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National Pg 3
110m/- to revamp fish centre



National Pg 4
NBTS official calls for more blood

Donate Blood, Save Lives



National Pg 6
"Take precautions against infections"



National Pg 11
CCM MPs donate 400 bags of cement




'FGM prevalence standing at 10pc'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has embarked on a national strategy to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM) expected to be launched on March 15 this year following statistics showing the country's prevalence of the practice is 10 percent.

Addressing reporters at the weekend in Dodoma at a ceremony to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation held on February 6 each year, the Acting Director of Children Development in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Sebastian Kitiku (pictured) said presently there is rampant FGM in the East African Region and the Horn of Africa.

He said the 2019-22 strategy aims to work together with various stakeholders to educate on adverse effects of conducting FGM, to strengthen systems in the fight against the practice, and to boost services on FGM victims.

Kitiku said the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and the Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHS-MIS) for 2015/16 show that one woman among 10 has been through

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Egyptian firm readies plans on 100bn/- electrical tools plant

By Henry Mwangonde



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (2nd-L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday following the proceedings of the virtual 34th Ordinary Summit of the African Union's Heads of State and Government. He was representing President John Magufuli. Left is the Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry, Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge. Photo: Correspondent Nelson Kessy

AN Egyptian multinational electrical company is putting up a \$50 million (over 100bn/-) plant in Dar es Salaam for production of transformer tanks and other tools, billed to be of its kind in the East Africa region.

The company, Elsewedy Electric, has expressed intention to bring artificial intelligence technology to Tanzania to be used in the production of tools at its plant slated for Kigamboni district.

Ibrahim Qamar, the firm's regional director for East Africa, made this affirmation over the weekend in the company of a delegation from the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) visiting the construction site.

He said the company wants to establish a regional hub for its tool manufacturing business, which upon completion the plant will have the capacity to produce 1,500 tonnes of cables and 300 transformer tanks monthly. Production is expected to begin mid-June, he said.

"The world is changing and there are new technologies coming. We expect to bring artificial intelligence like the use of robots at the start of our operations," he said.

The company will directly employ 250 to 400 local staff at the start, alongside establishing a vocational training school

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PEPFAR
U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office in Dar es Salaam is soliciting applications for multiple President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO). The following is a notice that the below NOFOs have been published on www.grants.gov:

CDC-RFA-GH21-2136: Strengthening the Government of Tanzania's Capacity to Develop, Implement and Use Digital Health to Achieve HIV/TB Epidemic Control through Interoperable Information Systems, Governance, Quality Improvement and Workforce Support under PEPFAR.

The application deadline is

Minister upbeat about ease of doing business

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

IMPLEMENTATION of the blueprint on regulatory reforms to ease doing business in Tanzania which started in July 2019 is on course with a number of changes aiming at attracting more investments.

The blueprint was approved by the cabinet in April 2018, setting the stage for a raft of amendments to laws and regulations governing the conduct of businesses in the country.

Industries and Trade minister Godfrey Mwambe told the National Assembly late last week that the government is on course in reforms, citing the transformation

“May I assure Tanzanians that the government is determined to ensure availability of markets for our locally produced goods and crops

of the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) to the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA).

TFDA was changed into TMDA in 2019 after amending the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Cap 219 to link with the Finance Act No. 8 of 2019 where regulation of foods and cosmetics were shifted to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

The minister was responding to issues raised by MPs when debating President John Magufuli's 12th Parliament inaugural speech, stating that the government will make sure that the blueprint comprehensive action plan is

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TANESCO managers axed over negligence

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemami has ordered the suspension of managers of Kinyerezi I, Ubungo I substations and the Chief Engineer for Kinyerezi II, Kinyerezi I and Ubungo I substations to pave the way for investigations relating to suspicions of gross negligence in conducting their duties.

Dr Kalemami (pictured)

issued the instructions in Dar es Salaam yesterday during an inspection tour of the facilities and later held discussions with TANESCO board members, giving them 14 days to investigate the managers and chief engineers, then report the findings to him.

He said he reached the decision after discovering negligence at the substations, including absence from work stations and for not being

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CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

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CDC-RFA-GH21-2135: Scaling Up Comprehensive Facility and Community HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Programs for Key and Vulnerable Populations, and People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Tanzania under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The application deadline is
March 15, 2021.

Minister upbeat about ease of doing business

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implemented accordingly.

"We are progressing well. Our plan is to come up with better strategies for its implementation," he declared, noting that efforts are being made to further improve the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade).

The purpose is to ensure availability of reliable and coordinated markets for Tanzania made products as well as export crops, as the markets are mostly sourced through the multilateral trade system, he said.

TanTrade which resulted from merging the Board of Internal Trade (BIT) and the Board of External Trade (BET) is responsible for coordinating zonal, regional and international markets through the multilateral trade system.

"May I assure Tanzanians that the government is determined to ensure availability of markets for our locally produced goods and crops," he emphasised.

The blueprint was prepared after thorough consultations with various private sector associations and World Bank officials. It raised hopes that Tanzania's investment climate will be improved further to meet the country's industrialization objectives.

The minister stated that the government is also taking measures to improve various institutions such as the College of Business Education (CBE) in preparation of curriculum, its course contents. The college has to develop course contents which will be 70 percent, prepare graduates to become entrepreneurs instead of budding business administrators, he explained.

"Students must be trained to establish and manage their own businesses. Most colleges produce business administrators without knowing whose business they are going to manage," he said.

The ministry is also planning to come up with a special programme

titled 'Own an Industry' which will facilitate establishment of factories in various districts and regions, championed by MPs in their various constituencies.

The aim is to stimulate construction of factories across the country towards realization of the government's plan to transform Tanzania into an industrialized nation, he observed.

As the country's private sector is still growing there is need to continue supporting it through creation of a better business and investment environment, the minister affirmed, underlining that the private sector is also required to ensure integrity in executing responsibilities to win government trust.

The Minister of State in the President's Office (Investment), Prof Kitila Mkumbo called upon government agencies along with district and regional authorities to provide full support to investors and assist them to access important services including electricity connection, water and improved transportation infrastructures.

Prof Mkumbo said the government is working to review the 1996 National Investment Promotion Policy so as to improve the work of the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), in the wake of a strategy to promote investment at the national, regional and district levels. A number of regions have already launched their investment guidelines, he told MPs.

Urging the lawmakers to take part in promoting and encouraging investors to establish projects in the country, he said existing investors should be enabled to become good ambassadors in promoting the country's investment opportunities abroad.

Tanzania has all it takes to be the most favourable investment destination given its political stability as well as good investment and business environment, he added.



Deogratius Ndejemi, Chamwino legislator and Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), has a word with locality leaders at Msamalo in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Egyptian firm readies plans on 100bn/- electrical tools plant

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within the factory premises for its capacity build up as it widens its plans, he said.

TIC Executive Director Dr Maduhu Kazi said TIC has facilitated the investment where, among other things, the company will offer jobs to Tanzanians and fill the local market with locally made products.

"The investor has assured us that they will use new technology in manufacturing some of their products to make the products more competitive at the global market and through this, we have been assuring investors that our

doors were wide open to hear and address any challenges facing them," he said.

Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) director general Dr Tito Mwinuka said the construction of the factory will facilitate the achievement of its plans to use local tools in its projects.

"This complements our initiatives to promote what is ours but also reduces costs which we incur when we import, so this is good news for us as we are now assured that we will provide services more comfortably," he added.

Oxford jab less protective for South Africa's variant

LONDON

Oxford-AstraZeneca's vaccine offers "minimal protection" against mild disease from the South Africa variant of the coronavirus, scientists say early trials suggest.

A new study, not yet peer reviewed, involved about 2,000 people who were on average 31 years old.

But Prof Sarah Gilbert, Oxford lead vaccine developer, said vaccines should still protect against severe disease.

She said developers were likely

to have a modified Oxford jab by the autumn to combat the South Africa variant.

Meanwhile, UK vaccine minister Nadhim Zahawi told BBC that a booster in the autumn and annual vaccines could be required to combat variants.

More than 100 cases of the South Africa variant have been found in the UK.

A study outlining early trials suggests the vaccine offered "minimal protection" against mild and moderate disease caused by the variant, the University of Oxford said.



Dr Nazael Madalla (in specs), Director of Aquaculture in the Livestock and Fisheries ministry, briefs a delegation led by the ministry's Permanent Secretary (Fisheries), Dr Rashid Tamatamah, on a tour of Ruhila fish incubators in Ruvuma Region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'FGM prevalence standing at 10pc'

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circumcision.

Regions that lead in FGM are Manyara with 58 percent prevalence, Dodoma (47 percent), Arusha (41 percent) while Mara has 32 percent prevalence and Singida has 31 percent.

"National FGM statistics stand at 10 percent and those for the mentioned regions shows that much work needs to be done to eradicate FGM countrywide," he stated.

The reasons often mentioned that drive women and girls to undergo FGM include customs and traditions in some communities that believe that the practice prevents or helps in treatment of urinary tract infections.

He asserted that preserving virginity builds respect in the society, against which is the fear of being segregated, as women believe that if they do not undergo FGM they do not become sufficiently likeable in taking up family responsibilities in marriage.

Other steps the government has taken include the preparation of the 2008 Child Development Policy, the 2000 Women and Gender Development Policy, and the enactment of the Children Act (No. 21 of 2009) aimed at protecting children against child abuse, he pointed out.

The government had in 2002 instituted an amendment to the Penal Code (Cap 16), Section 158(1) (a) thereof which prevents girl child circumcision by inserting a fine of 500,000/- or six months

custodial sentence or both for offenders, he elaborated.

Since these practices are also conducted across border, in 2009 the government agreed with similar authorities in Uganda, Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia to cooperate in the fight against the vice.

"In Tanzania, we have implemented the agreement by empowering security committees in border districts including the Sirari border post in Tarime District, Holili in Rombo District, Namanga (Longido District), and Horohoro (Kilindi District)," he said.

The FGM commemoration climax will be conducted at the regional level, with Arusha Region chosen for the occasion set for March 15, he further noted.

Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the Regional Director for the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement for the FGM zero tolerance day over the weekend that WHO member states and donor agencies need to invest more in combating FGM.

This includes the management of health complications from female genital mutilation in the list of essential health services for development and humanitarian programmes, she stated, affirming that in that way, the world can protect girls, women, and communities from the dangers of female genital mutilation.

WHO data shows that one in three girls aged 15 to 19 years has undergone FGM globally, she added.

TANESCO managers axed over negligence

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accountable in discharging their responsibilities.

"It's unacceptable for both the manager and chief engineer to be absent from work stations without reason, and that all plants were being repaired simultaneously.

"No, this is totally unacceptable and it is gross negligence. They must be investigated in their respective positions; these people should not place us into difficulties," the minister intoned.

He asked the TANESCO board to ensure that an expert in connecting the device for boosting power that broke down at Kinyerezi I Substation is sought to do the job within three days so that the substation is restored to normal functions.

He also called on technicians making repairs at the substations to work day and night so as to complete repairs enabling the stations to work at full capacity.

Board members also need to

make inspections at substations to see the actual situation in regard to power production from all plants, he directed, insisting that within two months all the nine plants should be working at full capacity.

"TANESCO managers for Chanika, Gongolamboto, Pugu and the entire area must give reasons for frequent power outages as if there is shedding whilst there is ample power and in excess", he told the board

members.

If the managers have failed to solve the problem then it is obvious they have failed in their duties, hence they should be removed from their positions and other people should be given the job to serve the people.

The country's power situation is good so the government does not want to hear complaints from the people over power outages due to breakdown of generating plants, the minister added.



Rungwe Small Tea Growers Association chairman Lebi Hudson (L) briefs journalists at Tukuyu in Rungwe District at the weekend shortly after the association signed an agreement with Tigo Tanzania. Under the pact, the mobile phone service provider will facilitate payments for 8,000 tea growers in the Southern Highlands regions through its 'Malipo ya Chai kwa Tigo-Pesa' innovative mobile money transfer service. He is with Tigo southern zone director Aidan Komba. Story on Page 13. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

African youth urged to value peace more

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AFRICAN youth have been urged to continue promoting peace and unity for continental sustainable development.

A Tanzanian youth champion in the United Nations (UN), Philemon Mwaleka, made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at the function to mark this year's Kashmir Solidarity Day held at the residence of Pakistan ambassador to Tanzania.

He said the time has come for African youth to embrace peace, urging young people to also promote patriotism and avoid being used negatively by politicians.

"It is time now as young people, to think and focus on our future, we must not be used for evil things, we have witnessed the majority of youth being used to implement crimes with others engaging in wars, something which affects their future," he said.

The function was also attended by Pakistan High Commissioner in the

country Muhammad Saleem.

"What we want is freedom for the people of Kashmir, they must be given the freedom to decide whether to remain in Pakistan or to be free, a referendum must be done for the people of Kashmir to decide," the High Commissioner said.

Kashmir Day is a national holiday observed in Pakistan on 5 February annually. It is held in a show of Pakistan's support of and unity with the people of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir and Kashmiri separatists' efforts to secede from India and to pay homage to the Kashmiris who have died in the conflict, Solidarity rallies are held in the Pakistani-administered territory of Azad Jammu and Kashmir as well as by some members of the Mirpuri diaspora.

Kashmir Day was first proposed by Qazi Hussain Ahmad of the Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan in 1990, in 1991, the then-Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif called for a "Kashmir Solidarity Day Strike."

Govt to spend 110m/- revamping fish centre in Ruvuma

By Guardian Reporter, Ruvuma

THE government is set to spend 110m/- to improve the Songea-based Ruhila Aquaculture Development Centre (RADC) so that it can produce fingerlings that will meet the current needs.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Rashid Tamatamah made the call over the weekend when he visited the centre located 8Km from Songea town in Mkuzo Street nearby Ruhila Game Reserve.

He said that for the 2020/2021 financial year, the government through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries intends to produce 22 million fingerlings, of which, 16 million

will be produced by private breeding centers and 6 million fingerlings will be produced by government facilities.

According to Dr Tamatamah, very soon the ministry will announce a tender for the strengthening and upgrading of the facility so that it can be more capable of producing fingerlings that will enable it to meet the current needs.

"After strengthening the facility this year, next financial year we will do a major renovation and thereafter we expect the production capacity of the facility to triple more than it is now and thus increase the availability of fish stocks," the official said.

Director of aquaculture in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Nazael Madalla urged Tanzanians,

particularly those living away from major water sources such as lakes and oceans to actively engage in fish farming as doing so will help them earn an income and better nutrition.

He urged Tanzanians to imbibe a culture of visiting the centre and learn different issues such as better ways of building ponds and fish farming procedures to boost their incomes and nutrition for their families.

Acting regional administrative secretary Deogratius Sibula described RADC as an important centre that deals with the production of fingerlings and distributes them in the region and the nearby regions of Njombe, Mbeya and Iringa.

In Ruvuma Region, there are nearly 4,000 farmers and there are more

than 6,000 fish ponds, and all farmers depend on RADC for fish fingerlings and extension services.

"So, this centre plays an important role in scaling up fish stock in southern highlands zone," he said.

RADC senior officer, Emmanuel Maneno said that some of the southern highlands regions face malnutrition, "so this is an opportunity to overcome this problem to raise fish that will ensure good nutrition and subsistence income."

He added that the southern highlands regions have a good environment for fish farming because the climate is good, there is enough water, but also raw materials for making fish food are readily available and thus reduce the cost of fish farming.

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ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) NO: SMZ/F0111/G/NCB/2020~21/04
FOR
SUPPLY OF OFFICE FURNITURE FOR NEW ZRB OFFICE-PEMBA


- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for Zanzibar Revenue Board that appeared in the Zanzibar Leo of 13th August, 2020 and through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal: zanrevenue.org/eproc/.
- Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) has set aside funds from its Budget for the Financial Year 2020/2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payment under the contract for supply of office furniture.
- Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) -Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidder for supply of office furniture as follows:-

S/n	Name of Goods	Quantity	S/n	Name of Goods	Quantity
1	Ordinary Tables	45 Pcs	5	File Cupboard	9 Pcs
2	Ordinary Chairs	88 Pcs	6	Secretarial Chair	2 Pcs
3	Visitors Chair	10 Pcs	7	Executive Chair	2 Pcs
4	File Cabinet	28 Pcs	8	Executive Table	2 Pcs

The above items constitute one (1) lot; the bidders must quote for all items and full quantities specified in the lot.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement (Goods, Works, Consultant Service and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Act No.11 of 2016 and are open to all Bidders as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Commissioner - Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) P. O, BOX 2072, Mazizini- Zanzibar Tel: 255-24-2230639/2233041 Fax: 255-24-2233904 email: zrb@zanrevenue.org and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 8:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday except for public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shilling One Hundred Thousands (100,000/-). Payment should be by bank payable to Zanzibar Revenue Board through the following bank details: **Bank name -People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) ,A/C Name; Commissioner –Zanzibar Revenue Board and A/C No.0404003000.** Also interested eligible bidder may download tender document through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal: zanrevenue.org/eproc/.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of the bid amount in the format provided in the Bidding documents.
- All bids in one original plus three (3) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00hrs **Tuesday 09th March, 2021**. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the address below.
- Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Electronic Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Secretary
Tender Board
Zanzibar Revenue Board
P. O, Box 2072, 2nd Floor, Room No: 209
Mazizini- Zanzibar.



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February 13 2021

AKUMediaFutures

Kalambo DC issues four-day ultimatum for all staff to shift to the headquarters

By Guardian Correspondent,

Kalambo

KALAMBO district commissioner Carolus Misungwi has given four days to District Council employees living in Sumbawanga municipality to ensure they shift to the district headquarters; else disciplinary steps would be taken against them.

The directives are part of the implementation of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa's directive issued in the National Assembly recently.

DC Misungwi gave the directives at the weekend at a District Consultative Council (DCC) held in Matai township—the district's headquarters.

Misungwi said the officials who live in Sumbawanga, 60km away have been reporting late in their offices and they also go home early to catch transport back to their homes in Sumbawanga.

He said the practice has caused poor service delivery to the people, adding that they must stay in the district where they work to be fully accountable to the government.

For his part, the Kalambo District Executive Officer Msongela Pabela said he will take steps against all officials who will not abide by the DC's directives, saying people were supposed to be served during official time.

Kalambo District and the council thereof was established in 2016 after splitting Sumbawanga District with some staff moved from Sumbawanga District Council and Sumbawanga Municipal Council to the newly formed Kalambo District Council, hence many of them have not found accommodation in the

district.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed regional commissioners to take action against district council authorities failing to relocate to official administrative confines.

He directed the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) to find out why some of the district executive directors have not implemented President John Magufuli's directive issued in late 2019.

"I am aware of district councils whose top officials have already moved to newly constructed offices, but there are some who still operate from urban premises. The ministry should tomorrow submit to my office a report on the implementation of the president's directive," he stated.

The premier was responding to a question by Geita MP, Joseph Kasheku during the traditional Thursday session of Prime Minister's questions hour in the legislature.

Kasheku told the House that despite the relocation of offices, some civil servants are still staying in urban areas, thus contributing to increased transport costs, to which the premier said civil servants' failure to shift to where the new offices are located is to defy the president's directive.

The government's directive was meant to take services closer to the people, he stated.

In October 2019, addressing a rally at the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Sumbawanga municipality, President Magufuli issued a 30-day ultimatum to 30 district councils' executive directors to relocate to their administrative areas.



Aga Khan Hospital laboratory technician Innocent Sanga (L) attends to residents of Dar es Salaam's Mbagala-Chamazi suburb voluntarily donating blood yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

NBTS official calls for more blood donation to save lives

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIANS have been urged to take blood donation as part of their lives and continue donating blood to rescue lives of various patients in need of the service.

Blood donor recruiter, from the National Blood Transfusion Services, Eastern Zone Fatuma Mjungu made the appeal yesterday at the blood donation exercise organized by the Aga Khan Hospital and involved different jogging clubs from the three Municipals held at Chamazi in Temeke Municipal Council.

According to her, donating enough blood would help

overcome shortage of blood in the country. Annual blood demand ranges between 500,000 and 550,000 units.

She said that last year, the blood bank collected only 370,000 units of blood adding that this year the target is to collect 450,000 units.

"Our National Blood transfusion service plays a big role to ensure it collects and stores enough units of blood to help patients suffering from a number of diseases like cancer. Also mothers and children and accidents casualties, and therefore, I call on the society to volunteer donating blood to reduce unnecessary deaths" she

said.

Family Physician at the Aga Khan Hospital, Dr Nakiganda Mkasa said that the society should adhere to regular physical exercise to make them free from Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Dr Mkasa said that the number of patients demanding blood has doubled especially in the Eastern zone.

"Youths have great contribution by donating blood to the patients in need of it especially during emergencies and to those suffering from NCDs," she said.

Olayce Lotha, senior manager, marketing and communication at

Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam said that regular medical checkup is very important to help detect and treat diseases on time.

Lotha said physical exercises help to improve body and mental health as well as preventing NCDs which are reported to kill hundreds of people in Africa.

"Apart from physical exercise, we also emphasize youths to volunteer donating blood to overcome the shortage of blood in hospitals and health centres across the country," he said.

He added that prevention was a better way than cure, noting that it was the right time for the public to join body exercise groups.



Morogoro regional immigration officer Angela Shija (R, foreground) pictured at the weekend in Morogoro municipality leading a search on a truck stocked with cement but also said to have been transporting illegal immigrants from Ethiopia. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

By Guardian Correspondent,

Kahama

THIRTY members of Tanzania Association for the Blind (CHAVITA) in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region, have received training in modern beekeeping by Tanzania Forests Services Agency (TFS) in order to free themselves from being street beggars and become more dependable to their families.

Closing the training seminar here at the weekend, TFS Acting Manager Asther Josephati said her office will look at how best to empower the members to realise their aims.

She said before they received the training, they wrote a letter to be given training in beekeeping

Thirty CHAVITA members undergo TFS induction on modern beekeeping

and making of alternative charcoal to free themselves from the two percent loan issued by Kahama Municipal Council.

Earlier, during the training seminar TFS Beekeeping Officer Martha Machibya said they have been giving beekeeping training to various entrepreneur groups, citing the Mwendakulima group that deals in beekeeping and which was doing well.

She said in FY 2014/2015 TFS provided 200 beehives to entrepreneur groups but in 2015/2016 it suspended the distribution of the hives.

She added that by 2017/18 Kahama District had 5,201 beehives in the district's Wamkwani forest.

Machibya further said the market for honey was readily available, including neighboring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Kenya, adding that at the end of the seminar she would like to see the increase in honey production.

The Secretary of the Mwendakulima group Zawadi Masoudi said they will utilize two percent of Council loans for people with disabilities in

beekeeping, adding that the current business activities they conduct were negligible to meet their needs.

She said so far the Council has provided 20m/- zero-interest loan and expect to use the money for the production of honey, beeswax, and alternative charcoal making.

She called on various stakeholders to help them with beehives for starting within beekeeping which they will install in the hills of the 15,744-hectare Wamkwani forest adding that they will continue to invent other projects.

Z'bar traders advised to utilise foodstuff export opportunities in S. Arabia

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA'S Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ali Jabir Mwadini has called on Tanzania's traders both Mainland and Zanzibar to grab opportunities in the foodstuff trade offered by the Government of Saudi Arabia that is in great need of fruits and foodstuffs.

Amb Mwadini was speaking to members of the Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) that met here yesterday to discuss trade opportunities between Zanzibar and Saudi Arabia.

He said Saudi Arabia was ready to import various kinds of products from Zanzibar to meet its food requirements, especially during the Hajj Pilgrimage when people from various countries gather for the event.

He said food products, including meat, fish, and cereals produced in the country could be among the items that can push up investment by traders from Saudi Arabia for the benefit of both sides.

"Saudi Arabia is among the world's rich countries that have the capacity to purchase huge shipments of foodstuffs from Tanzania including mangoes, coffee, tea, cashew nuts, and cloves hence it is a good opportunity for traders to use the huge market," he added.

He said as the ambassador his task is to mobilise investment, boosting trade, and find various information on trade opportunities for Tanzanians as well as to connect traders of the two countries.

He also called on the business people to work together in selling quality products needed in Saudi Arabia.

He further said the trust that

exists in trade transactions between Tanzania and Saudi Arabia and Tanzania's good history of peace and tranquility are among the reasons for the Middle East nation to do trade with Tanzania.

ZNCC Managing Director Hamad Hamad said the coming of the opportunity will be of huge benefit for Zanzibar's business people.

He said there was a need to empower Zanzibar's small and big traders to produce products of international standards to satisfy the requirement of the Middle East country. "We shall assist our producers, including seaweed and horticultural farmers to produce and export more goods, hence we have to work together," Hamad said.

For her part, Tantrade Deputy Director Latifa Mohamed Khamis said the aim of the meeting was to show Zanzibar traders various trade opportunities that they can grab to enhance the country's trade.

She said she likes seeing Tanzania traders making huge strides in so far as capital is concerned to invest in the export trade, hence they should not miss the opportunity.

“We shall assist our producers, including seaweed and horticultural farmers to produce and export more goods, hence we have to work together”

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Job Title : Alternative Care Advisor (1 Post)
Duty station : National Office - Dar es Salaam
Reporting to : National Program Director

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Ensure that every child in care receives the highest quality of services and the best interests and well-being of every child is taken into consideration during admission, while participating in the alternative care programme at the time of re-unification and dis engagement.
- Support location Alternative Care Coordinators to develop and implement quality Alternative Care programs and ensure organization and government standards are met.
- Monitor and supervise the implementation of Alternative Care programs in the MA.
- Ensure that service planning is integrated with the community based child welfare models including community case management system.
- Develop and maintain an effective team process by scheduling regular team meetings amongst directly reporting staff; and, provide support to team members by advising, planning and coordinating all Alternative Care Services.
- Ensures that case assignment and consistent departmental supervision to team members occurs and that comprehensive supervision notes are maintained for performance management.
- Develop and implement the department work plans outlining the respective departmental goals to achieve service outcomes and address organization strategic directions and planning.
- Keeps staff informed of current and changing legislation, regulations, policies, procedures, and guidelines relevant to the Alternative Care departments.
- Monitor, report and evaluate the Alternative Care departmental budgets and provide recommendations when required.
- Conducts and completes written performance evaluations for directly-reporting staff and provides recommendations for salary increases, permanent appointments and performance enhancement where required.
- Serves as resource to the National Programme Director, Programme Director Zanzibar and locations programme Managers by providing recommendations and technical support related to designing and implementing Alternative family based Care Programmes.
- Facilitate designing of training manual and guides on different options of alternative care implemented by SOS Tanzania and Zanzibar
- Support the National Programme Director to ensure regular supervision visit to SOS Families, foster parents and SOS-mothers/Parents are conducted on regular basis and recommendation from audits, monitoring reports, and investigations are implemented.
- Regularly review Government policies and SOS children's Villages Policies in implementation of alternative care Programmes to identify changes that would impact existing programme and forward the recommendations to the national Programme Director.
- Facilitate the rollout of SOS children's Villages international policies and Guidelines on implementation of alternative care.
- Collaborates with Programme Managers and departmental Heads to identify and meet training needs of Core Care Co-workers.
- Provides narrative and statistical summary reports as requested to the Executive Director on the programs managed including caseloads, service statistics, customary care program updates, placement statistics, planning and evaluation, work plans, and performance targets.
- Participate in the preparation of the Strategic Plan and Annual Plan to ensure the strategic plan and Annual plans are aligned with government policies and strategies on alternative care and Most Vulnerable children.
- Establishes and maintains a collaborative relationship with the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development
- Plan and implement community sensitization programmes on foster care parenting, protection of children in alternative care arrangements
- Ensure local government leaders, community leaders and Faith based Organization leaders in SOS Children's Villages Programme locations are oriented and trained on alternative care for children in need of alternative care.
- Ensure Programme managers have plans to engage local government leaders, community leaders and faith based organizations leaders to work as champions of foster care parenting and ensuring community based support systems and structures for foster care parents are in place.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Degree in Social work, Masters in Child development or Community development will be added advantage.
- At least five years of relevant professional experience at management level.
- Experience in working with children/youth environment.
- Ability to work independently, self-organize, use initiative, keeps commitments and meets deadlines.
- Matured candidate with good analytical skills.
- Strong interpersonal and team skills.
- Fluent in English and Swahili
- Computer literacy.

Job Title : Alternative Care Coordinator (1 Post)
Duty station : Mwanza
Reporting to : Program Manager

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Providing strong effective leadership to the affairs of the Children's Village.
- Leading the SOS community comprising of children, youth, SOS mothers, supporting the children's educational, emotional development and physical needs.
- Managing the planning and activity programs, as well as the financial and administrative function of the SOS Children's Village.
- Ensure Child protection and safeguarding mechanisms in Village community.
- Monitor Children and Youth academics and performances in collaboration with mothers/parents.
- Representing the Village in the local community, creating local networks that support the Children's Village program.
- Being a role model for the children, youth and mothers..
- This candidate should have knowledge and skills on partnership building with various stake holders such as Government officials, NGOs, FBOs as well as with the private sector
- In cooperation with the Program Director, he/she should be able to design and implement the project proposals in order to enhance resource mobilization in the village
- A working knowledge on HR and performance management

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Degree in Social work or Sociology.

- At least three years of relevant professional experience at management level.
- Experience in working with children/youth environment will be added advantage.
- Ability to work independently, self-organize, use initiative, keeps commitments and meets deadlines.
- The candidate should possess the emotional stability to lead and guide the large community of children and youth, by maintaining the required high standards.
- Mature personality (male or female), stable socially and emotionally.
- Strong interpersonal and team skills.
- Fluent in English and Swahili.
- Computer literacy

Note: The position requires the Alternative Care Coordinator to live within the SOS Children's Village.

Job Title : Village Educator (1 Post)
Duty station : Arusha
Reporting to : Alternative Care Coordinator

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- Behaves in an exemplary manner at all times so that the children may have a model from which they may learn how to live successful lives.
- Is present during weekday evenings, weekends and holidays in order to guide the children during their rest, meal and study hours.
- Participates fully in all cultural or Village festivities and celebrations.
- Work closely with SOS Mothers to play a significant role in their children's education, stimulating their interest in learning within the home.
- Provides advice, guidance and support to Mothers on educational and psychological issues. SOS children must be made to see learning as a worthwhile, interesting and enjoyable activity.
- Encourages and assists Mothers to improve their own educational skills so that they are able to provide greater educational support to their children. This includes the development and implementation of programs to raise the educational level of Mothers.
- Organizes educational and extra-curricular activities which the children will find interesting and enjoyable.
- Plans, implements and supervises Village holiday programs and activities, providing input to possible educational activities, and sports recreational and other activities.
- Acts as liaison between the Village children and the schools they are attending. This involves maintaining contact with teachers and other school staff as necessary.
- Ensures that all teachers / trainers involved with SOS children are informed of how SOS operates. Encourages teachers to visit the Children's Village to gain a deeper understanding of the children and their educational needs.
- Attends Parent-Teacher Association meetings of all schools in which SOS children are enrolled, together with the Alternative Care Coordinator, Child and Youth Development Officers and relevant SOS Mothers.
- Maintains active files on all Village children (including youth). Ensures such files contain all documentation relevant to each child's academic progress, including reports and performance evaluations. Regularly updates such files.
- Conducts regular reviews (at least half-yearly) of each child's educational progress, together with the Alternative Care Coordinator and relevant SOS Mother, in order to assess educational development and needs of each child.
- Develops and coordinates a study program for all Village children (e.g. guided home-work sessions) highlighting study methods and providing support in the children's weaker areas, in order to improve academic performance.
- Identifies alternative educational / vocational skills training opportunities for those children who are not progressing in SOS or community schools.
- Ensures that all children attain religious education and practice their spiritual development in accordance to their religion.
- Supports the Administration in the budget proposal on expenses related to education, sports and other extra-curricular activities
- Develops a clear understanding of each child's skills, abilities, potential, future prospects, and aspirations. Supports the Mothers and Child and Youth Development officers in the preparation of children's development plans.
- Provides children with ongoing career counseling and job orientation designed to prepare them for their eventual independence.
- Keeps informed of available vocational training and educational opportunities, including those offered by SOS locally and in other countries.
- Works in close cooperation with the Child and Youth Development Officers, where applicable.
- Attends management meetings as a part of the Village management team, and assists with general managerial duties as required.
- Support the program on the implementation of "One Child Objective" in the village
- Performs any other reasonable duties as required by the Alternative Care Coordinator from time to time.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

- Bachelor degree in Education, psychology and counselling
- At least three years of relevant professional experience
- Experience in working with children/youth environment preferably in NGO
- Ability to work independently, self-organize, use initiative, keeps commitments and meets deadlines.
- Interested and skilled in educational and career guidance.
- Strong interpersonal and team skills.
- Stable and mature personality, good listener, patient and understanding
- Fluent in English and Swahili.
- Computer literacy

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

Closing date is **21st February 2021**. To apply please send to;

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

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

- Only short listed candidates will be contacted

Rotary Club free medical screening to benefit 2,500 school children in Ilala's Ukonga ward

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 2500 primary schoolchildren and other residents in Ukonga ward, Ilala District in Dar es Salaam have benefited from free medical checkups in a special camp organized by the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oyster bay.

The residents were offered medical check-ups and counseling for a number of medical conditions including dental conditions, eyesight, malaria, diabetes, ear, nose and throat, and skin conditions.

Speaking during the event over the weekend, Maryanne Mugo, president of the Rotary club of Oysterbay, said that the camp was organized collaboratively with the Ukonga Rotary Club with support from several stakeholders to support the government's efforts on Malaria eradication and other diseases.

Mugo said this year's camp focused on malaria prevention, education, and treatment whereas each patient received a general health check-up to identify other common ailments and risk factors, and counseling was provided on lifestyle factors such as nutrition and the role of exercise. "The medical camp is one prime example of how Rotarians serve their communities: hands-on projects in the areas where help is most needed. The camp targeted 1500 school children and 1000 residents."

She noted that only healthy and happy students reach their full potential. Being in a good health is hence an integral component of a child's education and his or her future.

Mugo said apart from medical checkups; the children were also supplied with respective medications, hygiene materials such as sanitary pads, food, and water.

Nekilangwa Mbagwa, communications, and external affairs officer from Guaranty Trust Bank (Tanzania) Ltd-(GTBank) said that the bank supported the medical camp and project with a contribution worth 5m/-.

He said that GTBank's staff also volunteered in the medical camp, ushering in various activities for corporate social responsibility (CSR).

"Malaria Prevention medical camp was focused on providing the Ukonga Community with practical education and training on preventive measures against Malaria whilst giving free health checks, and free treated mosquito nets among other items to empower them against Malaria," he said.

According to recent reports from the World Health Organization (WHO), Tanzania is among five African countries that together account for approximately half of all Malaria Deaths worldwide. In 2019, Tanzania accounted for 5 percent of global mortality rates caused by malaria, making it 3rd to DR Congo (2nd, 11 percent), and Nigeria (1st, 23 percent).

"Considering that the government is working to reduce the mortality rates of patients admitted due to malaria to 1 percent, more efforts towards preventing and treating malaria are vital," he said

Minister calls on Zanzibaris to take precautions against infectious diseases

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

HEALTH, Community Development, Elders, Gender and Children Acting Minister Simai Mohamed Said has called on Zanzibaris to take precautions by following guidelines on cleanliness to protect themselves against infectious diseases,

Simai, who is the Minister for Education and Vocational Training gave the remarks here at the weekend at the Government Central Medical Store after receiving drugs for protection against infectious diseases and those from breathing difficulties from World Health Organisation (WHO) valued at 261m/-.

He said in recent days there has been an increase with many diseases including that from breathing difficulties, coughing, headaches, colds diarrhoea and typhoid hence everyone had the responsibility to protect themselves.

He reminded the importance of washing hands frequently as a basic necessity and to avoid crowds, especially when visiting patients in hospitals.

He called on the staff of the Central Medical Store and other workers involved in the distribution of drugs to be truthful because there are complaints about government drugs finding their way to private hospitals.

He also called on Central Medical Store top officials to establish a more open system in distributing drugs to various hospitals so that every stage should be transparent before reaching the patient.

Presenting the medicines, WHO resident Director for Zanzibar Dr Andemichael Ghirmay said the Organisation will continue supporting the government's effort in boosting health services.

He said more than 26 countries, including six from Africa, have reported the second phase of Covid-19 infections, hence the issue of taking all precautions was of paramount importance.

He also thanked the Zanzibar Government for the big cooperation with UN institutions especially WHO in boosting up global health guidelines.

CCM legislators donate 400 bags of cement to support construction of Dodoma City Council's classrooms, labs

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament from the ruling CCM have donated 400 bags of cement worth over 7m/- to Dodoma city council to support the construction of school infrastructure including classrooms and laboratories.

The donation is part of celebrations to mark the party's 44th anniversary.

The lawmakers through their Secretary, Jason Rweikiza who is also a Member of Parliament for Bukoba-Rural constituency presented the cement bags to Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr Binilith Mahenge.

Speaking shortly after handing over the cement, Rweikiza said the

MPs donation is meant to support the government's efforts in improving school infrastructures including classrooms.

He said since the fifth phase government adopted a free education policy, the number of students at both primary and secondary schools has been increasing annually, hence the demand for more classrooms.

"The number of students has tripled in six years due to implementation of a free education policy. The demand for classrooms, administration blocks, laboratories, and desks have also increased tremendously," said Rweikiza.

Soon after assuming the Presidency, Dr Magufuli

introduced the popular fee-free education policy—with his government covering the cost for all students from standard one to form four.

During his first five-year tenure in office, the fifth phase government also addressed the shortage of desks after increasing the number to 8,095,207 in 2020 from 3,024,311 in 2015, an increase of more than 200 percent.

Dodoma Regional Administrative Secretary, Maduka Kessy thanked the MPs for their contribution saying the donated cement will be used for the construction of classrooms at secondary schools to be able to accommodate all the students who have been selected to join

Form One this academic year.

Kessy informed that in the 2021 academic year, more than 7,000 students were selected to join secondary schools, but 2,000 among them were yet to start Form One studies over the lack of classrooms.

Dodoma Urban legislator, Anthony Mavunde (CCM) commended the lawmakers for their support of the country's education sector. He said the donation is a clear indication that the CCM government is determined to improve citizen's welfare.

"We will make sure the cement is used for targeted purposes which includes the construction of classrooms and toilets," he said.

Acting Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr Suleiman Serera said they will use the cement to make a thousand of bricks for the construction of classrooms.

On Thursday last week, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed local government councils to come up with long-term plans that would provide permanent solutions to the shortage of school infrastructure at both primary and secondary schools.

The move is expected to be a solution to the shortage of infrastructures such as classrooms and desks and ensure enrollment of all the primary school pupils and secondary school students at the beginning of every academic

year. Majaliwa said that councils have to use funds from their own sources to undertake the school infrastructure development projects.

"There is no need for the councils to keep waiting for directives from the Prime Minister, Vice President, and the President every year, it's high time for them to have a strategy that brings permanent solutions to that," he said.

Majaliwa asked the local government councils to use projections on student's performance in their schools to know the number of students expected to join Form One and Form Five studies each year.



Sharik Choughule (2nd-R), councillor for Kivukoni in Dar es Salaam, joins Green Waster environment stakeholders in cleaning up Aga Khan beach at the weekend in marking the 44th anniversary of the ruling CCM. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Korogwe Town Council to spend over 20 billion/- in FY 2021/2022

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Korogwe

KOROGWE Town Council in Tanga Region is planning to spend 20.3bn/- in its 2021/2022 fiscal year which will be channeled in key areas of development projects, workers' salaries, and other expenditures.

Francis Komba, the council's chairman said this over the weekend during a one-day councilors' meeting aimed to discuss among others, the district's budget estimation for the forthcoming financial year.

"We estimate to spend 20.3bn/- in this fiscal year, the funds will be directed to implement various development projects and other areas of priority," he said.

District Chairman of the

Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Emmanuel Charles urged councilors to cooperate with the council's experts so as to facilitate smooth implementation of plans including development projects.

"The experts have been doing a great job now to ensure that all development projects are completed timely regardless of challenges, I remember even during the last year's General Election campaigns these experts were in sites to supervise the implementation of the projects," he said.

He added: "Henceforth as councilors, you have to ensure that you provide needed support to the experts in all development projects that are implemented into your areas of administration."

Emmanuel further urged them

to conduct regular meetings with villages and wards executive officers as well as organize public meetings in the villages and inform citizens on income and expenditures.

"We should also put an emphasis and supervise to improve performance of children and schools in national examinations despite the district doing well in the exams, I know that in the last three years, the district did well but we have to raise the performance even more," he added.

Korogwe Town Council executive director, Nicolaus Bei pledged to work on all the recommendations, calling for close cooperation from government officials and ward councilors.

SADC, UN team up to counter terrorism

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) continues to be ready and willing to co-operate with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in fighting terrorism as this remains a huge challenge within the region, thus threatening peace and stability, SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax has said.

During a virtual meeting with Vladimir Voronkov, the UNOCT Under Secretary-General, over the weekend, Dr Tax hailed the ongoing co-operation between SADC and the UN agency.

The co-operation between SADC and UNOCT dates back to 2015 following the process of development and adoption of Regional Counter-Terrorism

Strategy for Southern Africa by the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government.

Voronkov assured Dr Tax of the UNOCT's and his personal commitment to work with SADC in existing areas of co-operation, as well as in new potential areas of collaboration to strengthen the existing partnership. He also said the UNOCT would continue to support SADC in implementation of the Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy and establishment and operationalisation of a SADC Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre.

The Under Secretary-General said he was looking forward to engagement with SADC member states on matters pertaining to South-South co-operation. South-South co-operation refers to countries of the Global

South helping each other by sharing technical or economic knowledge and skills to facilitate development.

Voronkov also briefed Dr Tax on the upcoming 2021 Counter-Terrorism Week and related activities which will take place in June 2021, and implored SADC to participate as it offers a good platform for countries to share ideas on dealing with threats posed by terrorism.

The two leaders agreed to establish a joint technical team of experts to concretise areas of collaboration and their mode of operation.

The Gaborone-based inter-governmental organization is meant to further regional socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 16 countries in southern Africa.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DOMESTIC ITEMS FOR MCHAURU VILLAGE CAMP (UTENSILS) TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Domestic Items and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible Suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the below scope of Supply.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01107	Supply and Delivery of Domestic Items for Mchauru Village Camp (Utensils)

1. INFORMATION REQUIRE

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 1 references from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01107)	75%
Proof of ability to Supply Domestic Items (Utensils)	75%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the service DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01107) of the Service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 16 February 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Clearer preventive mechanisms for rising cancer cases required

WHAT was being launched recently as a hope-inspiring facility, the new Bugando cancer wing that is expected to ease admission for Lake Zone residents, is also a cry of alarm.

Bugando Referral Hospital - in Mwanza city - is putting up an ultramodern oncology wing primarily to expand its services so as to ease access to treatment among the Lake Victoria Zone population.

It is understood that the government is in the project only as a contributor, but this counts for much in that it has the task of drawing up policy.

Health minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima, filling in for Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, said at the launch that the government has set aside 1bn/- for the 5.4bn/- project.

The facility, which is jointly run by the Catholic Church and the government, provides services chiefly as the main referral hospital for eight regions bordering Lake Victoria and others in the hinterland.

It has the largest zonal cluster of the country's population, most of whom can't continue depending on Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam.

What was especially disturbing in what was revealed on the need for the facility - despite that a whole range of experts are known to be routinely aware of such data - is that a huge portion of the country's cancer burden is from the Lake Victoria zone.

Not all of us will recall that in July 2019, President John Magufuli tasked the Health ministry to carry out a study and establish the factors behind the high numbers of cancer cases in the zone.

Official data indicate that roundabout 50 per cent of cancer cases countrywide arise from the zone, and the president is all too familiar with the pain of the

incidents and how the situation is worsening in the respective regions.

Reports said that scientists later linked the surge in cancer cases in the zone to chemical substances emanating from mining sites, consumption of local brews, unhealthy fishing methods and other factors.

Scientists at the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences, which operates from the Bugando facility, said at the time that the past decade had seen over 50,000 patients in the zone diagnosed at the facility having various forms of cancer.

A bit of what needs to be done would be gleaned from themes and reflections on the issue, as the recent laying of the foundation stone was timed to coincide with the marking of this year's edition of World Cancer Day, whose theme is 'I Am and I Will.'

There are different views or angles to what this represents, whether it refers to the enduring power of cooperation and collective action or to the individual's spirit of remaining cheerful and resolute in the face of the dreaded affliction.

The population - and most especially care providers and to that extent family members - can do something about reducing the stigma surrounding the disease, as that comes as the second leading cause of death globally. But can doctors and families do much to arrest the trend?

The government's position at the occasion of marking World Cancer Day reminded Tanzanians on the need to embrace healthy lifestyles.

This includes having a balanced diet, avoiding smoking and excess consumption of alcohol and engaging in regular exercise, but there is much else that would help.

In general, it would pay handsome dividends for people to be in the know on behavioural and other risks wherever they may be and whatever they may be doing - and take precautions and remedial action, as appropriate

TARURA funding gap criticism well merited

AN uncharacteristic situation arose in the National Assembly last week, with legislators near-unanimously demanding that the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) be entitled to a greater portion of road construction budget funds.

The MPs were virtually up in arms over the poor state of roads in their constituencies, objecting to the fact that at present the agency receives only around 30 per cent of total road construction resources.

The lion's share of 70 per cent is allocated to the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS), the funds being disbursed by the Road Fund Board (RFB). The validity of the formula was subjected to debate.

Looking at the situation a bit closely, what is apparent is a change of mood - from a situation where the main issue was building highways connecting regions and even districts not served by quality tarmac roads to a different mood altogether.

The MPs were debating President John Magufuli's 12th Parliament inaugural speech, where the criticism levelled at the government over the state of the road network in rural and urban areas isn't firstly just criticism. It is also an admission of success, in the fact that the principal roads axis - whether it is highways or municipal roads - has been greatly improved.

In that sense, one has to take the criticism on the dilapidated state of the other road network

with a pinch of salt, branching off from principal axes in each urban and for that matter rural area, that these are still in a bad state.

It is positively ambitious to carry on the work done to uplift most highways and most urban major roads to extend further inwards, for instance when an MP talks of a 1,400-km road network in his constituency that calls for improvement or modernisation.

Not surprisingly, this ardent wish on the part of MPs is expressed as disquiet at the limited budget for TARURA, the agency mandated to facilitate improvements of non-highway urban and rural roads.

Such roads previously used to be under district authorities and they used funds without really observing standards on road maintenance. Each rainy season the roads would fall into a non-usable condition and then funds would be sought for shoddy or scrappy work on the site.

Noticeably, the criticism was far more limited at that time, as MPs scarcely talked about roads as such but about how much was being allocated to this or that district.

The state of the roads is an issue for legislators largely in that road maintenance is now centralised and MPs can criticise the central government but can't touch councillors.

The MPs' demand has been heard and the government has since declared that the matter is being attended to. The respective funds will be routed to a central government agency, which promises hope. That is noteworthy.

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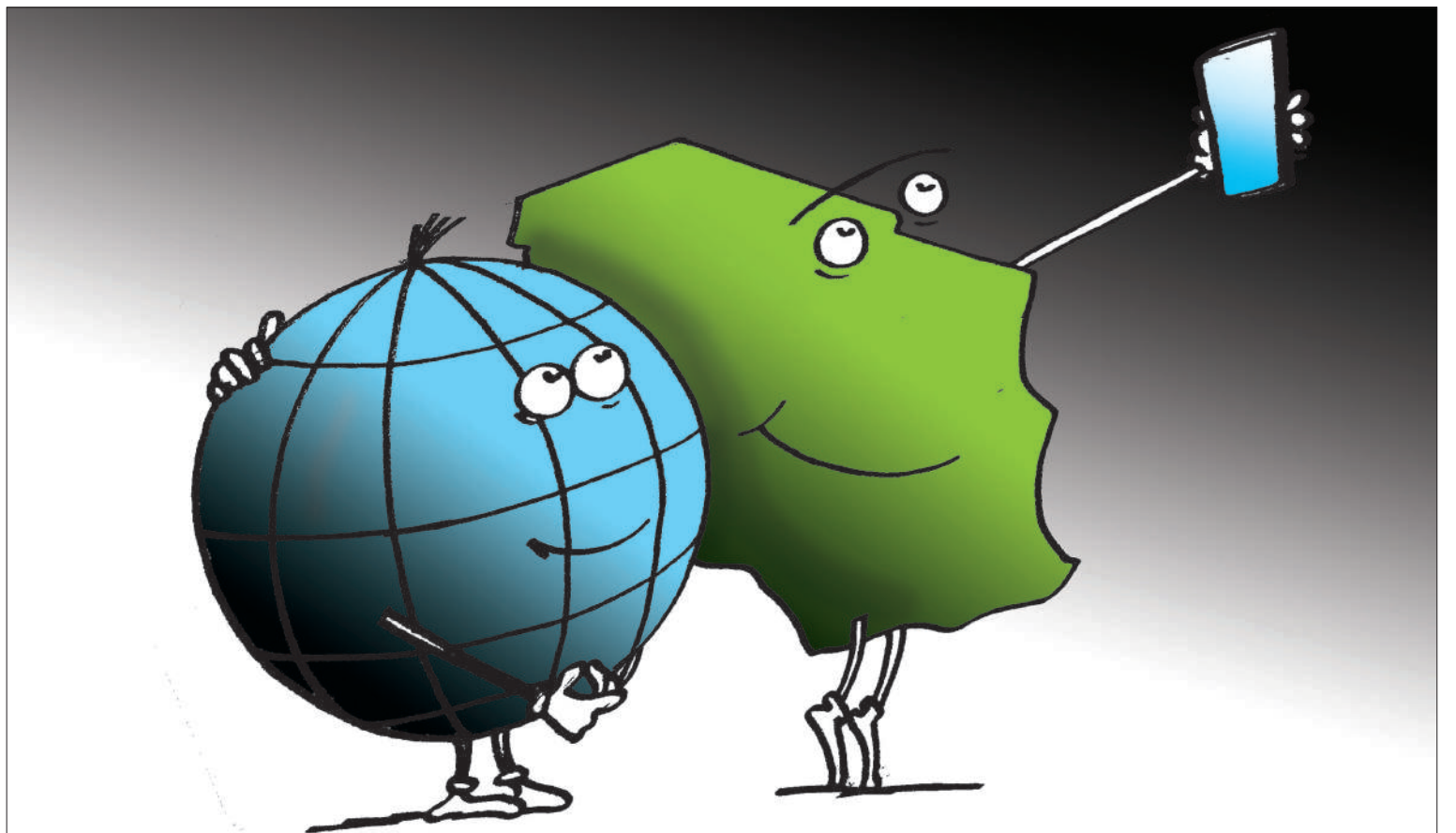
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By Charné Hundermark in Cape Town

Positioning Mozambique as the premier tourism destination

THE African continent is renowned for its rich diversity of cultures, languages, wildlife and landscapes, with Mozambique enjoying the privilege of encapsulating these elements in one country.

The southeastern nation is both a coastal paradise - with 2,500 km of white-sand beaches and an extensive coastline - and a wildlife utopia, with conservation projects covering approximately 15 per cent of the country's surface area.

Mozambique offers pristine beaches, unspoiled nature and eco-tourism along with a rich historical landscape of cathedrals and colonial architecture.

However, the country's tourism sector remains significantly underutilised, particularly when compared to other African tourist hotspots like neighbouring South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Historically, the development of tourism in Mozambique has been inhibited by political instability and economic uncertainty. However, at the end of the 1990s, it became the fastest-growing sector of the economy.

Meanwhile, come 2005, the industry grew by 37 per cent, representing the highest tourism industry growth rate globally. Between 2001 and 2020, its contribution to GDP has continued to grow steadily, accounting for 8.2 per cent of domestic output last year.

Under the administration of President Filipe Nyusi, the country has begun to progressively revitalise its tourism sector, recognising the broader social and

economic benefits initiated by its development.

With a 2015-2024 Strategic Tourism Development Plan that provides a detailed strategy and action plan for directing government and private sector interventions, the Mozambican government seeks to position the country as a leading tourist destination on the continent.

Energy projects spur tourism development

One of the primary challenges preventing travel to Mozambique concerns the lack of infrastructure and access to electricity. The country faces critical infrastructural deficits, predominantly within the transport sector - including insufficient road maintenance and access as well as lack of a properly managed water supply.

In conjunction with a low access to electricity rate - measured at 29 per cent last year - the tourism sector has remained significantly more underdeveloped than its potential indicates.

However, with an influx of foreign investment and billion-dollar energy projects currently under way, the strategic opportunity has emerged to co-develop the tourism sector and associated infrastructure alongside large-scale gas infrastructure.

The majority of the country's natural gas discoveries - which total approximately 100 trillion cubic feet of proven reserves - have been made in the Cabo Delgado

Province, which serves as a tourism hotspot in the country, as well.

Accordingly, as liquefied natural gas projects continue to progress, the province will see the upgrade and development of infrastructure, roads and water supply to support them.

Additionally, through the development of key gas-to-power infrastructure, the country can maximise gas reserves as a power generation source, raising electricity access rates nationwide.

By developing gas-to-power facilities, the country can reduce electricity costs, bring competitiveness to the power sector and provide alternative generation solutions. Consequently, increased provisions will boost tourism, as living standards rise and economic growth is realised.

Re-injecting capital to boost development

In the context of Mozambique's tourism sector, the benefits of transformative energy projects go beyond infrastructural development.

As the country begins to cement its position as a regional and global gas exporter, it will generate a large amount of foreign currency and instigate opportunities for offshoot industry and trade.

In order to fully develop tourism and establish Mozambique as a leader in the industry, though, the government must ensure that revenues earned from gas exports are re-injected into the economy.

By maximising energy export revenues, Mozambique can indirectly grow its tourism sector, spurring job creation and broader economic development in the process.

Additionally, by utilising energy revenues through the improved provision of funding, investment in tourism can be catalysed and economic stability - a predeterminant for many tourism operators - can be realised.

As the Covid-19 pandemic recedes and tourism begins to pick up globally, Mozambique holds the unique opportunity to utilise its energy developments to expand the tourism sector and become the premier tourist destination in southern Africa.

By leveraging energy revenues to spur infrastructural development and achieve enhanced economic stability, Mozambique can realise its goals of becoming an African tourism leader.

Africa Oil & Power, which is this year working with the Mozambican government to promote investment in energy and diverse sectors, including agriculture, industry, tourism, construction and logistics, will on March 8-9, host a Presidential Award ceremony and Workshops Day in the Mozambican capital Maputo.

The twin events will precede the Mozambique Gas & Power 2021 conference and exhibition.

• Agencies

Cyber heroines: Changing the future for African girls

JOHANNESBURG

THE 2021 Tomorrow's Cyber Heroines study undertaken by CyberHeroines, KnowBe4 Africa and InfoSphere Limited surveyed more than 445 teachers across 14 African countries to unpack the complexities that face African girls in the technology landscape.

With Africa's future reliant on its ability to adapt to digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), levelling the playing field for women has become critical. It has never been more important to change the cybersecurity workforce gender statistics than it is today.

"We have to give girls more opportunities, inspire them to get involved in technology and the cybersecurity field, and to remove the preconceived and socialised ideas that prevent women from pursuing careers in technology," says Anna Collard, Senior Vice

President of Content Strategy and Evangelist KnowBe4 Africa.

She adds: "The world is digitising rapidly and women are at risk of being left behind. We have to change the dialogue around technology and make it more inclusive for women and girls."

Women are already at a disadvantage. A recent study by the Association for Progressive Communications underscored the reality of the gender digital divide.

In Africa women have less access to internet-based technologies than men, they have fewer opportunities, they are even more limited in their ability to move out from under poverty.

As the world continues to move into automation, women will be the most affected as their roles are replaced by machines. Change has to start now, it has to start at home, and it has to be carried through into education.

"We want African women to participate in the digital age - we cannot leave them behind," says

InfoSphere managing director Aprielle Oichoe.

The MD elaborates: "We must empower girls to go into technology - and this starts at a young age. We need to make a conscious decision to change the way we treat young girls. "The dialogue needs to focus on making technology interesting for girls, not just something that they should 'leave to their brother.'"

The study found that a lack of education, limited guidance, minimal role models and societal preconceptions are having a serious, long-term impact on women's careers and futures.

With cybersecurity and technology struggling to find skilled people, the market is wide open for those with the talent and the training to build sustainable and successful futures.

In addition to thriving careers, training and education in technology and cybersecurity are essential for the wellbeing of young girls and women in Africa.

"According to research, women of colour are 34 per cent more likely to be targeted by online hate speech than their white counterparts, and a huge percentage of African girls are concerned about their online safety," says Collard.

"We must give them the tools, training and confidence they need to prepare for this online vitriol, and protect themselves," she adds.

The key factors inhibiting women's entry to the worlds of technology and cybersecurity include negative stereotypes, lack of role models or mentors, low self-confidence, and competing in a male-dominated industry.

Women are generally discouraged from careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and steered towards traditionally female roles instead.

"There is no such thing as a female role, not anymore," says Oichoe, adding: "Now there is just opportunity. We just have to make sure that this opportunity is given to everyone."

Science Forum 2020: Solving global crises requires breaking through barriers

By Andrea Teagle

“HIV doesn’t exist in isolation,” said epidemiologist Professor Quarraisha Abdo Karim, who, together with Professor Salim Abdool Karim, received the Chilean Strait of Magellan Award at the Science Forum 2020 for her work in the prevention and treatment of HIV.

“I focus a lot on the biotechnologies, but there is an intersectionality with other issues, including gender-based violence, including the access to sexual reproductive health services... [and] to comprehensive sexuality education.”

Some of the greatest breakthroughs in HIV research have happened at the intersection of science and social science: for example, female-controlled contraception, and interventions that reflect the experiences of adolescents living with HIV. As writer Professor Lesley Green pointed out at the launch of her recent publication *Rock | Water | Life*, the people on the ground do not experience the impacts of climate change, racism and inequality through the lens of separate disciplines.

The need to break through the barriers between and within the sciences and social sciences was a central theme at the Science Forum, co-hosted by the Department of Science and Innovation and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The event itself, a virtual undertaking, brought together thinkers of multiple disciplines, across Africa and internationally. It also marked the launch of partnerships committed to open science, including the New South Africa-China cross border incubation programme for start-up enterprises.

Transdisciplinary thinking

Over the course of three days, speakers discussed how the problems facing the world today – such as HIV, Covid-19, climate change and poverty and inequality – can be solved only by forms of thinking that break down categories of study and categories of being. In the words of HSRC CEO Professor Crain Soudien in his welcoming speech: “This crucial moment that we are in together demands, as we call it, radical reason.”

In her keynote address, renowned scholar and first female co-president of the Club of Rome, Dr Mampela Ramphela, contended that addressing climate change requires a conscious shift away from the mechanistic thought that underlies our extractive attitude towards the Earth’s resources. She pointed to the value of African knowledge that situates humans in relation to one another and as part of the natural world.

Challenging scholars to form transdisciplinary, pan-African partnerships, she said, “We need to actively challenge the Euro-American dominance and the so-called universality [of Western knowledge].”

Decolonisation

“What was the mission of the first universities established in Africa?” In posing this question, historian and



theorist Professor Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni suggested that we can start to understand the problem of decolonisation.

His fellow discussant, the leading decolonial scholar Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos, said that universities are at a crossroads. On the one hand, he said, there is pressure from below, from students who recognise that merely increasing black representation in the student and staff bodies is not enough. On the other hand, there is top-down pressure from global capitalism.

This session at the Science Forum highlighted the challenge of stepping outside of the Western-European system to critique it through a more objective lens, and to recognise that it does not encompass a complete understanding of the world. “I claim, and I strive, for a college of knowledge,” De Sousa Santos said.

Equally, in recognising the validity of other sources of knowledge, we must avoid the trap of turning indigenous knowledge and African scholarship into a shrine of worship, argued

Ndlovu-Gatsheni.

“We need to then subject [indigenous knowledge] to the same critical view that we adopt for other knowledge. By doing that, we are actually taking them seriously.”

In another panel, Professor Joel Modiri of the University of Pretoria argued that the academic peer review process was throttling different types of thought.

“White academics reproduce the centrality and false universality of their own perspective, policing the boundaries of the disciplines. This has placed many black academics and postgraduate students in the demeaning and disempowering position of having to reproduce traditions of white scholarship, so as to... gain employment and academic recognition.”

However, De Sousa Santos also noted that inroads had been made in decolonisation, through African scholarship and movements like Rhodes Must Fall. Acknowledging limited progress made at individual institutions, Ndlovu-Gatsheni argued that

universities needed to take a national approach to transformation.

At the school level, the HSRC’s Dr Adam Cooper observed that education does not automatically amount to social justice. Despite progressive policy, inequality continues to reflect in the South African education system. A contributing factor is the absence of multilingualism in classrooms, suggested fellow speaker and colleague Jaqueline Harvey.

In Grade 4, children are expected to make a complete switch from indigenous language instruction to English, with far-reaching repercussions for their confidence, learning, and sense of place.

The continued subjugation of indigenous languages – and the internalised message that English (and whiteness) equates to competence and intelligence is an important part of South Africa’s education puzzle.

In another panel, the world’s foremost cultural theorist Professor Homi Bhabha and historian Professor Premesh Lalu argued that the psychological impacts of the normalised,

routine indignities of apartheid continue to ripple through our society.

“[T]here was something particular about the modes through which [petty apartheid] infiltrated everyday life,” Lalu said, “and created a psychopathology that has stayed with us for decades after we’ve laid apartheid to rest.”

The future of AI

In a panel on artificial intelligence (AI) futures, speakers discussed the transdisciplinary nature of AI research. To direct technological advancement towards futures that we want, “we need to understand our societies and politics and cultures, our histories and the trajectories that they have set us on”, said Dr Stephen Cave, director of the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence at the University of Cambridge.

Referencing the annual Barydale puppet parade, Professor Jane Taylor, director of the Laboratory of Kinetic Objects, spoke about the ways in which AI entities, like puppets, reflect the selves we project on to them. In this way, AI research is an opportunity to explore what it means to be alive and what it means to be human in relation to the rest of the world.

It challenges us to resist the tendency, as humans, or as members of a particular group or gender or discipline, to set ourselves apart and above. In the words of Ramphela, planetary emergencies require that we learn “to embrace the interconnectedness and interdependence of the Earth as a living system”. In 1543, the scientist Nicolaus Copernicus discovered that the sun does not revolve around the Earth.

Now, as then, it may be by moving away from our perceived centrality that we take our next leap in understanding in this way, ironically, we might reclaim our humanity. **DM**

Why it’s crucial not to limit the youth’s access and use of family planning

By Samira Sadeque

WITH the COVID-19 pandemic negatively affecting access to Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (AYSRH) services, it’s imperative governments employ community-based initiatives and peer educators to ensure these services are still available to them.

This is according to Dr. Simon Binezoro Mambo, co-founder and team leader of the Youth Alliance for Reproductive Health in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mambo was speaking to IPS following a two-day forum “Not Without FP”, which was organised by the International Conference on Family Planning and was attended by more than 7,000 people.

The virtual forum was organised to discuss the role of family planning in shaping universal health coverage schemes and explore how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted this discourse around the world.

The forum included a number of high-level speakers: Dr. Natalia Kanem, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Population Fund (UNFPA); Anutin Charnvirakul, Thailand’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health; Beth Schlachter, Executive Director of Family Planning 2020; and Dr. Laura Lindberg, Principal Research Scientist from the Guttmacher Institute.

During a session focused on the youth, Mambo spoke alongside Christine Power, a policy advisor at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), Sophia Sadinsky from the Guttmacher Institute, and Erika Dupuis, the Canada country coordinator at the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFFP).

Power explained to IPS why it’s crucial to focus on the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of the youth.

“They face stigma when they try to gather accurate and comprehensive information about their sexual and reproductive health and rights; they face barriers when they try to seek out quality care; and, if faced with an unintended pregnancy, they often face limited options and judgment,” Power told IPS.

According to UNFPA statistics, it is estimated that 20,000 girls under the age of 18 give birth everyday in developing countries – amounting to 7.3 million births a year. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth remain the leading cause of death among adolescent girls.

Speaking during the panel session, Mastewal Zenebe Bekele from IYAFFP, Ethiopia, said research showed that a prominent barrier to youth accessing these services was that they did not have access to correct information.

In 2018, Empowering Evidence-Driven Advocacy (EEDA), a project implemented by PRB and IYAFFP in five African countries, including Ethiopia, conducted research into the experiences of youth accessing SRH ser-



A mother and her child from West Point, a low-income neighbourhood of Monrovia, Liberia. File photo

vices. It showed that media remained the main source of information for the youth but did not provide enough information on SRHR or contraceptives, Bekele explained.

Speaking during the panel session, Sadinsky said the coronavirus lockdowns meant that the youth now had limited options to access SRHR services since schools are closed.

“Governments should identify ways to institutionalise service delivery methods that have gained traction dur-

ing the pandemic – such as mobile clinic outreach, and patient call centres,” she said.

Sarah Ashraf, Director of Maternal, Newborn and Reproductive Health in Emergencies at Save the Children, told IPS there should also be focus on preparedness.

“There should be an emergency response system and pre-positioned resources as part of a health system that can be initiated or activated when an emergency happens,” she said, adding that this could include mobile

outreach services or employing trained community healthcare providers.

“Empowering local organisations through localisation efforts can also work on bringing services closer to people during times of emergencies,” Ashraf added.

However, with the digital divide growing even wider under the lockdown, suggested services that require technology might be challenging for many communities.

“For countries with no technology, the first thing to do is make AYSRH essential and include them in the pandemic plan response by training community-based distributors with services,” Mambo suggested.

“Second, work with young people as peer educators who can reach their fellow youth with messages of COVID-19 prevention coupled with SRH and this will yield more results for young people to adhere to the standard operational procedures,” he added.

There are also policy gaps as pointed out by Power from PRB.

“Gaps between policy commitments made by governments and stigma and barriers young people still face must be addressed,” she told IPS. “Youth are the most effective change agents when it comes to strengthening youth SRH policies and therefore they must be meaningfully engaged in policy change.”

She said one mechanism of doing that would be to equip them with research, evidence, and the skills for them to educate others. PRB is working to set up such options with the Youth FP Policy Scorecard and activities to strengthen their communications and outreach.

Meanwhile, Dupuis highlighted the importance of including voices in the conversation that are often marginalised.

“We need Black, Indigenous, and radicalised youth leading the way,” Dupuis told IPS.

“We need to move beyond creating youth advisories for agencies or organisations that do not implement suggested findings or action items created by young people,” they added. “We need young people to sit at the table, but we also need a systemic overhaul.”

In 2019, the youth were a prominent focus of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) which aimed to accelerate progress towards universal SRHR, and women’s and girls’ empowerment and gender equality.

During the conference, Dr Osamu Kusumoto from the Asian Population and Development Association, told IPS that the capacity of countries to accelerate and achieve ICPD25 commitments was dependent on the extent to which countries invested in their youth.

“Unplanned pregnancies are a big problem in developing countries. When you have a large population of young people pregnant while they should be in school, this is a problem for the economy too,” Kusumoto had said. **IPS**

UN calls for an 'Ocean Science Revolution'

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations Secretary-General has urged nations to rise to the 'defining challenge' of restoring the ocean's power to support humanity and regulate the climate.

António Guterres addressed the "Brave New Ocean" high level event on Feb. 3. The virtual gathering of world leaders, scientists, philanthropists and ocean advocates marked the start of the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The 2021-2030 observance hopes to mobilise financial, scientific, volunteer and community support in ocean science, conservation and the sustainable use of marine resources. The UN chief said it comes as oceans face 'unprecedented' threats from human activity.

"By 2050, there may be more plastic than fish in the sea. The world's tropical coral reefs could be dead by the end of the century if we don't act now. Protecting and sustainably managing the ocean is essential for food, livelihoods and mitigating climate disruption and related disasters," Guterres said.

The ocean is immense, containing 97 percent of the water on the earth's surface. It is an important source of food and energy, while facilitating commerce and communication. Scientists have however warned that humanity's dependence on the ocean has given way to overexploitation and increased pollution.

The UN's First World Ocean Assessment, published in 2016, cited inaction as the greatest threat to ocean protection. It stated that as the global population continued to rise, demands on marine resources were soaring. It also warned that as many parts of the ocean were being degraded, pollution went unabated. Sewage, garbage, oil spills and industrial waste were destroying a provider of oxygen, food and water for humanity.

The UN chief has called for 'an ocean science revolution,' while noting that funding in this field is critical, but 'miniscule.' A number of youth activists from across the globe have volunteered to bring the message of conservation and sustainable ocean use to their peers.

"The ocean I want to see is the one where there is no pollution. Where humans live in balance with it and not just draining it and expecting the ocean to give more than it can," said 13-year-old ocean activist Catarina Lorenzo.

While the Decade of Ocean Science is new, for some regions, a call to act quickly is not. The tourism-dependent Caribbean is well aware that it has a problem with plastic waste in its waters. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, "the Caribbean is the second most plastic-contaminated sea in the world". Many governments have enacted laws banning single-use plastics and now, a pilot plastic recycling project is underway on Saint Lucia, with plans for replication on other islands.

The project is RePLAST-OECS. It was launched in May, 2019 and is being implemented by UNITE Caribbean, a pan-Caribbean technical assistance and sustainable development partner. It includes the development of a plas-



A peninsula separates the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea in the southwestern village of Scottshead, Dominica. Dominica banned single use plastic in 2020.

tic collection system and incentive scheme, the export of plastic, public education, management and eventual replication.

The project is community driven, with a roster of volunteers. It is sup-

port by constituency councils and youth groups such as the Caribbean Youth Environment Network. Project officials supply materials for the establishment of a waste collection point and also provide training. There

is a non-monetary incentive scheme. Citizens register and receive a reward card. Reward points are issued based on the weight of plastic bottles and containers dropped off at the collection point.

"We are trying to do it with a community-based approach, as opposed to coming into a community and imposing something on them. We are trying to foster greater ownership of the collection activity and ensure sustainability when the pilot is complete," project director Shanta King told IPS.

For Caribbean countries, a project like this goes to the heart of waste diversion, ensuring that plastics do not end up in the ocean or in landfills.

"When it rains heavily, go to any waterway and you will see a proliferation of plastic bottles. This is evidence of inadequate disposal," said King.

"The plastics have not been disposed of through the solid waste collection process, but even waste which would go to the landfill is still not adequate because it reduces the landfill lifespan. These bottles take up a significant amount of landfill space and governments have to invest millions of dollars to create additional space. Our small islands just don't have the landmass to do that."

RePLAST OECS has established 4 collection points for Saint Lucia. The plastic is collected by a recycler, compacted and sent to Honduras. So far, 2 containers - about 26,000 lbs of plastic - have been shipped.

Constructing and maintaining a recycling plant is not a viable option for each island. The goal is to tackle the ballooning plastic waste problem by each island establishing collection points and shipping its plastic for recycling.

It came before the Decade for Ocean Science, but the Saint Lucia project reflects the kind of action being called for by the movement - to identify an issue plaguing the ocean and work towards a sustainable solution.

UN officials are urging nations to embrace this commitment to support science and jump start initiatives to protect oceans for the next ten years. **IPS**

Covid-19 vaccination is the social justice challenge of our time

By **Katusha de Villiers**

UP to 70 countries will be able to vaccinate only one in 10 people against Covid-19 in 2021 due to the high cost of the vaccines and their lack of availability, according to a new report from Oxfam.

In what's being called a "global vaccine apartheid", wealthier nations (such as Canada) are buying up vaccine doses to vaccinate their populations up to five times over, while others (like South Africa) are having to pay almost 2.5 times more for vaccines and still don't have enough to go around.

This disparity has led organisations such as Amnesty International, Frontline AIDS, Global Justice Now and Oxfam to raise the red flag and join forces in a People's Vaccine Alliance. Their aim: to campaign for better access to vaccines and for pharmaceutical corporations to share their technology through the World Health Organisation Covid-19 Technology Access Pool, to enable the manufacture of billions more doses for all who need them.

The UCT GSB Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship has pledged its support for the C19 People's Coalition, with centre director Solange Rosa saying the People's Vaccine Campaign recognises that Covid-19 vaccination is not only a medical issue, but a social justice imperative that cuts very close to the bone in South Africa.

A deepening chasm between rich and poor

In 2019, the World Bank named South Africa the most unequal country in the world and Covid-19 has exacerbated that divide. Amid strict lockdown measures, the pandemic has forced millions into unemployment - at least 250,000 domestic workers have lost their jobs, many of them single mothers without savings or an ability to work from home. Poverty and unemployment have increased, and with children dropping out of school due to a lack of technology resources to enable them to study at home, and parents unable to pay fees, there are fears that an entire generation of young learners will be lost.

At a macroeconomic level, entire sectors are floundering and up to 60% of SMEs are in danger of having to shut up shop.

The hospitality and entertainment industry record losses daily; during the peak holiday season in December 2020, many hotels were operating at between just 30% to 50% occupancy.

South Africans are hanging on by their fingertips, and inequitable access to the vaccine will make things worse.

While President Cyril Ramaphosa has said more vaccines are coming, it is not clear when and how many will arrive. Vaccination plans have been submitted and 200 vaccination sites identified, but there is much public confusion and misinformation regarding the vaccines.



Learning from the past

To many in the healthcare sector, the situation is all too familiar.

Many will recall how South Africa took six years to put in place antiretroviral treatment for HIV/Aids patients while thousands needlessly died. This mirrored a global struggle to improve treatment for HIV/Aids patients.

The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board heard recently how communities engaged with global health authorities for more than 25 years to advocate for those living with HIV/Aids. This work paid off in several ways, including with the development of the Medicine Patent Pool for HIV, which saw the manufacture of millions of cost-effective antiretrovirals and brought down costs for medication from about \$10,000 a year to \$100.

There is a lesson here about how a concerted and unified campaign aimed at global health authorities can be brought to bear on the vaccine response for Covid-19. And this does not have to come at the expense of profits

for the pharmaceutical companies - or take a quarter of a century - as we have the example of those who have gone before us to show us the way.

The message has to be communicated loudly, clearly and insistently: There can be no social justice without equitable access to vaccines and critical treatments.

Taking action in three key areas

The international campaign for a people's vaccine is gathering pace.

Here in South Africa, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, acting on behalf of the campaign, wrote to high-level US experts a few days ago, appealing to the US government - which co-owns and co-produces the NIH-Moderna vaccine - to ensure that Moderna produces more vaccines and shares its technology with the World Health Organisation.

And on the ground, more can be done to optimise what we have.

First, there is an opportunity to dramatically scale up

the role of community health workers (CHWs). Their efficacy in times of crisis is well-documented.

During the Ebola outbreak in Liberia in 2014, for example, CHWs went door to door in areas, offering assistance where it was most needed. They were also able to supply vital information to authorities, which was used to bring the disease under control.

Upskilling community workers in South Africa as professional cadres and including them in healthcare campaigns, could help with vaccine roll-out here as well as with testing and tracing - and even with a mass education campaign to address the rise of vaccination disinformation.

Second, it is critical to address the health crisis that is happening at our borders, where many South African citizens and foreign nationals are being held in quarantine in terrible conditions.

There are also questions around the vaccination of non-South African residents and the multitude of undocumented migrants in South Africa from all over the African continent. There is no clarity on how they will gain access to vaccines.

Third, this is no time to go it alone. We need a multisectoral approach that includes the government and private sector as well as community leaders, trade unions, rural groups and NGOs.

We need to start conversations about the best solutions and look at how partnerships can help improve solutions. Corporations with social justice and development fund portfolios have a special role to play here to help fund vaccine doses and rollout.

There are already examples of help coming from corporates, for example, MTN has donated R380-million to the African Union to source seven million vaccine doses.

Ultimately, South Africa's success or failure is not a country issue. In their scramble to vaccinate their own populations, wealthier countries are missing an obvious lesson in how systems work; everything is interconnected - as the pandemic has shown us all too clearly.

A failure to ensure that all the world is safely vaccinated will ultimately come back to haunt all nations; the longer the virus is allowed to spread unchecked, the greater the chances of mutations that could render the vaccines we do have less efficacious.

As UNAIDS executive director Winnie Byanyima has so powerfully stated: "Almost every business on the planet has had to step away from business as usual as a result of this pandemic. It is in all our interests that pharmaceutical companies, government and corporations now do the same."

"And each of us has a role to play in urging key role-players to throw their weight behind the growing call for a people's vaccine. No one is safe until everyone is safe."

Anti-Covid-19 battle key agenda, as Tshisekedi assumes AU chair

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo President, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi has assumed the chairmanship of the African Union (AU), on the first day of the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

During a partially virtual, partially in-person ceremony, President Tshisekedi will succeed his South African counterpart, President Cyril Ramapho-

sa, as the organization's rotating chairperson.

While the official theme of the year 2021 is "Arts, Culture, and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want," the focus of the AU will also be on addressing the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the continent, which has disproportionately affected the lives and livelihoods of the African people.

President Tshisekedi: "De-

spite country and continent-wide control measures, the impact of COVID-19 has imposed enormous human, financial and socio-economic costs on the African People. This crisis, however, also gives us the chance to re-examine our socio-economic priorities and work towards a sustainable and inclusive economic growth which allows African women and girls to contribute to our societies

to the fullest. We must be more self-reliant and find collective solutions to our problems and start an "African Renaissance" as outlined in the seven Aspirations of our AU Agenda 2063: the "Africa We Want."

We must seize the moment and unite to build the "Africa We Want" and an African Union at the service of the People.

"To that end, the Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo, during its term as President of the African Union, has chosen to elevate African voices. We will focus on sustainable development by and for the African People. We will work to ensure their integral well-being, peace and security, health care and a strong response against COVID-19, as well as food security. Agricultural transformation, education, gender equality, climate

justice, the free movement of people and goods, and freedom of speech and religion, as well as the enhancement of our common heritage: languages, and memorial sites of the history of African people, will also be at the centre of our agenda," the president added.

"For all of us, the COVID-19 outbreak has been a stark reminder that viruses and diseases know no borders. This is why, I will work with AU lead-

ership to make Primary and Universal Healthcare and immunization key pillars of our action in the year to come. Our commitment to protecting all Africans from disease, and to eradicate disease, as we have done with wild polio in Africa, must sit centre stage

in our vision for a prosperous African Union at the service of the People. Because there is no prosperity or well-being without health," he concluded.

The world's 'smallest reptile' discovered in Madagascar and may already be endangered

By Jane Dalton

SCIENTISTS have discovered a miniature chameleon that they believe could be the smallest reptile on Earth.

Small enough to stand on a human fingertip, two of the lizards, a male and a female, were discovered in a patch of rainforest in northern Madagascar.

But the species might already be threatened with extinction, the journal *Scientific Reports* said.

Poverty and growing populations have led to the clearing of rainforests to make room for farmed animals in the country in the Indian Ocean. More than 90 per cent of Madagascar's forests have been razed, according to Nasa.

The pair, about the size of a sunflower seed, were found by a German-Madagascan team.

The scientists recommended the species be assessed officially for the IUCN red list of threatened species as soon as possible.

Mark Scherz, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Potsdam and study co-author, told *National Geographic*: "It's all good and well to say, 'I really hope that people stop deforesting this forest', but until the

economic future of Madagascar changes, there's no hope for any of its wildlife because the people have to eat." However, Oliver Hawlitschek, a scientist at the Centre of Natural History in Hamburg, said: "The nano-chameleon's habitat has unfortunately been subject to deforestation, but the area was placed under protection recently, so the species will survive."

The male "Brookesia nana", or nano-chameleon, has a body that is only 13.5mm (just over half an inch) long, making it the smallest of all the roughly 11,500 known species of reptiles, zoologists said. Its total length from nose to tail is nearly 22mm.

The female is far bigger, at around 29mm long.

The tiny reptile has a projectile tongue, which it uses to nab prey, mostly mites.

Frank Glaw, who was part of the international team of researchers that classified the new species, said the pair were spotted on a mountainside by a local guide. "You really have to get down on your knees to find them," he said. "They are obviously camouflaged and they move very slowly."

He and his colleagues performed a CT scan of the female and discovered that it harboured two eggs, confirming that it was an adult.



Sea level rise could be worse than feared, warn researchers

By Karen McVeigh

THE rise in the sea level is likely to be faster and greater than previously thought, according to researchers who say recent predictions are inconsistent with historical data.

In its most recent assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the sea level was unlikely to rise beyond 1.1 metre (3.6ft) by 2100.

But climate researchers from the University of Copenhagen's Niels Bohr Institute believe levels could rise as much as 1.35 metres by 2100, under a worst-case warming scenario. When they used historical data on sea level rise to validate various models relied on by the IPCC to make its assessment, they found a discrepancy of about 25cm, they said in a paper published in the journal *Ocean Science*.

Advertisement

The researchers said the models used by the IPCC were not sensitive enough, based on what they described as a "reality check" test.

"It's not great news that we believe the former predictions are too low," said the climate change scientist Aslak Grinsted, a co-author and an associate professor at the Niels Bohr Institute.

"The models used to base predictions of sea level rise on presently are not sensi-

tive enough," he said. "To put it plainly, they don't hit the mark when we compare them to the rate of sea level rise we see when comparing future scenarios with observations going back in time."

However, he hoped their testing method could be used to constrain models, make them more credible and reduce uncertainty. He said the paper had been sent to the IPCC sea level scientists.

The rise predictions used

by the IPCC are based on a "jigsaw puzzle" of models for ice sheets, glaciers and thermal expansion or warming of the sea. The more the temperature rises, the higher the sea level will get.

But, Grinsted said, only a limited amount of data was sometimes available for the models to be tested on. There was practically no data on the melt-off rate for Antarctica before satellite observations in the 1990s, he said. Grinsted

found that while individual data, when tested backwards in time, from 1850 to 2017, reflected actual sea level rise, when the data was combined the predictions were too conservative.

"We have better historical data for the sea level rise in total, which, in principle, allows for a test of the combined puzzle of models," said Grinsted.

The research team at the Niels Bohr Institute hopes

their method for validating future scenarios by looking into the past can gain a foothold in how sea level rise will be analysed.

Jens Hesselbjerg Christensen, a professor at the institute's ice, climate and geophysics section and a co-author on the paper, said: "We hope this new comparison metric will be adopted and can become a tool we can apply in comparing different models."

After a decade of change in Myanmar, fear of the past drives anti-coup protests

A COMMUNICATIONS blackout, the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi without word, wild rumours fed by a paucity of information.

All recalled the darkest days of a succession of military juntas that ruled Myanmar during half a century of ruinous isolation - driving many people to mass protests in fear that such times could return.

That included a Generation Z who grew up with somewhat greater freedom and prosperity in what nonetheless remains one of Southeast Asia's poorest and most restrictive countries.

"We don't want a dictatorship for the next generation or for us," said Thaw Zin, a 21-year-old among the sea of people massed in the shadow of Sule Pagoda in the center of the commercial capital of Yangon yesterday.

Some carried posters that read: "You fucked with the wrong generation."

Shaking with emotion, Thaw Zin said, "If we don't stand this time for our country, our people, there is no one. Evil will fall on us. We will never forgive them for the trouble they have brought to us."

Myanmar's army seized power last Monday, detaining Suu Kyi and halting an unsteady transition to democracy, citing unsubstantiated fraud in the election landslide won by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy in November.

Successive military juntas ruled Myanmar from 1962 until 2011, when a quasi-civilian government started opening up the

country and its economy after Suu Kyi was freed from a spell of what totalled nearly 15 years under house arrest.

In 2012, only 1.1 per cent of the population used the internet and few people had telephones, according to the International Telecommunication Union.

But after liberalisation in 2013, the price of SIM cards dropped from more than \$200 to as little as \$2 almost overnight. By 2016, nearly half the population had cell phones and most were smartphones with internet access.

Pre-publication censorship was abolished and private media proliferated. While journalists remained under heavy scrutiny and arrests continued, it was a far cry from the days when the only news was state-produced propaganda that glorified the generals and lambasted "foreign axe-handles of the West".

After the military seized power, activists responded with calls for a mass civil disobedience movement that spread rapidly online, something that would not have been possible before.

The parliament that had been due to be sworn in on Monday, the day of coup, held a symbolic first session by Zoom.

Anger over the internet shutdown on Saturday - so reminiscent of the old days - drove both older generations all too familiar with isolation and younger ones suddenly cut off.

"Most of us youths work at I.T companies," said one 22-year-old protester. "Since



People rally in a protest against the military coup and to demand the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, in Yangon, Myanmar, February 7, 2021. File photo

the whole server is shutdown, we can't do anything. It affects our business as well as our opportunities."

"WE HATE DICTATORSHIP"

"We all know how terrible it was," said 40-year-old Maw Maw Aung, who was also among the crowds beside Sule Pagoda, of direct army rule. "We cannot live under the boot of the military. We hate dictatorship. We really hate it."

She remembered the legacy of crippled education and healthcare systems under the junta. When the World Health Organization last did rankings, in 2008, Myanmar's health system came last.

"We lived in fear everyday," she said. "We are behind our neighboring countries in everything."

As the generals shut the internet on Saturday, echoes of the

old era reappeared.

Activists and politicians went into hiding. Wild rumours began to spread: that various high-profile NLD leaders were dead, that Suu Kyi had been freed, and the army chief toppled.

Without explanation on Sunday evening, the internet was switched back on. But there was no sign of the protests abating. Many are fearful about what comes next: previous uprisings against the military - in 1988 and 2007 - have been subdued with deadly force.

"With the anti-coup protests gaining steam, we can well imagine the reaction to come," author and historian Thant Myint-U wrote on Facebook.

"But Myanmar society is completely different from 1988 and even 2007," he said. "I have tremendous faith in today's younger generation. Anything is possible."

The power of the ordinary: Mandela showed the way for Biden to heal the US

By 5 February 2021

THE changing of the guard in Washington from the 45th president of the US to the 46th is an opportune time for us to take a moment to reflect: Donald Trump and Joe Biden are very different people - one driven to be extraordinary and stand out, the other almost the opposite.

The past four years in the White House have been both unprecedented and, as some US newspapers have described it, often "unpresidential". You only have to read *A Higher Loyalty, Truth, Lies and Leadership* by former FBI director James Comey, who was fired by Trump in 2017, to understand the kind of absolute malevolence and fear that people felt being in Trump's presence in the executive office.

In many ways, those meetings appear more like something out of *The Godfather* than the workings of the West Wing, the office of the ostensible leader of the free world. Contrast this with the viral clips of Biden appointing his staff shortly after his own inauguration with an unequivocal warning that they would be fired on the spot if they were ever found bullying or treating one another with disrespect.

Biden comes across as quintessentially ordinary. Trump, throughout his tenure and especially during his battle to contest the election results, always sought to portray himself as superb and exceptional. He wanted to Make America Great Again. Muhammad Ali might have been the greatest, but Donald Trump was always the genius, the smartest, the best with the biggest - as he eyed Mount Rushmore for uncarved space.

Trump's strategy with Biden was to demonise him for his ordinariness. But it is precisely this trait that is so in need in the US - and across the world - right now. Somehow, we all tend, like Trump, to consider ordinariness as somehow unworthy and lesser than striving for exceptionalism. Being ordinary in today's world has become a curse, but it shouldn't be, for a number of reasons.

The first problem is that being exceptional is often achieved at someone else's expense; you are better than someone, and therefore special. Ordinary people should have visions, should have dreams, yet somehow they have become diminished by this magical thinking that would rather place celebrities and stars on pedestals or have peo-



US president Jose biden

ple strive to place themselves on pedestals.

When Nelson Mandela walked out of prison after 27 years of being abused and exploited, he didn't lash out or seek revenge. He did the opposite - he actively sought to empower those around him, even the people who had been so cruel to him - his jailers. He was extraordinary by actively being ordinary; by not putting anyone else down in the process of achieving his dream, but rather empowering them to empower himself.

We learn from him and other great leaders, political and corporate, that if you go into an environment and make others feel that same way, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts - everyone is enriched, especially the person leading the process. A great leader helps a group function as a group, not by dominating it by the force of their personality. That sense of ordinariness allows ordinary leaders to become extraordinary by being able to harness their vulnerability, to display

it without thinking - or caring - that it might make them look weak.

Trump refused to wear a mask during the pandemic for precisely this reason. Biden cried on the day of his inauguration speaking about his late son. That night he was pictured dancing, holding his grandson as the entire family watched the virtual inauguration concert on television. In contrast, once again, Trump's son filmed his girlfriend dancing as his father exhorted his supporters to storm the Capitol a fortnight before.

The Danes have a wonderful concept called the Law of Jante. In many ways, it's like our concept of Ubuntu, where we proclaim to the world that we are - that we exist - because of others. The 10 rules of the Law of Jante focus on the value of the group over the individual. We may find it hard to accept that as we fight groupthink and talk of "sheeple". But the connected insight and energy of a well-functioning group, a powerful team, is far more than any individual.

We alone are but one insight, interpretation and worldview, whereas we together might have 10 rich views, openly and respectfully shared and synthesised, collectively more insightful, more knowledgeable, more potent than any one of us.

The 10 injunctions include: you're not to think you are anything special; you're not to think you are as good as we are; you're not to think you are smarter than we are; you're not to imagine yourself better than we are; you're not to think you know more than we do, and you're not to think you are more important than we are.

At first, they appear harsh, especially to those who have bought into the mantra of exceptionalism, but they go a long way to explaining why Denmark is an extraordinary country; extraordinarily successful with extraordinarily happy and fulfilled citizens.

The US, on the other hand, is exceptional; exceptionally powerful, exceptionally rich - and exceptionally split into two dis-

tinct groups, one of which was exceptionally loyal, almost fanatically so, to Trump - the narcissistic antithesis of Jante.

Mandela created the story of the Rainbow Nation where everyone had a place in the sun, even those who had oppressed him and his kith and kin for generations because of the colour of their skin. Trump wanted to Make America Great Again. It took a generation for the public to begin to unpick Mandela's legacy. The exercise on Trump began before he lost the election - but never among his most loyal followers.

In him, they saw the same exceptionalism that he wanted for himself because, as despots through time have done, he told them they were special. In their "greatness" others had to be lesser, to define and sustain their myth. Their common human condition of pain and dissonance could be discharged and blamed on others to purge themselves of it.

The fundamental problem with Trump's promise was that

it was based on others not being special enough, so there had to be a wall with Mexico, whose citizens were - in the Trumpian narrative - threatening any attempt to make America great. Yet the biggest threat, "slouching towards Bethlehem to be born", in the immortal words of WB Yeats, this time towards the Capitol, was the brutal mob; exposed by its naked sense of entitlement, ugly in its open violence and aggression and unashamed fascist pride of white supremacy.

Where the Law of Jante is based on the higher ideal of collective humanity, the premise of Make America Great Again (MAGA) was the destruction of the Deep State and the elitism that had alienated so many Americans, ignoring their difficulties and their pain as local economies collapsed. Just as Brexit gave story to the lived realities and hardship of marginal communities, especially in the formerly heavily industrialised north of England. MAGA and Brexit are almost tribal in their appeal. They are both premised on false narratives, but that does not make them any less attractive for followers fed a strict diet of conspiracy theories on bespoke media platforms that are nothing less than confirmation bias.

To heal, America needs an ordinary leader to be extraordinary. South Africa had Mandela who took office two months before he turned 76. Biden is 78. Mandela was a conciliator, but he also had a will of steel, as anyone who ever felt the rough edge of his tongue - like apartheid president FW de Klerk - will attest. That's the true power of ordinariness - being the whole person, with integrity, integrated. Being strong in your own weakness, powerful in your vulnerability. Approachable, inspirational and, above all, relatable.

Biden will need all of this and more if he is to bring the two Americas together that were rent asunder during the four years of Trumpism. It will not be easy, but it can be done. Mandela showed the way.

The last thing the world needs is more supermen - especially self-proclaimed ones blind to their own kryptonite. What we do need is extraordinary leaders who know that they aren't extra special - because it's precisely that which created the explosive situation America finds itself in now that has to be defused.

DM

Chinese vaccines show preliminary effect on most coronavirus variants - experts

AFTER a coronavirus strain in Beijing's recent cases was reportedly found to be the same as a variant in the UK, public concern arose over the effectiveness of Chinese vaccines, especially after scientists found that new variants in the UK, South Africa and Brazil are more infectious than the original one.

A source at China's leading producer Sinovac brought encouraging news to the *Global Times* on Wednesday, saying that preliminary results showed antibodies given by Sinovac's dose can neutralize the UK and the South African variants, though a detailed report by scientists has not yet been published.

Chinese scientists are working with vaccine producers to study mutations, and lab studies are underway to understand the potential threat to Chinese vaccines.

All three variants in the UK, South Africa and Brazil have developed changes to the spike protein - a key part that attaches the virus to human cells. The UK variant has been found in more than 60 countries, according to the World Health Organization, while the South Africa variant has been detected in more than 20 nations.

The anti-epidemic work can be more difficult as the mutated forms of the virus spread more easily, Feng Zijian, a deputy director of the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said at a press conference on Wednesday.

Feng stressed that the mutations have not been found to cause significant changes in either virulence or the antigenicity of the coronavirus.

As China faces its largest annual human migration during the upcoming Spring Festival holidays, experts call for stricter



The COVID-19 vaccine Beijing manufacturing plant of leading Chinese vaccine producer Sinovac Photo: Li Hao/GT

prevention and control measures to contain the high risk of the virus being spread.

Chinese vaccines show preliminary effect against most variants like the ones from the UK and South Africa, whereas a similar conclusion for the Brazil variant still requires further tests, experts said.

The test against the Brazil variant may start soon if scientists obtain the real variant strain from imported cases, said the

source, noting that the lab study requires high-level facilities such as Biosafety Level 3 laboratories.

Zhang Yuntao, a vice president and chief scientist of another leading manufacturer China National Biotec Group, said on Wednesday that current data shows the group's inactivated COVID-19 vaccines can protect recipients from various existing coronavirus variants from the UK, South

Africa and Nigeria.

Chinese health department official Zeng Yixin said on January 9 the Chinese joint prevention and control mechanism moved swiftly and has established a specialized research group on the variant.

Compared with other types of vaccines, inactivated vaccines and mRNA vaccines are the two that respond most quickly and effectively to mutations, Shao Yiming from

the China CDC, who was involved in China's COVID-19 vaccine approval, told the *Global Times* on Thursday.

Even in the worst case, the inactivated vaccines could be redesigned and tweaked for a better fit in no longer than three months, if necessary, said Shao. "But other technological routes may not be as fast."

"In theory, an mRNA vaccine can have more advantage against the variant. Both the humoral and cellular immune responses to RNA, compared with only the humoral immune response to inactivated vaccines, is more like a double-edged sword to deal with potential variation," Zhuang Shilihe, a Guangzhou-based clinician who closely studies vaccines, told the *Global Times* on Thursday.

Moreover, a key advantage of mRNA is that it can be redesigned and manufactured to respond to changing strains in the shortest possible time, which other types can hardly achieve, Zhuang said.

Vaccine giants Pfizer and BioNTech announced on Wednesday that their latest study shows the antibodies from people who have received their mRNA COVID-19 vaccine effectively neutralize coronavirus that has a key mutation that is also found in two highly transmissible strains.

Oxford scientists are preparing to design new versions of COVID-19 vaccines to deal with the risk of variants, media reported on Wednesday.

Scientists may see a similar scenario as that for flu vaccines, which change every year to cope with any changes in circulating viruses, Zhuang noted.

Global Times

GENEROSITY

Bank sponsors talented young musician to attend 'Sauti za Busara' festival

By Guardian Reporter

IN continuation of its strategy to invest in talented youths and turn them professional, CRDB Bank Plc has sponsored an online music competition whose winner will get full sponsorship to attend this year's 'Sauti za Busara' music festival due to be held in Zanzibar between February 12 and 13.

CRDB's Head of Card Business, Farid Seif said the bank's objective is to ensure that talented youths use the same to earn cash and live better lives as other professionals. "Music is a popular entertainment portfolio which has huge following globally and made youth live better lives which is what CRDB Bank supports," Seif said.

He explained that the latest sponsorship of budding musicians is just continuation of CRDB's strategy to invest in youths as part of an empowerment drive which has also seen entrepreneurs get training, loans and access to markets for their produce.

Seif said the completion which was done through social media platforms involved thousands of young people

who recorded their music and posted the same online hence attracting followers which made one win through voting.

"The winner will get full sponsorship to attend this year festival in Zanzibar and also get access to our banking services and products," he added while unveiling that the bank is sponsoring the annual with a 25m/- donation.

Through its sponsorship, the bank will showcase its products and services to 'Sauti za Busara' patrons by promoting its digital payment solutions and cashless transactions.

The bank's popular products including SimBanking, CRDB Wakala, Internet Banking and SimAccount will be on offer during the show which attracts participants from all over the world.

The online music competition's winner, Richard Mucho thanked the bank for organizing the competition saying it gave budding musicians a platform to showcase their talent to the larger audience.

"I am happy to win this competition which enables me to use my talent as



CRDB bank Plc's head of card business, Farid Seif speaks in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

employment to earn a living as others have done," Mucho said while noting that many talented young people will benefit from such initiatives as organ-

ised by CRDB. Through its corporate social investment, CRDB sponsored Taifa Basketball Cup which was held in Dodoma last

month and saw 26 talented players get sponsorship to undergo vocational training to get skills that will earn them cash apart from basketball which is still at amateur level in the country.

DIGITIZATION

Mbeya tea farmers 'aboard' Tigo Pesa payment platform

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 8,000 members of Rungwe Small Tea Growers Association will now use Tigo Pesa to transact thanks to an agreement entered with Tigo Tanzania.

The smallholder farmers from Rungwe (Tukuyu) and Kyela districts in Mbeya region will use Tigo Pesa for their transactions under banner christened, 'Malipo ya Chai kwa Tigo Pesa.' Addressing the media soon after signing the agreement on Friday, Tigo's Southern Zone Director, Aidan Komba said the move will ensure safety of the farmers' payments.

"We are happy to be partnering with the Rungwe Small Tea Growers Association, through the 'Malipo ya Chai kwa Tigo Pesa' service through our Tigo Pesa platform which will provide a practical solution to their payments and daily financial transactions," Komba said.

He said the farmers will have to register and subscribe to the Tigo Pesa platform through their association, upon which they are

provided with information on collection, transportation, auctioning and purchase of their produce through the association.

"Once the money from the sale is received into the accounts of the association, Tigo Pesa will transfer the payments directly to farmers who have registered for the service," he said adding that the farmers will then withdraw, transfer or conduct other transactions.

Commenting on the deal, Rungwe Small Tea Grower Association CEO, Lebi Hudson paid tribute to Tigo Tanzania, for ensuring that the association is now going to be a cashless entity. "Farmers were used to the normal and old way of carrying cash, which to be honest poses a serious security threat to them, especially after receiving payment for their commodities," Hudson said.

He said after the deal, the over 8,000 tea farmers need not worry about where they will be able to receive or withdraw their cash after selling their produce. "The service will also provide farmers



Rungwe Small Tea Grower Association CEO, Lebi Hudson.

the efficiency of being able to receive and access their cash from anywhere in the country, enabling them to conduct transactions through their mobile phones," he added.

STABILITY

S&P says Rwanda creditworthy amid Covid-19 damage

KIGALI

STANDARD & Poor's (S&P), an international financial services company, has maintained Rwanda's rating at "B+" but observed that the outlook remained negative.

A sovereign credit rating is an independent assessment of a country's creditworthiness. It serves to give investors insight into the level of risk associated with investing in the debt of a particular country, including any political risk. The international credit rating agency observed that amid the negative economic fallout of the global pandemic, Rwanda's economy will gradually rebound in 2021; It projects GDP will expand by 3.9 per cent in 2021 and by an average 7.1 per cent between 2022-2024.

The rating explained that the negative outlook indicates that Rwanda's large current account deficits could weaken the balance of payment, particularly if the Covid-19 pandemic puts a deeper strain on exports, tourism, and inward remittances.

The rating also noted that the outlook also reflects that large fiscal deficits could make financing more complicated, crowding out banks' credit to the private sector, despite the currently favourable funding structure dominated by cheap concessional debt. The ratings agency pointed out that growth will be supported by a rebound in domestic demand aided by fiscal stimulus and gradual recovery in exports of goods and tourism flows.

"The government intends to gradually phase out the state's support package for those hit by the pandemic, which we estimate at about 5 per cent of GDP over fiscal years 2021-2023. Support is aimed at softening the financial and economic effects of the pandemic on vulnerable households, small businesses, and hard-hit sectors, including hospitality, retail, and aviation," the ranking noted.

A pipeline of public infrastructure investment, including the new International Airport in Bugesera, roads, energy projects, schools, health centers, and commercial real estate should underpin strong medium-to-long-term growth prospects. Construction activity should also promote associated sectors including manufacturing activity, particularly for construction materials and metals and wholesale trade.

PROGRESS

Total logistics for LNG plant to be based in Pemba

MAPUTO

ALMOST all the logistics necessary for the exploitation of liquefied natural gas in Area I of the Rovuma Basin will be carried out from the bay of Pemba, the capital city of Cabo Delgado province.

"Of course, the Mozambique LNG project is also analysing all options to optimise its logistics chain, and there some services may be carried out in Mayotte, as a support base, but the fundamentals of operations will be based here in Pemba, in Muxara and at the CFM/Peschaud facilities," Mozambique country chair at Total, Ronan Bescond, confirmed.

According to Bescond, work is currently underway building a logistics base in Muxara, one of the neighbourhoods of Pemba, at the same time that Mozambique Railways (CFM), in partnership with the com-

pany Peschaud, is remodelling the Port of Pemba.

"We visited the Muxara logistics base. It will support the entire offshore operation, which, according to the development plan, includes the drilling of 18 wells, plus the offshore operations to be developed by Technip FMC, our contractor for offshore operations in deep waters. We are now at the port of Pemba where CFM and Peschaud will provide logistical support for loading and unloading ships and all the equipment that will be needed for all operations in Area I," explained Bescond, who is also vice-president of the Mozambique LNG project.

In addition to confirming the siting of Total's logistics base in bay of Pemba, Bescond reaffirmed the multinational's commitment to continuing to engage local content, one of the major concerns of



Mozambique country chair at Total, Ronan Bescond.

the province's entrepreneurs, especially in view of the possibility of some services being supplied from Mayotte, a French archi-

pelago in the Indian Ocean located about 500 km off the coast of Cabo Delgado. "We have committed to the authorities

to spend around US\$2.5 billion and have around 5,000 Mozambicans employed in our projects. And we are thinking about training these people, so we are building a training centre in Afungi, and we are preparing to build the centre in Maputo. This, in addition to using Mozambican or Mozambique-registered companies. In partnership with the embassy, we are offering 40 scholarships for training in the field. All of this demonstrates our commitment to local content," Bescond said.

Ronan Bescond declined, on his visit to Cabo Delgado, to talk about the security situation in the province, but promised that there had been no change in plans for the start of production, scheduled for 2024. "The initial plan to start production in 2024 still stands, and we are working with the government to achieve this goal," Bescond concluded.

ACTIVISM

Bank teaming up with Chief Promotions in sponsorship of anti-cancer war

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to tame the spreading of cancer in the country, Ecobank Tanzania has teamed up with a not for profit organisation called Chief Promotions, to co-sponsor activities to raise awareness and educate Tanzanians about cancer and how to avoid it.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam to commemorate World Cancer Day 2021 on February 4 last week, Ecobank Tanzania Managing Director, Charles Asiedu

said, "Cancer devastates thousands of lives and households in Tanzania every year. At Ecobank Tanzania we are determined to help address this disease through our cancer awareness and education activities and through our three-year campaign to help prevent all non-communicable diseases."

In a statement, Asiedu said Ecobank Tanzania's education and awareness activities on World Cancer Day included a donation in support of children undergoing cancer treatment at Muhimbili



Ecobank Tanzania managing director, Charles Asiedu speaks in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

National hospital.

He advised the public to adhere to health experts advice to avoid contracting the deadly diseases which include, "Having a healthy diet, taking regular exercise, maintaining average weight, not smoking, avoid alcohol abuse and protecting oneself from the sun."

He further noted that as their partnership with Chief Promotions will also involve sharing messages on television, radio and social

media to increase awareness and knowledge about cancer to the majority in the country.

Globally 10 million people die from cancer each year - that's more than those dying from HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. If left unchecked, experts predict that cancer deaths will rise to 13 million by 2030. More than one third of cancer cases can be prevented and another third can be cured if detected early and treated properly.

VICTORY

Dar businessman wins billboard destruction suit against Group Six

Francis Kajubi

BUSINESSMAN Karunde Rwaijumba was awarded 14m/- as compensation by Kawe Primary Court Resident Magistrate, Rajab Tamambe after a construction company, Group Six International Limited destroyed his roadside billboard in Dar es Salaam.

Resident Magistrate Tamambe said in his ruling on Tuesday this week said the defendant was liable to pay 14m/- for causing loss to a plaintiff by destruction of Rwaijumba's Hygienix company commercial billboard.

"With the authorities granted to this court under 3-1(a) of Mca II, R.E 2019, I rule that Group Six International pays 14m/- to Hygienix due to destruction of the company's property. I am giving 30 days for appeal if the defendant wishes so," RM Tamambe said.

Speaking after the ruling, Rwaijumba who is Managing Director Hygienix, said he filed the case last October to seek compensation for property damaged by the Chinese construction firm. The destruction was done in April last year when the contractor was laying down underground cables along Mwai Kibaki Road in Mikocheni posh area of Dar



Magistrate's gavel

es Salaam.

"Group Six International Limited destroyed our billboard along the major road while conducting routine works," he said, noting that despite his reasoning with the Chinese contractor, it failed to live to its obligations.

"Initially, I simply asked Group Six International to commit in writing

to restoring my billboard to its original condition with urgency as we were losing sales because of its absence," he said but the company ignored such plea.

As all this was going on, the construction firm hinted at paying the aggrieved advertiser but apparently the Chinese firm proceeded to put forward fake receipts upon which to sign, "an act which was to set us in collision with the tax authorities."

"This notwithstanding, little did we know that they had not even the capacity to redesign the artwork, rebuild the billboard and reinstall it as it was before. We had to delegate our technical team to co-operate with

them on the understanding that they would meet these costs as well. The best they did here was to underpay him after lots of promises," he elaborated. Rwaijumba urged Tanzanians who do not know their rights in the event of encountering multinationals who easily trample on their rights, to seek redress through courts of law.

OPTIMISM

Zambia finance minister targets IMF deal before August elections

LUSAKA

ZAMBIAN Finance Minister Bwalya Ng'andu expects to secure an International Monetary Fund loan that could underpin debt-restructuring talks with external creditors before the nation holds elections in August.

The government in November became Africa's first pandemic-era sovereign defaulter after missing a coupon payment on one of its \$3 billion of Eurobonds. Holders of the notes have set a deal with the Washington-based lender as a condition for restructuring their debts, but some have expressed concern that it won't be concluded before the poll. "We want a deal," Ng'andu said in an interview. "There is absolutely no desire on our part that we delay things to election time and we are hopeful that we'll be able to reach

some agreement with the IMF."

Economists including Neville Mandimika at Johannesburg-based Rand Merchant Bank see any deal with the fund happening only after November, as fiscal adjustments the IMF will require may be a difficult political sell ahead of the polls. Bondholders account for about one-quarter of Zambia's \$12 billion external debt that it's seeking to restructure, having unsuccessfully appealed to commercial creditors in September for a six-month interest-payment standstill.

High-level visit

Zambia hosted a high-level visit from the IMF in December, and staff are due to hold virtual meetings with officials again from February 11 to discuss the nation's debt and a possible extended credit facility, Ng'andu said.

The fund may oppose a govern-



Zambian Finance minister Bwalya Ng'andu.

ment decision to increase fuel subsidies and take on an additional \$1.5 billion of loans for a state-owned mining investment company when it

DIVERSITY

Energy agency out to purchase 15,000 bamboo electric poles

NAIROBI

THE Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) is seeking 15,000 electricity poles made from bamboo in a shift towards long-lasting eco-friendly posts. The company has started tendering for the poles from local firms, making the first time the composite poles will be used in a large-scale electricity transmission project.

Kenya Power, Nairobi Metropolitan Service (NMS) and REREC agreed to start using the bamboo-made poles, diversifying from concrete and wooden posts - which have a shorter lifespan and are therefore more expensive over time. The rural electrification agency will use the composite poles in swampy areas and zones infested with termites, which cut the wooden posts' life span to five years.

Kenya Power and NMS will use the bamboo-made poles for connecting homes to the grid and street lighting respectively. "Supply of 10m composite poles - open to local manufacturers only. Within Seven (7) Months after Contract signing," said REREC tender documents.

The state agency hopes to use the poles to replace aging poles as well as connect more rural homes to the national grid, offering a windfall to farmers who have embraced agroforestry, especially bamboo farming. REREC says the composite poles - which are made from bamboo and polyurethane foam - are cheaper in the long term.

"As a result of its durability, lightweight and long lifecycle, EcoPole is the most cost-efficient choice for distribution of electricity," said Peter Mbugua, REREC chief executive officer. "It is strong and flexible against strong winds and the low weight makes it easy and less costly to transport and install. The poles also play a major role reducing deforestation."

REREC reckons the eco-friendly poles can last more than 75 years compared with less than 10 years for wooden posts and between 15 and 30 years for concrete masts.

The state-run agency has set a cap of Sh50,000 for a composite pole compared with Sh25,000 and Sh12,000 for concrete and wooden posts respectively.

Electricity supply poles have become a lucrative business as Kenya moves to replace traditional wooden poles with alternatives like concrete and eco-friendly masts. Kenya Power has grown its annual demand for poles to 450,000 issuing tenders worth Sh5 billion yearly under the money-minting National Electrification Programme.

bought out Glencore Plc's local unit. Ng'andu said these won't be deal-breakers.

As part of the meetings, the government will discuss with the fund its debt-sustainability analysis, which Ng'andu expects to finalise by the middle of March. The state will then use that document as the basis for restructuring discussions with bondholders and other creditors, he said.

"It will be a time and a period when we can then sit with the bondholders and say this is what we are proposing should happen," said Ng'andu. "That will become the material for us to use in our discussions with the bondholders."

Zambia will seek to use the Group of 20's so-called common framework to restructure its debt, Ng'andu said. He's hopeful Chinese creditors that account for more than one-quarter of the nation's external debt will join that process, in spite of those lenders preferring bilateral discussions.

"The impression that I get speaking to them is that they are very cooperative, they want to be party to the process," said Ng'andu.

DETERMINATION

Farmers' protests in India show no sign of abating

NEW DELHI

Protests by farmers in India, now in their third month, are showing no sign of abating after demonstrators on Saturday staged a nationwide road blockade. The demonstrators joined tens of thousands of farmers who have been protesting on the outskirts of the capital New Delhi since November. The farmers want three new agriculture laws to be scrapped.

They argue the reforms will benefit corporates and spell the end of the government-backed agricultural model on which they depend. However, the government refuses to repeal the laws, insisting they will bring in much needed investment and help to modernise the sector.

Analysts and industry insiders agree that reforms are required as India's agriculture industry is deeply rooted in a decades-old system and

has failed to keep up with the pace of development. The farm laws have the potential to improve efficiency and profitability, they say. But some experts argue that it is critical for the government to support the farm sector to establish a level playing field as it continues to liberalise agricultural markets.

"The farmer and big business are part of the same value chain and their interests need not be at loggerheads," says Om Routray, vice president of marketing at SourceTrace, a company that provides digital services to agriculture businesses. "For the laws to benefit all farmers, the government needs to remain invested in the sector - but the nature of that support needs to evolve."

At stake is an industry that supports the livelihoods of about half the population. The protests are seen as the biggest challenge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has faced since he first came to power in 2014 and won re-election in 2019, helped by farmers' votes as he pledged to double their incomes.

Although agriculture is the country's biggest generator of jobs, its contribution to GDP has declined to about 15 per cent compared with more than 40 per cent in 1960, according to World Bank data. The rise of the non-farm economy and declining profitability in the sector have caused the drop, experts say.

This is linked to structural issues that have been plaguing the sector for years. At the core is the fact that the majority of the country's farmers have tiny, un-economic land holdings following land reforms that took place decades ago. V Padmanand, a partner at Grant Thornton Bharat, says.



Indian farmers sit next to their tractors during a protest at the Delhi Ghazipur Border near New Delhi, India.

"The land distribution policy allocated land to tenant farmers, which got further fragmented and subdivided as the population increased," Mr Padmanand says. "This further fragmentation led to a size where investment in

farm level mechanisation and inputs became not very [economically] feasible or affordable."

India's most recent agriculture census, published in 2018, reveals that 86.2 per cent of the country's farmers are

small and marginal growers who own less than one hectare of land. These "economically weak" small farmers have little capacity to invest, leaving them at the mercy of middlemen both for sourcing farming products and selling their produce, Mr Padmanand says. This eats into their profits, while waste is rife because of inefficiencies.

At the same time, given the importance of agriculture in the country to feed the nation and the fact that it is a risk-prone industry - subject to unpredictable factors such as rain, drought and pests - it is dependent on some protectionist measures.

"India has a large population and a significant portion of them are below the poverty line who need to be provided basic food as per the Indian laws," says Amit Sinha, co-founder of Unnati Agritech, an Indian platform that offers technology services to farmers.

APPRECIATION

Alibaba's new bond sale attracts \$38bn in orders



Ant Group CEO Daniel Zhang

BEIJING

ALIBABA Group Holding drew robust orders for a \$5 billion bond sale, demonstrating investor confidence in the e-commerce giant's long-term prospects amid easing tensions with Chinese regulators.

The four-tranche offer received more than \$38 billion in orders at the peak, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The notes comprising 10-year, 20-year, 30-year and 40-year maturities were priced at 30 basis points to 40 basis points lower than initial guidance, as measured in yields above comparable Treasuries, said the people, who aren't authorised to speak publicly.

The new dollar debt sale is the biggest in Asia since a \$6bn issuance by rival Tencent Holdings in May. It comes amid growing expectations that Jack Ma's tech empire may have avoided the worst-case scenarios - which had ranged from a government-led takeover to a break-up of his companies - after the billionaire entrepreneur briefly returned to public sight last month and as Ant Group began its lengthy overhaul process. Washington's decision to drop deliberations of an investment ban on the firm and Alibaba's consensus-beating quarterly sales performance also helped ease concerns about its future amid a regulatory crackdown.

"Alibaba bonds have been well received in the market, with pricing having tightened significantly from its initial guidance. Approval of Ant's restructuring plan has reduced uncertainty over the regulatory environment, which contributed to greater appetite for Alibaba's new issuance," said Chang Wei Liang, a macro strategist at DBS Bank in Singapore.

Alibaba's existing dollar notes and its shares rose Thursday after Bloomberg News reported that affiliate Ant Group and Chinese regulators agreed on a restructuring plan

that will turn Jack Ma's fintech giant into a financial holding company. While this would make Ant subject to capital requirements similar to those for banks, analysts say the agreement suggests it's now less likely to have to spin off portions of its businesses. Meanwhile, Reuters reported that Ant may have off its consumer data operations, a concession to regulators that may enable the company to revive plans for an initial public offering that had been abruptly halted in November.

Alibaba owns roughly a third of Ant and chief executive Daniel Zhang told analysts on Tuesday that the company was unable to assess the impact of the company's ongoing restructuring on its business, though he added that only "a very small percentage" of Ant's credit plans are used to make payments on its market places. The online retailer, which is facing its own antitrust investigation, has set up a special taskforce to conduct internal reviews and is actively communicating with antitrust regulators on complying with their requirements, Mr Zhang said.

The company on Tuesday reported a stronger-than-expected 37 per cent increase in quarterly sales, adding that it plans to continue investing for long-term growth in areas like cloud and artificial intelligence. "Alibaba has multiple growth drivers in the years ahead," Jefferies analyst Thomas Chong wrote in a note after the earnings.

Approval of Ant's restructuring plan has reduced uncertainty over the regulatory environment, which contributed to greater appetite for Alibaba's new issuance," said Chang Wei Liang, a macro strategist at DBS Bank in Singapore. Alibaba's existing dollar notes and its shares rose Thursday after Bloomberg News reported that affiliate Ant Group and Chinese regulators agreed on a restructuring plan



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 30 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:30	Al Jazeera
7:00	Habari	02:00	DWTV
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	Shamsham 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		

TUESDAY 2 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:30	Al Jazeera
7:30	HABARI	02:00	DWTV
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	Jungu kuu rpt		
10:55	Habari za saa		
11:00	The Base rpt		
11:55	Habari za saa		
12:00	Al Jazeera		
12:30	Afya ya jamii		
12:55	Habari za saa		
13:00	DWTV: Kesho leo rpt		
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt		
13:55	Habari za saa		
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		

SUNDAY 31 Jan

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:30	Al Jazeera
7:00	Habari	02:00	DWTV
8:00	Al Jazeera		
09:00	Watoto Wetu		
10:00	Isidingo rpt		
11:40	Mjue zaidi		
12:35	Movie: Wajanja wa Mjini rpt		
14:00	Tamasha la michozo		
15:30	Mwanga		
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: Kivuli		
00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		

MONDAY 1 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:30	Al Jazeera
7:30	HABARI	02:00	DWTV
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		
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		

WEDNESDAY 3 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:30	Al Jazeera
7:30	HABARI	02:00	DWTV
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		
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		

FRIDAY 5 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:30	Al Jazeera
7:30	HABARI	02:00	DWTV
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		
11:55	Habari za saa		
12:00	Al Jazeera		
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco		
12:55	Habari za saa		
13:00	Jajina 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	Kisilam		
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	Habari		
23:30	The Base		
00:30	Al Jazeera		
02:00	DWTV		

SATURDAY 6 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:30	Al Jazeera

7:00	Habari	23:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	23:30	The Base
9:00	Watoto wetu	00:30	Al Jazeera
10:00	Shika Bamba 5	02:00	DWTV
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	Shamsham 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	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death		
22:10	Isidingo rpt		
00:30	DWTV		

SUNDAY 7 Feb

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00	Habari
6:00	HABARI	23:30	The Base
6:40	Kumekucha	00:30	Al Jazeera
7:00	Habari	02:00	DWTV
8:00	Al Jazeera		
09:00	Watoto Wetu		
10:00	Isidingo		
11:40	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt		
12:00	Movie rpt: Kivuli		
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo		
15:30	Mwanga		
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: Pumba		
00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		

CAPITAL

Sat 30 Jan

08:00	Al Jazeera	23:00	Habari
09:00	Rev rpt	23:30	The Base
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
10:00	Culinary delight rpt	02:00	DWTV
10:30	Innovation rpt		
11:00	Out n'about rpt		
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt		
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt		
12:30	Eco@Africa rpt		
13:00	Business edition rpt		
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter		
14:30	Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death		
17:15	Tanzania Yetu rpt		
17:45	Bundesliga kick off		
18:15	Capchat rpt		
19:15	Mizengwe		
19:30	The Decor		
20:00	Korean Drama: The Slave hunter		
21:00	Out n'About		
21:30	Movie: Eden		
23:00	Series rpt: Itohan		
01:00	Al Jazeera		

Sun 31Jan

08:00	Aljazeera	23:00	Habari
09:00	In good shape	23:30	The Base
10:00	Capchat rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt	02:00	DWTV
11:30	Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter		
12:00	Jajina rpt		
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt		
13:00	In good shape rpt		
13:30	Series rpt: Itohan		

15:15	Aibu yako
15:30	Rev rpt
16:00	Dakika 45 rpt
16:45	Mizengwe rpt
17:00	The Decor rpt</

WORLD

ICC ruling brings hope for Palestinians, dismay for Israelis

JERUSALEM/GAZA

MANY Palestinians see a ruling by the International Criminal Court that it has jurisdiction over the Palestinian territories as a belated chance of justice for victims of Israeli attacks.

But for many Israelis, Friday's ruling is worrying because they say they are the "good guys" defending themselves against Palestinian violence.

The ruling, delivered by a pre-trial chamber of three ICC judges, could lead to criminal investigations of Israel and Palestinian militant groups including Hamas. No probe was expected in the near future, however.

ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said she would now examine the decision and pointed to the 2014 Gaza war between Israel and militant groups in Hamas-controlled Gaza, the 2018 Gaza border protests and Israeli settlements in occupied territory.

In Khan Younis in Gaza, Palestinian Tawfiq

Abu Jama said 24 members of his extended family had been killed in an Israeli air strike during the seven-week conflict in 2014 - in which the dead included more 2,100 Palestinians, many of them civilians, as well as 67 Israeli soldiers and six Israeli civilians.

Abu Jama said he regarded the ICC decision as "possible justice that came late and better than never ... we don't trust Israeli courts."

An investigation into the Khan Younis strike, carried out by the Israeli military's judicial arm, concluded that it was lawful, and had targeted a militant.

On the Israeli side of the border, Israeli Gadi Yarkoni, who lost both his legs in a Palestinian mortar bomb attack during the same war, said he was angered by the ruling.

"We are the good guys here, we don't fire in order to kill innocent children but they fire at us in order to kill civilians," said Yarkoni, who is head of the Eshkol Regional Council, bordering Gaza. "I weep for every civilian killed



ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda

in Gaza and the West Bank but we are defending our borders."

The two sides agreed on one thing - neither expects a swift outcome from the ICC.

An Israeli official who requested anonymity said "it's not like arrest warrants are going to be issued tomorrow morning," adding that Israel would coordinate steps with Washington over the court's ruling.

The official described the ruling as political.

HURDLES AHEAD

Diana Buttu, an international lawyer and former legal adviser to the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the Palestinians still faced many hurdles.

"The road to actual justice is a long one, for the ICC will undoubtedly face political pressure not to proceed," Buttu said.

She said it was not the first time an international court had de-

clared Israeli acts illegal, and previously "the world did nothing in response."

The ICC decision was just three weeks the end of Donald Trump's presidency, during which the United States imposed sanctions on two ICC officials, including Bensouda.

After U.S. President Joe Biden's inauguration last month, the State Department said Washington would "thoroughly review" the Trump-era sanctions.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday's ruling was anti-Semitic and that Israel would "fight this perversion of justice with all our might."

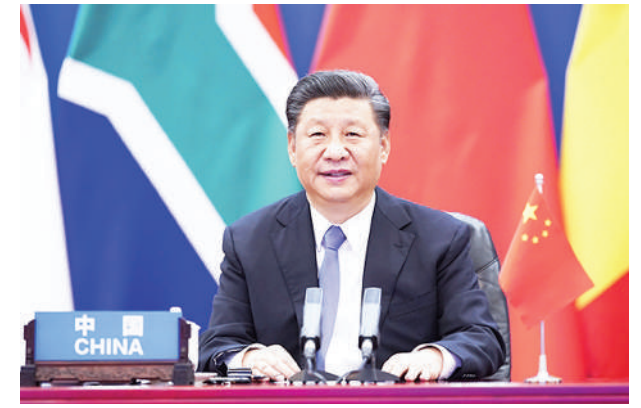
Palestinian Foreign Affairs Minister Riyad al-Maliki said it was an "historic day" and that Israel had previously been treated "above the law."

But Palestinians are not exempt from the court's scrutiny. Hamas, designated by Israel and the West as a terrorist organisation, has been accused of intentionally attacking civilians and using Palestinian civilians as human shields.

But a Hamas official in Gaza welcomed the ruling and said it did not fear investigation.

"Hamas resistance and the resistance of the Palestinian people is legitimate and consistent with International Humanitarian law," said spokesman Hazem Qassem.

The Israeli military (IDF) said it regretted the ICC ruling and would continue to defend the security of Israel and its citizens "while adhering fully to the IDF Code of Ethics, the values of the IDF, and national and international law." **Agencies**



Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 held on 17 June 17, 2020 via video link. (Photo/Xinhua)

Xi sends congratulatory message to 34th AU summit

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Saturday warmly congratulated African countries and their people on holding the 34th African Union summit.

In his congratulatory message, Xi expressed his wish that African countries and people will continue to make greater achievements on the path of unity, self-improvement, development and progress.

Xi emphasized that 2020 is an unforgettable year for China-Africa relations. China and Africa supported each other and overcame the difficulties in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 was successfully held, China-Africa cooperation in various fields continued to advance, and both sides jointly safeguarded the interests of developing countries as well as international equity and justice, showing the world the high level of China-Africa relations, he said.

Noting that a new session of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is scheduled to be held in Senegal this year, Xi said that China is ready to work with the African side to build strategic consensus and push for anti-epidemic cooperation, and fully implement the outcomes of the FOCAC Beijing Summit.

China is willing to work with Africa to advance deep and practical cooperation on the Belt and Road construction, and make unremitting efforts to build a closer China-Africa community with a shared future, so as to benefit the Chinese and African peoples, Xi said. **Xinhua**

Chinese-made vaccines help Asian nations combat COVID-19

HONG KONG

THE first batch of China's Sinopharm vaccines is due to arrive in Cambodia on Sunday to help launch an inoculation drive against COVID-19 starting from the upcoming Wednesday.

China has been racing to help Asian countries fight the coronavirus pandemic with home-developed COVID-19 vaccines, honoring its commitment to making vaccines a global public good once available.

Rays of hope

Pakistan has become the first country to receive China's vaccine aid after a batch of doses developed by China's Sinopharm arrived in the country on Monday from Beijing via a special Pakistan Air Force aircraft.

With over half a million infections and more than 11,000 deaths, the South Asian country is struggling against the second wave of the deadly virus.

For Muhammad Jan, an ambulance driver at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, the arrival of Chinese vaccines "shed light at the end of the tunnel" for the frontline Pakistani medical workers. "I have been watching the close ties between

Pakistan and China and China's support to my country in every hour of need," Jan told Xinhua.

The 32-year-old bread earner of a family of five has been taking severe COVID-19 patients to hospital and transporting those who succumbed to the virus to cemeteries for months in the country's capital Islamabad and the adjoining provinces.

Several ambulance drivers he knows have contracted the virus and even one of his acquaintances died of the disease. Anxiety grows in Jan's mind about contracting the virus and passing it on to his three kids and wife, but he has never thought of quitting the job.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan approved two vaccines for emergency use last month, one of which is developed by Sinopharm.

Nausheen Hamid, Pakistan's Parliamentary Secretary on National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, told Xinhua that the vaccines would be administered to doctors, paramedics and supporting staff including ambulance drivers and cleaners, who either work in COVID-19 wards or have direct interactions with COVID-19 patients.



A medical worker prepares a dose of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in Rabat, Morocco, Jan 29, 2021. (XINHUA)

"My wife has been insisting on my quitting the job and finding livelihood somewhere else. Now it's such a relief," he said. "I am eagerly awaiting the day when I will get the vaccine administered, because it will enable me to do my job in a secure way." Commenting on the vaccine aid from China to Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a press conference on Monday that the vaccine cooperation between Pakistan and China not only reflects the sincere mutual assistance between the two as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, but also reflects efforts of both to promote vaccines as a global public good and improve its accessibility and affordability in developing

countries. "That's what we've been saying and what we've been doing," said Wang.

In addition to Pakistan, said the spokesperson, China is providing COVID-19 vaccines to 13 developing countries including Brunei, Nepal, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Palestine in Asia.

China will aid 38 more developing countries in need of COVID-19 vaccines and is actively participating in the World Health Organization's COVAX initiative to provide vaccines through this platform to developing countries, he added.

Game changer for recovery

From Jakarta to Manila and to Kuala Lumpur, more Asian

countries are placing their trust in China as they have ordered, received or approved the emergency use of Chinese vaccines.

In a YouTube livestream, Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Jan. 13 rolled up his sleeves to receive his first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese company Sinovac Biotech, kicking off the nation's mass inoculation campaign.

The massive vaccination program would help Indonesia achieve herd immunity after 181.5 million people - around two thirds of the country's population - are inoculated within 15 months, according to Indonesian Deputy Minister of Health Dante Saksono.

The largest economy in Southeast Asia, with over 1.3 billion COVID-19 infections and more than 31,000 deaths by Saturday, is pinning its hope on the mass vaccination drive to control the spread of the virus and revitalize its virus-hit economy.

"The game changer for the national economic recovery during the pandemic is the implementation of this vaccination," said Indonesian Industry Minister Agus Gumiwang Kartasmita. **Xinhua**

Russian military hands over humanitarian aid to teachers in Syria's Aleppo

ALEPPO

RUSSIAN military officers serving at the Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties in Syria have handed over humanitarian aid to teachers in Syria's Aleppo. Sixty-five teachers

in the city of Aleppo that did not abandon their students during hostilities in the region received humanitarian packages from the Russian military, head of the center's Aleppo department Sergei Shkerin informed reporters.

"Today, the Center for Rec-

onciliation of the Opposing Parties held a humanitarian action and provided aid to Aleppo's teachers.

These teachers have remained at work during hostilities and during the coronavirus pandemic.

So we have decided to

help them. Everyone was satisfied with this action," Shkerin said.

The teachers received food packages and warm clothes.

The Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties in Syria has been

active in Syria since 2016.

Since the start of its work, the Russian military held 2,711 humanitarian events.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo handed over in Syria comes up to over 4,600 tonnes.

Agencies

Overseas warehouses help Chinese goods reach more foreign customers faster

WITH a mature operating model based on its overseas warehouses, Ningbo HOOYA Import & Export Group Co., Ltd. based in Ningbo city, east China's Zhejiang province, doubled its business volume in 2020, compared with the previous year.

It sells more than 15,000 products under over 20 categories in European and U.S. markets and receives an average of over 30,000 orders per day.

Ten years ago, however, HOOYA was a traditional foreign trade enterprise selling daily necessities with low unit prices and low profit margins.

Its overseas warehouses, which have integrated functions for such purposes as storage, transportation and sale of products,

hold the key to the transformation of the enterprise. The company has built overseas warehouses covering 400,000 square meters and 20 storage and marketing centers around the world.

In fact, besides HOOYA, many more Chinese companies have established warehouses overseas. Ruston Express, an international logistics company based in northeast China's Heilongjiang province, built its first overseas warehouse in Russia in 2015.

By joining hands with local logistics companies, the warehouse, which covers an area of 11,000 square meters, can reduce the delivery time of parcels to as short as one day.

Fujian Zongteng Network Co., Ltd., a third-party service provider for cross-border

e-commerce merchants, owns 36 overseas warehouses covering an area of about 700,000 square meters. These warehouses have served as "transit stations" between Chinese sellers and their overseas consumers.

According to reliable statistics, Chinese companies have so far established more than 1,800 overseas warehouses in countries and regions like Russia, Japan, South Korea, and the U.S.

These overseas warehouses established by Chinese companies are mainly classified into three categories, namely warehouses that provide third-party services for cross-border e-commerce sellers, warehouses that own cross-border e-commerce plat-

forms and mainly provide services for customers on their platforms, and fast-growing warehouses with distinctive characteristics and great potential for development.

Behind the increasing number and density of Chinese-owned overseas warehouses is the country's thriving cross-border e-commerce.

As an emerging trade form, cross-border e-commerce has bucked the trend of global foreign trade slowdown because of its advantages including online transaction, contactless delivery, and relatively short transaction chain, and played an active role in helping foreign trade companies respond to the COVID-19 epidemic, said Li Kuiwen, head of the statistics and analysis depart-

ment of China's General Administration of Customs (GAC).

The pandemic has intensified global consumers' reliance on online shopping, according to Li, adding that cross-border e-commerce has seen rising import and export volume amid the outbreak, becoming an important force in stabilizing foreign trade.

In the first three quarters of 2020, the value of imports and exports checked and released through China's customs cross-border e-commerce management platform reached 187.4 billion yuan (about \$29 billion), a year-on-year increase of 52.8 percent, official statistics show. **People's Daily**

Sustaining vitality in China-US economic cooperation for common good

BEIJING

FROM a self-serving trade war to brazen sanctions against Chinese firms, Washington's willful bullying and containment of China has plunged the bilateral ties into a serious plight over the past four years.

However, the constructive economic interactions between the two sides have maintained much vitality and resilience, offering hope for a return of the China-U.S. relations to the right track.

Over the past four decades, China-U.S. trade and economic cooperation has served as a stabilizer for the bilateral ties.

Before the U.S. trade war against China, the two countries, with a decade of joint work under the mechanism of Strategic and Economic Dialogue, had maintained effective communication, properly managed differences and promoted mutual trust on trade and economic issues.

Such an economic bond has benefited both sides. The two countries have been major trading partners and key investment sources for each other for years.

Back in 2017, the China-U.S. trade relationship supported roughly 2.6 million

jobs in the United States across a range of industries, including jobs that Chinese companies created on the U.S. soil, according to the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC).

However, the situation turned sour during the term of former President Donald Trump's administration, as it wielded the banner of protectionism under the self-centered slogan of "America

First," accused China of ripping off the United States and launched a trade war against China. What's behind the whine that "America suffered losses" is a sheer ignorance of the "interests surplus" Uncle Sam has obtained from China, and of each other's different industrial structures and resources.

In contrast to "making America great again," the unilateral act of starting a trade war against China and stoking decoupling with China has made U.S. companies and ordinary citizens pay a high price, and also spoiled the potential of U.S. economic growth.

The trade war has caused a peak loss of 245,000 U.S. jobs, and a significant decoupling of two countries could cut down U.S. Gross Domestic Product by 1.6 trillion U.S. dollars over the next five



years, according to a recent study released by the USCBC.

It is conspicuous that the world's two largest economies are closely interdependent with complementarities in many areas. Although those China hawks in Washington could roll out bellicose policies to bash the Asian country, they could, in no way, cut off the bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Such interaction between the two sides has sustained its constructive role and thwarted, to some extent, the political will to decouple the two countries.

Despite COVID-19 impacts, the China-U.S. two-way trade in goods grew by more than 8 percent to over 580 billion dollars in 2020. In the business field, U.S. enterprises have generally remained bullish on the Chinese market, many of which increased investment in China and cooperation with their Chinese counterparts, such as Tesla, Walmart and Exxon Mobil. The Wall Street Journal reported last year that China became "a vital refuge" for U.S. companies as the country's "rebounding consum-

er economy helped offset the damage from tumbling sales back home."

A similar close bond exists in the financial sector as well. As a growing number of Chinese companies went public in the U.S. capital market, more Wall Street giants decided to build up their presence in China. BlackRock, the world's biggest asset manager, received greenlight for a partnership with a Chinese state-owned bank.

Fitch Ratings was approved to enter China's credit rating market, thanks to the country's further opening up of its financial market.

As the world's two largest economies, the United States and China are obligated to promote bilateral ties, which is in the interest of not only themselves, but also the rest of the world. To date, the China-U.S. relations have come to a new crossroads. By sticking to constructive economic interactions between the two sides, any efforts to bring the China-U.S. relations back to the normal and healthy track can be reasonably expected in the foreseeable future.

Xinhua

Hainan to build international tourism and consumption centre

SOUTH China's Hainan province will build itself into an international tourism and consumption center during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), Chinanews.com reported on Jan. 20.

The province will continue to promote its tourism industry by developing sightseeing tours, focusing on leisure vacations, combining the development of health, cultural and sports tourism, according to a meeting of the Hainan provincial department of tourism, culture, radio, television and sports held on Jan. 19.

By 2025, the province will expand its high-end tourism market to further unleash tourists' consumption potential, becoming a world-renowned paradise for tourists and shoppers, according to the meeting.

Last year, Hainan received about 64.6 million domestic and foreign tourists, generating about 87.3 billion yuan in tourism revenue.

Over the past five years, the province attracted 352 million domestic tourists, with tourism revenue exceeding 436.5 billion yuan.

People's Daily



By 2025, the province will expand its high-end tourism market to further unleash tourists' consumption potential, becoming a world-renowned paradise for tourists

US deploys troops to boost COVID-19 vaccinations in race against virus mutations

WASHINGTON

MORE than 1,000 U.S. troops will be deployed to assist with a nationwide vaccination rollout amid fears of a new surge in infections and deaths caused by multiple new COVID-19 strains.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has approved a request for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to "augment and expedite" the vaccination efforts, Andy Slavitt, senior adviser to the White House's coronavirus response team, said at a news conference on Friday.

The move will send 1,110 active-

duty service members to support five FEMA COVID-19 vaccination centers, according to Pentagon. Teams of 222 troops will support each one of the sites and will include medical and support personnel.

The first contingent of troops will arrive in vaccination centers opening in California over the next 10 days and begin operations around Feb. 15 with additional vaccination missions soon to follow, Slavitt said.

President Joe Biden has called for setting up 100 mass vaccination centers around the country within a month.

Biden's national vaccination campaign aims to administer 100 million doses of two-stage coronavirus vaccines in his first 100 days in office.

About 58.3 million vaccine doses have been distributed across the United States, but only about 36.8 million have been administered as of Friday morning, according to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The circulation of multiple new coronavirus strains in the country has increased the urgency for the Biden administration to accelerate the pace of vaccinations.

A total of 618 infections of new variants had been reported in at least 33 U.S. states as of Thursday, according to the CDC.

The United States has recorded more than 26.7 million COVID-19 cases with related deaths exceeding 458,000 as of Friday afternoon, showed a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

A model developed by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington shows that the United States is projected to see 631,000 COVID-19 deaths by June 1.

The result depends on the vaccine rollout and the spread of vari-

ants, said the IHME. A worst-case scenario could see the death toll go as high as 703,000.

Increasing mask use from current levels of 77 percent to 95 percent can save 44,000 lives by June 1, according to the model.

The IHME estimated that 17 percent of people in the United States had been infected as of Monday. The daily death rate is greater than 4 per million in 41 states.

"Daily deaths have peaked and are declining. By June 1, 2021, we project that 123,600 lives will be saved by the projected vaccine rollout," the IHME said.

Xinhua

Minister: Filling Ethiopia's Nile Dam threatens Sudan's security



This handout picture taken on July 20, 2020 and released by Adwa Pictures on July 27, 2020 shows an aerial view of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile River in Guba, northwest Ethiopia.

KHARTOUM

ANY unilateral step by Ethiopia to fill its hydropower project, called the Renaissance Dam, in July would directly threaten Sudan's national security, Sudanese Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Yasser Abbas said on Saturday.

Sudan is also proposing a mediation role for the United States, European Union, United Nations and African Union as a way of breaking the deadlock in talks about the dam between Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia, Abbas told Reuters in an interview.

His comments come at a

time of increased tension between Sudan and Ethiopia over disputed farmland near their shared border.

This is on top of tension over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which Ethiopia is building on the Blue Nile, close to the border with Sudan.

Ethiopia began filling the reservoir behind the dam after the summer rains last year despite demands from Egypt and Sudan that it should first reach a binding agreement on the dam's operation.

Egypt views the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam as a major threat to its fresh water sup-

plies, more than 90 percent of which come from the Nile. The Blue Nile flows north into Sudan then Egypt and is the Nile's main tributary.

Ethiopia says the dam is crucial to its economic development.

"The filling of the Renaissance Dam by one side next July represents a direct threat to Sudan's national security," said Abbas.

He said unilateral filling of the reservoir threatened electricity generation from Sudan's Merowe Dam and Roseires Dam, as well as the safety of the Roseires Dam and of 20 million Sudanese living downstream

of the GERD. Sudanese drinking water stations could also be put at risk, he added.

The African Union has convened recent negotiations over the GERD between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt but talks have repeatedly stalled. Talks hosted by the United States last year also failed to secure a deal.

"Sudan is now leading a diplomatic and political campaign to clarify its position and reach a legal and binding solution," Abbas said.

"We are optimistic that if there is political will, a mutually agreed solution can be reached." **Agencies**

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'Way over the top': Lavrov lambasts West's hysteria over Navalny case

MOSCOW

THE West's hysteria over the situation with Russian opposition figure Alexey Navalny has gone overboard, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a joint news conference after talks with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi.

"In regard to the events happening in Russia, and not only with Navalny, the West's coverage is selective and one-sided," Lavrov emphasized.

"That hysteria, which we have heard concerning the trial in the Navalny case, has gone way over the top."

Russia's foreign minister noted that in Germany, France, the United States and other Western countries demonstrators face huge fines and even lengthy jail terms for marching on roadways or disrupting the regular operation of public transportation.

"When it comes to crowds partaking in illegal rallies, [their] police handle them [their protestors] far more harshly than our law enforcement does [with ours]," Lavrov pointed out.

According to Lavrov,



in order to hold a discussion with Western partners based on facts, the Foreign Ministry has made a video showing how illegal rallies are quashed in the West and how Russian police respond to domestic riots.

"Today, I sent this [video] to Brussels to High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell so that while preparing for his upcoming visit to Moscow on Friday, he could familiarize himself with how we see an objective picture based on certain facts from both sides rather than allegations, which our Western colleagues have gotten used to," Lavrov specified.

"This refers to the case of the Skripals, the so-called poisoning of Navalny, and those events happening in connection with his arrest

and yesterday's court sentence."

Lavrov noted that he understands those who believe that Russia could have responded more aggressively to flagrantly arrogant and inappropriate rhetoric coming from the West.

"However, in our diplomatic and political culture we are not accustomed to stooping to rude rhetoric." "We are polite people and we are used to achieving our goals, and ensuring justice in a polite and civilized way," he stressed.

"We have a good saying that should be also remembered: an iron fist in a velvet glove," he noted. The top diplomat stressed that those who consider these polite manners as a manifestation of weakness are very wrong.

Agencies

Khamenei: US must lift sanctions for Tehran to return to nuclear commitments

DUBAI

IRAN'S Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday that the United States should lift all sanctions if Washington wants Tehran to reverse its nuclear steps.

"Iran has fulfilled all its obligations under the 2015 nuclear deal, not the United States and the three European countries ... If they want Iran to return to its commitments, the United States must lift all sanctions first," Khamenei wrote on Twitter.

"After verifying whether all sanctions have been lifted, then we will return to full compliance," he wrote.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif earlier urged Washington to act fast to return to

the 2015 nuclear accord, pointing out that legislation passed by parliament forces the government to harden its nuclear stance if US sanctions are not eased by Feb 21.

Zarif also referred to elections in Iran in June. If a hardline president is elected, this could further jeopardize the deal.

"Time is running out for the Americans, both because of the parliament bill and the election atmosphere that will follow the Iranian New Year," Zarif said in an interview with Hamshahri newspaper published on Saturday. Iran's

new year begins on March 21.

The parliament, dominated by hardliners, passed the legislation in December that set a two-month deadline for an easing of sanctions.

President Joe Biden's administration is exploring ways to restore the nuclear deal that Iran signed with world powers but was abandoned in 2018 by former President Donald Trump, who restored sanctions.

Iran retaliated by breaching the terms of the accord in a step-by-step response. Last month, it resumed enriching uranium to 20% - a level it achieved before the

accord.

Biden has said that if Tehran returned to strict compliance with the pact, Washington would follow suit and use that as a springboard to a broader agreement that might restrict Iran's missile development and regional activities.

Tehran has said Washington must ease sanctions before it resumes nuclear compliance, and ruled out negotiations on wider security issues such as Iran's missile program.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed Iran on Friday in a virtual meeting with his British, French

and German counterparts as the group weighed how to revive the deal.

"The more America procrastinates, the more it will lose ... it will appear that Mr Biden's administration doesn't want to rid itself of Trump's failed legacy," Zarif said in the interview.

"We don't need to return to the negotiating table. It's America that has to find the ticket to come to the table," he added.

On Monday, Zarif hinted at a way to resolve the impasse over which side moves first, by saying the steps could be synchronized.

In the latest steps by Iran

to develop its missile program, the Iranian military on Saturday opened a plant to produce hybrid solid fuel for missiles and a factory to build shoulder-fired rockets, state television reported.

Yemen Stance

Separately, Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that a new US stand on the Yemen war could be a helpful step, after Biden said this week Washington was ending its support for a Saudi Arabia-led military campaign in Yemen.

"Stopping support ... for the Saudi coalition, if not a political manoeuvre, could

be a step towards correcting past mistakes," state media quoted ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh as saying.

But he added: "This alone won't solve Yemen's problem, and the air, sea and land blockade that killed thousands of people in the country due to a lack of food and medicine must be lifted, and the military attacks of the aggressor states led by Saudi Arabia must be ended".

Biden said on Thursday the more than six-year war, widely seen as a proxy conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran, "has to end." He also named veteran US diplomat Timothy Lenderking as the US special envoy for Yemen in a bid to step up American diplomacy to try to end the war. **Agencies**

SPORT



Tanzania's Chief of Defense Forces, General Venance Mabeyo, addresses guests who took part in gala dinner organized by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), through Johnnie Walker brand, during the presentation ceremony for Johnnie Walker Waitara Trophy 2020 golf competition held at Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Firm commits to raising golf's profile in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE game of golf started nearly 600 years ago and it is now gradually breaking the iron curtain as a rich folks' sport into a sport for everyone.

Like any other sport, golf is a unifier of people with distinct backgrounds, races, sex, creeds, religions, and more.

It is a game for everyone. It contributes to a sustainable environment by creating ravishing golf courses with aesthetic refreshment retreats.

To married couples, it has become an irresistible place to capture stunning and memorable wedding pictures and videos, besides, psychologists identify such locations as the right places for therapy.

Furthermore, the game significantly contributes to economic growth as it provides employment to the youth, attracts high-end tourism, sports talent development and other significant investments in the country.

In this regard, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), through Johnnie Walker brand, has been keen on accelerating golf's imminent bright future in Tanzania.

The SBL started the support for the game in 2019 through its Serengeti Premium Lite beer and further in 2020, it officially became the main sponsor of the game through the world-acclaimed Scotch whisky, Johnnie Walker.

Formerly known as Waitara Golf tournament, the competition effectively became the Johnnie Walker Golf tournament after the whisky assumed the bragging rights as the game's foremost sponsor.

Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky brand came into existence when Johnnie (a Scottish businessman) started his grocery business in Ayrshire, and used various single malts, blending them to make his whisky tastier.

Eventually, he founded a new blended whisky which, now 200 years later, is a global market leader.

Marketed and distributed by SBL, Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky was first produced in Scotland 200 years ago, growing in bounds to stand out from its peers' globally to become the most preferred scotch whisky globally.

Recently, the Johnnie Walker Waitara Golf tournament organized an enthralling golf extravaganza that attracted hundreds of young and old golfers, boasting local and international professionals who maneuvered the 18-hole golf course at the Lugalo Golf Club's course in Dar es Salaam as they battled for the memorable gifts that were up for grabs.

Local golf clubs that competed in the tournament include Arusha Gymkhana,

Mufindi Club, Morogoro Gymkhana, Dar es Salaam Gymkhana, Sea Cliff Golf Club Zanzibar, Kili Golf and TPC Golf Club.

To spice up the competition, the organizers invited other professional golfers from the Eastern African region.

While awarding one of the budding golf stars, SBL's Managing Director Mark Ocitti said that Johnnie Walker would continue to provide a shot-in-the-arm to golf in the country.

The firm's current sponsorship to the tournament was just the beginning, he said, noting that the brewer had lined up more amazing projects in future for the colourful game.

Ocitti reassured the audience that Johnnie Walker would remain committed and continue to support the game due to its growing popularity and its contribution towards the growth of sports in Tanzania.

Minga Lumuli, Marketing Manager for Spirits, said the brand is proud to be associated with the tournament that is gaining acceptance rapidly.

Minga disclosed that Johnnie Walker would remain steadfast in supporting golf as well as other sports in the country.

"Johnnie Walker is a brand that believes in progress, forwardness, quality, resilience, perseverance and keeping the commitment. Just like many golf players will attest, these are some of the qualities that enable them to make it in the game", Minga noted.

The official added: "SBL, through its world class-whisky Johnnie Walker, is proud to be the main sponsor of this year's Johnnie Walker Waitara Golf Tournament. Our support for this tournament demonstrates our solid commitment to supporting the developing of sports in the country."

Some golf professionals and sports lovers have hailed SBL's deliberate move to catapult the game to its new heights and shared future.

One of the country's most versatile golf players and a veteran of the game, George Waitara, was quoted as saying: "We take great pride in Johnnie Walker's support of the game of golf that we really love. We too are aware of SBL's unflinching quest to help the growth of the sports sector in Tanzania. This therefore, makes us very happy to have the beer-maker as our main partner in the Johnnie Walker Waitara Golf tournament".

Over the years, SBL has been a worthy partner in developing the sports industry in Tanzania, ensuring its progress through both financial and moral support.

The brewer's sponsorship permeates through athletics, music and other sports.

For instance, there is a significant success in football since the firm's involvement in sponsoring the national men's soccer team, Taifa Stars, and the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League.

The SBL is sponsoring the events via its award-winning beer brands, Serengeti Premium Lager and Serengeti Premium Lite.

SPORTS

Hitting Yanga by friendly fire may not quite disturb their city fans

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

LOCAL television viewers were somewhat disappointed there was no discussion, let alone a detailed overview and survey of what happened, when First Division League club, African Sports FC, hit Premier League leaders, Yanga, 1-0 in a well attended friendly match at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

It is unlikely that the city giants could have envisaged this outcome, though definitely they know it could come to that, and what shall be put at issue is whether the Tanga side is better than most Premier League sides.

The answer obviously is no, and that is the genius and unpredictability of inter-division tournaments, to wit.

The difference with this event is that it was not even a tournament but a friendly encounter, in which case routine psychological rules governing outcomes of such encounters could even work more intensely than if it was a tournament.

What this suggests is that in a tournament, the team that knows it is physically or technically superior to the other side tends to underperform, on the basis of the fact that the players are not tuned to put up the best they can offer.

It is like being assured in advance of the likely outcome, for the simple reason that the other team is weaker, and thus the side that is ostensibly superior takes things easy.

That hence shows why it is even more difficult to expect intense play on the part of a team that is far better placed vis a vis the other side, and that much, in a friendly encounter.

As it was a friendly contest there was no way that Yanga could have played optimally, for there was no background for such a situation to arise, for instance in a knockout contest, where African Sports would have eliminated a well regarded side in the Premier League, to show they have what it takes at that level.

There was no such background contest where the spirits of the fans would have been primed for an equal contest in that tie.

In that case the fans and the players were on equal tonality as regards what was at stake in the match, in which case the way the tie was played out reflected this situation.



A section of riders from Team Matambuu feature in a recent race, held in Tanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TEAM MATAMBUU

African Sports considered it an important outing to elevate their standing among the fans.

It is also likely that it is the Tanga side that asked for such encounter, as evidently the two clubs are friendly, but this spirit has tended to decline in the day to day imagination of the fans, as African Sports FC has steadily declined in esteem among the broader fan base.

This encounter may slightly dent Yanga fans current enthusiasm but help their brothers.

The Tanga club leadership shall be in a better position to seek greater loyalty from its sources of support, whether it is among a narrow sponsorship fraternity or local administration - or politicians like Tanga MP, Ummu Mwalimu, if she has any inkling for the sport, or for that matter the club.

Her parliamentary colleague, Tulia Ackson, has been doing a great deal promoting sports in her native city on the other side of a diagonal axis from Tanga, in the Southern Highlands, and thus the minister has also a chance to shake things a bit.

But that approach may not gain wide acclaim; focusing on youth groups etc is favored.

Whatever doors African Sports FC will be able to unlock on the basis of this won over the league leaders, it is without doubt that they needed this encounter, definitely not just out of friendly memories of their days of alliance with Yanga but more significantly.

This achievement, winning over the Jangwani club side -may not have been a fluke that just came their way, but a result of careful planning and organizing their game - with plenty of luck going their way as well.

For one thing they can affirm strongly enough that Yanga did not intend to play a weak game as they fielded their entire side, plus those on the bench.

Though the same came a day after the traditional anniversary of the birth of CCM it was a fitting ad hoc encounter of two sides whose colours make them favourable candidates of teams that could be called in a mini-encounter for that day.

It is also the day of the Arusha Declaration back in 1967 when Sethi Benjamin (whom an online biographical note identifies as Seth Benjamin Mpinga) died as he walked in support of the Declaration over a long distance, from Arusha to Dar es Salaam.

That does not suggest that the jersey has to do with such event but the occasion, February 6, and incidentally also, the jersey(s).

And as stars would have it, on that particular day it is the underdogs who carry the day, in fitting response to a document vowed to the uplifting of the dignity of the poor. Is it just happenstance but highly merited?

Premier League Board reschedules Simba SC vs Yanga clash



Simba SC winger, Luis Miquissone (C), negotiates his way past Yanga's wingers, Farid Mussa (L) and Tuisila Kisinda, when the clubs locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in 2020. The teams settled for 1-1 draw. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has postponed the Vodacom Premier League (VPL)'s second phase tie pitting Simba SC against Yanga.

The TPLB noted the duel, which was set to be played on February 20, has been slated for May 8 this year due to Tanzania outfits' participation in this season's CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup tournament.

Simba SC will feature in the CAF Champions League's group stage, whereas Namungo FC will take on Angola's Clube Desportivo Primeiro de Agosto in CAF Confederation Cup tournament's play off stage.

A statement issued by the TPLB

today state that the match has been postponed due to Simba's participation in the premier continental tournament at club level.

The team are set to play in the showpiece's Group A, in which they will take on Egypt's Al Ahly, El Merreikh of Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club.

"The 19th round matches will be played on February 11, 2021 and the League is expected to end on June 12, 2021.

"The VPL's 19th round match between Simba and Namungo FC has also been postponed due to the sides' CAF tournaments' schedules," the board disclosed.

Should Simba and Namungo FC qualify for the next stages of the CAF tournaments, the board noted, their

league fixtures will be postponed to allow the sides to travel abroad.

"VPL's match number 208 of the 24th round between Simba SC and Yanga will be played at 5pm at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on May 8, 2021," the statement said.

According to the TPLB, all matches, which will be postponed due to Tanzania's clubs' participation in the CAF club competitions, will be played at dates set to be announced by the TPLB.

Simba will on February 12 jet off to DR Congo to confront AS Vita Club in their first match, the Tanzania side will, in the second match, host Al Ahly on February 23.

Namungo FC will face Primeiro de Agosto in the play offs' first leg in Angola later this month.

Mosimane admits Ahly outsiders against Bayern despite unbeaten run

DOHA

AFRICAN flag-bearers Al Ahly of Egypt admit they will be rank outsiders against Bayern Munich on Monday in the Club World Cup semi-finals, despite boasting a 32-match unbeaten record in all competitions.

After a 1-0 quarter-finals victory over Al Duhail from host nation Qatar, South Africa-born coach Pitso Mosimane conceded that the odds are stacked against his Cairo Red Devils.

"Just about everybody expects Bayern to win and many pundits are saying the only outstanding issue is the winning margin.

"But all the pressure is on the European champions and there is none on us. We must enter the field, play with a smile, do our best and hope for a sensational outcome.

"Football can be a very funny game sometimes. Remember what Leicester City did in the English Premier League a few seasons ago?"

"Bayern are the team that defeated a Barcelona side including Lionel Messi 8-2 in the Champions League last season," he reminded reporters in Doha.

"They have won everything there is to win -- all the German trophies plus the Champions League. They have an awesome squad.

"Bayern have also lifted the Club World Cup trophy before, defeating Raja Casablanca in the 2013

final in Morocco."

The 2-0 victory for Bayern over Raja was one of only three clashes between European and African clubs since the world club championship was launched 21 years ago in Brazil.

In the maiden edition -- the only one to use a two-group format -- Raja lost 3-2 to Real Madrid in Sao Paulo with Cameroonian Geremi Njitap scoring the winning goal two minutes from time.

After shocking Internacional of Brazil to reach the 2010 title decider, Tout Puissant Mazembe, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, crumbled 3-0 to Inter Milan in Abu Dhabi.

Once again, a Cameroon star played a significant role in the defeat of the African hopefuls with Samuel Eto'o notching the second inter goal just 17 minutes into the first half.

Bayern were almost as quick to establish their supremacy over Raja in Casablanca with Brazilian Dante and Spaniard Thiago netting inside 22 minutes.

Ahly brought 23 players to Qatar, including Congolese Walter Bwalya, Malian Aliou Dieng, Moroccan Badr Benoun, Nigerian Junior Ajayi and Tunisian Ali Maaloul.

Recent signing Bwalya was prominent in the first half against Duhail, setting up Hussein el Shaha to score the only goal before putting the ball in the net himself only to be ruled fractionally off-side.

AFP

Real Madrid's Asllani nets three-minute hat trick

MADRID

REAL Madrid's Kosovare Asllani has scored one of the fastest hat tricks in football history, finding the net three times in just 155 seconds in a 3-1 Primera Iberdrola win over Valencia.

The Sweden international opened the scoring in the 67th minute with a free-kick.

Less than a minute later, she lobbed the goalkeeper to double Madrid's lead, before a close-range finish saw her complete her hat trick in the 70th minute.

Earlier in the match, Asllani -- who has previously starred for Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City -- also had a first-half strike ruled out for offside.

She completed an eventful afternoon when she was substituted in the 88th minute, after being struck in the face by a ball which rebounded off the woodwork.

(Agencies)

Pique snaps at Barca candidate over Twitter video

BARCELONA

GERARD Pique has thrown a spanner in Victor Font's campaign to become the next Barcelona president by demanding he remove a tweet featuring a short video from an interview the defender did this week.

Font linked a quote from Pique which said Barca must "look to the future because the past only serves to learn from our mistakes" with his own campaign for the presidency, which carries the slogan "Si al Futur" (Yes to the future).

"Victor, with all respect, these words have nothing to do with what you are trying to transmit with this tweet," Pique wrote on Twitter on Friday. "I ask you to delete it and not to use my image for your benefit."

Font quickly replied with an apology and removed the tweet from his personal account and from the "Si al Futur" account.

"Gerard, we used this reflection because it is in line with our thoughts," he said. "In no case did we want to create any problem for you. We have deleted it."

Font is one of three candidates to replace Josep Maria Bartomeu, who resigned as president in October, when club members vote on March 7, with Joan Laporta and Toni Freixa the other two.

Laporta, who was previously Barca president between 2003 and 2010, is leading the polls, ahead of Font, and Pique's social media intervention could serve as a further boost to his campaign given the centre-back's popularity among the club's supporters.

On the pitch, Barca will look to continue their good start to 2021 on Sunday when they travel to Real Betis in search of their sixth straight win in La Liga.

Four of those five wins have come away from Camp Nou and, after next Wednesday's Copa del Rey semifinal at Sevilla, Barca will have played 11 of their 12 games in the calendar year away from home or at a neutral venue.

Most of those games have involved late kick-offs and early morning returns to Barca, with Koeman's side yet to have a free midweek since the turn of the year.

"At some point, UEFA or the Spanish league will have to do something because they are killing the players with this schedule," Koeman said in a news conference on Saturday.

Barca will be without the injured quartet of Pique, Sergi Roberto, Philippe Coutinho and Ansu Fati when against Betis. A win will move them within seven points of leaders Atletico Madrid, although they will have played two more games.

(Agencies)

Man United's blown lead is unacceptable in title chase

MANCHESTER, England

WHEN referee Jon Moss blew the final whistle on Saturday, Victor Lindelof picked up the ball and punted it into the empty Old Trafford stands. The action summed up Manchester United's night.

Having led 2-0 and then 3-2 with seconds remaining, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side managed to draw 3-3 with Everton and give up more ground in the Premier League title race.

As the players trudged off amid the visitor's celebrations, it felt a lot like the 4-4 draw with Everton in April 2012 that ended up costing United the league.

It is too early to say whether this result will have a similar impact, but it is the type of game they really have to win if they want to push Manchester City right to the wire.

City will be five points clear with a game in hand if they beat injury-ravaged Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday. It shouldn't have been like that.

At half-time United were flying after goals from Edinson Cavani and Bruno Fernandes put them 2-0 up. Everton looked dead and buried, but within seven minutes of the restart it was 2-2 when first Abdoulaye Doucoure and then James Rodriguez found the net.

United looked to have recovered from their wobble when Scott McTominay made it 3-2, but the final 10 minutes were filled with tension and panic until Dominic Calvert-Lewin stabbed in the equaliser with the last kick of the game.

It was no surprise that Lindelof wanted to boot the ball as far into Stretford as he could. United were a threat going forward, and Fernandes' goal in particular was spectacular, but it was overshadowed by what happened at the other end. For just the fourth time in the Premier League era United led by two goals at half-time and failed to win.



Man United's defensive issues are the reason they aren't yet credible title challengers. (Agencies)

"We played some good football in the second half but conceded three goals from three shots on target, when you do that it is disappointing," said Solskjaer after the match.

"We reacted well after their two goals but then why was there four minutes added in, we had to get the ball in the corner and see it out. Poor goals to concede.

"I wouldn't blame anyone on the goals but we know we could have done better as a team on all of them."

Nine goals against Southampton and another three here means United are comfortably the Premier League's top scorers, but the goals against column is becoming more and more of a worry.

Calvert-Lewin's goal, scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time, was the 30th league goal United have conceded this season -- the most of any team in the top half of the table and only one fewer than Fulham, eight points adrift in the relegation places. By contrast, Man City have conceded 13.

vulnerability.

Lindelof's hoof into the air at the end was the only thing any one of them did with any conviction, and by then it was too late.

Solskjaer spoke at his pre-match news conference on Friday of needing to strengthen certain areas of his squad and it would not be a shock to see him bring in another centre-back in the summer.

The question marks over Lindelof refuse to go away and Eric Bailly is not fit often enough to be relied upon -- hence why Dayot Upamecano at RB Leipzig remains a target. De Gea's performance will also restart the debate about whether it is time for Dean Henderson to get a run in the team.

"We deserved to win the game but that is football for you, you have to take your chances and cannot concede with every shot," said Solskjaer.

"After 2-2 we played really well then the last kick of the ball kicks us in the teeth and we go home disappointed. We need to stop conceding easy goals."

ESPN

Arsenal's bad habits lead to deserved defeat at Aston Villa

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

MIKEL Arteta's sense of injustice was palpable at full-time, but the greater concern for the Arsenal manager will be how his team are slipping back into bad habits. The Spaniard was uncharacteristically confrontational with referee Chris Kavanagh and his two assistants as the players left the field following Aston Villa's impressive 1-0 win at Villa Park, caught on camera telling them "I am talking to you with respect" as his complaints were given short shrift.

Arteta was furious over the decision to punish Ezri Konsa's cynical 31st-minute foul on Bukayo Saka with a yellow card when the Arsenal winger appeared to be through on goal. Saka had a long distance to travel with Villa defender Matty Cash scrambling to cover -- two factors that no doubt saved Konsa from being dismissed for denying an obvious goal-scoring chance.

The Gunners arguably had a stronger case in the second half when Emiliano Martinez appeared to pull Alexandre Lacazette to the ground from a corner, and both incidents amount to a week of officiating grievances after the Gunners had two players sent off at Wolves on Wednesday. Arsenal's appeal against David Luiz's red card at Molineux fell on deaf ears and while it might be tempting to concentrate on marginal decisions going against them again here, they should be concentrating on things that are under their control -- primarily, the worrying trends creeping back into their football.

"As you could see, I was really animated for a few decisions and one big decision I will not discuss here as well," he said. "It is what it is. It is not an excuse. Regardless of those decisions, we have to win the game. It is as simple as that."

Asked what he said to the officials, Arteta replied: "I prefer to stay on mute on that." Sat in his postmatch news conference via Zoom, it was a very 2020 answer in these COVID-19 times, aptly so because this was a very "2020 Arsenal" kind of performance.

The darkest period of Arteta's tenure (November and December 2020) saw individual defensive errors com-



Arsenal were left complaining and bemoaning their fortunes after a second straight league defeat, but they only have themselves to blame for some familiar mistakes. (Agencies)

pounded by a lack of creativity in the final third. Arteta made progress in addressing these issues, chiefly through an improved defensive record, with five clean sheets in six League games, until losing at Wolves in midweek and unleashing the potential of young duo Emile Smith Rowe and Bukayo Saka to reinvigorate the attack.

This was a step back in both aspects. Arsenal fell behind inside two minutes after a sloppy start. Gabriel intercepted John McGinn's cross and the loose ball fell to Cedric Soares, who tried to return the ball to his centre-half only for Bertrand Traore to nip in and cut the ball back to Ollie Watkins, whose shot deflected off

Rob Holding and found the far corner. It meant Gunners goalkeeper Mat Ryan conceded on his Premier League debut before he touched the ball.

Ryan, a January loan signing from Brighton, was excellent thereafter in repelling Villa as the home side created the better chances, even during a second half in which Arsenal improved and exerted sustained pressure without making the most of several threatening moments. The ended the game with 66% possession, but just three Arsenal shots on target. Pepe probed with purpose, Saka and Smith Rowe combined to fine effect on several occasions and substitute Martin Odegaard wasted

arguably their best chance, firing over from 16 yards.

Watkins, the first English player to score at least 10 Premier League goals for Villa since Gabriel Agbonlahor in 2009-10, and Grealish would have extended Villa's lead had it not been for Ryan, leaving a somewhat myopic Arteta to rue errors at both ends of the pitch.

"We completely dominated the game, we dominated every department and we should have won the game," he said. "But in the Premier League when you give a goal just to the opponent and we gave them another three opportunities, and then you are not ruthless enough in the opponent's box, you don't win games.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man United's blown lead is unacceptable in title chas

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Murtaza Mangungu (4th L), one of candidates for Simba Sports Club's chairmanship, jubilates with some of the outfit's members once he was elected as the outfit's new Chairman at a by-election, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Dar company joins sports tourism initiative

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S sports promotion firm, Jackson Group Sports, has said it will continue fielding various prominent professional boxers in the world, aiming at promoting the country's tourist attractions.

The company's Chief Executive Officer, Kelvin Twissa, issued the comments immediately after the conclusion of a sports tourism made by world-class pugilists Kubrat Pulev and his brother, Tervel.

Kubrat, who accompanied his brother Tervel, who took part in an international bout in the country last week, is one of the most famous boxers in the world.

He took on British heavyweight champion, Anthony Joshua, at the end of last year and the former lost in the ninth round by Knockout (KO).

Twissa said they have decided to support President John Magufuli's government which aim at bringing in not less than 5,000 tourists this year.

He said that they have decided to use professional boxing due to the fact that the sport has so many prominent professional boxers, who can moreover promote Tanzania abroad.

According to Twissa, their firm has decided to promote boxing in the country and saw the opportunities after arrival of Kubrat, who accompanied Tervel during the bout, known as 'Rumble In Dar', held at the Next Door Arena in Dar es Salaam on January 29.

He disclosed: "We had various international flags as, apart from Tanzania, we included boxers from Namibia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bulgaria and United States of America."

"The fight also was broadcasted live in more than 150 countries in the world. We must be proud of it because we hosted the event and the name of the country was promoted," he noted.

According to Twissa, professional boxing is one of the most loved sports in the country after football.

However, in the past nothing had been done in professional boxing to promote the country's tourist attraction although there are so many prominent sports figures who visited the country's tourist sites with a low profile.

"We are proud to be initiating it through Kubrat and Tervel who made a visit in Ngorongoro Crator, Serengeti national park and manage to see the big five wild animals' reserves and got awareness on Maasai traditional rules and customs. This is the milestone of the game,

It was the first of our sports tourism initiative and the two boxers' visit has inspired us and we have the biggest plans in the pipeline."

"We acknowledge the support from Precision Air, Arusha Coffee Lodge, Zara Tours, Off the Beaten Path Safaris, Elewana, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority," he said.

Coach Jamhuri Kihwelo vows to solve Ngorongoro Heroes' defensive woes



National U-20 football squad, Ngorongoro Heroes.

By correspondents Nassir Nchimbi & Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S men's U-20 football side 'Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach, Jamhuri Kihwelo, is adamant he will work on the squad's defensive woes before jetting off to Mauritania to take part in 2021 Africa U-20 Cup of Nations' finals.

'Ngorongoro Heroes' participated in two international friendlies against Uganda's U-20 squad 'Young Hippos' in Dar es Salaam, losing one and winning the other.

The Tanzania team had first conceded 1-0 defeat to the visitors mid last week, the former later edged the latter 5-3 on Saturday.

Kihwelo stated: "We will continue to improve, especially defensively, I can't take it away from them, my youngsters played very well in both halves, although careless mistakes they committed awarded the Young Hippos easy goals, but my players were still on the game and we got a big win."

He disclosed: "The goalkeepers' problem has been bothering us a lot even when we added other goalkeeper, we have seen repeated mistakes that also happened in the CECAFA U-20 Championship held in the country last December, but these goalkeepers brought us here, we will continue to strengthen the position."

"I think these two matches have put us in a good position. I think the February 10 match against Azam FC will put us in a better position in the run-up to this Africa U-20 Cup of Nations' tournament in Mauritania," he noted.

The Uganda U-20 team are expected to take their flight to Mauritania on February 10 before the continental event begins.

Uganda are in Group A of the tournament with Mauritania, Cameroon and Mozambique.

They begin the campaign with a clash against Mozambique on February 15 before facing Cameroon on February 17.

On February 20, Uganda U-20 team's coach Byekwaso will lead his side in a final group match against Mauritania.

Tanzania are in Group C of the showpiece alongside Ghana, Gambia and Morocco.

In Group B, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Central African Republic and Namibia are the competitors.

The two group winners will advance to the quarterfinals of the continental competition alongside the two best third-place finishers from any of the two groups.

Ngorongoro Heroes' starting XI: Rahim Sheikh, David Kameta, David Bryson, Samuel Jackson, Laurent Alfred, Novatus Dismas, Rajab Athuman, Abdul Suleiman, Ben Starkie, Kevin John, Nassor Sadun.

Dar outfit holds sway in Zanzibar race

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM'S Matambuu outfit's cyclists performed well at the just ended Zanzibar Tourism event, which was held in the Isles over the weekend.

Eight riders from Matambuu cycling club competed at the event which was organized by Zanzibar Tourists Board.

Speaking after the event, the side's coach Geoffrey Mhagama said he

has been delighted with the results recorded by his cyclists at the tournament.

He said the race was held in Duathlon format, noting local cyclists did their best in the race.

Mhagama said it was a difficult event, given it saw the participating cyclists go for 78 kilometers of cycling and one kilometer running.

"The running event was difficult to us as we are not good in that aspect, we did our best in cycling because

that is where we are the best," he said.

He mentioned the outfit's riders that finished within top 10 as Hassan Sharrif, second-placed Gerard Konda, while competitors that finished third to 10th are Masunga Duba, Boniface Ngwata, Aman Munishi, Sameer Rashid, Kisibo Ndakama, Ana Munishi and others.

"The running event was difficult but we manage to do it and I'm happy that we have emerged as champions in cycling," he said.

Simba Queens announce Fatema Dewji as new club matron

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MAINLAND Women Premier League's Simba Queens have announced Fatema Dewji as the club's matron.

Simba SC's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Barbara Gonzalez, issued the announcement at the squad's Annual General Meeting, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"I announce Fatema Dewji as the matron of our women's team (Simba Queens). She is a young man and she has a lot of experience in marketing," Barbara revealed when introducing the new Simba Queens' matron.

Fatema thanked Simba officials and the side's members, disclosing: "First of all I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Simba Queens' matron."

She noted: "I promise to do my best and work with these talented girls and the administration, board, members and the side's fans to ensure we retain the Mainland Women's Premier League's trophy."

"Due to my expertise in marketing, I will make sure that Simba Queens' talents are recognized here in Tanzania and abroad."

"I also promise to put a lot of effort into finding and promoting players."

Fatema is recognized as one of Africa's most influential women and she is an author of a book titled 'Marketing for an Africa Powerhouse.'

She grew up in Tanzania and went to Georgetown University in USA for her undergraduate studies in Finance and Management.

In 2010, she started working at Mohammed Enterprises Tanzania Limited (MeTL), one of the largest business houses in Africa.

Fatema founded the Marketing Department at MeTL and established the umbrella brand 'MO' which has now become one of the most renowned brands in Africa.

She has spoken on business and women empowerment on several platforms including Forbes Africa, CNBC as well as TEDx.

Fatema regularly conducts a series of seminars and videos on Leadership and Marketing.

With burning passion and gentle warmth, she has launched a series of videos on Marketing and Leadership with topics that include focusing on customers, maintaining a connection with customers, the makings of great leaders and finding your purpose in business as well as in personal life.

Her other videos cover motivational messages of gratitude, self-worth, and emotional resilience.

TONIGHT @ 9:30

EATV Sports MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

