fixed deposits from

wealthy investors and firms in a year when restrictions imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19 reduced investments opportunities that also cut demand for loans.

The falling returns on savings is a blow to high net worth investors and cash-rich firms who last year opted to hold onto cash, leading to a pile-up in bank accounts.

"Generally a decrease in the rate shows decreased appetite for the banks to mobilise funding for on-

ward lending," said Habil Olaka, the chief executive officer of Kenya Bankers Association.

"When demand for loans is not high, banks prefer not to keep deposits that they are not going to lend, but when loan uptake improves, the ripple effect is that banks will offer more returns for savings."

The bulk of savings accounts do not earn interest because most banks have set a threshold below which they take the deposits for free.

Interest rate on the savings dropped to a five-year low in December to 2.7 percent from 4.25 percent in January last year. This is a sharp contrast to 2018 when interest on savings accounts averaged 6.37 percent.

Banks have been taking a cautious approach to extending fresh credit in an environment where companies and individuals sought moratorium on their loans in the wake of the public health crisis.

Businesses cut down on their activities in response to the infectious disease, leading to job cuts and unpaid leave for retained

staff as profitable firms move into losses.

This has seen workers who had tapped mortgages and unsecured loans for purchase of goods such as furniture and cars and expenses like school fees default.

Unsecured loans are given on the strength of one's salary. Firms that had borrowed based on the forecast of cash flows have also been struggling to repay their bank loans.

As result, banks have gone slow on lending, reducing the scramble for deposits that put pressure on interest they paid on savings.

This came as rich individuals and big companies, seeking a safe haven for their wealth, last year stockpiled billions of shillings. CBK data shows that deposits increased by Sh467.5 billion last year while net lending rose Sh223.4 billion.

Fixed deposits rose by Sh150 billion to a record Sh1.53 trillion, the highest jump since 1995 when data on savings are available.

This is an indication that the wealthy are protecting their value rather than seeking new areas in

which to invest their fortunes.

The jump in deposits emerged after Kenya announced its first Covid-19 cases and imposed tough restrictions, including a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

Demand at home and in export markets slumped as consumers stayed indoors to avoid catching the virus and because of government containment measures, forcing firms and the rich to freeze investments plans.

Low returns from a bearish stock market and a slump in real estate have also seen the rich opt to keep cash in banks and tap the interest returns, which hit a peak of 8.26 percent in January 2018.

"Most business are still operating at around 40 percent of their pre-Covid-19 levels. If the hospitality and transport industries get their vibrate back, the demand for loans will increase and the ripple effect is an increase in the deposits and the savings rate offered by banks to entice the public for onward lending," says Ken Gichinga, the chief economist at Mentor Economics.



Central Bank of Kenya complex in Nairobi. File Photo.

RwandAir to become first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass

KIGALI

RWANDAIR, thenational carrier, is set to become the first African airline to trial the innovative new IATA Travel Pass starting April this year, following a partnership with the global body that facilitates international air travel.

This was announced in a statement issued by

the airline yesterday. IATA is the International Air Transport Association and the IATA Travel Pass is a digital platform that will help passengers easily and securely verify that they comply with Covid-19 test or vaccine travel requirements, in turn giving governments the confidence to reopen borders.

According to the statement, the trial will play a critical role in Rwanda's vision to enable safe and seamless international travel experience for its passengers.

The first phase will be a three-week trial which will be done on the airline's Kigali-Nairobi route, enabling passengers

to receive Covid-19 test results and verify that they are eligible to undertake their journey.

It will also allow passengers to safely and securely share their verified 'OK to Travel' status with the airline, before arriving at the airport.

The platform is designed to be incorporated into

airlines' own apps, in order for air passengers to understand what they need before they fly.

"RwandAir is proud to be the first African airline to trial IATA Travel Pass, which could reinforce all the health and safety measures and protocols which we have put in place to restore customer confidence to fly once

more," noted Yvonne Manzi Makolo, RwandAir's Chief Executive.

She added, "We are incredibly proud to be part of IATA's Industry Advisory Panel, to ensure we guide the technology development in a way that covers the unique requirements of our passenger profile."

Makolo pointed out

that IATA's development simplifies and digitally transmits the information required by countries and governments around the world into our airline systems, in a secure and efficient manner.

"Travel Pass will make it easy for our customers to resume flying - and just as easy for RwandAir, and airlines around the world,

to accept them."

Makolo shares similar sentiments with Alexandre de Juniac, IATA Director General and CEO, who cited that IATA Travel Pass will give governments the confidence to re-open their borders knowing that arriving passengers are in full compliance with any testing or vaccination requirements.

Hyundai Motor expects EV demand jump

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean automaker Hyundai Motor Co launched its Ioniq 5 midsize crossover on Tuesday, the first in a planned family of electric vehicles (EV) that it hopes will propel it into the third rank of global EV makers by 2025.

The company says the model is based on a new electric vehicle-only platform that uses its own battery module technology and requires fewer components than Hyundai's existing electric cars, enabling faster production at lower cost.

The launch of Ioniq 5 is the linchpin of Hyundai's long-term goal to capture 10 percent of global EV sales by 2025, up from a combined market share of 7.2 percent for Hyundai and Kia together during the January-September period in 2020, according to industry tracker SNE Research. Hyundai Motor and its sister company Kia Corp together aim to sell 1 million EVs in 2025.

"We expect this year's (global) EV demand will increase more than 30% versus last year," Hyundai Motor President Chang Jae-hoon told a news conference.

The Ioniq 5 will have a maximum driving range of about 480 kms (298 miles), up nearly 20 percent from the Kona EV,



which previously had the longest range among Hyundai's EV lineup.

It will offer two battery pack options - 58-kilowatt-hour (kWh) or 72.6 kWh - and will be available in selected regions starting in the first half of 2021, Hyundai said in a statement.

The South Korean automaker did not

disclose the price of the Ioniq 5, but Hyundai Motor Europe President Michael Cole said in Europe it would start at about 42,000 euros (\$51,100) before government incentives.

Hyundai is targeting sales of 100,000 units globally next year, with about 30 percent to 40 percent in Europe, 30% in

North America and 20% in South Korea.

"Hyundai will be able to increase its presence in the global EV market as it adds a new EV, considering that the company showed solid performance with its major EV Kona Electric," said Kevin Yoo, an analyst at eBEST Investment & Securities.

Lucid Motors goes public in \$24-billion mega SPAC deal

NEW YORK

LUXURY electric vehicle maker Lucid Motors on Monday agreed to go public by merging with blank-check firm Churchill Capital IV Corp in a deal that valued the combined company at a pro-forma equity value of \$24 billion.

Lucid, run by an ex-Tesla engineer, is the latest firm to tap the initial public offering market, with investors rushing into the EV sector, spurred by the rise of Tesla Inc and with emissions regulations toughening in Europe and elsewhere.

The deal, which has a transaction equity value of \$11.75 billion, includes a \$2.1 billion cash contribution from CCIV and a PIPE (private investment in public equity) investment of 2.5 billion from investors.

Other prominent players in the sector went public through mergers with so-called special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) last year. While some deals such as Fisker have delivered well, others such as Nikola have given up short-term gains.

Reuters was first to report last week that Michael Klein had launched a financing effort to back the Lucid deal.

The publicly traded shares of CCIV fell nearly a third to \$40.35 in volatile extended trading, giving the merged company a market capitalization of about \$64 billion. By comparison, General Motors Co is worth about \$76 billion.

Lucid said it is on track to start production and deliveries in North America in the second half of this year with Lucid Air, its first luxury sedan. It had previously said it planned to start its deliveries in spring of 2021.

Lucid, which plans to build vehicles at its factory in Arizona, aims to deliver 20,000 vehicles in 2022 and 251,000 in 2026 by adding other models like an electric sport utility vehicle.

With a starting price of \$77,400, the sedan is slated to be the first to achieve a 500-mile (805 km) driving range.

After Lucid priced its sedan, Tesla chief Elon Musk announced a price cut to its flagship Model S sedan. "The gauntlet has been thrown down!" he tweeted.

HSBC curbs profit and payout ambitions as it bets on Asia wealth

HONG KONG

HSBG Holdings PLC on Tuesday abandoned its long-term profitability target, and unveiled a revised strategy focused mainly on wealth management in Asia after the COVID-19 shock saw its annual profits drop sharply.

Citing the low interest rate environment and tough market conditions, HSBC ditched its goal of achieving a return on tangible equity of 10 to 12 percent, and said instead it will aim for 10 percent over the medium term.

The moves by Europe's biggest bank underlined the tough outlook for the banking sector as low interest rates worldwide take their toll, even as a global markets rally boosted the prospects for the wealth management business.

The margin pressure and mounting losses in Europe have forced HSBC to redouble its focus on Asia which provided a dominant share of the bank's profits in 2020.

"The big structural shift that's gone on since we set out the plan last February has really been the shift in interest rates down toward zero in most markets that we do business in," Ewen Stevenson, HSBC's group chief financial officer, told Reuters.

"If interest rates were 100 basis points higher today across the board it would improve our returns by 3 percentage points."

The bank said it would pay a dividend of \$0.15 a share in cash, the first payout announced since October 2019, after the Bank of England blocked all big lenders from paying dividends or buying back shares in 2020 to conserve capital.

However, it said it would stop the previous practice of paying a quarterly dividend, and target a payout ratio of between 40 percent and 55 percent of reported earnings per ordinary share from 2022 onwards, well below the level in recent years.

HSBC also said it will make hefty cuts to some of its back office functions such as technology and operations, without specifying the number of jobs affected. The lender cut 11,000 jobs in 2020 and had signalled it would make further reductions.

The announcement came as HSBC reported profit before tax of \$8.78 billion for 2020, down 34 percent from a year earlier but just above the \$8.33 billion average of analysts' estimates compiled by the bank.

HSBC's Hong Kong shares were up 0.55 percent by 0750 GMT, lagging the benchmark Hang Seng index as investors considered the bank's dividend cut and modest strategic ambitions.

Investors were resigned to HSBC's more modest ambitions and growth target.

"It's hard to have high ambitions in this climate, or at least dangerous to declare them if they exist," said Hugh Young, managing director at Aberdeen Standard, the bank's 9th-largest shareholder.

HSBC said that its growth in Asia for the next five years will be driven by around \$6 billion of additional investment in its wealth management and international wholesale

business.

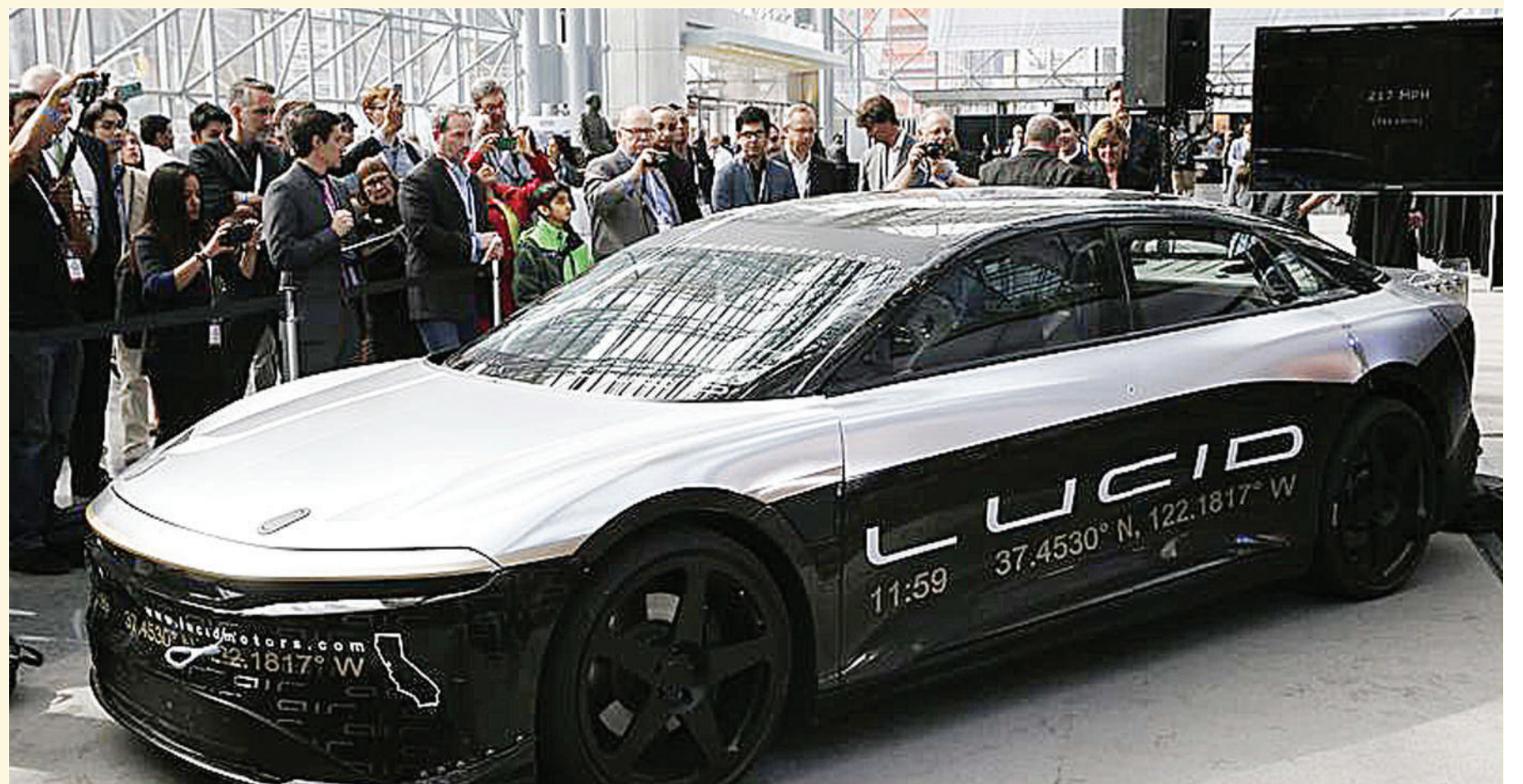
"Everyone realises how big an economic opportunity China and India are but HSBC is starting to realise no-one has the opportunity to serve that wealth creation like they do," said Dan Lane, a senior analyst at UK digital broker Freetrade.

"The prospect doesn't come cheap but it looks like the company is finally ready to pump cash into getting even more East Asian customers on board."

Profit from the bank's wealth

management and personal banking division in Asia was \$5 billion in 2020, but its cash cow Hong Kong accounted for almost all of this, despite its controversial decision to assist Hong Kong police with investigations into pro-democracy activists.

Elsewhere in the world, HSBC said it is in talks with a potential buyer for its troubled France retail banking unit, which it has been trying to dispose for over a year, but no deal has been confirmed.



The Lucid Air speed test car is displayed at the 2017 New York International Auto Show in New York City, U.S. April 13, 2017. File Photo

Commodities rally, stocks steady, yields off highs

MILAN

OPTIMISM about the economic outlook pushed commodity prices to new highs on Tuesday, helping stocks steady as expectations of a dovish testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell calmed down bond yields.

The MSCI world equity benchmark was flat near two week lows by 0919 GMT, helped by gains in commodity-heavy equity indexes in Asia and a rally in European travel stocks on the prospect of easing social restrictions.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson set out a phased plan on Monday to end a COVID-19 lockdown in the world's sixth largest economy.

World stocks had been weighed down in recent sessions by a rapid surge in global bond yields which fuelled expectations that

central banks could eventually turn less accommodative in a bid to tame inflation. Tech stocks were among the hardest hit.

But the sell-off in the bond market eased after European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde said on Monday the central bank was "closely monitoring" rising borrowing costs.

Investors now expect Fed's Powell to be equally reassuring when he testifies before Congress at 1500 GMT.

"If there were already any expectations that Powell could try to calm down rates, then (Lagarde's remarks) have just further cemented them," said Giuseppe Sersale, strategist and fund manager at Anthonia in Milan.

Tech stocks and rate-sensitive sectors like utilities in Europe however fell, offsetting stronger travel and commodity stocks

and pushing down the STOXX 600 regional benchmark by 0.6%.

In Asia, the rally in commodities lifted Australia's S&P/ASX 200 0.9 percent, while tech-laden South Korea's Kospi lost 0.3 percent. Japanese markets were shut for a public holiday.

Nasdaq futures were down 0.6 percent at three-week lows after high-growth stocks such as Apple, Microsoft and Tesla dragged the index down 2.5 percent on Monday, while S&P 500 futures inched 0.1 percent lower.

Bond yields have risen sharply this month as prospects of more U.S. fiscal stimulus boosted hopes for a faster economic recovery globally. However, that is also fuelling inflation worries, prompting investors to sell growth stocks that have rallied in recent months.

"Real U.S. interest rates are now in positive territory, which has created some concern around the consequences for equities markets," Cesar Perez Ruiz, chief investment officer at Pictet Wealth Management said in a report.

U.S. 10-year Treasury yields edged up to 1.374 percent but remained below the one-year high of 1.394 percent hit on Monday.

Germany's 10-year Bund yields also rose to -0.309 percent but were below the 8-month high of -0.278 percent hit in the previous session.

Commodity prices strengthened again. Oil prices jumped by more than \$1, underpinned by optimism over COVID-19 vaccine rollouts and lower output as U.S. supplies were slow to return after a deep freeze in Texas shut in crude production last week.

Brent crude was last up 0.9 percent at

\$66.18 a barrel after earlier hitting a fresh 13-month high of \$66.79, while U.S. crude rose 1.2 percent to \$62.45 a barrel.

"Oil has been caught up in the broader commodities move higher, with a weaker USD proving constructive for the complex," ING strategists led by Warren Patterson said in a note.

"Meanwhile, there is also a growing view that the oil market is looking increasingly tight over the remainder of the year".

Copper prices meanwhile hit a 9-1/2-year high as tight supply and solid demand from top consumer China boosted sentiment.

In currency markets, the dollar briefly dropped to its lowest since Jan. 13 ahead of Powell's testimony, while commodity-linked currencies hovered near multi-year highs.

The dollar index was up 0.1% at 90.143, with the euro flat at \$1.2151.

US bill rates risk going negative but stimulus could change the course

WASHINGTON

SHORT-dated U.S. Treasury debt yields risk turning negative as the U.S. government curbs sales of Treasury bills, but analysts are looking at the progress of the stimulus bill to assess whether any dip in yields could be a temporary issue.

Bill yields last turned negative in March 2020 amid market turmoil prompted by the pandemic spreading to the United States. If borrowing rates fall too far it could disrupt key funding markets and hurt the almost \$5 trillion money market fund industry, making funds hesitant to accept new investments.

The U.S. Treasury Department, slashing its cash balance after amassing liquidity to pay for fiscal stimulus, which was delayed, said earlier this month it plans to cut its cash balance to \$500 billion in June, from \$1.7 trillion at year-end. That could pressure bills - U.S. government debt issues with maturities of one year or less - into nega-

tive territory.

But those projections do not account for new fiscal spending and if the Biden administration passes a larger bill than expected, and one that necessitates a lot of cash out the door fast, then cuts to bill issuance - and possible negative yields - may not prove lasting.

"If we do get a large package, call it in the next month, then bill supply is going to need to ramp up at the Treasury still has a huge cash balance that they can rely on but it will also need to keep bill supply positive in the near term to help finance that and smooth things through from a supply perspective," he said.

The U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee on Monday approved legislation with \$1.9 trillion in new coronavirus relief, advancing a top priority of President Joe Biden. The full House, which has a slim Democratic majority, hopes to pass the bill later this week.

One-month, three-month and six-month yields were at 2-to-4 basis points on Monday.



The Federal Reserve building is pictured in Washington, DC.

If yields do turn negative for any significant length of time the Federal Reserve may need to intervene and increase the interest it pays on excess reserves (IOER), Griffiths said.

The Fed has relied on tweaks to IOER,

which is what it pays banks for reserve balances, and to rates in its overnight reverse repurchase agreement (repo) facility in the past to keep the fed funds rate inside of its target band. That is currently zero to 25 basis points.

least for the short term," said Zachary Griffiths, a macro strategist at Wells Fargo in Charlotte. Raising these rates can lure more cash away from other lending markets, and ease the downward pressure on short-term rates.

The Treasury cannot sell bills with negative rates, but they have traded in negative territory in the secondary markets during times of stress and when demand for safe assets has outstripped supply.

Blake Gwinn, a rates strategist at NatWest Markets, said the Fed is unlikely to act on negative bill rates unless they persist for a long time.

A larger risk, he said, is if the fed funds rate, which was 7 basis points on Friday, dips below the 5 basis-point area, which would likely prompt the Fed to act.

The fed funds market is dominated by Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) such as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home

Loan Bank System. If this rate falls to 2 or 3 basis points, they may prefer to park cash with the Fed, which would leave the market very illiquid and prone to large swings in borrowing rates, Gwinn said.

The likelihood of Fed action may also depend on monthly investment patterns of GSEs, which each month temporarily park principal and interest from mortgage-backed securities (MBS) in repo, before pulling it out to pay the owners of the MBS.

That temporarily pulls down the repo rate, which can in turn send fed funds lower.

Overnight repo rates fell as low as zero on Thursday, and were five basis points on Monday.

The Fed has indicated it is aware of the issue, noting in recent minutes an expected decline in the federal funds rate in the second quarter, but has not expressed near-term concern.

Asian stocks advancing in commodities-inspired rally

SINGAPORE

ASIAN shares rebounded from two-week lows on Tuesday as rising commodity prices boosted market expectations of an improved growth outlook, a day after rising U.S. Treasury yields and inflation prospects hit U.S. tech shares.

Europe's Eurostoxx 50 futures and Germany's DAX futures FDXcl both gained 0.2 percent, while futures for London's FTSE 100 rose 0.3 percent. E-mini futures for the S&P 500 advanced 0.5 percent.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan advanced 0.4 percent to 726.6 after dipping to 719.8, the lowest level in two weeks. The gauge has eased from last week's record top but is still up about 9 percent so far this year.

Buoyed by the rally in commodities, the Australian S&P/ASX 200 index to rose nearly 0.9 percent. Singapore's Straits Times index put on 0.6 percent and Taiwan was up 0.2 percent. Hong Kong advanced 1 percent, while the tech-laden South Korea's Kospi lost 0.3 percent.

Japanese markets were closed for a public holiday.

"We are in unprecedented times, but the likelihood is that low interest rates will persist long after the world economy has shaken off the pandemic," Keith Wade,

chief strategist at Schroders said in a note.

"For financial markets, such an outlook will intensify the search for yield and no doubt create volatility and bubbles as investors chase returns in 'the zero' environment, Wade added.

On Wall Street, high-growth stocks such as Apple, Microsoft and Tesla weighed on the Nasdaq Composite, which shed 2.5 percent on Monday.

Commodity prices again strengthened on Tuesday. Oil prices rose on a tight global supply outlook after U.S. production was hammered by frigid weather and an approaching meeting of top crude producers is expected to keep output largely in check.

Analysts said markets were taking a cue from stronger commodity prices that the rise implied strong economic activity.

Brent crude was up 1.1% to \$66.4, holding firm near one-year highs. Spot gold also rose to a one-week high to \$1,812.6 an ounce as inflation worries boosted the bullion's appeal as a hedge.

The strength in commodities kept the Australian dollar steady at \$0.79 against the U.S. dollar, just near a three-year high.

Bond yields have risen sharply this month as prospects of more U.S. fiscal stimulus boosted hopes for a faster economic recovery globally.

Huawei 2020 revenue ticks up in spite of US sanctions

SHANGHAI

HUAWEI Technologies saw slight revenue and profit growth in 2020, in line with its expectations, its rotating chairman said on Tuesday, even as Washington toughened up sanctions against the Chinese telecom equipment maker.

The company was put on an export blacklist by former U.S. President Donald Trump in 2019 and barred from accessing critical technology of U.S. origin, affecting its ability to design its own chips and source components from outside vendors. Huawei has repeatedly denied it poses a security risk.

"Huawei was confronted with some extraordinary difficulties last year," rotating Chairman Ken Hu said at industry event Mobile World Congress Shanghai.

"Operations were relatively stable and in line with our guidance, registering slight growth in revenue and profit."

Earlier this month, the company's founder and Chief Executive Ren Zhengfei said he hoped the Biden administration would "harbour an open policy" towards U.S. firms doing business with Huawei in his first comments to the media in about a year.

China has so far spent more than 260 billion yuan (\$40.27 billion) in building its 5G network, an official with the Ministry of Information and Technology said on Tuesday. Huawei on Monday unveiled its new 5G Mate X2 foldable phone, which will use the company's proprietary Kirin processor.

Though with the cheapest model starting at 17,999 yuan (\$2,788), the phone is not positioned to challenge the mainstream phone market. Huawei set up 50,000 5G base stations in Indonesia, Hu said, adding that it plans to build 2,000 base stations in remote regions of Ghana. The company is expected to post its full-year results in March, a spokesman said.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	CAPITAL	RADIO ONE
<p>WEDNESDAY 6 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt 10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>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 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 The Base 00:00 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV</p> <p>THURSDAY 7 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu 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 Ijue sheria rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo</p>	<p>20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>FRIDAY 8 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 Kiislam 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 The Base 00:00 DWTV</p> <p>SATURDAY 9 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang 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</p> <p>SUNDAY 10 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Movie rpt: Funzo 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:14 Bongo Movie: Huba 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>WED 06 Jan</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Thurs 07 Jan</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the spotlight 19:30 Tanzania yetu 20:00 Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Frid 08 Jan</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:30 Eco@Africa</p>

WORLD

US Republicans grappling with legacy of ex-leader

NEW YORK

REPUBLICANS fight Democrats while Democrats battle each other.

That's the way it has been in US politics for decades, but now the party of Abraham Lincoln is the party of Donald Trump, and infighting among Republicans is showing widening fissures in the party. And some are violating Ronald Reagan's so-called Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican."

Chief among them are two "formers": the former president and the former Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell.

"Mitch is a dour, sullen, and unsmiling political hack," said Trump after McConnell voted to acquit him at his second impeachment trial on Feb 6 but then blamed Trump for the Jan 6 riot at the US Capitol.

"There's no question, none, that president Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of the day. No question about it," said McConnell in a speech on the floor of the Senate, where he is now the GOP minority leader.

In a Feb 15 op-ed article in The Wall Street Journal, McConnell wrote: "His supporters stormed the Capitol because of the unhinged

falsehoods he shouted into the world's largest megaphone. His behavior during and after the chaos was also unconscionable."

Now, state GOP parties - along with Trump - are retaliating against the 10 Republicans in the House who voted to impeach the ex-president and the seven in the Senate who voted to convict him of inciting the attack on the Capitol.

They are using votes of censure or vows of putting up alternative candidates in primaries against them. State party leaders have defended the punitive moves, which display a groundswell of outrage from grassroots conservatives. "Censures from the state parties are just a reflection of where the party is at," one former Trump adviser who wasn't named told The Hill website. "When these senators voted against Trump, they knew exactly what the fallout would be."

The vote by Senator Bill Cassidy to convict Trump was one of the biggest surprises of the impeachment trial. Cassidy won reelection in November 2020 by running close to Trump. Hours after his vote to convict, the executive committee of the state GOP voted unanimously to censure him.

Dave Ball, a Republican county leader in Pennsylvania, said of Senator Pat Toomey's



Mitch McConnell

vote to convict Trump: "We did not send him there to vote his conscience. We did not send him there to do the right thing or whatever he said he was doing. We sent him there to represent us."

Senator Lisa Murkowski is the only GOP senator facing reelection in 2022 who voted to convict Trump. Her allies say a primary challenge for her is all but assured.

Back to political spotlight

Trump will seek to return to the political spotlight in an address to a major meeting of conservatives, a source familiar with his plans said on Saturday. Trump plans to speak to the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando, Florida, on Feb 28,

the source told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"He'll be talking about the future of the Republican Party and the conservative movement," the source said.

Many of the 10 Republican House members who voted to impeach Trump last month have been rebuked by local party organizations. Michigan Representative Peter Meijer has been called a "traitor". State parties have censured representatives Liz Cheney and Tom Rice.

As for Trump, he has floated the possibility of a 2024 bid for the White House and after he avoided conviction in his second impeachment trial, he declared the "movement to Make America Great Again has only just begun".

Agencies

Russia's Army and Navy ready to address major challenges - Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has praised combat capability of the Armed Forces, thanking all servicemen for the worthy performance of their military duty.

The president also expressed special gratitude to the veterans, calling them "a great generation, who have taught us, their descendants, how to win and not to give up." He also noted that thanks to Russia's "never fading heroism" the traditions of patriotism are "so strong" in the country.

"The modern world requires constant vigilance and readiness to respond to the most difficult challenges, to act competently, decisively and effectively. Our Army and Navy know how to do this. We are proud of their combat capability, training, perfect possession of modern knowledge and the latest weapons," Putin said in his congratulatory message on Defender of the Fatherland Day on the Russia-24 TV channel. He thanked all servicemen and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces for the worthy performance of their military duty.

Putin stressed that one of evidence of the growing authority of the Armed Forces was a greater interest of the young generation in military service. "I congratulate you on the holiday, which is a symbol of courage and devotion to the Fatherland, and is celebrated by our people with pride, with respect for all the defenders of their native country, for those who are protecting the borders of Russia today."

Agencies

South Africa court postpones ex-president Zuma's trial to May 17

By Bloomberg

FORMER South African President Jacob Zuma's trial on corruption, money laundering and racketeering charges that date back to the 1990s will begin on May 17, after the courts rejected his repeated applications to have the case dismissed.

The case against the 78-year-old resumed briefly in the High Court in the eastern town of Pietermaritzburg on Tuesday, where the trial date was set.

A successful conviction would be a boon for President Cyril Ramaphosa, who has pledged to rebuild the nation's law-enforcement capabilities and tackle corruption that became endemic during his predecessor's rule.

Zuma was fired as deputy president in 2005 after allegations surfaced that he took bribes from arms dealers, including French company Thales SA -- his co-accused in the case.

He staged a political comeback by winning control of the ruling African National Congress in 2007 and led the country for almost nine scandal-marred years until the party forced him to quit in early 2018 to stem a loss of electoral support.

Zuma is also facing criminal charges for refusing to testify before a judicial commission that's probing graft during his rule.

At least 40 witnesses who've appeared before the panel headed by deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo over the past three years have implicated the ex-president in aiding and abetting the looting of billions of rand from state companies during his tenure.

Agencies

WHO expert slams Western media for distorting facts

COPENHAGEN

A Danish professor on a World Health Organization team on the COVID-19 origin-tracing mission in Wuhan has criticized Western media outlets for distorting information about cooperation with Chinese authorities, local news reported Monday.

"There was a lot of data ready when we arrived," Thea Kolsen Fischer, professor of virus epidemics and infections at the University of Copenhagen, said in an interview published by the Danish newspaper Politiken.

A misleading report published by The New York Times



Thea Kolsen Fischer (left) of a World Health Organization COVID-19 origin-tracing team arrives at the VIP terminal of the airport in Wuhan, China, on Feb 10, 2021 after the conclusion of the WHO mission. (AP)

on Feb 12 accused Chinese scientists of refusing to share

important data about the early days of the COVID-19 pan-

demic, citing independent investigators for the WHO. "We had mutual respect for each other's views and competencies," Fischer said, praising the cooperation between the WHO team and the Chinese experts on data and hypotheses during their month-long research.

The expert commended both the WHO team and the Chinese experts for managing to stay free of any major political interests.

"I can't stress enough how rewarding a process the trip has been. It went beyond all expectations in many ways. When we have had discussions in the expert team, it

has only been based on data and documentation," she said.

The international team arrived in Wuhan on Jan 14 and formed a joint body with Chinese experts for the Chinese part of the global study on the novel coronavirus origins.

At a press conference on Feb 9, the joint study team said that a laboratory incident is "extremely unlikely" as the cause of COVID-19.

It said introduction through an intermediary host species is "the most likely" pathway.

Direct transmission or introduction through cold-chain food is also likely.

Xinhua

Afghan civilian casualties surge after peace talks - UN report

KABUL

CIVILIAN casualties in Afghanistan escalated sharply after peace talks began last year, the United Nations said in a report released yesterday, calling for a ceasefire as negotiators met for the first time after weeks of inaction.

US-brokered peace talks began in September but progress has since slowed and violence has risen with uncertainty over whether international forces will pull out troops by May as originally planned.

Civilian casualties were 8,820 in 2020, according to the United Nations' mission to Afghanistan's (UNAMA) annual report.

That was 15 percent lower than the previous year, but the report's authors noted with alarm a sharp uptick and historically high civilian casual-

ties in the final three months of 2020, when peace talks began.

Last year "could have been the year of peace in Afghanistan. Instead, thousands of Afghan civilians perished," said Deborah Lyons, head of UNAMA, reiterating calls for a ceasefire which has been repeatedly rejected by the Taliban. "Parties refusing to consider a ceasefire must recognise the devastating consequences."

The Taliban on Tuesday issued a response critical of the report, saying "the concerns, precise information and accurate details that were shared by us have not been taken into account."

The report said that for the first time since records began, deaths and injuries had escalated in the final three months of the year from the previous three months. Casualties for



Members of Afghan security forces stand guard at the site of an attack in Kabul on Dec 20, 2020. (File photo)

the fourth quarter were up 45 percent compared with the same period in 2019. The majority of were as-

cribed to non-government actors, predominately the insurgent Taliban, and more than one-fifth were attributed to government forces.

A government spokesman did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Both sides said on Twitter their chief negotiators met in Doha, the venue for talks, on Monday evening, adding that teams would continue work on an agenda.

After a monthlong break over the new year period, negotiators returned to Doha briefly before many senior members of the Taliban left to hold meetings in Russia and Iran. Mujahid said they would hold further meetings soon.

Zabihullah said that the lull was only a break and the Taliban were committed to talks, with further meetings expected in coming days. Agencies

AstraZeneca antibody trials show promising signs against variants

GENEVA

ASTRAZENECA'S COVID-19 antibody cocktail has proved effective against variants of the virus in early testing, a potentially key development for vulnerable populations unable to receive vaccines.

The combination of monoclonal antibodies taken from COVID-19 convalescent patients held up against new strains first identified in the UK and South Africa in extensive laboratory testing, Mark Esser, the firm's head of microbial sciences, said in an interview. The news is particularly helpful as the company grapples with slower trial recruitment in light of the success of vaccines.

While vaccines can protect the general population from disease, not everyone's immune system can respond adequately. High-risk people such as cancer patients may need drugs like monoclonal antibodies that can neutralize the virus and mimic the necessary immune response to avoid infection. AstraZeneca is running five advanced-stage trials of its antibodies, looking at both prevention and treatment. Agencies

China to push ahead equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines

CHINA announced earlier that it would provide 10 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the global vaccine sharing initiative COVAX to meet the urgent needs of developing countries, showing a strong sense of responsibility at such a critical moment.

It is another major move of China to promote equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, push ahead international anti-pandemic cooperation and put into practice the vision of building a community of common health for mankind.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), recently warned that the unfair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide would cause severe impacts.

He called on countries to work together in solidarity to ensure that within the first 100 days of this year, vaccination of health workers and older people is underway in all countries.

China also attaches great importance to the difficulties facing the practical implementation of COVAX, in particular the huge vaccine supply gap in February and March.

Back in May 2020, China promised that COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, would be made a global public good, which would be China's contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

A batch of inactivated COVID-19 vaccines

donated by the Chinese government to Pakistan had arrived in the latter's capital Islamabad on Feb. 1. It was the first batch of vaccines provided by the Chinese government to a foreign country.

Besides Pakistan, China is providing aid in the form of COVID-19 vaccines to 13 developing countries including Brunei, Nepal, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Palestine, Belarus, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, and Equatorial Guinea, and will aid 38 more developing countries in need of COVID-19 vaccines.

Containing the COVID-19 pandemic is considered as the most pressing task for the international community, and China has kept its promise in a way that addresses the ur-

gent need of the world. Tom Fowdy, a British political and international relations analyst, commented that China's vaccines are the products that most of the world will accept.

Chinese vaccines could offer a lifeline to developing countries, according to an article recently published on The New York Times.

The international society has widely acknowledged the safety and efficacy of Chinese vaccines. They are considered reliable by clinical trials in multiple countries, as well as reports published on The Lancet.

Preliminary statistics indicate that over 40 countries have shown intention to import Chinese vaccines, and some countries have approved the use of China's vaccines.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Turk-

ish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President of Seychelles Wavel Ramkalawan led by example to take COVID-19 vaccines; Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic waited for the first batch of Chinese vaccines in cold wind at an airport apron; Chilean President Sebastian Pinera attended the ceremony for the arrival of Chinese vaccines.

Foreign countries believe that Chinese vaccines have shed light at the end of a tunnel. They say the safe, sure, and secure vaccines came at a time when they were going through the most difficult period and needed them the most. These comments expressed their gratitude for the Chinese assistance, as well as their confidence in the Chinese vaccines. People's Daily

'Patriots governing Hong Kong' - a call of the times

BEIJING

A SYMPOSIUM on improving the institutional framework of "one country, two systems" and implementing the fundamental principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" was held in Beijing Monday.

Participants of the symposium, organized by the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies, agreed that the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" is the essence of "one country, two systems."

Prompt efforts are now needed to improve related systems in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), especially the electoral system, to effectively prevent and dissolve the risks in the governance architecture of the HKSAR.

China's resumption of exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong can only be truly realized when the jurisdiction of Hong Kong is in the hands of the Chinese people who love the motherland and Hong Kong.

Upholding "patriots governing Hong Kong" is not a stringent standard but the bare minimum in order to ensure the implementation of "the people of Hong Kong governing Hong Kong" in the HKSAR.

Hong Kong's transition from chaos to stability has once again demonstrated that the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" must be always upheld

to ensure the steady and sustained implementation of "one country, two systems," as Chinese President Xi Jinping has said when hearing the work report by HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam on Jan. 27. This statement has shown the way forward for maintaining Hong Kong's long-term stability.

All the 12 under secretaries and 14 political assistants swear to uphold the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and swear allegiance to the HKSAR of the PRC during an oath-taking ceremony in Hong Kong, south China, Dec. 16, 2020.

In the past few years, Hong Kong witnessed some phenomena and problems that challenged the bottom line of "one country, two systems."

One of the direct causes is that the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" has not yet been put into effect in all fields of endeavor. Some anti-China disruptors, "Hong Kong independence" elements and other radical separatists have been infiltrating into the governance architecture of the HKSAR through loopholes of the region's electoral system.

They had spread ideas of "Hong Kong independence," resisted the jurisdiction of the central authorities, wantonly interfered in the governance of the HKSAR government, and begged for intervention from foreign anti-China forces.

These people are no doubt destroyers



Xia Baolong, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and head of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, makes a speech at the opening of a symposium on improving the institutional framework of "one country, two systems" and implementing the fundamental principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" in Beijing, on Monday. Xinhua

of "one country, two systems," fermenting unrest in Hong Kong and bringing harm to China.

More and more far-sighted people have come to realize that implementing the fundamental principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" is a shared responsibility of the Hong Kong society. The most critical and urgent task is to improve related systems, especially the electoral system.

Those who hold important positions, wield vital power and shoulder major governance responsibilities in the power structure of the HKSAR must be staunch patriots who take safeguarding the "one country, two systems" principle as their highest responsibility and have the

courage to fight any forces challenging the principle and undermining its practice.

We have every reason to believe that as long as the "patriots governing Hong Kong" principle is implemented stringently and the loopholes are plugged, Hong Kong is certain to have a brighter future with patriots playing the principal role in governance. Xinhua

Sputnik V vaccine's first batch delivered to Mexico

MEXICO CITY

MEXICO has received the first batch of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, a TASS correspondent reported.

The plane carrying the vaccine landed at Mexico's international airport late on Monday.

The delegation, which welcomed the cargo, consisted of representatives of the Latin American country's authorities and the Russian embassy's staff.

The vaccine developed by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology will be used in Mexico to inoculate elderly citizens. The vaccination campaign with Sputnik V will begin in metropolitan districts of Iztacalco, Tlahuac and Xochimilco on February 24.

Since late December 2020 Mexico's authorities have used more than 1.73 mln doses of COVID-19 vaccines produced by US company Pfizer and British-Swedish firm AstraZeneca to protect medical personnel and seniors. As many as 456,200 healthcare workers have received both doses of Pfizer. Agencies

The vaccine developed by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology

High-income countries' vaccine deals undermine COVAX - WHO chief

GENEVA

DEALS between some high-income countries and manufacturers of COVID-19 vaccines are undermining the WHO-led COVAX initiative by reducing the number of doses it can purchase.

"It's important to note, however, that money is not the only challenge we face. If there are no vaccines to buy, money is irrelevant," World

Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a WHO press briefing on Monday. Currently, some high-income countries are entering contracts with vaccine manufacturers that undermine the deals that COVAX has in place, and reduce the number of doses COVAX can buy.

Tedros said. "Even if we have the funds, we can only deliver vaccines to poorer countries if high-income

countries cooperate in respecting the deals COVAX has done, and the new deals it is doing," he said.

"This is not a matter of charity. It's a matter of epidemiology. Unless we end the pandemic everywhere, we will not end it anywhere," he added.

Tedros called on all countries, in-



cluding high-income countries, to share vaccine doses immediately, and urged manufacturers to prioritize contracts with COVAX and significantly increase the production of vaccines.

According to WHO's statistics, the COVID-19 pandemic has infected more than 110 million people and claimed nearly 2.5 million lives so far, while also resulting in millions of livelihoods being lost, schools

closed, and the global economy thrown into turmoil. It has exposed and exploited the fault lines, inequalities, injustices and contradictions of our world, within and between countries," Tedros said at another meeting on Monday.

The good news is that the number of weekly reported cases has declined for six consecutive weeks, and the number of deaths has also fallen for three straight weeks. Xinhua

Some Westerners show double standards, hypocrisy on Xinjiang-related issues - expert

By Li Zhiwei

CHINESE Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin made remarks on "Fact Check: Lies on Xinjiang-related issues versus the truth," an article published by Xinhua News Agency on February 5, saying this reality check comes at a good time.

"The article contains both solid data and detail-rich stories, which pointedly debunks some typical rumors and lies about Xinjiang like the BBC report," said Wang.

Zhao Suisheng, executive director of the Center for China-US Cooperation at the University of Denver, said that this reality check lists the facts in detail.

The Uyghur population in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has been growing steadily in recent years, according to official statistics.

The growth rate of the Uyghur population is not only higher than that of Xinjiang's total population, but also higher than that of all ethnic minority groups. These data strongly illustrate the facts. This is also the best way to expose those West-



ern lies.

Zhao noted that the accusations made by some Westerners against China on Xinjiang-related issues are absolutely groundless. "These accusations are simply fantastic, even ridiculous. Anyone who has a basic understanding of China would know that these accusations are not the truth," said the renowned international relation-

ship expert.

"Some Western politicians try hard to interfere in China's internal affairs and make groundless accusations against China in some issues like human rights, but when racial conflicts, social injustice and divisions occur in the US, they would turn a blind eye to what's actually happening. Those Western politicians operate double standards

and are really hypocritical," said Zhao.

Sound international relations can never be achieved by smears and confrontations. Zhao called on countries to show understanding toward each other and make fair judgments on some issues rather than slander others without a grasp of facts.

People's Daily

Russian diplomat hopes inspection deal will help resume JCPOA's implementation

VIENNA

NEW agreements between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on further inspections create a favorable environment for political efforts on resuming full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear programme, Russian Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said.

"The agreements between Iran and the IAEA on February 21 were a significant achievement. They allow to ensure a sufficient level of verification even after suspending an additional protocol on February 23 and create a more favorable environment for political efforts on restoring the full implementation of the JCPOA," Ulyanov wrote on his Twitter account.

On February 21, Ulyanov said the technical understanding reached by Iran and the IAEA on further verification activities at Iran's nuclear facilities would make it possible to maintain a sufficient level of verification. He explained that the IAEA verification at Iran's nuclear facilities would not



fully stop after February 23, but its scale would be reduced.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the IAEA reached a bilateral technical understanding to continue monitoring at Iranian nuclear facilities for up to three months given that a new law comes into effect on February 23 that suspends the use of an additional protocol to Iran's

safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

In accordance with the new requirements, the scale of the IAEA's inspections in Iran will be reduced, but the necessary verification activity will continue. The sides will regularly verify the technical understanding to guarantee its implementation. Agencies

Facebook 'refriends' Australia after changes to media laws

CANBERRA

FACEBOOK will restore Australian news pages, ending an unprecedented week-long blackout after wringing concessions from the government over a proposed law that will require tech giants to pay traditional media companies for their content.

Australia will offer four amendments, which include a change to the proposed mandatory arbitration mechanism used when the tech giants cannot reach a deal with publishers over fair payment for displaying news content.

'UNTESTED'

Facebook said it was satisfied with the revisions, which will need to be

implemented in legislation currently before the parliament.

"Going forward, the government has clarified we will retain the ability to decide if news appears on Facebook so that we won't automatically be subject to a forced negotiation," Facebook Vice President of Global News Partnerships Campbell Brown said in a statement online.

The company would continue to invest in news globally but also "resist efforts by media conglomerates to advance regulatory frameworks that do not take ac-

count of the true value exchange between publishers and platforms like Facebook."

Analysts said while the concessions marked some progress for tech platforms, the government and the media, there remained many uncertainties about how the law would work.

"Retaining unilateral control over which publishers they do cash deals with as well as control over if and how news appears on Facebook surely looks more attractive to Menlo Park than the alternative," said Rasmus Nielsen, head

of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, referring to Facebook headquarters.

Any deals that Facebook strikes are likely to benefit the bottom line of News Corp and a few other big Australian publishers, added Nielsen, but whether smaller outlets win such deals remains to be seen.

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Tama Leaver, professor of internet studies at Australia's Curtin University, said Facebook's negotiating tactics had dented its reputation, although it was too early to say how the proposed law would work. Agencies



Taliss Swimming Club swimmer, Mohameduwais Abdullatif competes in the past event, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Taliss Swimming Club Invitational Championship attracts six clubs

By Guardian Reporter

SIX teams have confirmed confirmed to battle it out in the Taliss Swimming Club Invitational Championship scheduled to take place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club swimming pool from February 27-28.

Speaking in the city yesterday, Taliss Club's manager Hadija Shebe mentioned the clubs as Dar es Salaam Swimming Club (DSC), Bluefins, Mwanza Swimming Club, FK Blue Marlins, Morogoro International School (MIS) side 'Piranhas' and hosts Taliss.

Hadija said all preparations are complete and clubs are doing final touches before heading for the tournament.

She said that upcountry clubs, MIS Piranhas and Mwanza Swimming Club, will arrive in Dar es Salaam on Friday ahead of the event.

According to Hadija, the event was also to feature Zanzibar's Wahoo and Moshi's United World College East Africa (UWC Moshi), but the two clubs decided She said the event is expected to feature 150 swimmers.

"All preparations are complete and swimmers are ready for the event. We expect a thrilling event because this is

the first swimming competition since last year in February," she disclosed.

According to the event's organizers, each swimmer is required to compete in six individual events and two relays.

The championship has been sponsored by NMB Bank, Smiles Car, Jubilee Insurance, Azam, Pepsi, Gymkhana Club, ITV media, Knight Support, Champion Rise LTD, Flames, The Range, Justfit Sports Gear, Tarmal Industries and A2 Washpoint.

The event, which is in the Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) calendar, will also be coloured by 105 swimming disciplines, according to the organisers.

Hadija said the championship would be contested for two days, with 71 disciplines on the first day and the remaining ones on the second day.

She said they have decided to have 105 disciplines with the aim of gauging the swimmers' endurance in the competition.

She disclosed a swimmer can enter a maximum of six individual events and two relays only.

"We want swimmers to compete in as many events as possible. We prepare them to be stars," she disclosed.

2021 Africa U-20 Cup of Nations tourney a boost for Ngorongoro Heroes-Kihwelo

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's national U-20 soccer team 'Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach Jamhuri Kihwelo has said although his team were eliminated in the group stage of 2021 Africa U-20 Cup of Nations finals in Mauritania, he is happy with the experience and exposure they have garnered from the showpiece.

Ngorongoro Heroes suffered 3-0 loss to Morocco on Monday night at Olympic Stadium in Nouakchott to officially exit the tournament.

Coach Kihwelo, who is popularly known as 'Julio', said they are departing from Mauritania heads high as it was the first time for the squad to compete at the showpiece.

In a monitored interview with one of local radio stations, Kihwelo said lack of experience has cost his side.

He said on Monday his side was determined to beat Morocco, made up of 13 players playing professional football outside Africa.

"We were determined to beat them so that we can qualify for the quarterfinals, but it was not that easy, we lost by that margin. This was our first time to compete at the Africa U-20 Cup of Nations, we



Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach, Jamhuri Kihwelo.

played against experienced teams, I'm delighted with the experience and exposure we have gained at this tournament," he said.

The gaffer, whose side has conceded eight goals and scored one in all three games played at the tournament, disclosed that conceding goals early was one of the major

challenge his charges faced.

Ngorongoro Heroes lost 4-0 to Ghana in the opener and thereafter drew 1-1 with Gambia in the second game.

Morocco the posted 3-0 victory over Ngorongoro Heroes in the third match of the group stage.

The coach also asked football lovers in the country

to support Ngorongoro Heroes in every circumstance.

Morocco scored the three goals in the first half, with El Mehdi Mohammed netting the side's opener via a spot kick on the fourth minute of the game.

Four minutes later Amine Assahel scored the second goal for the North Africans and Ayoub Mouloua recorded the third goal.

In the first half, Kihwelo opted to rest skipper Kelvin John, but the goal getter was called to duty in the second half when he replaced midfielder Rajab Athumani.

In the second half, Ngorongoro Heroes, through midfielder, Novatus Dismas, fullback Paschal Msindo and John, tried to push for goals but their efforts were thwarted by the Moroccans' solid defense, led by goalie Alaa Bellarouch.



Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman (R) trades blows with JKT Club's Boniface Mlingwa in one of this year's National Boxing Championship's fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packers venue in Dar es Salaam recently. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

East Africa Olympic Trials' preps in top gear

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PREPARATIONS for the one-week East Africa Olympic Trials, which are expected to get underway at National Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, are at an advanced stage.

Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) Secretary General, Lukelo Willilo, stated yesterday all preparations for the trials are going on smoothly and they expect boxers from Zimbabwe and Burundi to arrive in the

country on Saturday.

"All preparations for the East Africa Olympic trials are going on very well, the trials which will end on March 4 will take place at National Indoor Stadium and we have received communication that Zimbabwe and Burundi boxers will be in the country on Saturday ready for the event," he said.

The trials aim at giving boxers international exposure and also select boxers who will represent the country at international events this year.

He said 17 local boxers are attending non-residential camp under head coach David Yomba Yomba.

The official noted after the trials, OBFT technical panel will select six to eight boxers who will form the national team that will participate in qualifiers for Tokyo Olympics.

The pugilists will as well compete in the AIBA World Boxing Championships which will take place in Serbia later this year.

"After the trials, our head coach David Yomba Yomba and

his technical panel will select six to eight boxers who will compete at qualifiers for Tokyo Olympics," he disclosed.

"The pugilists will moreover compete at AIBA World Boxing Championships slated for later this year in Serbia, we are confident that the deserving boxers will be selected," he said.

Local boxers, Yusuf Changarawe, Boniface Mlingwa and Haruna Mhando attended qualifiers for Tokyo Olympics, which were held in Senegal last year.

Azam FC still optimistic of excelling in Premier League

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League giants, Azam FC, say despite the squad's Monday goalless draw with Tanzania Prisons in a match played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam, they are confident of doing well in the coming games.

Azam FC's assistant coach Vivier Bahati said they played well against Prisons but the match was very tough for both

sides.

He said it was more of a physical game which saw both teams fail to create scoring chances.

The Burundian coach said his side created several chances but they could not score as all Prisons players were playing behind the ball.

"It was more of a physical game, we did our best to play our game, creating chances, but it was difficult to unlock them, as they were all playing behind

the ball," he said.

He, however, said they are looking forward to mid next week's game against Kagera Sugar. Before meeting Kagera Sugar, Azam will this weekend host Arusha's Mbuni FC in this year's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) fourth round at Azam Complex.

"We will work on scoring and other problems which we observed during the game against Tanzania Prisons and hopefully

we will do well in our next assignment," he said.

In the top flight's first phase game pitting Azam FC against Prisons, which took place at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Rukwa, Azam won 1-0.

The Monday draw has seen Azam FC hold on to the third place in the Premier League's standing with 37 points from 21 games while Prisons are placed eighth with 28 points from 20 games.

SOCCER NEWS

Gladbach face Man City with Rose under pressure after departure news

BUDAPEST

BORUSSIA Moenchengladbach take on high-flying Manchester City in the Champions League Wednesday with the German club's coach Marco Rose struggling to deal with the fall-out from the announcement he will join Dortmund next season.

Pep Guardiola's buoyant City come into the last 16, first leg, tie in Budapest on the back of a record 18-match winning run in all competitions.

In contrast, Gladbach are reeling from Saturday's shock 2-1 home loss to second-from-bottom Mainz. Rose blamed the defeat on the disruption caused by last week's bombshell announcement he will coach rivals Dortmund in 2021/22.

News of his planned departure has also incurred the wrath of furious Gladbach fans.

"Everything that has happened this week, everything that has hit the players, has happened because of me," a drawn-looking Rose confessed after Saturday's defeat.

"And I bear responsibility for that."

The first-leg tie was moved from Moenchengladbach to Budapest because of Germany's Covid-19 travel restrictions.

While Guardiola's City dispatched the likes of Everton, defending champions Liverpool and Tottenham in the Premier League in recent weeks, Gladbach have taken just a point from their last three Bundesliga games.

If Rose's two-year tenure in charge of Gladbach is not to come to an inglorious end, he has to turn things around quickly.

With City looming, Rose said his immediate task is to gain "trust and calm" among his squad.

The fixture list will offer him little assistance.

After City, Gladbach have an away league game at second-placed RB Leipzig on Saturday, then host Rose's future employers Dortmund in a German Cup quarter-final tie next Tuesday.

Before the Mainz defeat, Gladbach captain Lars Stindl insisted news of Rose's departure will not jeopardise the season, but Saturday's performance suggested otherwise.

However, news that Rose is quitting could trigger other departures at Gladbach.

- 'Courage' -

Germany midfielder Florian Neuhaus, who has a release clause in his contract, is urging his teammates not to show City too much respect.

"Courage is a key factor," he told Kicker, adding that his future plans are unclear past the end of the season.

"If we play to our best twice, then we have a good chance of going through.

"During the group stages, we learned how crucial a self-confident approach is," he added after Gladbach drew against Inter Milan and Real Madrid.

Facing star-studded City in the last 16 of the Champions League is the biggest test Rose has faced in two years as Gladbach coach.

The 44-year-old former defender has forged a reputation as a rising star coach by rousing sleeping giants Gladbach.

Before their recent slump, they beat Bayern Munich, RB Leipzig and Dortmund at home this season.

Since taking charge in 2019, Rose has delivered on his promise to get Gladbach playing "dynamic, fast, active, combination football".

He has steered 'the Fools' to the knock-out stages of the Champions League for the first time.

He had already proved himself by winning back-to-back Austrian league titles with Red Bull Salzburg before joining Gladbach.

In his first season with Salzburg, Rose masterminded wins over Lazio and future employers Dortmund in a run to the Europa League semi-finals in 2017/18.

AFP

Gundogan central to Man City's latest Champions League pursuit

BUDAPEST

ILKAY Gundogan's free-scoring form has played a major role in Manchester City surging 10 points clear at the top of the Premier League as they close in on a third title in four seasons.

However, City's latest quest for the trophy they most desire restarts this week with the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie against Borussia Moenchengladbach.

As Pep Guardiola's first signing after arriving in Manchester, Gundogan joined a project determined to make a mark on Europe's premier club competition.

Despite six major trophies in the past five years and the likelihood of more to come this season with City also going strong in both domestic cup competitions, the Champions League has been a constant source of frustration for Guardiola.

Under the Catalan, City have not progressed beyond the quarter-finals in four attempts.

On the back of an 18-game winning run in all competitions, not for the first time the Premier League leaders find themselves tagged as Champions League favourites.

AFP

'Extraordinary' Muriel firing Atalanta before Real Madrid clash

BERGAMO, Italy

LUIS Muriel has moved beyond his 'super-sub' role with a rich vein of form to boost Atalanta's hopes against Real Madrid in the first leg of their last 16 Champions League tie in Bergamo on Wednesday.

Colombian ace Muriel scored and set up countryman Duvan Zapata for another as Atalanta warmed up for the Spanish champions with a 4-2 win over Napoli to move up to fifth in Serie A at the weekend.

"Muriel is extraordinary, not only for the assist and the goal," said coach Gian Piero Gasperini after the forward scored in a ninth consecutive Serie A appearances as a starter.

"This year he has shown extraordinary mental, physical and athletic form, he has made a terrific leap in quality also in terms of consistency."

The 29-year-old is having the best campaign of his career with 17 goals so far including two in the Champions League



Atalanta's Colombian forward Luis Muriel (R) has scored 14 goals in all competitions this season. (Agencies)

group stages.

He will be keen to impress after a disappointing 18 months at Sevilla, signed from Sampdoria in 2017 as the La Liga side's most expensive transfer.

He scored 13 goals in 65 games in Spain before returning to Italy on a six-month loan spell with Fiorentina, moving on to Atalanta in mid-2019.

In his debut season, Muriel earned a reputation as a super-sub, scoring 18 Serie

A goals despite only starting 10 matches.

This season he has scored 14 league goals, the same as AC Milan star Zlatan Ibrahimovic, and behind Cristiano Ronaldo (18) for Juventus and Inter's Romelu Lukaku (17).

But while Lukaku and Ronaldo's goals include four penalties and Ibrahimovic's three, only one of Muriel's have been from the spot.

"The coach is giving me space and more playing time lately so I

want to make the most of it," said Muriel, who has scored 36 goals in 71 games for Atalanta.

- 'Unique opportunity'

Gasperini has shaken things up at Atalanta in recent months with emblematic captain Alejandro 'Papu' Gomez frozen out after disagreeing with the coach over tactics during a Champions League match.

Gomez was left out of their final Group D game away at Ajax where Muriel scored the winner

that sent the Italians through as runners-up behind Liverpool.

Gomez was then sold to Sevilla in January.

The match against 13-time European champions Real will be the biggest game ever played by the Italian team whose only major trophy was the 1963 Coppa Italia.

"It's a unique opportunity," said Muriel.

"If Atalanta play like against Napoli, conceding little and creating a lot, it will be very difficult for them too."

AFP

Golden oldie 'King Kazu' leads Japan's football veterans

TOKYO

JAPAN'S Peter Pan striker Kazuyoshi Miura is preparing to play another season despite turning 54 this week, but he is far from his country's only footballing golden oldie.

Miura, better known as King Kazu, will be looking to extend his record as the oldest J-League first-division starter when his club Yokohama FC kick off their season on Saturday.

But he won't be the only veteran rolling back the years, with nine players over the age of 40 currently lining up for teams across the league's three divisions.

"I think Japanese culture might have something to do with it," 40-year-old Keiji Tamada, a striker with second-division V-Varen Nagasaki, told AFP.

"Of course the aim is to play in matches, but I think a lot of players stay with their teams because they feel they can make a contribution beyond that," by passing down knowledge and experience, he said.

Miura, who is preparing to begin his 36th career season, became the oldest player in the world to score in a professional match in 2017, when he found the net aged 50 years and 14 days.

He extended his own J-League record as the oldest starter in September last year, one of four league appearances he made for Yokohama last season.

"I was feeling the joy of playing football at a time when the world was facing a tough situation because of the new coronavirus," he said after renewing his contract last month.

"Personally it was not a satisfactory season, but my ambition and enthusiasm for football are increasing."



Former Japan striker Kazuyoshi Miura extended his own J-League record as the oldest starter in September last year. (Agencies)

But Miura, who began his professional career in 1986, is not the only veteran raging against the dying light in the J-League.

Former Celtic midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura is still going strong at 42, while ex-Japan international Junichi Inamoto, Yasuhiro Endo and Teruyoshi Ito -- now 46 -- are all playing into their fifth decades.

Miura's 53-year-old former Japan strike partner Masashi Nakayama was registered as a player with third-division Azul Claro Numazu until last month, although his most recent J-League appearance came as a 45-year-old in 2012.

- 'A true pro' -

Midfielder Shinji Ono, now 41 and preparing for his 24th professional season, says the older generation "spur each

other on".

"Sometimes we meet up and have a chat,"

Ono, who made 14 appearances in the second division last season before moving to top-flight Consadole Sapporo, told AFP.

"But we never talk about when we're going to retire, because you

can feel that everyone is enjoying playing football."

Footballers playing on into their 40s is relatively rare in Europe, with Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and Montpellier defender Hilton -- both 43 -- two of the few still active.

Dutch defender

Calvin Jong-a-Pin, a teammate of Miura's at Yokohama, believes the less physically bruising nature of the J-League "definitely helps" players continue for longer.

But he can't find fault with the seemingly evergreen Miura's fitness.

"He's highly motivated

and just a true professional," said Jong-a-Pin, a relative spring chicken at 34.

"In training, we have hard sessions where we have to run, and he's running at the front. He's the first guy doing all the laps, and everyone is behind him."

Jong-a-Pin says Miura has a personal trainer "who follows him everywhere," and even has his own driver "so he doesn't lose energy driving from his home to the clubhouse."

Ono, who has played in the Netherlands, Germany and Australia, says he also takes special care of his body, and is feeling "in really good shape" heading into the new season.

"I don't think about retiring -- I don't think about the future," he said.

"If no club wants me, I won't have a team to play for, and I'll have no choice but to quit. That day will come at some point, but until then, I'll enjoy playing football."

As for Miura, Jong-a-Pin believes it will take an act of God to make him hang up his boots.

"He told me he would die on the field," Jong-a-Pin said. "I believe him. Somebody has to make him stop, because he will not stop."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**'Extraordinary' Muriel firing
Atalanta before Real Madrid clash**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Jamhuri Kihwelo proud of Ngorongoro Heroes despite early exit from U-20 Africa Cup of Nations

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S national U-20 soccer team 'Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach Jamhuri Kihwelo 'Julio' says he is proud of his boys despite their 3-0 defeat to Morocco in this year's U-20 Africa Cup of Nations finals' clash at the Olympic Stadium in Nouakchott on Monday.

Quickfire goals from El Mehdi El Moubarik, Mohammed Amine Essahel and Ayoub Mouloua condemned Ngorongoro Heroes to a second defeat and ensured they ended up with just a point from their 1-1 draw with Gambia.

Ngorongoro Heroes, thus, have exited the U-20 Africa Cup of Nations finals after finishing bottom of the group.

El Moubarik broke the deadlock after just four minutes, scoring from the penalty spot after Essahel was hacked down inside the box by Ngorongoro Heroes centre half Laurent Alfred.

Four minutes later, they were 2-0 up when Essahel easily tapped into an empty net after Tanzania's keeper Daniel Mgora was drawn to the near post in an aim to cut out Tawfik Bentayeb's cross from the left.

The Moroccans continued their em-

phatic start to the match and they were 3-0 up on the 13th minute when Mouloua strode into the box after being played through with a ball planted behind the defense to beat keeper Mgora one on one.

In the second half, coach Kihwelo made changes by introducing striker Kelvin John and Kassim Haruna in place of Rajab Athuman and Ben Starkie.

Ngorongoro Heroes improved but could not grab a consolation goal.

Coach Kihwelo conceded that they were the architects of their own demise by letting in early goals but was adamant they gave a good account of themselves in their first continental appearance at U-20 tournament.

"Today we came in determined to try and get something from the match because we knew we had a chance but unlucky that we couldn't get a result. Our problem in this tournament has been that we conceded early goals and as we saw today, it was very tough to come back from 3-0 down."

"But we leave with our heads high because this was our very first time and we have played against teams which have been in this competition before and are experienced."



Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach Jamhuri Kihwelo.

Serengeti Boys set to discover 2021 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations opponents today



National U-17 soccer squad 'Serengeti Boys' players listen to their coaches' instructions during a recent training in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S national U-17 soccer team, Serengeti Boys, will discover their 2021 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations finals' opponents today, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced on Monday.

The draw of the 2021 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations' final competition will be conducted by CAF Director of Competitions, Samson Adamu, and will be live on CAF platforms from 13h00 (GMT).

The final tournament of the Total U-17 Africa Cup of Nations, to be held in Morocco, will be held from March 13 until March 31 2021. Serengeti Boys qualified for the U-17 Africa Cup of Nations tournament after reaching the finals of the previous season's CECAFA qualifiers for the continental showpiece, hosted in Rwanda.

The Tanzania team lost 4-1 to Uganda's U-17 squad in the regional tournament's final but the former booked a place in the con-

tinental tournament for the third time in a row.

They first qualified for the 2017 tournament held in Gabon. In 2019, Serengeti Boys automatically qualified as hosts where they finished bottom in a group comprising Nigeria, Uganda and Angola.

The biennial international youth football tournament organized by the CAF for players aged 17 and below has 12 nations grouped into three groups of four teams each.

The top two teams from

each group and two best losers will advance to the quarterfinals.

This will be the first edition in the U-17 Africa Cup of Nations to have expanded to 12 teams instead of eight. The 12 teams that have qualified are from the six zones. The West African Football Union (WAFU) Zone A will be represented by Mali and Senegal.

The WAFU Zone B has Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria. The Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) has Zam-

bia and South Africa.

The Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) will be represented by back-to-back regional champions, Uganda, who are making their second consecutive appearance and Serengeti Boys.

The Union of North Africa Football Federations (UNAFF) has Algeria and hosts Morocco as its representatives while the Central African Football Federations' Union (UNIFFAC) has Cameroon and Congo.

Ngorongoro Titans hammer Serengeti Giants in 2021 TCA T20 Super League

By Guardian Reporter

NGORONGORO Titans cricket team recorded an emphatic five-wicket victory over Serengeti Giants in this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Reliance Insurance T20 Super League's match which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Experienced player Seif Khalifa and youthful batsmen, Mohamed Omary and Johnson Nyambo, were the batsmen with meaningful contribution after Serengeti Giants had batted first and notched 107 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs.

Khalifa, deployed as an opener, scored 22 runs, which included four fours, effectively making up for a disappointing outing his fellow opener, Jumanne Mohamed, had experienced.

The talented Jumanne failed to make his presence felt given he ended with mere four runs.

He was caught by Ngorongoro Titans' Ashish Kamania from Harshdeep Chohan's delivery as the Serengeti Giants' performer had opted for a big shot.

Omary, slotted in at number three, showcased solid knocks to register 24 runs which consisted of three fours.

Serengeti Giants kept on pushing for a convincing score whilst experiencing Ngorongoro Titans' stiff opposition.

Ejaz Aziz recorded 11 runs to equally end with double digit score. The team's efforts to post a much bigger score were dealt a blow because their middle order batsmen were below par.

Zamoyoni Ramadhan, Wilbert Mollel, Salmini Yusuph and Jaffary Kanyita could hardly last long at the crease, given they failed to withstand the opponents' bowlers' pressure.

Promising all-rounder Nyambo, deployed as a low order batsman, somehow boosted his outfit's total af-



Ngorongoro Titans' Abhik Patwa (L) gets the man of the match prize from one of the umpires for this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Reliance Insurance T20 Super League's clash pitting the team against Serengeti Giants, which was held in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. Ngorongoro Titans cruised to five-wicket victory over Serengeti Giants. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

ter notching 18 runs, which consisted of a boundary and a six.

The club's other youthful batsmen, Issa Safari and Kelvin Anjelo, were not quite effective but they still wrapped up the innings with bat in hand.

Ngorongoro Titans' Abhik Patwa had the best bowling showing, as he took three wickets and leaked 20 runs in four overs.

Spinner Aahil Jasani was equally in good form, taking two wickets and leaking 21 runs in four overs to see to it Serengeti Giants end their innings with a manageable score.

Needing 108 runs to come out with victory, Ngorong-

oro Titans put spirited showing and eventually reached the target, dropping five wickets in 16.4 overs.

Patwa, slotted in as an opener, made his experience count, given he successfully helped the side coast to victory, notching 18 runs.

Fellow opening batsman, Kheel Suchak, notched 12 runs. Captain Kamania saw to it they are within reach of the much needed victory, ending with 16 runs.

Jasani and Goodluck Andrew made certain of Ngorongoro Titans' victory, with the former posting 12 runs not out, the latter notched four runs not out.

Efforts by Serengeti Giants' Nyambo to see to it the team keep the opponents in check failed to pay off, given the latter showcased resoluteness.

The youngster ended with two wickets, giving away 30 runs in his four over-spell.

Reliance Insurance are main sponsors for the tournament, which is organized by the national cricket governing body in a bid to boost cricket promotion at the domestic level.

The show-down's co-sponsors are Sayona Drinks Ltd, Unity Computers, Sterling, Pepsi, Harab Motors and G1 Security.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

