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HANDENI SCHOOLS GET A BIG BOOST EDUCATION

JPM to enhance free healthcare for elderly

● Hints at changing Mbeya textile factory to starch, glucose manufacturing

By Henry Mwangonde, Tunduma
 CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli has promised to eliminate obstacles affecting the provision of free healthcare

to the elderly in his next term of office. Addressing a campaign rally at Nyerere Secondary School in Tunduma town of Songwe Region, Dr Magufuli pledged his

intention to improve the lives of senior citizens through creating a better system for accessing healthcare. He issued the pledge as part of his message on the International

Day of the Elderly marked on October 1 each year. "Our elders have done a great job

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Dr Hussein Mwinyi (L), CCM's candidate for the Zanzibar Presidency in the upcoming General Election, exchanges greetings with CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa shortly before addressing a campaign rally in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

Govt draws up designs to enable works on deep sea long liner

By Francis Kajubi
 THE government is working on specifications of the first long liner fishing vessel to be built by a Japanese firm for its deep sea fishing business plan as part of an \$9bn/- coastal zone economic and social development programme. The 10-year ambitious programme to be implemented in phases seeks to double the contribution of fisheries to the growth domestic product and revive the defunct Tanzania Fishing Corporation (TAFICO). Speaking at a meeting to discuss the measurements of the first of the five

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'US does not support any candidate in this election'

By Guardian Reporter
 THE United States has declared that it does not support any candidate or party in the ongoing electoral process in Tanzania but it stands for a democratic process. A statement released yesterday said the US supports a genuinely free, fair, transparent and peaceful electoral process, for the whole period up to the polls and in the counting and declaration of results. "This includes the public authorities ensuring the safety of all contestants, respect for the rule of law, and absolute impartiality of authorities charged with managing the elections," it said. "The United States government reaffirms unequivocally that it does not support any specific candidate or party in Tanzania's upcoming elections. The United States supports the

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Lissu fails to address rally, overwhelmed by crowds

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi
 CHADEMA presidential candidate Tundu Lissu has said he failed to conduct a campaign rally in Moshi municipality, Kilimanjaro Region, on Wednesday as multitudes of supporters stopped his convoy several times as he was heading there. Speaking to reporters here yesterday, Lissu said as he drove to the Mashujaa Grounds his convoy was stopped nine times on the road with multitudes of people sealing the entire road and he only reached the rally venue at around 6.30 pm. "It would be better to say that in Kilimanjaro Region we



have gone around Mt Kilimanjaro," he declared. "We started at Sanya Juu, at Kamwanga in Longido District, we then convened a huge rally in Tarakea-Rombo and between Rombo and Moshi municipality we were stopped nine times to greet people. "We stopped at Mashati, Mansera, Mamba Kotela, Marangu Mtoni and Himo, and

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

<p>FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.</p> <p>Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.</p>	<p>FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home when you are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
<p>FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.</p> <p>Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.</p>	<p>FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever Cough Shortness of breath <p>Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.
<p>FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.</p> <p>For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.</p>	<p>cdc.gov/COVID-19</p>

JPM to enhance free healthcare for elderly

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in and for this country. They deserve better; the government will ensure these people are well taken care of," he said, noting that the government shall work on widening the use of identity cards facilitating their treatment whenever they visit health centres.

For the last five years the government distributed over one million identity cards to elders, up from 213,000 already in use back in 2015, he said.

Older people in Tanzania account for 5.6 per cent of the entire population according to the 2012 national census.

They face various challenges including harmful beliefs and traditions that lead to the persecution, including killings on allegations of witchcraft.

"I want to ensure you that our government will make sure that senior citizens receive good care to make them enjoy life after serving this country with dedication," he said.

The UNFPA estimates that one in every six people will be aged over 65 by 2050, also affirming that there are 66.5m people aged 60 and above in Africa, predicted to reach 105m by 2030. Tanzania has yet to pass binding legislation for every citizen in the country to have mandatory health insurance cover, although the idea has been mooted for years.

Dr Magufuli, who is seeking re-election, said he will work on addressing the challenges facing senior citizens, which include increasing care centres for those who do not have people to care for them.

Earlier, the president held a rally at Vwawa where he said the government plans to help the region maintain its status of a breadbasket region in the country.

Songwe was the third in grain production in the past year, and plans are underway to make inputs available for farmers to enhance production, he said.

During the past five years the government worked on finding markets for crops, and talks had reached an advanced stage with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to buy maize from Songwe, he told the rally.

"Now we are working on changing operations of Mbeya textile industry into a starch and glucose producing factory," he added.



SUMA-JKT project engineer Bavid Pallangyo (R) briefs National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (2nd-L, foreground), who was assessing the ongoing rehabilitation of Parliament Building in Dodoma yesterday. Others are senior officials from the National Assembly, SUMA-JKT and the Tanzania Building Agency. Photo: National Assembly.

Govt draws up designs to enable works on deep sea long liner

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vessels, TAFICO acting general manager Esther Mulyila said the ship will be built at a grant cost of 4.2bn/- which has already been deposited with the government of Japan in a TAFICO account set up in Japan.

"We have met to discuss with Crown Agent Procurement Co. representing the Japanese authorities and agreed on the specifications of the vessel in accordance with the government's plan to boost the contribution of the fishing industry to the economy," said Mulyila.

TAFICO needs a vessel with a capacity of 45 tons, thus able to hold 35 tons of fish for up to 21 days, four tons of bait and space left for operational equipment like fish hooks, fuel tanks and iceberg reservoirs, she said.

"We expect that the vessel will be fitted with long lines that cover 20 kilometers, each attached with 335 fish hooks. The programme also targets building four similar vessels, a cold storage facility and ice plant for preservation. The ship is expected to be 22 meters long," she elaborated.

Magese Bulayi, the Director for Fishing said at the opening of the meeting featuring TAFICO and fishing department staff, said building the vessel will take eight months.

"Today's agreement on specification will be submitted to the Japanese Crown Agent in two weeks time. With the completion of the vessel we expect the current GDP contribution of the industry that stands at 1.7 percent to double," she said.

Unveiling the project in the National Assembly in May, Livestock and Fisheries Development minister Luhaga Mpina said the business plan covers activities of the fishing industry private sector, with its key method described as purse seine, of nets used in commercial fishing to target dense schools of midwater fish like tuna and mackerel.

Tabling the ministry's 66.818bn/- revenue and expenditure estimates for the 2020/21 fiscal year, the minister said fishing vessels will also be deployed in inland water bodies.

Another project to be implemented under the business plan is the construction of a fish processing plant and a cold storage facility, he stated.

Other projects include aquaculture development, cage fish farming in Lake Victoria and the Indian Ocean, pond fish farming, fish hatcheries and building a fish feed plant, he elaborated.

TAFICO was established in 1974 to develop fisheries, operating until 1998 when it was listed for privatization via the Parastatal Sector Reform Commission (PSRC).

Under PSRC the incomplete privatization plan took seven years and failed, then in 2005 it was returned to the ministry to still pursue a buyer. It stalled in operations for a decade until 2017 when its revamping was initiated by the government.

'US does not support any candidate in this election'

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democratic process itself," the statement affirmed.

The embassy, relaying the position of the State Department, the US Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said it will not hesitate to consider consequences for people found to be responsible for election-related violence or undermining the democratic process.

"The United States, along with other democratic nations, will be paying close attention to actions of individuals who interfere in the democratic process or instigate violence against the civilian population before, during or after the elections," it further stated.

The conduct of the elections has important consequences not only for Tanzania but for the entire East African region, it declared, noting further that Tanzania has a history of peaceful multiparty elections stretching back 25 years "that has made it a model on the continent."

The US has no proffered candidate nor does it have a party in the race, it said, noting

that the embassy welcomes calls by leading candidates for a peaceful and transparent electoral process, and urge them and their supporters to take measures to decrease tensions and avoid inciteful rhetoric.

The general election will take place on October 28th where registered voters will elect the Union president, the president of Zanzibar, members of Parliament, members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives and ward councilors.

President John Magufuli is seeking reelection for his second and final term and is be-

ing challenged by 14 other candidates. Those who appear to pose a threat to the incumbent include Tundu Lissu of the main opposition party, Chadema.

Another serious contender was former Foreign Minister Bernard Membe of ACT-Wazalendo, whose campaign appeared to be slackening last week, with calls being heard of ACT-Wazalendo supporting Lissu in the Union presidency poll and Chadema supporting Seif Sharif Hamad in the Isles presidential poll, the ACT-Wazalendo candidate.

President John Magufuli is seeking reelection for his second and final term and is be-



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi makes remarks yesterday during a tour at the offices of the commission charged with overseeing drug control efforts. Photo: SVPO-ZNZ

Lissu fails to address rally, overwhelmed by crowds

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conducted big and small rallies around Mt Kilimanjaro, and that is why we were late.

"We thought we could have arrived much earlier, but in an important and historical election as this one we couldn't have gone past voters who had sealed the roads. They only wanted to greet us, we couldn't have passed them just like that," he said.

He said the two constituencies Moshi Urban and Hai have been allocated a special day each for their campaign rallies.

"In regard to when we shall conduct a rally in Moshi municipality we had slated October 6 but after discussions we decided I should come here two weeks from now.

"I want Moshi residents to think over what happened on Wednesday. As I said Chadema is a historical party. We will come back in two to three weeks," he added.

FAO: Food losses in sub-Saharan Africa hit \$4 billion annually

By Special Correspondent

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has estimated that food losses in sub-Saharan Africa add up to US\$4 billion annually.

In a statement issued ahead of the first-ever International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste to be marked on Tuesday, FAO called

on African countries to bolster their efforts and encourage private sector investments to reduce food losses and waste.

Abebe Haile-Gabriel, FAO assistant director-general and regional representative for Africa said the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a wake-up call for the need to radically transform our food systems to make them more efficient and sus-

tainable for people and the planet. "Tackling food loss and waste, and particularly post-harvest loss reduction, in Africa is essential to achieve that goal," Haile-Gabriel said on the eve of the international day.

According to the UN food agency, a vast majority of food loss across Africa happens between harvest and the point of sale, while very little is wasted by consumers after

purchase. It said some of the leading causes of food loss in Africa are a lack of cold chain facilities especially for perishables, unreliable and inadequate storage facilities and insufficient agro-processing skills among smallholder farming communities.

According to analysis from FAO, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused consumers in many low-income

countries to purchase only staple carbohydrates and non-perishables, resulting in perishable food often being wasted in markets.

The report says physical distancing measures in some countries have reduced the number of customers in markets, also resulting in increased food losses and reduced incomes for traders.

FAO said reducing food losses on

farms and at harvest time, particularly in countries with high levels of food insecurity, can make great inroads towards food security and improved nutrition.

It said such changes are a responsibility shared by governments, the private sector, civil society, development agencies, research and academic institutions, and consumers.

NBS completes pilot study ahead of 2022 census

By Polycarp Machira, Kondo

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has completed a pilot study on earmarking areas for obtaining population data ahead of the 2022 Population and Housing Census, it has been revealed.

NBS Director General, Dr Albina Chuwa said here on Wednesday that in preparation for the 6th census, NBS conducted an exercise on marking areas for

population by dividing households into groupings.

She noted that the pilot work was conducted in three district councils in Dodoma Region, a process that has shown an important result of very important data that can help policy makers plan various development projects.

The Chief Statistician observed that the exercise to allocate areas for counting people begun with

Dodoma Region, adding that it would be rolled out country-wide.

Tanzania expects to conduct its 6th Population and Housing Census in 2022 because the exercise to have the country's demographic data ought to be conducted after every ten years. The last census was conducted in 2012.

She was speaking during the event to receive report of ar-

ea marking to obtain demographic data in Kondo District Council, an event that was also attended by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Deputy Representative, Dr Wilfred Ochan and Kondo District Commissioner (DC), Sezaria Makota, among others.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr Chuwa said that the current statistics show that Kondo District has approximately a

population of 260,000 people according to the census that was conducted in 2020.

"The government always conduct census in order to put plans in place that can help the government to provide services for people, because you cannot plan for development if you do not know the number of your people and their age," she noted.

UNFPA Deputy Representa-

tive said his organisation would continue collaborating with NBS in order to have appropriate and timely demographic data.

"I am delighted to say that the 2022 Population and Housing Census will bring results faster than any other census because it will be the first to use computer system," he said.

Ochan further said UNFPA has been a long partner of the

country's bureau of statistics during several censuses, he stressed.

Kondo District Commissioner said that her district would use the just released data to put up proper planning for the people in the district.

"After this meeting I will hold a meeting with my officials to see how best we can utilize these data to plan for the people in Kondo District, she said.

Police in Coast Region hold over 'possession' of ivory

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

POLICE in Coast Region are holding eight people allegedly after being found in possession of two kilograms of ivory valued at 52m/- and six home-made rifles.

The suspects are among 95 arrested in a police operation that began September 1 to 30 this year.

Coast Regional Police Commander Wankyo Nyigesa told reporters yesterday at Mlandizi Police station in Kibaha that the ivory was seized at Chalinze at the house of the suspects who are believed to be poachers.

RPC Wankyo said during the operation 64 suspects have already appeared in court including those found with the ivory.

He said 20 motorcycles were also impounded including arrest of 11 sus-

pects, a lap-top, two DVD recorders, gas cylinders, an electric generator, a radio and a RV set.

"The operation was also conducted at illegal ports used for smuggling of goods whereby six suspects were arrested with 3,440 litres of edible oil and 240 litres of diesel, he said.

He further said 41 suspects in illicit drugs were also nabbed whereby 12.7 kgs of marijuana, 42 bundles of khat and 500 grams of heroin was seized.

RPC Wankyo said as for traffickers in illicit drugs, they packed the drugs inside maize husks.

In regard to the ongoing election campaign he appealed to candidates at campaign rallies to stop ridiculing other people and steps will be taken against whoever will be found to break election laws and regulations thereof.



Arusha regional commissioner Iddi Kimanta presses a button in Arusha city on Wednesday to open a meeting on community radio stations. It was at a function to mark International Day for Universal Access to Information, which is held every September 28. The Day had been recognised as International Right to Know Day since 2002 and was developed by international civil society advocates beginning in 2012. It was pushed by African civil society groups seeking greater information transparency. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza



The operation was also conducted at illegal ports used for smuggling of goods whereby six suspects were arrested with 3,440 litres of edible oil and 240 litres of diesel

TAZARA blames Covid-19, disasters for suppressed performance in 2019/2020

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) yesterday said its performance for the year which ended on 30 June 2020 was suppressed by Covid-19 pandemic, natural disasters and unreliable locomotives and wagons.

A statement detailing performance report released by the authority yesterday said that its passenger traffic declined by nine percent, negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic which compelled the suspension of cross-border passenger trains from March 2020 up to now.

This induced a decline in passenger volumes from 3,046,002 passengers transported in the previous financial year to 2,778,708 in the year 2019/2020.

The authority noted that its overall performance was also suppressed by limitations arising from insufficient and unreliable rolling stock namely locomotives and wagons, and two landslides that occurred during the financial year which forced the closure of the line for considerable periods.

However, there is good news with regard to freight traffic volumes transported for the year which increased from 175,597 metric tonnes in the previous financial year 2018/2019 to 182,302 metric tonnes in 2019/2020.

"With the addition of 196,676 metric tonnes moved by Calabash Freight Ltd, through Open Access operations, the total line capacity utilisation for the financial year aggregated 378,978 metric tonnes, up by 4.5 per cent from the cumulative volume of 362,710 metric tonnes recorded in the previous financial year," reads the statement.

Yesterday's statement followed a virtual meeting of board of directors which was held on Monday, comprising the permanent secretaries responsible for Transport in Tanzania and Zambia Dr Leonard Chamuripo and Misheck Lungu who were

Chairperson and Co-Chairperson, respectively, together with four other board members from both countries namely Prof Razack Lokina, Rukia Shante, Stanslous Sichelwe and Peter Kazhila.

The board of directors deliberated on various matters pertaining to the operations of the authority and agreed on the following key resolutions, amongst others.

"The board considered and approved the budget proposals for the transportation of 400,000 metric tonnes of freight traffic and 3,400,000 passengers for the financial year ending 30 June 2021, from which US\$48.27 million operational and non-operational income is projected to be generated to cover the authority operations for the year," reads the statement.

It adds that the board was happy to note the repair and addition of seven Diesel Electric Mainline Locomotives to the current average running fleet of eight Mainline Locomotives for freight traffic, following the shareholders' grant subventions in the last three years. With this enhancement in motive power, the board expects the challenges that the authority had been grappling with to subside forthwith.

"In view of the boost in motive power, the board anticipates further operational improvements and, hence, found it feasible to task the management to double the annual freight traffic from last financial year's 182,302 metric tonnes to 400,000 metric tonnes in the current financial year ending 30 June 2021."

According to the statement, he board reviewed and authorised the proposed Revitalisation Bankable Business Plan (RBBP) with an investment outlay of US\$558 million, which will be immediately submitted to the shareholders for approval and funding, through the TAZARA Council of Ministers.

The authority said the board was confident that the RBBP provides a

strong short-to-medium term blueprint for the required transformational actions that are anticipated to turnaround the operations of TAZARA and firmly put the authority on a positive business trajectory, with the desired outcome being the achievement of full operational profitability and self-sustenance by the end of the financial year 2021/2022.

The board noted that the involvement of the private Open Access Operator in the transportation of cargo on the TAZARA line so far had contributed to a substantial diversion of freight traffic away from the roads and, therefore, aided in slowing down the deterioration of the roads in both countries.

"In this regard, the board directed the authority to contract more private operators in the transportation of freight traffic on the TAZARA line through Open Access," reads the statement.

The board also resolved to incorporate the Land Transport Regulatory Authority of Tanzania and the Government Inspector of Railways of Zambia in setting out regulatory procedures and benchmarks for TAZARA's open access operations.



In view of the boost in motive power, the board anticipates further operational improvements and, hence, found it feasible to task the management to double the annual freight traffic from last financial year's 182,302 metric tonnes to 400,000 metric tonnes in the current financial year ending 30 June 2021



INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER FOR PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES 2020

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MCCL) is a subsidiary of the LafargeHolcim Group with its industrial operations based in Songwe, Plot No. 1 Industrial Area, Mbeya. MCCL now invites SEALED BIDS from eligible tenderers to provide SECURITY SERVICES to its sites. Eligible Bidders are required to submit 1 ORIGINAL bid document, properly enclosed in one sealed envelope marked **TENDER FOR PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES 2020, and physically delivered to:**

**SECRETARY,
TENDER COMMITTEE,
MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED,
PLOT NO 1, SONGWE INDUSTRIAL AREA
P.O. BOX 529, MBEYA,
TANZANIA**

At MBEYA CEMENT CO LTD's RECEPTION located at Administrative Building, Songwe Mbeya.

Kindly request electronic Tender Documents via mcc.tender@lafargeholcim.com, with subject **REQUEST FOR TENDER DOCUMENTS – SECURITY SERVICES 2020**. All bidders are required to PAY Tender Fee amounting TZS 200,000/= to one of below bank account and copy of Original pay slip has to be submitted together with the bids. Failure to submit pay slip before or on deadline date will lead to bid rejection.

ACCOUNT NAME: MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED

1. Stanbic Bank - Account no. 0140015051101
2. CRDB Bank - Account no. 0150065139500
3. NMB Bank - Account no. 62510014746

Payment Slip has to be sent to: mcc.tender@lafargeholcim.com and cc to rajab.shiwa@lafargeholcim.com

DEADLINE FOR TENDER SUBMISSION: 19 OCTOBER 2020, 4H00 PM, WHILE SITE VISIT IS ON 12 OCTOBER 2020 AT 14H30 PM



RE-ADVERTISED

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR VARIOUS SERVICES TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED, TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited –GGM (“The Company”) an AngloGold Ashanti Ltd (“AGA”) asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of Geita region, about 120km from Mwanza and 4km west of the town of Geita.

The Company is in the process of procuring various services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of various services for any of the below listed services.

Scope of work:

REF NO.	SERVICES TO BE PROCURED
GGME0965	Supply of Labour for Panel Beating Services
GGME0968	Provision of Wheel Alignment Services

1. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	2.5%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	2.5%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	2.5%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	2.5%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license	2.5%
Company Shareholding Structure	2.5%
List of Directors	2.5%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission and details of capability of the contractor to hire local resources and procure local goods	2.5%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	6.7%
At least 2 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding suppliers credit position	6.7%
Credit period (not less than 30 days)	6.7%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEM	
OSHA Compliance	2.5%
Environment Compliance	2.5%
Workers Compensation Fund/ any proof of compliance	2.5%
Safety and Environmental Policies	2.5%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
At least 3 Names of the applicants' clients,value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	2.5%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	2.5%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above)	2.5%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters each from different clients	2.5%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	
Technical Capability	40%
Special Tools e.g. Body jack, Chain block, Welding machine, toolbox.	20
Quality of material e.g. Color paint & other material.	20
Total Score in %	100%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	
Technical Capability	40%
Wheel alignment Machine	10
Wheel balance Machine	10
Hoist	10
Toolbox	10
Total Score in %	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest (“LOI”) by quoting the REFERENCE NUMBER of the work they intend to express interest on 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 supply and delivery of various Goods and 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 12 October 2020 (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.

Bank introduces a unique customer service package

By Guardian Reporter

NATIONAL Bank of Commerce (NBC) has launched its Customer Service month with a focus on more innovations and improved customer service engagements with clients.

The one-month event that kicked off yesterday saw customers being appreciated by the bank, red carpet welcome among others on the first day of the campaign by the bank. The clients obviously were delighted with such treats.

“We are dedicating the Customer Service Month to the acknowledgement of, and appreciation of the invaluable role our customers play in making NBC Bank the most profitable commercial bank in the country. This is coming at the same time as we have provided our customers with an array of user-friendly products and services.” said Theobald Sabi the bank’s Managing Director as he was officiating the campaign in Dar es Salaam.

The bank is leveraging on Customer Service month as an ideal opportunity to deeply inculcate and improve on the interface with its hundreds of thousands of customers across the country.

“We have been in existence because our customers have trusted the NBC Bank brand and remained loyal for so long, that is why we are celebrating them. NBC Bank has, over the decades, built strong relationships with its rapidly-growing customer base and remains committed to providing them with innovative and responsible financial solutions, which enables them to keep growing,” he added.

Speaking during the occasion, the bank’s Customer Services Manager, Salama Musa said a range of activities have been planned for both internal and external customers to inspire, appreciate and further reinforce the bank’s commitment towards them.

“During the Customer Service month, we will be visiting several

health facilities, we will give out gifts to our different customers, we will visit our customers to get their feedback on our services as well as continue to provide business training to various SMEs,” she mentioned.

Commenting on the bank’s services some of its customers said they have been touched by the services provided by the bank not only in serving their money or loan issues but also the bank has been at the forefront in helping them solve various challenges they face in their daily activities.

“We are extremely happy with NBC Bank services. It has been quiet some-time that we have been dealing with you and your work culture and professional ethics represent some of the best business in the industry. We definitely wish to continue this association in the long run,” said E Vance Tegete, the bank’s customer who is the Founder and Managing Director of Watoto Wetu Tanzania Children’s centre based in Dar es Salaam.



NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (3rd-L) and one of the bank’s customers move to cut a cake at the launch of the bank’s customer service month in Dar es Salaam yesterday, with witnesses including NBC customer service manager Salama Musa (2nd-L) and director of private clients Elibariki Masuke (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PSSSF, Prisons ready to put up Kilimanjaro International Leather Industries Company

By Correspondent Wilhelm

Mulinda, Mwanza

PUBLIC Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF), and the Prisons have entered into partnership to build Kilimanjaro International Leather Industries Company at the tune of 136bn/-.

This was disclosed in Mwanza City yesterday by PSSSF Director General, Hosea Kashimba at the dialogue for skins and other products obtained from the materials inside the country.

He stated that earlier the industry was being called karanga but to avoid confusion among the people that was not producing karanga products in Kiswahili literally meaning groundnuts the name changed into Kilimanjaro International Leather Industries.

The establishment of the industry has increased the value chain of leather products in the country and its returns are expected to be gained in 10 years period, the Director General said.

Officiating the occasion, Minister for Labour, Employment and Youths, Jenista Mhagama has reiterated the need for different sectors including mining to be fully involved in the improvement of in-

dustrial and trade sector in the country.

She thanked president John Magufuli for insisting on the notion of economic development through industrial sector that has helped to create more employment opportunities among the youths in the country.

According to her, the building of Kilimanjaro International Leather Industries Company has been completed and will start operations soon.

We solve employment among youths in the country as we build as many industries as possible and the element is also important in building strong economy, she said.

She noted that the industry is strategic and will have multiplier effect on the economy that along with providing employment vacancies it will as well help to raise national income and also making social security funds sustainable.

She appealed for the people to be patriotic and build the spirit of loving home made products to build the economy of the country.

Women urged to use technology to multitask when assuming top leadership positions and at home

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

WOMEN have been encouraged to take advantage of advanced technology in multitasking their chores to enable balancing work-place responsibilities and domestic tasks.

The aim is to ensure gender balance in political positions and institution managements, especially now that men continue to dominate the political atmosphere as the country accelerates towards general elections 2020.

In another development, women who mostly operate as food vendors have also been enrolled for tailor-made training on proper financial records and book-keeping for local entrepreneurs.

The training, targeting and assisting small-scale traders to keep track of their day-to-day transactions, is being coordinated by the Tanzania Association of Women Accountants (TAWGA), as revealed during the Women Leadership Conference.

Attended by more than 300 participants, the Women Leadership Conference, which is taking place at Mount Meru Hotel, under the theme of ‘Design your success,’ was organised by TAWGA in association with Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (TANESCO).

Speaking during the three-day meeting, the TAWGA’s chairperson, Dr Neema Kiure Msussa pointed out that most women entrepreneurs avoid all things to do with numbers and this goes back to school days when girls snubbed mathematics and science subjects, thinking they were either difficult or had nothing to do with their future.

“In addition, we have also started to take awareness training programmes to schools, encouraging girls and female students to start liking science subjects, including mathematics and cultivate the interests right from tender ages and lower classes,” she stated.

The lecturer, specialising in gender and leadership matters at the George Washington University, Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, was of the view that women still take the back seat when it comes to running for important political offices including top management positions in institutions, fearing that they were not capable.

“Funny enough, women are extremely good at managing families at their respective homes which should be a more challenging task than leading formal organisations,” stated Ambassador Mulamula.

“With advanced technology, women who by nature seem to be good at multitasking, can easily balance between their domestic responsibilities and management or leadership tasks,” added the don, insisting that it was high time women take this important step to rewrite their future.

Tamwa, UN agency launch project to empower women

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) in collaboration with UN Women has launched a one-year project aimed at empowering women to partake in political leadership.

The project will involve a number of activities including open media dialogues to increase public awareness on the importance of women in political leadership and impacts of COVID-19 to women and girls.

Dubbed: 'Women Can', the project will be implemented in 16 regions, 112 districts and 458 wards across the country. Some of the regions where the project is to be implemented include

Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Pwani, Dodoma, Singida, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Lindi, Mtwara, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara and Tabora.

Introducing the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TAMWA Executive Director, Rose Reuben said the project will ensure full media participation in reporting gender issues and monitoring women's leadership and political participation.

"Under the project, our goal will be to build the capacity of journalists in reporting gender issues as well as being able to monitor women taking part in political issues and those in various leadership posts," she said.

Reuben blamed some journalists who have been reporting on the bad things done by women at different leadership capacities instead of reporting their successes.

"It is high time that journalist report the good things done by women in the communities," said Reuben underscoring the need for mindset change to enable women to be appointed or elected at various posts at village, ward and district levels.

She said the association is aware of the low participation of women in decision making positions. She said that 2016 data from the National Electoral Commission (NEC) indicates that only 17 of all the cabinet ministers are women.

Permanent Secretaries account for 11 percent, Regional Commissioners (23 percent) and District Commissioners

(28 percent).

Reuben said the number is low and against the goal of ensuring a non-discriminatory society as enshrined in the National Vision 2025 and the 1977 Constitution.

TAMWA applauded the government for appointing a woman to hold the position of the Vice President, making Samia Suluhu Hassan the first woman to be appointed to such a top position in the government.

Earlier, the association's media policy and advocacy officer, Florence Majani said implementation of the one year project (August 2020-August 2021) will promote women participation in political and public leadership.

She was optimistic that the project will be successful due to good collaboration between the association and the media.

Apart from the 16 regions and 112 districts, the project will be implemented in 458 wards involving other stakeholders such as 10 television stations, 50 community radios, 10 FM radios, 20 newspapers and social networks.



Vodacom Tanzania head of M-Commerce Solutions Architecture Edgar Masawe (2nd-R) explains to managing director Hisham Hendi (2nd-L), M-Pesa Ltd director Epimack Mbeteni (L) and Vodacom director of corporate affairs Rosalynn Mworia in Dar es Salaam yesterday how the firm's M-Pesa Application Programming Interface (API) works. This was shortly after the service was launched. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stakeholders urge govt to incorporate weather, climate issues in curriculums

By Getrude Mbagu

WEATHER and environment stakeholders have urged the government to incorporate weather and climate related issues in education curriculums so as to enable children and youth to have a broader awareness on the issues for the country's development.

The stakeholders issued the appeal yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the workshop on weather organised by the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI).

The meeting was part of the evaluation of 'DARAJA' project which has been implemented in the country for two years. The project worked to design a better weather and climate information flow system in the country and thus reduce extreme weather impacts among communities.

DARAJA was implemented collaboratively by the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) Resurgence (UK) and Konkuey Design Initiatives (KDI) in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam cities with funds from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

Joshua Mtali, coordinator of community groups in Kinondoni District, said that it was high time for the authorities to think on how to put and emphasise weather and forecasts in different subjects and syllabuses in primary schools.

He commended CCI for implementing the project because it has impacted a number of vulnerable people living in flood prone areas in Dar es Salaam Region.

For her part, Husna Chechonge, coordinator of research of the Tanzania Urban Poor Federation (TUPF) commended CCI for coming up with the project as it has helped thousands of communities living in hazardous areas to get weather forecasts and updates on time for them to plan better.

"We also recommend authorities and stakeholders to strengthen weather education in schools. It is not that children are not taught issues of weather but what is needed now is to strengthen it by incorporating in different subjects," she said.

A meteorologist from Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), Dr Alfred Kondowe said that the agency has been timely furnishing the public with accurate weather information and warnings but the challenge remains on how they utilise the information.

"We are currently implementing several projects in the regions of Dodoma, Tanga, Simiyu, Manyara, Coast and Iringa to capacitate the population with essential knowledge on weather issues so as to enable them to plan their activities well," he said.

LITA set to drill graduates on livestock keeping as business

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

MORE than 100 young graduates are set to take part in one-year special incubation programme on modern livestock keeping organised by the Tanzania Livestock Training Authority (LITA).

A statement released yesterday by the authority said the envisaged project will be conducted at five different LITA campuses in the country.

The one-year countywide programme is meant to impart practical skills to young livestock experts to help them venture into livestock keeping as a business.

An occupational incubator accelerates and systematizes the process of creating successful enterprises by providing participants with comprehensive and integrated range of support, including space, business support services, clustering and networking opportunities to address their needs and develop their business ideas.

"According to the set plans, the programme will start by attracting at least 100 livestock graduates. And we have decided to establish the incubator centers after conducting a special survey which established that from 2011 to 2017, out of 4000 livestock graduates in the country, it was only 1.6 percent that managed to employ themselves in different livestock projects," the statement reads in part.

The statement expressed more that, in efforts to overcome a grim statist in the livestock sector, LITA through its campuses will extend the formal entrepreneurship courses by linking the graduates with the incubator centers as comprehensive entrepreneurship practical training and give more exposure to make them successful entrepreneurs.

As per programme's schedule, in implementing the envisaged programme, LITA will be selecting best livestock graduates at its campuses in order to assemble them in the said incubators for at least a period of 18 months.

At the centers, the incubatees will be imparted with employability skills as an additional 'softer' skills, being part to complement their academic achievement towards self-employment, including practical experience.

And, the incubation process will be executed into three stages, pre-incubation stage, incubation and post-incubation stages.

It is anticipated that upon completion of the vital programme the prospective beneficiaries will play key role in fast tracking needed development pace in the vital economic sector in Tanzania.



WWF for a living planet®

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP LOCAL AREA FOR SMALL PELAGIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES IN RUMAKI SEASCAPE AREA

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), is an International Non-Governmental Organization that deals with conservation of nature through a number of environmental management programme. Our mission is to stop the degradation of the Planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The WWF - Tanzania Country Office (TCO) is seeking for a qualified consultant (s) to undertake the above assignment.

WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) through Marine Programme is currently implementing a 5-year project titled "Strengthening Marine Protected Areas Management in Rufiji, Mafia and Kilwa District in Tanzania" with funding from the Blue Action Fund (BAF). A competent and qualified Consultant is required for carrying out consultancy work to develop local area small pelagic fishery Management Strategy for small pelagic fishing communities within the Rufiji delta.

2.0 Project Description

The project aims to improve management effectiveness of Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP) and associated buffer zones within the "Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape", and has four work packages (WPs): The Mafia Island Marine Park (WP 1), Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Man & Biosphere Reserve (WP 2), Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs - WP 3), and Rufiji Delta Mangrove Forest Reserve (WP 4). This consultancy assignment is part of Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMA) work package. Small-scale fisheries in the project area are co-managed by communities through their local management bodies, commonly known as Beach Management Units (BMUs). In adjacent villages, BMUs are coordinated through CFMAs in their common fishing ground. The common priority fisheries in those areas are small pelagic, Octopus and prawns. Community-led management systems in those areas include temporary closure of octopus reefs and licensing of migrant fishers in specific fishing villages for a specific period.

In this project, 8 CFMAs have been prioritized to review their general fisheries resource management plans developed from 2008-2011. In this phase, the project intends to develop a specific fishery management plan for each priority fishery in efforts to reverse stock decline and other management challenges.

3.0 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY: To develop a local area for small pelagic (dagaa) Fishery Management Strategy in RUMAKI Seascape communities through the framework of Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs)

3.1. Specific objectives

- Review and propose management plans and identify management measures to be incorporated in small pelagic fishery management strategy in the context of CFMAs;
- Determine the proper access control to the resource through minimum conditions of access and formalization of fishers and boat owners for small pelagic fishery;
- Examine the feasibility of introducing community fishing rights through community-led management systems with minimal conflicts;
- Examine how restriction of fishing capacity to sustainable level can be undertaken in the framework of CFMA;
- Propose the enforcement mechanisms through effective Community-led Monitoring Control and Surveillances (patrols) with priority given to those designed to prevent the most destructive fishing gear for small pelagic fishery;
- Propose the best approach to develop public-private-partnership as well as for BMUs and CFMA coordination committee members to strengthen collaborative arrangements to adequately address regulation of small pelagic fishing activities and fish trade;
- Examine how to regulate post-harvest activities (as part of management intervention) with focus on local, domestic and regional trade of small pelagic fishery and
- Examine whether inequality on incentives (in this fishery) may result to unacceptable community-led management systems and collective action in CFMA framework

4.0 SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultancy will cover three districts namely; Mafia, Kibiti and Kilwa in specific CFMAs/ villages in RUMAKI Seascape area.

5.0 KEY DELIVERABLES

- Inception report, including methodological approach, data collection procedures/tools and analysis.
- A draft local area small pelagic fishery management strategy with CFMA framework
- Final Local area small pelagic management strategy with CFMA Framework with management and policy recommendations
- Simplified extract of the strategy in Kiswahili version (max 15-20 pages) for local community
- At least 20 high quality photo and 10 video clips taken during the field work.

6.0 TIMELINE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The duration of this assignment is 75 days (2.5 months) inclusive of date of contract signing. The expected starting date/month is November 2020. The Consultant(s) will be responsible for overall management and production of the final report.

7.0 PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT & RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS

A suitable individual for this assignment should possess the following qualifications:

- PhD or Master degree in marine sciences, fisheries management, natural resource management/governance, environmental sciences, or any other related discipline.
- Experience in small pelagic fishery research, analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and production of high quality, analytical reports.
- Knowledgeable and aware of cultural sensitivities of coastal communities in the delta area;
- Evidence of similar assignment previously conducted by the consultant.

8.0 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Application from interested consultant(s) should include:

- Letter of expression of interest;
- Technical proposal including the survey design and methodology, data collection and analysis, activities and timeline;
- Financial proposal for the Assignment and
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae describing the consultant's preparedness, experience & expertise in conducting small pelagic fishery research studies in previous assignment (compulsory).

9.0 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants are required to submit their electronic copies to procurement department through the email address provided below. The sealed hard copy application documents (technical proposal and financial proposal with title of the assignment) should be submitted at the WWF Tanzania Office, located Kiko Street, Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam through the following addresses:

9.1. Deadline for submission is 11am Tuesday, 27th October 2020. Please, send only the electronic copies to the procurement email address provided below and address it to:

Secretary: Procurement Committee
World Wide Fund- Tanzania Country Office
Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikocheni
P.O.Box 63117 Dar Es salaam, Tanzania
Email: tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org

• More information can be found in the following website links: https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_offices/tanzania/ ; https://wwf.panda.org/jobs_wwf/

9.2. Evaluation will be done according to WWF Procurement Guidelines and only successful applicant will be contacted.

ATU, Mozilla agree to develop spectrum recommendations for rural connectivity

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and Mozilla have signed an MoU for a joint project that will promote rural ICT connectivity in the African region.

According to ATU Secretary General John Omo, the project, pegged on the usage of spectrum policy, regulations and practices is designed to ensure affordable access to communication across the continent.

"Everyone needs affordable access to communication. Access strategies that are not inclusive can end up magnifying the digital divide. This MoU acknowledges the need to urgently address access to spectrum in rural areas as a policy and regulatory issue in order to unlock innovation and investment as part of the strategy towards actualizing affordable rural access to communication," he said.

For the African society, the COVID-19 pandemic has provided great momentum for this need given that rural connectivity in the continent remains a challenge to date with some areas lacking even basic voice connectivity. This is despite the fact that more than 60% of Africa's population is based in rural areas, a lot of which still lacks supportive infrastructures such as road access and energy. These factors render conventional service provisioning in these areas commercially unviable.

The CEO Mozilla Ms. Mitchell Baker

emphasized that those with affordable phone/internet services have the advantage of access to the ever-increasing education resources, opportunities, services, and social safety nets such that the unconnected fall further behind just by standing still. "Access strategies that do not target everyone can end up magnifying the digital divide," she said.

The Internet today is a global resource open and accessible to all, and while half of the world is connected to the Internet, existing policy, regulatory, financial, and technical models do not fully cater for the poorer and more sparsely populated regions.

"Connecting the unconnected requires applying special policies, regulations and practices that cut across the full breadth of regulatory elements, such as licensing, roaming, pricing, with spectrum being a critical element," said ATU Secretary General John Omo who further indicated that spectrum remains dramatically under-utilized in rural areas as existing operators make limited investments in those areas.

This project tailored in line with the strategic objectives of ATU and Mozilla's Africa Programme, further recognizes the fact that some of the approaches to spectrum regulation, like auctions may act as a firewall to competition, creating a financial barrier for innovative, smaller service providers who could bring new technology and business models to rural service.



Health Promotion Tanzania executive director Dr Peter Bujari addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on what he called the need for Tanzania's development partners to place a premium on support to health sector infrastructure in the country. Left is the agency's mobilisation officer, Norah Kimwaga. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Dar food vendors ask for alternative business slots

By Florida Raymond, TUDARCO

TRADERS and food vendors at Mwenje in Dar es Salaam whose structures were demolished to pave way for expansion of the 4.3 kilometers Ally Hassan Mwinyi road have appealed to the government to provide them with alternative places to conduct their business.

They were concerned that since most of their structures

were demolished they conduct businesses in an unsafe environment.

In separate interviews with The Guardian, the traders complained that their businesses have become harder due to limited space. They said that food preparation is done at areas which pose risk to them as well as passers-by.

One of the food vendors, Mary Saimon appealed to authorities

in Kinondoni District to assist them with an area to conduct businesses.

"We are aware that the ongoing road construction aims to stimulate economic development in the city, but authorities should also think of us; we are working hard to make ends meet," said Mary.

According to her evacuating them without providing alternative market places puts them in

difficult times because they are not sure of where exactly will be their final destination.

She added that they have been operating in the area for several years but their relocation due to the ongoing road construction has been hampering their overall development efforts.

Lazaro Said claimed that life has turned sour as most of their customers are no longer visiting the place.

"I have three daughters and they are all enrolled at different schools; I solely depend on the monies I collect from my business to pay for the school requirements," he noted.

According to Said, if the situation remains unchanged, there are possibilities of him failing to provide for his family.

Responding to trader's queries, Selemani Masale, who is a local government leader admitted

to have received the complaints from traders and food vendors. He promised to work on their challenges.

"It is true that some food vendors are working at Mwenje near traffic lights; this is due to limited space following ongoing expansion of the Ally Hassan Mwinyi road," said the local leader.

Masale added that they are in a process to find them an alter-

native market area so that they can conduct their businesses smoothly.

According to the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) the road expansion was in the governments' long term plans and was supposed to have been done earlier.

The project is expected to provide a quick link for residents of Mwenje and nearby suburbs to and from the city centre.

NSSF plans get consent: Kigamboni Road lights soon reality

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge has approved a plan by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to install street lights along the road connecting Nyerere Bridge and Kigamboni District.

The road section has been built in the area known as 'Mnadani' where a weekly market is held.

During his visit to the area yesterday, Kunenge said installing the lights was to live up to dreams of President John Magufuli of remodeling the country.

The construction of the road was a result of Dr Magufuli's directive he issued when inaugurating the new district of Kigamboni.

The Director General of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), William Erio told the RC Kunenge that the construction of the road was complete, and that NSSF had discussed with the experts from the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) to install street solar lights along the road in order to facelift the area.

Kunenge argued that redecorating the Nyerere Bridge would make it attractive to tourists who may want to go for some relaxation at the place.

"Let me congratulate the NSSF for its initiative... this is very good, we must change Tanzania," he said.

Simon Mgani, project supervisor from Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS), told RC Kunenge that the construction of the road was completed in August 31, this year.

The Dar es Salaam Regional Police Commander Lazaro Mambosasa said the construction the Nyerere Bridge and the road was a big investment, and called upon Dar es Salaam residents to take care of the road infrastructures for them to last long and benefit Tanzanians.



Agriculture ministry official Margaret Natai (L) briefs Shinyanga acting regional administrative secretary Beda Chamatata (C) on the quality of fortified crops at a meeting on nutrition held in Shinyanga municipality yesterday. Looking on is Kishapu district executive director Emmanuel Johnson. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TOSCI cautions dealers over counterfeit seeds

those from the Southern Highlands Zone.

Ngomuo said a trader who will be found to be selling counterfeit seeds legal steps will be taken against him/her including court action, as the acts hinder government efforts to strengthen agriculture.

Seed inspector from TOSCI headquarters in Dodoma, Dr Mngotasha Ngomuo gave the caution in Mbeya mid this week during an inspection visit on various shops selling farming inputs by TOSCI officials from its headquarters and

those that have not been issued by the institute and provided with a label, those that have expired

and those being smuggled into the country.

"There are seeds that have been smuggled from neighbouring Zambia, it is said the seeds are obtained in Songwe Region, Mbozi District in particular, hence I call on all people to be alert by examining the seeds before planting," he said.

He also said that their inspection discovered that many seeds have expired, hence they removed them

from the shops.

TOSCI inspector from Southern Highlands Zone Mary Kilawe called on various stakeholders to work together in preventing the distribution of counterfeit seeds, as the task should not be left to TOSCI alone.

He said distribution of counterfeit seeds was ruinous to farmers including losses as they cannot obtain the harvests as intended.

"We tried to educate these peo-

ple not to break the law, but now if we find a person whom we are certain is educated enough, but sells counterfeit seeds, it means he is doing so deliberately, hence we must take legal steps against such person," Kilawe said.

Some seeds dealers in Mbeya City thanked TOSCI for the inspection saying it has acted as a reminder on the regulations and procedures governing seeds trade.

Yusta Mraki, a seeds dealer said some unfaithful seeds sellers were the ones staining the business.

Use our emblem only with special permission - TRCS

By Correspondent Enock Charles

THE Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) has warned against illegal use of its red emblem emphasizing that anyone who wants it has to seek special permission from relevant authorities to avoid trouble.

TRCS secretary general Julius Kejo issued the warning yesterday in Dar es Salaam at a one-day training provided to journalists from different media outlets.

According to him, there are some people who have been using TRCS logos for personal interests contrary to the law.

Kejo said that there were some private hospitals, pharmacies, ambulances and individuals who have been using

the red emblem illegally.

"We are aware that there are some people who have been using the red emblem to please tax relief for their services, others use them to attract customers, but this is totally against the laws. We have received reports that there also some traditional healers (witch doctors) who have been using the red emblem but they end up providing poor services and causing harm to people, this ruins TRCS image," Kejo said.

He said no one is allowed to use the red emblem with the exception of army troops, national and international Red Cross unions and committees, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Speaking on school fire incidents,

Kejo called on authorities to ensure that the schools are built considering all the required standards which include electrical systems and other equipment so as to prevent harm to the children in schools.

He said TRCS have already provided humanitarian assistance to some schools including mattresses and nets while also continuing to evaluate the much needed aid in order to rehabilitate infrastructures but also enable the children to continue with their studies smoothly.

Late last month, Istiqama pre and primary school located in Tabora region caught fire and burnt dormitories which were accommodating 45 girls and all students' properties destroyed.



Tito Mangesho, NMB Bank Plc's senior manager for digital products and sales, pictured in Geita town earlier this week demonstrating to some 200 teachers from Lake Victoria Zone regions how to use the NMB Mkononi App. It was at seminar the bank hosted to mark Teachers Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

If elected, ACT-Wazalendo will improve Mtwara port, says Zitto

By Guardian Reporter

THE ACT-Wazalendo leader, Zitto Kabwe has said if the party comes to power its government will ensure it improves Mtwara Port to serve the Mtwara Corridor development.

In addition, he said the ACT-Wazalendo government will open up trade opportunities with people living in border areas to benefit with the cross border trade.

Speaking at his party's campaign rally at Tunduru to introduce the constituency's parliamentary candidate, Ado Shaibu, Kabwe (pictured) said it was essential to ensure trade opportunities benefit all people in the areas.

He noted that improvement of Mtwara Port that also involves Mchuchuma and Liganga iron ore projects for export of goods from Malawi and northern Mozambique.

He said the projects and Mtwara Port will assist mak-



I will make sure that Arusha has flyovers, SAU parliamentary candidate promises

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SAUTI ya Umma (SAU) Parliamentary Candidate for Arusha Urban constituency Simon Bayo has promised voters that if elected he would ensure Arusha has fly-overs to reduce traffic congestion, so as to enhance the city's landscape to go in tandem with its tourism hub status.

Bayo also said he would provide 1m/- interest free loans for each youth and small entrepreneur.

He said if his party wins the October 28 election, it will use the country's natural resources to provide free education from primary to university level.

Bayo was speaking at his campaign rally at Kilombero Market in Arusha City.

"The aim of our party is to see every child from poor families gets education without ever thinking about school fees, but also I will provide loans to small entrepreneurs as many Tanzanian youth, in Arusha specifically want to develop their businesses, but they lack capital to do so," he said.

He said the loan condition will be the National Identity Card to ensure those to benefit were indigenous Tanzanians.

In regard to free education, Bayo said during Mwalimu Nyerere's era, education was free from elementary to university level, but this was discontinued by later governments that came. He called on voters not to be deceived by anything saying "your vote is very valuable and if you mistake by voting for a wrong person, you will suffer for the next five years."



The aim of our party is to see every child from poor families gets education without ever thinking about school fees, but also I will provide loans to small entrepreneurs



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATIONS OF VENDORS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC) is a local NGO formed as a spin-off of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs (JHUCCP), empowering Tanzanian households and communities through social behavior change communication (SBCC), SMART Advocacy geared towards social development.

Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC) has set aside funds for its operations during financial year 2020/2021 and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation is issued

Currently TCDC Implements Social, Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Programs with projects on Malaria, HIV Aids, Maternal and Child Health (MCH), FamilyPlanning, Reproductive child and maternal adolescence

TCDC Invites interested and qualified bidders in the following services and goods from one or more of the following categories. The period of performance is November 2020 – November 2021.

Category	Description of Good and Service
P01	Printing of SBCC and Promotional Materials
P02	Graphic Design Service
P03	Creative agency services includes campaign, design and production
P04	Media and Public Relations Management.
P05	Media Monitoring
P06	Provision of Mid Media/Experiential Marketing services.
P07	Event Management and facilitator
P08	Audio and Video Production
P09	Air Condition service repairs and maintenance
P10	Office Cleaning, Gardening and fumigation service
P11	Office Security
P12	Office furniture and fitting supply
P13	ICT Equipment Supplies and Maintenance
P14	Venues for Conferences and meetings in Dar Es Salaam and Regions
P15	Hotel accommodation service in Dar Es Salaam and Regions
P16	Health Insurance Service
P17	General Insurance Service
P18	Provision of Air Ticketing
P19	Provision of staff capacity buildings and training service
P20	Kitchen and General Office Supplies
P21	Stationary and cartridges Supplies
P22	Transportation service for good and materials
P23	Recruitments and Selection services
P24	Vehicle rentals (Four wheel drives particular off road trips)
P25	IT Support, web design and hosting
P26	Electronic material Supply
P27	Vehicle repair and maintenance in Dar Es Salaam and Regions
P28	Evaluation of Survey study and Data Collection
P29	Audit services P30 Legal Services
P31	Generator maintenance service
P32	Tyres supplies for office vehicle
P33	Fleet Management Service
P34	Repair, Rehabilitation and maintenance of office Building
P35	Consultant services on SBCC.

Qualified and competent vendors are invited to submit their application including **technical proposals** (separate proposal for each category interested on) describing internal capacity, past experience, indicating the clients/companies worked with (including contact details), physical address and provide all **legal documentations**.

Note:

1. Applicant organizations should be VAT registered and they must provide VAT Certificates.
2. For common use items, suppliers must be GPSA registered.

Thereafter a framework arrangement will be issued for successful suppliers/Service providers. Suppliers who are currently doing business with TCDC should re-apply for this pre-qualification. This Invitation is opened only to registered companies with internal capacity to provide the above services.

This pre-qualification shall not bid to any contractual obligations of the part of TCDC, hence TCDC shall not obliged to invite any tenders or quotations from any of all candidates that have expressed their interest by responding to this invitation.

All applications should be in hard copies. Enclose original application (includes proposal and legal documents) plus 2 copies of the application in one sealed envelope. **Application, clearly marked the category number on the left upper corner, should be addressed and submitted to the following.**

**Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC)
Mikocheni B-Plot No 22, House No MKC/MCB/993 Mbuni Street
P.O. Box 105170
Dar-es-Salaam**

TCDC shall not be responsible for misplacement or premature opening of the documents which are not sealed.

Address the documents to:
Procurement Secretariat
Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC)
P.O. Box 105170
Dar es Salaam

All applications must be received not later than **Tuesday 27th October 2020 at 11:00 hrs local Time**

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
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La Niña forecast intensifying case for food biofortification

THE climatic pattern known as La Niña is about to creep over much of Southern Africa and well beyond, a weather condition that climatologists say is characterised by a warm air motion from the Atlantic to Indonesia, replaced by a cold wave from the ocean below.

The result is diminishing rainfall expectations as the likely weather pattern during the northern winter (with autumn having just started), while El Niño is its opposite scenario, where a cold wind blows and warm air replaces it. And the converse is also the case in relation to rainfall - that the first pattern sows drought; the second, floods.

When the country is besieged with a drier than usual climatic pattern, food preservation becomes a problem as small holder farmers cultivate crops from one season to another and can't plan for their supplies across a whole year.

In that case they have to rely on alternative food crops grown in their areas that have the ability to survive drier conditions, or mature rapidly enough after briefly experiencing enabling weather like weak rains.

This also means that food balances are affected as crops that are fetched from markets rather than grown on homesteads call for resources that peasant households often lack.

That is when biofortification becomes all the more important as it plays a role in assuring food security in more than one way, including by elevating the nutrition level by adding Vitamin A, the yellowish sprinkle, on whitish crops like sweet potatoes or maize.

Much of what is in local research acclaimed in that direction has to do with that stage of biofortification as it is now

becoming a commonplace product, but it is unclear if outside specified farms where fortified foods are grown, other peasants can actually make use of that technology.

There is a sphere of biofortification that has remained in limbo for years not here but in many other countries especially owing to environmentalist pressures.

It is adopting genetically modified seeds for various crops so as to ease the conditions in which they are grown (like resisting drought, or planting several times per year depending on minimal or less than optimal water availability, as well as protein fortification).

There is another equally important aspect, namely replacing predominant sugar content of seed fibre for salty content, which could alter how it tastes but it is also safeguarded from insect pests.

Insects are always on the hunt for sugary foods or whose fibre has sugar even if this isn't visible to the eye or so grasped by those using such crops, while in many cases the sugar connection is obvious.

Seeking to fortify crops in terms of their vitamin content is important, or promoting the use of drought resistant varieties, but so long as insects can always play havoc with crops, plenty of projected food security in relation to planting and harvest expectations are dashed.

Since the government has resisted environmentalist pressures in certain areas over the past few years, like the construction of the Nyerere hydropower dam, is it not possible to cross this crop research frontier as well beyond fortification by itself?

Is there no case for the licensing of crop varieties that will not be at the mercy of marauding pests? Just a thought the relevant authorities or agencies may wish to consider.

We have capacity for basic industries, but we must have reliable markets too

CM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli has lately expressed his wish to emphasize on establishing labour-intensive industries as this way there will be more jobs for those leaving school and other sections of the labour market.

The incumbent president was addressing a campaign rally in Iringa municipality, where he also rooted for the setting up of industrial clusters in regions across the country. It wasn't a new idea but it was expressed with candour, making it an explicit vision.

There is no doubt that the Magufuli administration has all along laid great emphasis on industries, and thus such clusters are expected to facilitate the promotion of the country's industrialisation agenda.

But it is on record that the government first came up with a basic industries strategy in 1975 and created an array of such units like machine tool and farm implement factories to add to textile mills, not to speak of the oil refinery and hydropower dams, sufficient for our needs at an earlier period.

Most of these industries ground to a halt in later years, in part for being excessively reliant on foreign exchange.

There are conditions where a basic industries strategy can be taken up again, and this is part of the country's semi-industrialised economy by 2025, which is tied to becoming a lower middle economy as well.

As a number of experts have pointed out, the fact that Tanzania has in the past half year or so been reclassified as falling within that category of economies is only partially salutary, as countries often climb to lower middle income status and then sink back into the LDC (least developed countries) category.

All this has to do with the sustainability of our industrial vision on the one hand, and this relies on proactive strategies for instance in relation to selection of technology and an exhaustive or detailed idea of markets we expect.

One such condition of a basic industrial strategy is developing excess power generation capacity such as in the construction of the Julius Nyerere hydropower-dam which upon completion will end the country's electricity woes and feed industries.

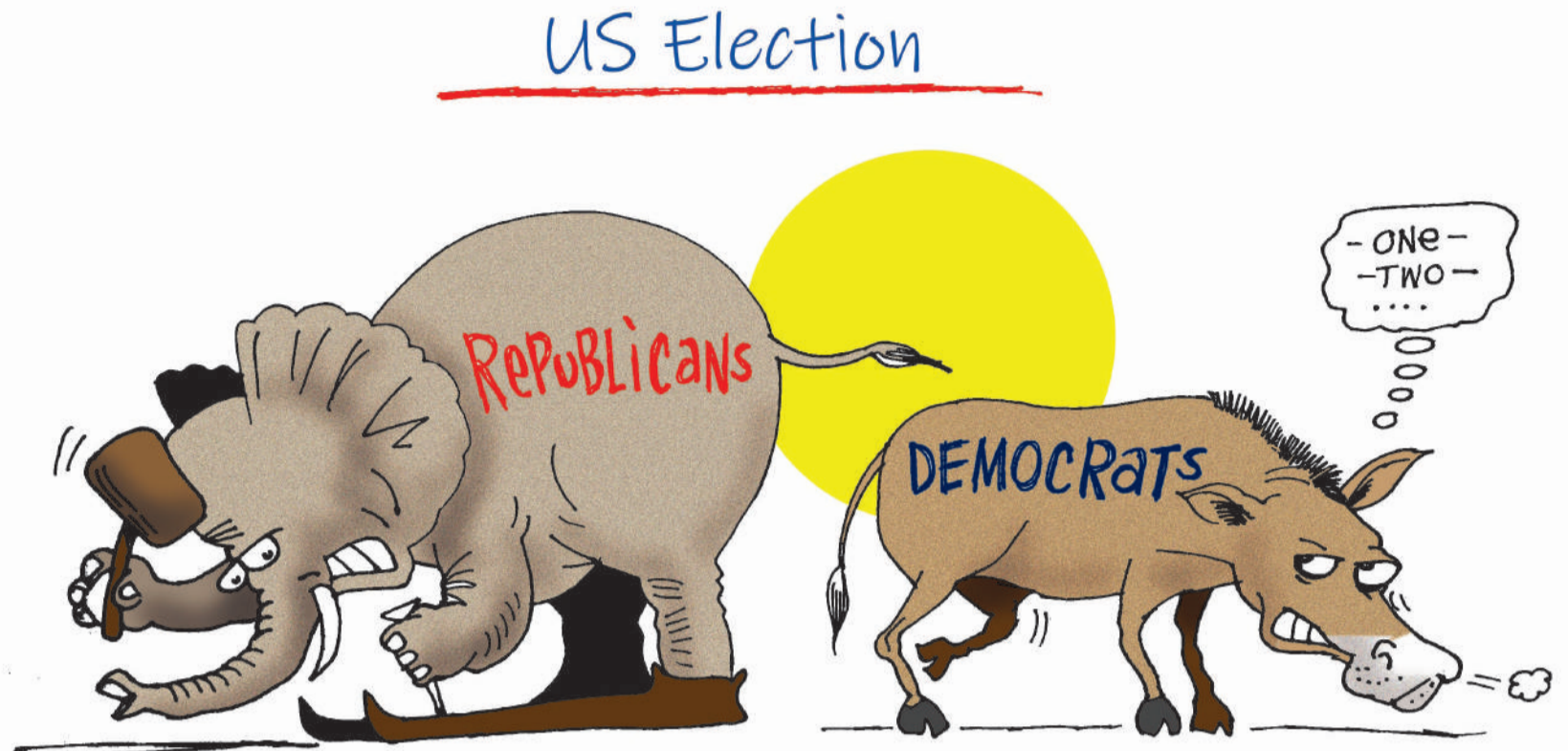
Since it is around 500MW more than the total need for electricity at the moment, at current demand it will represent more than 1000MW of extra capacity, which means the country's industrial sector will temporarily have no need to use gas as a source of power.

It is however still noteworthy that Ethiopia, which is in many regards still a poor country like Tanzania - complete with a disproportionate number of its people depending on nomadic livestock keeping - generates 6000MW and has plenty of need to industrialise. That means that we still have quite some distance to go.

Another area in which our economic uplift vision is fast progressing is infrastructure, which essentially includes the standard gauge railway (SGR), vast improvement of urban and rural roads as well as extensive modernisation of ports, a task that is ongoing at present.

When one looks at SGR, for instance, there is already a situation where the facility for vast haulage of goods and passengers is coming up, but on the horizon it is hard to see how the capacity will be put to optimal use.

That is where our industrialisation strategies need a brush-up to become more proactive or enabling, not promotion without strategic shifts.



Tourism helps wildlife conservation - but we ought to think much bigger

By Kirstin Johnson

FREQUENT travel is second nature in the world of wildlife conservation. We travel long distances for work and place great value on travel in our personal lives.

I for one was looking forward to a special trip with my daughter this month to Kenya and Tanzania. However, with Covid-19 on the rise again in Europe and elsewhere, I can only watch and wait to see if any of it will be possible.

Far more concerning is, of course, the impact of the loss of tourist income on wildlife and communities in Africa. Casual and formal employment in lodges, camps and travel companies has vanished, along with income from associated supply chains.

African government wildlife departments have found themselves without income to manage wildlife areas or pay rangers' salaries. Africa as a whole is facing the loss of \$29bn (£22.8bn) in tourist income and the loss of millions of jobs.

The enormity of the situation is terrifying. Conservationists and governments are rightly concerned about a rise in poaching both for food and for the illegal wildlife trade, as people struggle to feed their families.

But there's also a much more worrying question about tourism as a viable land use option that justifies wildlife conservation. Without it, might the very future of Africa's wildlife and wildlands be in jeopardy?

Countries with a strong tourism and wildlife sector are responding. Kenya, for example, is a middle-income country with a sizeable domestic tourism sector and a strong tourism brand - "Magical Kenya". The country has resumed domestic and international flights and is working with partners to keep rangers employed and wildlife protected.

And while the international market is down by 91 per cent compared to last year, the domestic market seems to be rallying. Word on the ground is that Nairobi National Park, Laikipia's network of private and community conservancies, the world-famous Maasai Mara's camps and lodges and even the magnificent Tsavo with its traditionally lower tourist footfall than other wildlife areas, are all receiving visitors.

Of course it will be a huge relief to operators and properties to be welcoming guests again. But there are snags.

Income per capita from domestic tourists is much lower than it is for international tourists. Ol Pejeta, for instance, is popular with both domestic and international tourists, but income from the domestic market contributes less than 20 per cent of its income.

Richard Vigne, Ol Pejeta's chief ex-



ecutive, is clear that domestic tourism on its own is not the whole solution, and certainly not at the moment with heavily discounted deals currently flooding the market to attract guests and stay afloat.

Domestic tourism, then, can only go so far for operators. But for communities and, by extension wildlife, the importance of properties being able to break even should not be underestimated. As long as lodges are open and tourists are visiting, supply chains start to kick in again, guides, rangers and hospitality staff are at work, and visitors on game drives deter poachers.

Domestic tourism may in fact be much more valuable as a strategy to protect valuable wildlife and wildlands - at least in the short term - than the dollars it generates.

And it might just bridge the gap until international tourists return, as Carter Smith, safari programme manager for the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) explains: "Across the sector, 2021 is absorbing most 2020 bookings as well as those new in 2021, and all signs are that people are determined to resume travel as soon as they can."

Positive as this is, the truth is that Africa's wildlife and wild landscapes are far too valuable to be dependent on something as volatile as tourism.

Covid-19 has shone a light on the direct relationship between the destruction of the natural world and human health, and a frenzy of digital debates involving participants from profit and not-for-profit sectors has generated a mountain of ammunition to support the case for "green growth" development strategies that place conservation at their heart.

The big challenge now is how to mainstream "green" development through investments that sees the "value" of nature in broader terms than the income it generates.

Wildlife and wild landscapes not only support tourism, they provide ecosystem services protecting watersheds, supporting agriculture, forestry and fisheries, hold cultural heritage value support an array of community livelihoods. Conservation debates are increasingly looking at designing conservation finance models that see natural capital as an asset class of its own.

As AWF's Andrea Athanas explains: "Building on our experience to date in

impact investment in the tourism sector, our models aim to incentivise local ownership and strong governance while delivering conservation and business results".

The foundation's work shows that these models can equally be applied in sectors as wide-ranging as agriculture, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries, and even IT, renewable energies and transport, providing jobs, critically, for the youth.

Ultimately, the future of wildlife depends on prosperous communities that see value in nature and actively seek to protect it because it is essential to their future.

This has proven to also be a game-changer in tackling the illegal wildlife trade by removing the poverty that underlies vulnerability to exploitation by illegal wildlife criminals.

The broad approach on Stop the Illegal Wildlife Trade is critical, not least by helping to build the growing understanding across the globe that degrading the natural environment ultimately undermines all our futures.

Dr Kirstin Johnson is the UK Director of the African Wildlife Foundation.

Tanzania Forest Conservation Group picks two Handeni villages to start forest reserve allocation

By Beatrice Philemon

HANDENI District Council in Tanga region has come up with a new comprehensive strategy aimed at restoring natural vegetation and forest cover that is extensively degraded due to uncontrolled human activities.

Illegal logging, forest fires for preparing farms, charcoal making and cattle grazing are the main causes of deforestation in the district.

To start with, around 92 acres of land have been planted 60,720 trees in Kwamkungu village, Kwankonje ward for timber production with subsidy from the government. The district is expecting to increase tree acreage to encourage timber production.

Handeni District Executive Director William Makufwe made the remarks when briefing Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) staff and journalists who visited the district recently. The visit was aimed at witnessing what has been done to support Handeni residents to conserve their village forests and what they need from TFCG so that villagers allocate areas of village land forest reserves to forest conservation.

Cedrela Odorata and Eucalyptus species are the main tree types grown for timber, and Handeni will have the widest district owned Cedrela Odorata and Eucalyptus acreage countrywide.

Tree planting is part of the district's reforestation initiative aiming to restore natural vegetation and the forest ecosystem, to access timber products, combat environmental degradation and save the forest from extinction, he said.

In 2018, the district received a 93m/- subsidy from the government that was used to plant trees in 92 acres of land.

The district will continue to plant

more tree species in different areas to restore natural vegetation, for villagers to benefit from forest resources and aid the fight against climate change.

"We will use up even our internal revenue for the tree planting programme to restore natural vegetation that was disappearing in our district, and ensure that Handeni forests last for years to come.

In areas where forests have been cleared for agriculture, or put to bush fires, charcoal making, timber production and other disturbances, villages need to have special tree planting programmes to cut deforestation across the district.

As villages are keen to access trees for planting, the district is providing tree seedlings, from

a tree nursery comprising different tree species.

Despite Handeni district being endowed with sizeable natural forest, most of it is not legally reserved as a forest reserve and thus the areas are damaged by unsustainable harvesting, causing forest degradation. This erodes potential revenues from forests as this alarming forest loss continues.

"Due to this impediment, as district authorities we are very happy to work in partnership with TFCG especially in unreserved forests within village lands. This will help us to address the challenge, help villagers to conserve their village forests and allocate areas for Village Land Forest Reserve (VLF) and conserve them," he says.

Working closely with TFCG will help the district to operate more effectively, enable villagers to live more harmoniously with the forests around them and implement community development projects, he stated.

He appealed to villagers to allocate



Handeni District Executive Director, William Makufwe, in a pose following remarks to journalists on how uncontrolled human activities have affected forests in Handeni district.

areas of village land forest reserve, shift to using proper harvesting techniques and put up sustainable harvesting plans for forest products in village forests.

Madebe, Kang'ata villages and other Handeni residents were providing full cooperation to TFCG for everything that they planned to carry out in their localities, as TFCG undertakes training on behalf of the district, he says.

During implementation, the district will pro-

vide experts in land use planning and mapping to ensure villages realise what they project in forest conservation and community based forest management.

The district conducts monitoring and supporting by keeping an eye on progress and helping out with problem solving.

Commenting on people who invade village forest areas to build houses, he said the district will conduct a tour in those areas to find out how

land for residential use was accessed, what kind of procedures were used and if the land is legally owned.

The district continues to educate people on how to use land and forest conservation, as that is treasury of our nation, he says., noting that Handeni district has 91 villages in 21 wards and 770 suburbs altogether.

For his part, Tanzania Forest Conservation (TFCG) advocacy and communications officer, Revocatus Njau lauded the district for embarking on this project, saying it will help the district to prevent forest extinction.

The district has a particularly good strategy, he said, highlighting establishing a tree farm as best investment. TFCG will extend 6000 tree seedlings for tree planting in the farm, he said.

Handeni villages seek to save about 176m hectares of unreserved forests found in village land and eke out benefits from what they conserve.

While in Handeni, TFCG staff and journalists visited Madebe and Kang'ata villages to monitor and evaluate what has been done, what they need from the government and the district as well so that the villages create village land forest reserves and engage in community based forest management (CBFM).

The villagers were trained on forest management by the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA).

TFCG is impressed to see both villages allocating village land forest reserve for community based management and they need support from the district to take full ownership and management of the forest reserves, he specified.

TFCG will work in partnership with Handeni district to ensure the villages meet what they set out to do.

Madebe and Kang'ata villages are part of the 176m hectares of unreserved forests taking up 80 per cent of 22m hectares of forest cover found that is part of village land in Tanzania. The land isn't legally reserved and formalized, resulting in deforestation.

In a bid to help villages benefit from forest resources they have, TFCG has recommended eight villages in Handeni district to allocate village land forest reserves.

Suwa, Gendagenda, Kilimamzinga, Madebe, Kang'ata, Nyasa, Amani and Pozo villages have been recommended for the CBFM programme and forest conservation.

"To start with, TFCG will begin with Madebe and Kang'ata villages located in Kang'ata ward and later take up the other six villages," he explained.

Ten-year-old commitment to biodiversity misses virtually all of its targets

UNITED NATIONS

THE coronavirus pandemic, which has claimed the lives of over one million people worldwide and destabilized the global economy, also upended the UN's ambitious socio-economic goals, including the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2030.

While extreme poverty rates have fallen in past years, says Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, "it is projected that between 70 and 100 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty as a result of the pandemic".

And by the end of 2020, she warned, an additional 265 million people could face acute food shortages.

According to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, ocean levels are rising quicker than expected, "putting some of our biggest and most economically important cities at risk". More than two-thirds of the world's megacities are located by the sea. And while the oceans are rising, they are also being poisoned," Guterres warned.

And as the planet burns, one million species in the world's eco-system are in near-term danger of extinction.

Meanwhile, the international community has failed to live up to its commitments - and meet all of its targets - on biodiversity.

Just ahead of the first-ever UN Biodiversity Summit on September 30, Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly lamented the fact that none of the 20 biodiversity targets agreed by Member States in Aichi, Japan a decade ago, "have been fully achieved".

"Words and good intentions are clearly not enough. They will not clean the oceans, save elephants, or prevent deforestation. Only our actions can do that," he declared.

The recently-released United Nations' Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 reveals that biodiversity is declining at record rates, and only six of the 20 goals laid out by 2010's Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been "partially achieved".

The study shows some areas of progress, but it found "the natural world is suffering badly and getting worse." And if the world continues on its current trajectory, biodiversity- and the services it provides- will continue to decline, jeopardizing the achievement of the UN's highly-touted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it warned.

Asked for the reasons for this shortfall, Dr. Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) told IPS the Global Outlook confirms and builds on the findings of the IPBES Global Assessment Report - including the new report-card on the progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity targets.

"One of the reasons for this shortfall is that



we, collectively, including Governments, but also the private sector, have failed to seriously address the direct causes of biodiversity loss, including land use change (deforestation, urban sprawl etc.), overexploitation of resources (terrestrial and marine), and climate change, as well as the underlying causes, which relate to our economy, institutions, governance, and which are all deeply anchored in our values and behaviors."

"We need to better understand and address the causes of these losses and act upon them. Another main reason is that considerations about biodiversity and nature's contributions to people have still not been brought to the centre of decision-making," she noted.

Dr. Larigauderie pointed out that the "health of our natural environment very directly influences almost every aspect of development - from food and water security, to livelihoods, health and even peace and security".

To achieve SDGs requires nature to be a key consideration in decisions, policies, investments and actions across all parts of the economy and society.

"This is how we can achieve the transformative change needed to address our increasingly frayed relationship with the rest of nature", she declared.

Meanwhile, a study released mid-September noted that, since 1993, and the Convention on Biodiversity, up to four dozen animal species have been saved.

This was done, said the President of the General Assembly, with local, national and international action and included habitat protection, species reintroduction, and legal protections, amongst other efforts.

"This demonstrates that we can deliver", he declared.

The goal is to build political momentum for the Convention on Biodiversity's Conference of the Parties (COP15), in Kunming, China in 2021, where world leaders will agree to an ambitious plan of action on biodiversity.

"Kunming needs to turn biodiversity into a household concern and political issue. Everyone must realize the risks of inaction," said Bozkir.

Asked how devastating has been the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the state of biodiversity worldwide, Dr. Larigauderie said direct impacts of the pandemic on global biodiversity are not yet well-researched - "but we are all aware of anecdotal evidence, both positive and negative, such as reports about the resurgence of nature in some areas and improved air quality, as well as increased waste related to disposal of personal protective equipment and the unfortunate and unjustified targeting of some species of wild animals".

"But the way you phrase the question is also indicative of a challenge - the impact of COVID-19 on people and economies cannot be separated from a proper analysis of its impact on biodiversity, because the two are totally in-

terlinked".

She argued that lockdown has essentially halted eco-tourism in many areas, not only damaging livelihoods but also massively reducing resources available to conservation.

Stimulus packages to drive economic recovery contain within them either nature-positive measures or more regressive ones that could in fact raise the risk of future pandemics by accelerating nature loss, she declared.

IPS: What are your expectations of the UN's first-ever Summit on Biodiversity which is aimed at providing political direction and momentum for the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework?

Dr.Larigauderie: To achieve the SDGs requires the implementation of an ambitious and well-resourced post-2020 biodiversity framework. The UN Nature Summit is the best opportunity for decision-makers in Government, the private sector and civil society to already raise the levels of ambition for the negotiations next year and to recommit to policies, decisions and actions informed by the best-available science and expertise.

IPS: How adequate is the proposed funding for actions related to biodiversity- estimated at between \$78 - \$91 billion per year- compared with the estimated \$500 billion spent on fossil fuels and other subsidies that cause environmental degradation?

Dr. Larigauderie: The IPBES mandate is to provide evidence and policy options for

Coral reefs restoration at the coast of Bonaire in the Caribbean. File photo

better-informed decisions - we do not prescribe or make normative judgements. That said, the IPBES Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration found, for instance, that on average, the benefits of restoration are 10 times higher than the costs, and, for some regions the cost of inaction in the face of land degradation is at least three times higher than the cost of action.

The IPBES Global Assessment Report also identified the removal of harmful incentives and the promotion of nature-positive ones as some of the specific possible actions that would drive transformative change for people and nature. Harmful subsidies include, for instance, Government grants for pesticides, to unsustainable fishing, and to fossil fuels, which all drive the loss of biodiversity.

IPS: Any indications of the new set of targets currently under negotiation, for 2021-2030, and to go before the 15th Conference of Parties of the Convention of Biological Diversity, scheduled to be held in Kunming, China, in May 2021?

Dr. Larigauderie: These are exactly the discussions that have started and will continue under the Open-Ended Working Group on the post-2020 biodiversity framework and which have already resulted in a publicly available zero-draft of the framework to be negotiated, and subsequent comments thereon.

Agencies

Envoy calls on Tanzanians to stop littering the sea, protect and conserve beaches and sea wildlife

By Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIANS have been advised to value beaches and develop a culture of cleaning them from time to time to protect and conserve the entire sea environment and the beach wildlife.

The advice was aired by Ambassador for European Union Manfred Fanti when participating in the EU-Beach cleanup exercise which was part of the World Beach Day celebrations in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

This year's World Beach Day theme was "Our Ocean starts with you" and it was celebrated at Coco beach in Dar es Salaam, the celebrations were organised by Forum CC and funded by European Union and attracted more than one hundred participants drawn from the local government authorities, local communities, Civil Society Organisations and other participants.

It was a day to both enjoy and celebrate the Coco beach and it was preceded by a series of cleanliness activities and events, all aimed at providing education and raising awareness on the need to promote clean beaches and conserve the entire sea environment.

In an interview with The Guardian, Ambassador Fanti said the Tanzanians should avoid dumping garbage into the sea. They should work to treat them in a sustainable way right from the beginning of the process and ensure no single garbage is thrown into the sea or along the beaches.



EU-Beach cleanup activities underway at Coco beach in Dar es Salaam. File photo

He further explained that the government authorities should put in place plans and organise services for the treatment of the garbage in a sustainable way.

What we are doing today is an example, people should emulate this event and the activities being done here because this Coco beach area is very popular. It brings people from diverse background to enjoy and spend the day. Therefore, it will be nice from time to time that the citizens continue cleaning up the environment.

Ambassador Fanti who arrived in Tanzania one year ago, said the cleanliness event was in the framework of the European Union and it is being organised worldwide every year. The celebrations intend to draw people's attention on the im-

portance of conserving the environment, beaches and the sea. The reason is that there is a lot of garbage inevitably going into the sea, affecting the environment of the sea, the food of the fish and the health of the people.

"What we have done today is very important, we have worked with many people from the government, NGO's to local communities. Actually this is a symbol of what we can do together for our better environment," he said.

I have been impressed by the number of participants. There are more than one hundred people. Last week we had many more involved in beach cleaning event. It is nice to see how Tanzanian mobilize themselves to take care of the

beaches during these campaigns. My message is very simple to clean the beaches because when you clean them you are conserving the environment of the sea, he added.

The message here is we should avoid littering garbage into the sea, and work from the beginning of the process to stop them. Kinondoni Municipal Environmental Sanitation Officer Alban Mugyabuso explained that said the Municipal was grateful to collaborate with other stakeholders such as the European Union, Forum CC and other local communities to cleanup the beach and the general environment.

"To sustain these campaigns, we are going to enforce laws governing the environment and beaches. We are praying that other stakeholders

should come in, support our budget to organize and conduct more cleanliness campaigns like this one for protection and conservation of the environment," he said.

He urged Kinondoni residents to use dustbins regularly and ensure they treat wastes right from the source.

Executive Director of ForumCC Rebecca Muna explained that her organisation has been working with local communities at the grassroots level on environmental conservation.

"We are creating awareness at community level, to make sure that they participate, they change behavior and manage the wastes from source. We all understand that the beaches and coastal areas are some of the areas affected much by wastes. This situation may hinder tourism which is a big source of income," she said.

"This is the fifth year, we are organising this event and working with local communities during world beach day. We have partnered with European Union and Kinondoni Municipal. We have also welcomed petty traders and local communities to celebrate this significant day," she said.

She added: I would like to advice the local communities and relevant government authorities to make sure that the wastes are managed at source. There should be awareness creation, sorting, recycling and making sure that the community value and treat well the wastes they produce.

Executive Director of Catalyst for

Social Action and Development Organisation (CCSADO) Msololo Ondit said for a long time now solid waste has been a challenge for Dar es Salaam residents and particularly the Sea Wildlife.

The problem is the people's attitude and lack of special programmes and arrangement on how the wastes should be collected and treated.

"So here we are demonstrating how the community around this area should behave. But in the long run, we want action from the government, civil society, development partners, and the general public at large. There should be sorting of these waste at the source and awareness creation campaigns that aimed at changing people minds.

Ondit called on the government to enforce laws and regulations saying Tanzania has very good laws and regulations but sometimes they are not put into force.

"Legal measures are not taken, the responsible personnel are not accountable. We need the government to do more than this," he said.

Director for Human Dignity and Environmental Care Foundation (HUDEFO) Sarah Pima called on Tanzanians to start separating the wastes at source and treat them immediately.

"There is a need for deliberate education and awareness creation campaigns on how to sort and treat the wastes. We need to continue educating the community on the importance of environmental cleanliness for the safety of our health," she said.

UN Women, UNFPA, Korea launch \$5m programme on gender equality

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

UN Women and UNFPA have launched a US\$ 5 million Joint Programme "Realizing Gender Equality through Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls" with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in Ikungi District in Singida. The programme is set to improve the social and economic status of women and adolescent girls in districts of Singida and Shinyanga.

With activities specifically targeted towards economically empowering women in the agricultural sector and addressing issues of gender-based violence in the regions, the programme is expected to reach over 48,000 women and girls in the Ikungi District and Msalala District in Shinyanga over the period of three years.

Speaking at the official launch of the programme, Singida Regional Commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi, encouraged all residents of the Singida region to ensure that they play their rightful roles in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, stating that it is through everyone's efforts that programmes such as these can be effective.

"We need everyone to be involved, whether it is myself, other government officials, the police, or all of you, everyone needs to play their part," said Dr. Nchimbi.

"We all need to be accountable, that is how we will make a real impact and better the future of women and girls, their families, and their surrounding communities," she said, adding that further investments in empowering women economically is a key ingredient to reducing rates of gender-based violence. She spoke against harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, and urged residents of the region to put an end to these practices.

"Let's focus on more productive matters, on improving livelihoods and economic status of our communities. Female genital mutilation does not benefit women, and we must all ensure that we stop these practices," said Dr. Nchimbi.

Hodan Addou, the UN Women Representative said the programme activities on women's economic empowerment will seek to address the multitude of challenges that women face in the agricultural sector, specifically in the horticulture and sunflower value chains.

"Although women are a large source of labour for the sector, they often do not have ownership and control over resources, such as land, agricultural inputs and the knowledge and application of good practices; and consequently have lower performance on production," said Addou.

The UN Women Representative went on to state that in addressing these challenges, the programme will focus on strengthening the capacity of women and female youth smallholder farmers to apply good agricultural and climate resilient practices, in addition to promoting collective marketing by putting in place key infrastructure such as a sunflower warehouse for storage, and greenhouses to increase productivity.

"We will also increase access to markets by linking buyers to farmers and establishing women's horticultural producer groups, enhance women's entrepreneurship skills and work with the government to promote women's sole and joint land ownership," she said.

As one of the key barriers to women's productivity, the programme will also enhance the capacities of local institutions and service providers including the District Councils, the Regional and District Police Gender and Children's Desks, One-Stop Centres, paralegals and district and ward VAWC protection committees, as well as enhance the capacity of the adolescent girls and women's capacity to deal with gender-based violence.

Dr. Wilfred Ochan UNFPA Officer in Charge, said that it is important to also recognise the key role that men and boys play in addressing gender inequalities and gender-based violence, as well as actors that influence social norms and cultural practices.



"Our collective actions must include men and boys, and must engage custodians of culture and the value system," said Dr. Ochan.

Zlatan Millisic, the UN Resident Coordinator said that the joint programme is part of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II - the UN's overall business plan in Tanzania - which supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to achieve its objectives in its national visions.

"Creating a better and more inclusive world for every woman and girl in Tanzania is an integral

part of the UN's commitment in Tanzania, through the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II (UNDAP II) the UN family is committed to supporting the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to achieve its objectives in its national visions," said Millisic.

Millisic further noted that the UN's support through the programme is in line with national and strategic frameworks and plans, including the implementation of the Agriculture Sector Development Plan (ASDP) II, the Na-

tional Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2017/18-2021/22) and the Village Land Act.

KOICA Deputy Country Director, Jieun Mo said that for the past four years, KOICA has empowered adolescent girls and young women through education in four regions of Tanzania providing vocational and life skills training, and worked extensively on improving the health of Tanzanian mothers by improving hospital infrastructure and supporting healthcare workers.

Mo said the joint programme is the

first gender equality programme KOICA is funding on gender equality in Tanzania, as a key area of the agency's work around the world.

"Gender equality has been a top priority in Korea's development cooperation, and we look forward to addressing some of the key challenges affecting women and girls through this programme," said Ms. Mo.

At the national level, UNFPA and UN Women will work with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, the Ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Tanzania Police Force, and other stakeholders to implement the Joint Programme; and with Ikungi and Msalala District Councils and selected non-government organizations at the subnational level.

Nine primary schools in Handeni get a big boost

By Correspondent George Sembony, Handeni

WORLD Vision Tanzania (WVT) has donated school uniforms, books and learning materials worth 40m/- to vulnerable children in nine primary schools in Kwamsisi ward in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

The items were handed over to the Handeni District Administrative Secretary, Mashaka Mgeta and were meant for schools located in

Kwamsisi Ward and will benefit 1,000 vulnerable children.

Kwamsisi Area Development Programme (ADP) coordinator, Jacqueline Kaihura said that WVT is currently supporting 3,500 vulnerable children in all the seven villages in the Kwamsisi ward.

She said that identification of the beneficiaries was done in collaboration with ward education officers and school managements. She said the donated items will be given to 1,068 pupils from nine schools.

During the event, eight winners of a reading competition were awarded. The competition involved 67 pupils from seven villages.

The organisation has also constructed toilets worth 94m/- at Kwedikabu and Kwan-

duwga primary schools. The toilets include special rooms for girls to use during their menstrual periods.

Kwedikabu primary school Head Teacher, Karim Puto said that completion of the toilet project would assure pupils of a better learning environment, hence improving their academic performance.

Puto commended the WVT for support to the school's livestock keeping project saying they will now be able to offer milk to pupils.

Mashaka underscored the need to educate children including those living in difficult conditions to be able to realize development goals.

He said it will be difficult to achieve development goals if some members of the society are left out of the educational process. He said educating children is one of the crucial elements towards the country's ambition to become a middle-income industrialised nation.

"Parents play a vital role in children's education; they are the ones to ensure that children attend schools everyday as well as following up on their academic development," he said.



Handeni district administrative secretary Mashaka Mgeta speaks earlier this week at a ceremony at which pupils from primary schools in Kwamsisi ward who had passed basic reading, writing and arithmetic tests through a project funded by World Vision Tanzania were awarded certificates. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mastercard study highlights digital divide to be addressed to power gig economy growth in East Africa

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

MASTERCARD has released a white paper revealing how gig work across East Africa is helping to drive economic growth by facilitating economic opportunities, improving livelihoods, and acting as a buffer against unemployment.

However, for the gig economy—which is based on short-term, temporary and flexible independent contractors—to reach its potential and unlock prosperity for millions of people, the digital divide must be bridged through connected devices that power the digital economy, and value adds like access to capital and access to market.

Mastercard's white paper, titled The Gig Economy in East Africa:

A Gateway to the Financial Mainstream, explores how digital inclusion is a prime enabler of the gig economy. Connected devices, which are already proven to be vehicles of inclusion and development in Africa, can help gig workers overcome some of the biggest challenges they face, ultimately driving financial inclusion and leading to improved economic possibilities.

The paper, based on research from in-depth face-to-face interviews with gig workers in Kenya, shows that the gig economy is nascent, buoyant, and continues to grow, with almost two-thirds (60%) of gig workers joining the gig economy between 2017 and 2019. However, like much of the infor-

mal sector, uncertainty is a fact of life, with the biggest challenges being around continuity of income. More than half (55%) said that not knowing when the next gig is contributes to instability. And close to 60% of respondents said that fluctuation in income from week to week is a cause for frustration.

Currently, the online gig economy (the portion of gig work that is attained through digital platforms) is a tiny portion of the overall gig economy. Research-based estimates in 2019 put the total size of the online gig economy in Kenya at USD 109 million, employing 36,573, while the offline gig economy comprises 5.1 million workers, and accounts for USD 19.6 billion. Despite this, online gig economy

work is preferred; Mastercard's report found that almost 60% would prefer online gigs to offline. This is because online gig work enables end-to-end management of projects. A third (over 35%) said that finding gig work was easier on a platform, and about 30% said platforms made faster payments possible, and helped them connect to other workers.

"Gig work is present everywhere in East Africa, but now, with the growth of digital technologies and connected devices, there is a real opportunity to help gig workers quickly connect to consumers to meet their demands for services, and overcome significant pain points such as inconsistent work, financial planning challenges and

late payments. If each key player in the gig economy ecosystem comes together—from the platform, to the mobile industry and the payments provider—we can ensure that the end-to-end journey of the gig worker is both smooth and profitable, and realize the true potential of inclusive, sustainable growth across the continent," said Jörn Lambert, Chief Digital Officer, Mastercard.

Some of the most common types of gig work in East Africa are in artisanal and general services, which includes welders, electricians, carpenters, and domestic work. "Independence" is the powerful motivator behind this movement. Being self-employed with the freedom to work at an individ-

ual pace are part of why gig work is growing. It is an inclusive space where people of different social and economic backgrounds can fit in and earn a living.

With the digital economy as an enabler of greater prosperity and inclusion, gig platforms have proven to be a single touchpoint for many services and opportunities utilized by gig workers. But access to gig work opportunities is often not enough to keep a gig worker afloat. Loans, instant payments, and benefits such as insurance, are the top three perks desired by gig workers in Kenya, and 45% of respondents said they are willing to pay between \$1 and \$5 a month for such benefits and services.

Over 80% of respondents in Mastercard's research said instant payments when a job is finished is the most desired feature of a gig platform. And in step with the prevalent mobile money system, about two-thirds (62%) of respondents said they prefer to receive payment through mobile money such as MPESA or Airtel Money because it is readily available, reliable, easy to manage, secure, and convenient. However, there are still barriers to internet access that need to be overcome to realize the massive opportunity that the East Africa region represents. One is the slower speed of internet data in Africa compared to other continents.

Locusts: Every cloud has silver lining

By Guardian Correspondent

LARGE swarms of desert locusts have wreaked havoc in East Africa countries since they were sighted in late 2019 in various places. The insects which had invaded at least 15 counties in Kenya and reached Tanzania, Uganda and Somalia by February this year, pose additional danger to the fragile food security situation in African countries. Communities that have been invaded by swarms of locusts are using whatever means is available to protect their livelihoods.

Countries have also employed various measures in order to control and prevent further damage. The economic impact of locust attacks need not be overemphasized. The amount of money needed to buy food supplies for the victims of hunger and to prevent further destruction is outrageous, throwing the burden beyond the immediate victims onto countries and the international community in general.

Records indicate that an outbreak in West Africa in 2004 required USD122 million to control it besides the loss suffered from the de-

struction. More recently, in 2013, about 60 per cent of Madagascar was affected by locusts, as a result of which around 2.3 million acres of farmland had to be sprayed with pesticides.

The situation was put under control after three years with efforts from the government, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and various stakeholders from the international community.

However, besides the destruction, locusts can be an alternative source of food for human beings and feed for livestock given their availability in large scale. Scientists and researchers are now working on the possibility of building sustainable businesses in the production of food and feed from locusts.

This would not only reduce food losses suffered by communities but it would also conserve natural vegetation. Although locusts are a good source of nutrition their importance and potential for human consumption is largely unrecognized in Africa. It is for this reason that SGC through its SGCI is conducting research to find the possibility of large-scale use of locusts as human food and

livestock feed.

Locusts are rich in protein and so can be an important component of the human diet. They can also provide a valuable ingredient in the manufacture of protein-rich feed for fish and livestock such as poultry, pigs, pets and other domestic animals.

Godwin Meghji is a poultry farmer in Dodoma City in Tanzania. He has 12,000 chicken, all layers and prepares his own chicken feed using various ingredients including maize, soya and fishmeal. He welcomes the idea of using locusts as chicken feed, "But we need to know more about the nutrients in locusts. Of course, there is plenty of protein in these insects but I believe there are other nutrients," said Meghji.

He also raised concern on the sustained availability of locusts as the insects appear seasonally. This means there might come a time when feed producers will have to change to other types of chicken feed or change the ingredients. "Chicken are very sensitive to change in their feed; a slight change may lead to reduced egg production or slow growth.

We must therefore be as-



TPB Bank Plc's Dodoma regional manager, Shabani Telatela (L, in suit), joins elders in Dodoma city yesterday in cutting a cake during celebrations to mark International Day of Older Persons. The Day is observed on October 1 each year, as decided by the UN General Assembly on December 14, 1990. It is celebrated by raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, including their rights, and was observed for the first time in 1991. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions older people make to society. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

sured of constant supply of locusts in order to make it the sole feed of one of the ingredients of chicken feed," he said, adding that there must also be high-quality control in the preparation of locusts if they are to be used as chicken feed. "Collection of locusts, processing, packaging, storage and distribution, all these must be

done under strict quality control otherwise chicken and consumers of eggs and chicken could be affected," said Meghji.

Emmanuel Kihale runs a poultry farm of 600 chicken in Dar es Salaam. He says he would certainly use chicken feed made from locusts particularly if the price of the goods would be lower than that of conven-

tional feeds.

"The major cost component of poultry farming is in feeds, so if there is a new product that would reduce costs that I will definitely use it. It is also important to find out if the new product has no side-effects on chicken and is not a threat to the health of consumers," he says.

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM is next month expected to host global entrepreneurship week that will bring on board over 1,000 stakeholders in innovation, entrepreneurship, and funding ecosystems from across Africa.

Themed: "Beyond 2020" the event is organized by Sahara Ventures in partnership with MyGrowthFund Venture Partners—a Pan-African Impact Investment firm based in South Africa and the US.

Jumanne Mtambalike, chief executive officer of Sahara Ventures

Dar to host global entrepreneurship week next month

said the Sahara Sparks 2020 entrepreneurship conference is designed to address challenges facing entrepreneurs, start-ups and financiers across the continent.

It also meant to address among other things, lessons learnt from 2019 and how to move forward.

The Sahara Sparks 2020 gathering will leverage technology to convene with a development agenda alongside the single goal of shifting paradigms.

"The key issue is what next after the challenging year, 2020.

Optimistically, how do we take the lessons of 2020 and move forward?" he said.

The year has been particularly challenging following the outbreak and impact of COVID 19 pandemic, threatening to send countries into recession.

He noted that the event is scheduled to take place virtually in November but in the course of the week there will be City Sparks, smaller events that will take place virtually in various parts of the continent and will

involve stakeholders across innovation, entrepreneurship, and funding ecosystems.

Being Pan-African oriented, the event will attract speakers, investors, and startups from across Africa.

The aim of Sahara Sparks 2020 is driving the digital and platform economy such as finance (FinTech), education (EdTech), insurance (InsurTech), agriculture (AgriTech), and the services digital economy driven by the sharing economy, the gig

economy, and the informal sector.

According to a Bank of Tanzania report, despite a positive outlook of the country's macroeconomic indicators, financing of economic activities in the private sector in previous fiscal year slowed as the COVID 19 affected demand for new loans.

"How is Africa strategically investing and capitalizing on technology and globalization to accelerate individual and regional socio-economic growth?

The event will also explore investment opportunities and encourage transactions to happen to finance early-stage entrepreneurs," said Mtambalike.

This year's event follows up on the 2019 event with the theme Africa in The Fourth Industrial Revolution and was attended by over 900 stakeholders from across the continent.

Among those in attendance were Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Ambassador (rtd)

Ami Mpungwe, former Tanzanian High Commissioner to South Africa, Prof Berno Ndulu, former Governor of Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

During last year's event, Prof Ndulu observed: "The digital economy is a paradigm shift rather than a sector."

Sahara Sparks is Africa's largest innovation and technology entrepreneurship event. The event started in Tanzania and now has six chapters in six other African countries; Kenya, South Africa, Finland, Nigeria, Uganda, and Malawi through a series of events titled, City Sparks.

SGCI raising research and development profile in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

FOR about 30 years, the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has played a leading role in coordinating and promoting research and technology development as well as advising government on matters relating to application of science and technology in a bid to scale up the socio-economic development of the country.

Its duties have included the administration of research grants, keeping a tab on research activities and providing science information services. It has also been involved in setting research policy, and promoting invention and innovation.

However, in 2015 the institution scaled up its activities after it started getting support from the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI).

The Initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of 15 science granting councils in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to support research-based policies that will contribute to economic and social development.

The goal will be reached through research management, use of STI indicators, partnerships and private sector engagement. Networking among Science Granting Councils (SGC) monitoring, evaluation and learning are other measures that will be employed in order to reach the goal.

According to COSTECH Director General Dr Amos Nungu, the project has enabled the institution to acquire new instruments and systems of research management such as how to design a call for research and establish grants management systems.

"The project has also supported us in designing and monitoring of research programmes based on the use of robust science, technology and innovation indicators. This has helped us to strengthen partnerships and networking between Science Granting Councils and other science system actors such as annual SGCI meetings and global research councils," says Dr Nungu.

SGCI has enhanced partnership between COSTECH and the private sec-



tor, academia and R&D institutions. The former is supporting the manufacturing industry by providing information on appropriate new technology, organising knowledge exchange events and providing training opportunities in research management.

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), for example, is conducting research on bioequivalence studies of locally manufactured amoxicillin and captopril solid dosage formulations with the aim of supporting the local pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in East African countries. The research has been made possible

through SGCI.

The impact of the support cannot be overemphasized but suffice it to say that visibility of COSTECH in sub-Saharan Africa has significantly increased since working with SGCI. "Behind this visibility stands a big number of partners and enhanced collaboration within the sub-region based on improvement in research management systems designing and management of research calls," says Neema Tinda, National Coordinator of SGCI in Tanzania.

There has also been institutional development as COSTECH staff have

improved their capacities and skills in the management of research grants. "SGCI is improving collaboration and networking with other R&D institutions in Tanzania and abroad and strengthening south-south research collaborations," says Tinda, adding that as coordinator of STI, all R&D and HLI?? in the country are affiliated to COSTECH. "Outside the country, we have been working with NRF South Africa, SARIMA and other Sub-Saharan Granting Councils."

SGCI has also cemented the relationship with private sector although according to the Coordinator, there is

long way to go in order to fully utilize the potential of the partnership for supporting national development plans.

This is partly because adoption of research in policies is a long process especially in developing countries. And despite increased awareness of using research findings in policy formulation and decision making, there is still a gap in uptake of these findings by both the government and the private sector.

Various groups and institutions have benefited from COSTECH's activities and in a rare occasion, journalists are among the beneficiaries. The Tanzania Agricultural Journalists (TAJF) stand out prominently among media groups that have benefited the SGCI project after its members were given training in reporting STI in relation to agriculture issues.

"COSTECH is the only institution that has trained our members in STI. It also organised media competition in reporting agriculture from the STI perspective. Although it was open to all journalist in the country, most of the participants and subsequent winners came from our group," says Gerald Kitabu, former chairperson of the association.

Yet it would be too early to say that research activities in Tanzania have increased in terms of number, relevance and credibility of findings due to SGCI's interventions. "We have witnessed some impacts arising from SGCI interventions but not to that extent," says Dr Nungu.

"The point is that only two mega research projects (research Chairs) and three minor projects (manufacturing) have been just granted through OR?? Tambo research chair and IDRC, respectively. The outcome of these grants will be used to gauge the impact of SGCI interventions," he added.

In working with SGCI, there are challenges that have hindered progress and must thus be dealt with. As a pilot initiative, it has been a learning journey for COSTECH working with 15 Councils and other STI actors across the region. "For example, working with Collaborative Technical Agency (CTA) has been smooth collaboration so far, with exception of a few gaps. But organising SGCI annual forum is going to be a stiff challenge.

It has been recommended that the host Council should manage all related issues including payment of participants, for smooth running the forum instead of each Council paying for all their expenses. This is an enormous task that is likely to bring confusion to stakeholders," says the Coordinator.

The future looks bright for COSTECH, partners and beneficiaries should efforts be directed in specific areas. One area is in capacity building in research management and impact analysis.

Research is the foundation of development and SGCS should provide more funding training various skills in order to raise the capacities of researchers and other staff members. There should also be joint development of future proposals and plans. Institutions should also conduct needs assessment to determine areas that need more support from SGCI.

Africa beats expectations with its low pandemic fatality rates

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA'S overburdened public health systems, dearth of testing facilities and overcrowded slums had experts predicting a disaster when COVID-19 hit the continent in February.

The new coronavirus was already wreaking havoc in wealthy Asian and European nations, and a United Nations agency said in April that, even with social-distancing measures, the virus could kill 300,000 Africans this year.

In May, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that 190,000 people on the continent could die if containment measures failed. Yet as the world marks 1 million COVID-19 deaths, Africa is doing much better than expected, with a lower percentage of deaths than other continents.

The continent's case fatality count stands at 2.4 percent, with roughly 35,000 deaths among the more than 1.4 million people reported infected with COVID-19, according to Reu-

ters data as at late Monday. In North America, it is 2.9 percent and in Europe 4.5 percent

Hard-hit countries such as Italy and Britain have recorded fatality counts of 11.6 percent and 9 percent respectively, compared to 1.6 percent for Ethiopia, 1.9 percent for Nigeria and 2.4 percent for South Africa, the continent's worst affected country.

Hospitals in many African countries say COVID-19 admission rates are falling.

"Based on what we have seen so far it is unlikely that we are going to see anything at the scale that we are seeing in Europe - both in terms of infections and mortality," said Rashida Ferrand, a London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine professor working at the Parienyatwa Group of Hospitals in the Zimbabwean capital Harare.

Experts say that some COVID-19 deaths in Africa probably are being missed. Testing rates in the continent of about 1.3



Workers disinfect a classroom at Ivory Park Secondary School in the east of Johannesburg, South Africa, May 28, 2020, ahead of the photo

billion people are among the lowest in the world, and many deaths of all types go unrecorded.

South Africa saw some 17,000 extra deaths from natural causes between early May and mid-July, 59 percent more than would normally be expected, according to a July report from the South African Medical Research Council. That suggests the death toll from COVID-19 could be significantly higher than the official figure, currently over 16,000, researchers say. Even so, there is wide agreement that COVID-19 fatality rates have not so far been as bad as predicted.

Why? Scientists and public health experts cite a number of possible factors, including the continent's youthful population and lessons learned from previous disease outbreaks. African governments also had precious time to prepare due to the relative isolation of many of their citizens from airports and other places where they could come into contact with global travelers.

Some scientists also are exploring the possibility that a tuberculosis vaccine routinely given to children in many African countries might be helping reduce deaths from COVID-19.

Another theory being considered is whether prior exposure to other coronaviruses including those that cause the common cold has provided a degree of resistance in some of the very communities once thought to be most vulnerable.

"There is a lot of circumstantial evidence," Salim Abdool Karim, a South African infectious disease specialist

who has advised the government on COVID-19, told Reuters, "but there is no smoking gun."

The virus hit Africa later than other continents, giving medical personnel time to set up field hospitals, source oxygen and ventilators, and learn from improvements in treatment elsewhere.

"We got the gift of time," said Thumbi Mwangi, senior research fellow at the University of Nairobi's Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases. "We had an amount of preparation that others did not."

One reason could be that international travel is limited in many African countries, and travelling domestically can be more difficult than on other continents, Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, told a news conference.

The continent's governments have also battled deadly infectious diseases such as Ebola, which killed more than 11,000 people in West Africa in 2013-16. So officials took notice when the new coronavirus started spreading around the globe rapidly early this year.

Many African countries were quick to introduce screening at airports, suspend flights from heavily affected nations and enforce social distancing measures and mask wearing.

Within a week of Kenya reporting its first case, schools were shut, incoming travelers had to undergo a mandatory quarantine and large gatherings were banned. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, imposed a ban on interstate travel and a curfew. Many of its land borders had already been

closed since August 2019 to cut down on smuggling, which helped fight the pandemic too.

South Africa introduced one of the world's toughest lockdowns in late March, when the country had confirmed just 400 cases.

"Africa brought down the hammer earlier in terms of coronavirus lockdowns," said Tim Bromfield, regional director for East and Southern Africa at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, a UK-based think tank.

A 2019 United Nations report said 62 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's population was under 25 and just 3 percent 65 or over. In the UN's Europe and North America region, 28 percent were under 25 while 18 percent were age 65 and up.

Chikwe Ihekweazu, director general of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, attributed his country's relatively low case mortality rate in part to the fact that the majority of patients were between the ages of 31 and 40.

CROSS-PROTECTION?

Scientists in several countries including South Africa are testing whether the century-old Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, widely used on the continent against tuberculosis, provides a degree of cross-protection.

BCG vaccines have been shown to protect against other viral respiratory illnesses, and a study published in the scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in July found that countries with higher vaccination rates for tuberculosis had lower peak mortality rates from COVID-19.

Studies have also started in South Africa and Zimbabwe to assess the impact of past exposure to other coronaviruses.

More than half of Africa's urban population is concentrated in slums, where access to water for hand washing is scarce, and physical distancing is near-impossible.

Diseases spread rapidly under such conditions, but some scientists wonder whether that may have been an unexpected boon in this case. There is some evidence that T cells developed by the body's immune system after exposure to other common cold coronaviruses could help fight off COVID-19.

Xinhua

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 142 00--

WORD-FIT

IN THIS PUZZLE YOU HAVE NO CLUES, ONLY A LIST OF WORDS THAT ALL FIT INTO THE GRID. THE GUARDIAN HAVE GIVEN YOU A HEAD START

3 letters LAY, DUO, EVE, IRE, ADE, LWB, SHE GUN, ALL

4 letters AMEN, MENU, ACID, ARENA, OCEAN, ON DIT, AISLE, NAKED

6 letters BRAZIL, GREEDY, DEDUCT, DREDGE SKILLS, MEANDER,

7 letters BAGAMOYO, EREWHILE,

8 letters

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

1 Tanzania's Capital

6 the letter H

7 feeling fear or anxiety

8 an African wild horse with black-and-white stripes and an erect mane

9 living, not dead

12 half of two

13 an illicit drinking place in India

16 suitcases or other bags for a traveller's belongings

17 extending upwards from or above

19 people aged between 13 and 19 years

22 the sixth note of a major scale

23 Egypt's Capital

24 tamed animal

CLUES: Down

1 Bangladesh Capital

2 a lovable

3 corn

4 an assistant to a political leader

5 frightened

10 a small wingless parasitic insect which infests human skin and hair

11 a person who does not eat or use animal product

13 very eager to hear or see something

14 grow

15 a missed attempt to kick a ball

18 history

19 a built-up area smaller than a city

20 every single

21 dry land

ANSWERS TO SOLUTIONS

GUARDIAN
SHEGUN
LWB
ADE
EVE
DUO
LAY
ALL
AMEN
MENU
ACID
ARENA
OCEAN
ON DIT
AISLE
NAKED
BRAZIL
GREEDY
DEDUCT
DREDGE
SKILLS
MEANDER
BAGAMOYO
EREWILE

TCAA CHIEF DEBUTS IATA-APPROVED AVIATION PERSONNEL TRAINING AT NIT

By Property Watch Reporter

A course of aviation trainers approved by International Air Travel Association has been officially launched at National Institute of Transport.

Speaking at the launch in Dar es Salaam this week, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority's Director General, Hamza Johari said the training of trainers by NIT is a major step towards improving aviation services in the country.

"I commend the NIT's management for the good efforts made to meet IATA's criteria and conditions to qualify for accreditation to run the four important courses with international standards," Johari said.

He added that the courses will also improve the portrayal of the country's aviation industry at both local and international levels as trained personnel will add expertise in the growing sector. The TACC further noted that the launching of the IATA approved courses is very important currently because the government of President John Pombe Magufuli has invested heavily in the transport industry especially the aviation sector.

"So far the government has already received eight new aircrafts out of 11 whose orders have been placed with manufacturers with expansion



Aviation trainees in a souvenir photo with TCAA's director general Hamza Johari (C) and NIT Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa (2nd L) after the launch of IATA-approved courses in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo courtesy of NIT.

of a number of airports including the construction of a new Terminal III at Julius Nyerere International Airport, Msalato Airport in Dodoma and others," Johari added.

Other airports currently under construction of finished are Mwanza, Songwe, Kigoma, Tabora, Shinyanga, Chato, Sumbawanga and Mtwara airports. "It is my hope that aviation stakeholders in the country will use this opportunity to get trained here cheaply compared to going abroad," he pointed out.

On his part, NIT Rector, Professor

Zacharia Mganilwa named the four IATA endorsed courses to be offered as including Airline Marketing, Airline Customer Service, Airport Operations Fundamentals as well as Global Distribution Systems Fares and Ticketing-Amadeus.

"Offering IATA courses at NIT will provide opportunity for whoever is looking for these courses at an affordable cost," Prof Mganilwa said while adding that the move is an opportunity to secure employment in global airlines.

"The institute is inviting

interested candidates and airlines to bring their employees and managers to be refreshed with IATA courses at NIT," he added saying the courses will shape them with the best required knowledge and skills on the air transport industry.

The NIT Rector stated that the objective is to add more IATA endorsed courses to meet the growing industry's demand. "With the government support, the National Institute of Transport has since 2012 started introducing aviation training courses to support

the aviation industry which is currently growing very fast," he stressed.

NIT has established a Center of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations under East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) after getting support from the World Bank. EASTRIP is five-year project with the objective to enable NIT improve infrastructures and training facilities for students and staff in aviation industry.

NBC vows to finance the nation's coffee value chain

By Property Watch Reporter, Moshi

THE coffee value chain starting with farmers, dealers and processing factories has been assured to get affordable financing from National Bank of Commerce.

Speaking during the inaugural 'Kahawa Festival' which kicked off in Moshi Municipality this week, Moshi Branch Manager, Lazaro Mollel said the bank as part of the sponsors of the three days event, is committed towards improving the coffee sub sector.

Mollel said the bank has participated in the exhibitions to ensure that they extend their reach to farmers to give them access to affordable loans that will enable them to expand their activities. "We are so delighted to be part of these exhibitions and are committed to support the coffee value chain including farmers to ensure that their crops offer more value to them and to the economy," Mollel said.

Arguably, coffee is one of the country's primary agricultural export commodity representing about five percent of total exports and 24 percent of traditional cash crops while more than 90 percent of the beans originate from smallholders' farmers.

NBC's Relationship Manager, Neema Soko said that in ensuring farmers have reliable access to banking services, the bank has deployed NBC Shambani and NBC Kiganjani services to help them store and access their money anytime and anywhere.

"NBC Shambani targets all clients including distributors of agricultural products, farmers as well as those supplying agricultural inputs and allows farmers who are working in groups like Agriculture Marketing Societies (Amcos) to open group accounts as well as an individual account with no charges," she said.

The festival has been organized by Tanzania Coffee Board to commemorate the International Coffee Day that is marked annually on October 1 globally. The festival among other things, is intended to recognize the contribution of different players in the value chain from farmers, to roasters, baristas and coffee shop owners.



NBC Bank head offices in Dar es Salaam.

ATCL, Qatar Airways ink interline agreement

By Property Watch Reporter

NATIONAL carrier, Air Tanzania Company Limited has signed an interline agreement with Qatar Airways that will provide passengers with additional seamless connections to domestic and international destinations in Africa.

In a statement this week, the Doha based airline said the agreement will also enable passengers in Africa to travel smoothly between the continent and Doha plus other destinations across Qatar Airways wide network in Asia Pacific, America, Europe and the Middle East.

Qatar Airways' passengers will benefit from access to 19 domestic and international destinations in Africa including Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mwanza, Bukoba, Kigoma, Tabora, Mpanda, Mbeya, Songea, Mtwara, Dodoma, Iringa, Bujumbura, Entebbe, Hara, Lusaka and Hahaya.

"We are delighted to have this new collaboration with the national carrier of Tanzania. This agreement with Air Tanzania will significantly increase our operations within the country and beyond enabling global travellers to explore additional iconic destinations across the con-



An Air Tanzania Company Limited plane parked at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam.

continent while reinforcing our commitment to tourism in Africa," Qatar Airways Vice-President for Africa, Hendrik Du Preez said.

Du Preez said Qatar Airways has established a strong relationship with Tanzania over the years as it began its scheduled

services to Dar es Salaam in January 2007 followed by Kilimanjaro in July 2012 and Zanzibar in July 2015 with daily flights to all three stations.

He noted that the airline continues to be the leading global airline connecting passengers with the world,

operating one of the youngest, most fuel-efficient and sustainable fleets to take people safely to where they need to be. Commenting on the agreement, Air Tanzania Company Limited's Managing Director and CEO, Engineer Ladislaus Matindi said the partner-

ship is going to strengthen and expand ATCL's market presence and competitive ability to both of us within Africa and beyond, as well as creating the values which we were looking at before establishing this venture.

"ATCL aspires to be the airline of choice, that ex-

ceeds customers' expectations and providing reliable, safe, and sustainable high-quality airline services globally," Matindi said adding that local passengers will enjoy seamless travel connections to destinations where ATCL has no regular flights.

JOHANNESBURG

Gold buying by central banks, an important driver of bullion's advance in recent years, is forecast to pick up in 2021 after a slowdown this year.

Citigroup Inc. sees demand from the official sector rising to about 450 tons after a drop to 375 tons this year, which would be the lowest in a decade. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. expects a slight up-tick to 400 tons from an estimated 390 tons in 2020, potentially the second-lowest amount in 10 years. Subscribe

Central bank gold-buying seen climbing

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While the forecasts are far from the near-record purchases of more than 600 tons a year seen in both 2018 and 2019, increased central bank activity will help bolster bullion. Russia could return to the market next spring and China's central bank may resume adding to reserves after the US elections,

Citi said in a report this month. This development may have a bigger impact on the market if exchange-traded funds – key drivers of demand in 2020 – slow their buying as global economies recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

"Although official sector gold demand was quite robust in 2019 and 2018 and is softer this year, it is not necessarily weak by historical standards," said James Steel,

chief precious metals analyst at HSBC. "While the influence of central bank activity should not be discounted, it is taking a back-seat to ETFs and other forms of demand this year." Bullion prices and ETF assets surged to a record in 2020 as investors sought havens amid the pandemic, looser monetary policy and the potential debasement of fiat currencies. Spot gold has since dropped from its all-time high and is set for the

biggest monthly loss since 2016, but is still poised to cap an eighth quarterly gain, supported by sustained flows into ETFs.

Colombia and Uzbekistan have been among countries that reduced their gold reserves in recent months, and the Philippines has said it's considering selling. Russia announced it would cease purchases from April, while it's been almost a year since China disclosed any moves.

"Net central bank purchases have slowed down but are still positive, so there is no risk that central banks become a source of downward pressure on prices like they were in the 90s," said Bernard Dahdah, senior commodities analyst at Natixis SA.

While central banks were net buyers for a 10th straight year in 2019, demand has become more concentrated, with fewer banks adding to reserves in 2020,

according to the World Gold Council. Purchases dropped 39% to 233 tons in the first half from the same period a year ago.

Each central bank determines the gold allocation that is optimal for its own situation, according to Shaokai Fan, head of Central Banks Relationships at the WGC. Some may have reduced holdings because the percentage of bullion in their reserves has become high, particularly as prices increased or because they've had to draw down on the non-gold portion of their reserves to maintain currency stability, he said.

SIMIYU RC URGES BANK TO BAIL OUT INDEBTED TEACHERS LOSING PROPERTY TO LOAN SHARKS

By Property Watch Reporter, Simiyu

NMB Bank Plc's management has been challenged to come up with a loan scheme to bailout heavily indebted teachers who are losing their property including furniture and plots of land to loan sharks.

Simiyu Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka told an NMB Teachers Day meeting earlier this week that the bank should bailout the group, which constitutes the largest government employees. He said many teachers in his region are bankrupted by loan sharks because of borrowing at hiked interest rates.

"Most of these teachers have lost their property to loan sharks and are now surrendering their bank cards to loan sharks that have forced them to be debt trapped," Mtaka said noting that such an important group to the community should not be exposed to regular harassment as it affects performance of students and pupils.

"Most teachers are in debt traps with loan sharks charging them as high as 50 percent interest rate.



A poster promoting NMB's Mortgage Loans.

Some have been forced to use their pension benefits to settle debts," the Simiyu Regional Commissioner noted.

He further counselled teachers to stop borrowing from non formal financial institutions or individuals the majority of whom constitute loan sharks who never

respect microfinance regulations as stipulated by Bank of Tanzania.

A similar call was also echoed by Geita Regional Commissioner, Engineer Robert Gabriel who also dared NMB to come up with a tailor made loan scheme targeting teachers so that they can leave better lives and concentrate on teaching children to

succeed.

"The government is investing a lot in education by building better houses for teachers among other things but they need loans to furnish their rooms," Eng Gabriel said during a similar event held in Geita earlier in the week.

Speaking to the teachers in both

Geita and Simiyu Regions, NMB's Senior Retail Banking Manager, Ally Ngingite advised them to borrow with an investment plan in mind to ensure that their families benefit from the loans.

Ngingite pointed out that the lender has continued to improve its services and products including loans to customers such as civil servants especially teachers who can get mortgage loans to build or buy their own houses.

"Currently, NMB has a loan that enables one to buy a house or build a house from scratch," he noted while stating that the loan size depends on one's ability to repay and cost of the property in question.

Teachers who attended the meetings in both regions also commended the bank for sensitizing them on loans and the importance of saving but also investing. "The most important thing that I have learnt to day is that NMB can give us loans to build our own houses from scratch," said Grace Julius, a teacher in Simiyu Region.

Her peer from Geita, Rosemary Malimi supported Julius by saying that she has managed to pay her children's school fees uninterrupted with NMB loans.

SGR Nairobi-Mombasa trains double with demand increasing

NAIROBI

Kenya Railways has doubled the frequency of standard gauge railway (SGR) passenger service between Nairobi and Mombasa, signalling rising demand for travel after the easing of Covid-19 lockdown.

The train will do two trips to Mombasa from Nairobi at 8am and 2:15 pm and leave the coastal town at the same time for the city. SGR service was scaled down to a single trip in July when it services resumed after Kenya suspended operations in April to curb the spread of coronavirus. But the easing of the restrictions, including allowing travel in and out of Nairobi and Mombasa has triggered a rise in demand, prompting Kenya Railways to up frequencies.

"This is a big relief to our customers considering the number of feedbacks and requests received since the resumption of the service," said Kenya Railways managing director Philip Mainga in a statement yesterday. The corporation has been operating one passenger train while keeping half of the seats empty in line with social distance rules, hurting its revenues.

The addition of an extra train on the Nairobi-Mombasa route comes at a time President Kenyatta has extended for two months a nationwide curfew intended to curb the coronavirus, but relaxed the starting time by two hours until 11 pm. These move is set to see a rise in domestic travel by families heading to the coastal town of Mombasa ahead of the Christmas season.

Meanwhile Nairobi Inland Container Depot traffic last year benefited immensely from State directive to haul cargo from the Port of Mombasa to Nairobi using Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). The depot doubled the number of cargo it handled last year compared to previous years.

According to Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) pre-Covid-19 performance report, in 2019, a total of 418,830 twenty foot equivalent units (TEUs) were handled at the NICD up from 257,972 TEUs in 2018.

Consequently, truckers recorded very low business as they only handled less than 100,000 TEUs from the port to Nairobi and other hinterland regions, forcing them to protest the compulsory haulage of cargo by the SGR. In June last year, KPA started implementing 100 percent ex-hook raiiling where cargo was loaded direct from ship to train, enabling the SGR to carry more than 1000 containers in two days.

The report indicates that the country continues to experience unbalanced trade with exports recording very low cargo tonnage. The depot registered a total of 262,895 TEUs of imports from 177,652 in 2018 while only 13,777 TEUs of exports were handled in the year, an increase from 11,701 TEUs previous years.

Number of empty containers handled in 2019 declined to 42,158 from 68,619 containers in 2018. KPA acting managing director Salim Rashid attributed the increased number of cargo handled at the Nairobi ICD to improved service delivery and low cost of transport by SGR.

"At the Mombasa container depot, there is good coordination where cargo is loaded direct from the ship to the railway which has reduced time and cost to traders.

Mozambique: EDM negotiating more power from Cahora Bassa

MAPUTO

Mozambique's publicly owned electricity company, EDM, is negotiating with Hidroelectrica de Cahora Bassa (HCB), the company that operates the Cahora Bassa dam on the Zambezi river, for the purchase of an extra 150 megawatts of Cahora Bassa power.

Cited by Wednesday's issue of the Maputo daily "Noticias", the chairperson of the EDM board, Marcelino Alberto, said that currently HCB provides EDM with 30 megawatts of firm power, and 200 megawatts of "non-firm" power. The difference is that firm power is supplied throughout the year, regardless of the hydrological cycle or events such as the occurrence of drought (which lowers the level of water in the Cahora Bassa reservoir). "Non firm" power, however, depends on the availability of water.

Alberto told reporters "HCB is our primary supplier of power". Talks were under way for the extra 150 megawatts. He described the negotiations as good "and the two companies will deepen their analysis of the proposal."

EDM needs the extra power to increase the availability of electricity for its domestic clients, and also to export to the region. The Cahora Bassa power station has an installed capacity of 2.075 megawatts. But 1,500 megawatts are committed to the South African electricity company, ESKOM, under a long term agreement.

Meanwhile Mozambique launched on Wednesday an international public tender for the award of four renewable energy projects with expected investments of €200 million, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said in a statement.

In the note, the ministry said that three solar farms will be auctioned in the districts of Dondo, Sofala province, and Manje, Tete province, both in central Mozambique, Lichinga district, Niassa province, north, and a wind farm in Inhambane province, south.

The four projects will have a production capacity of 40 megawatts each. "These initiatives are part of the Promotion of Renewable Energy Auctions [Proler], which serves as a mechanism for bidding for projects in this area, thus contributing to a greater capacity to generate renewable energy resources at low cost for the benefit of the end consumer," the statement said.

Telco opens its mobile money platform to developers

By Property Watch Reporter

LOCAL and international developers have been advised to create innovative new use cases for Vodacom Tanzania Plc's flagship mobile money platform, M-Pesa.

The company said in a statement that its M-Pesa Application Programming Interface is now open to developers who want to utilise it for innovative new use cases. Vodacom M-Pesa, the country's leading mobile financial system has undergone lots of transformation over the years including a historic migration and upgrade to a second-generation platform which is robust.

The platform which is faster, more secure and futuristic, has since then diversified earning accolades and international recognition including a GSMA certification. Vodacom's Managing Director, Hisham Hendi told developers and Fintech ecosystem stakeholders this week in Dar es Salaam that the opening of the M-Pesa API is another step to fuel innovation in Tanzania around Fintech and digital business.

"As a company with a vision to digitize Tanzania, we support the innovation ecosystems to come up with solutions that transform lives which is why we have now opened our API's making it easier for your businesses and developers to integrate with our M-Pesa system allowing you to test and enable a wide range of extra capabilities to the system that will bring real change," Hendi said.

The opening up of M-Pesa API complements other recent ingenuities by the company like Lipa Kwa Simu an interoperable service, international Money transfers and the M-Pesa application all aimed at creating a cashless society and driving a digital economy.

"The fully-fledged development infrastructure enables businesses to work independently with their developers and opens space for innovations in re-designing their payment interface independently, creating a customized payment system without directly engaging us," he noted.

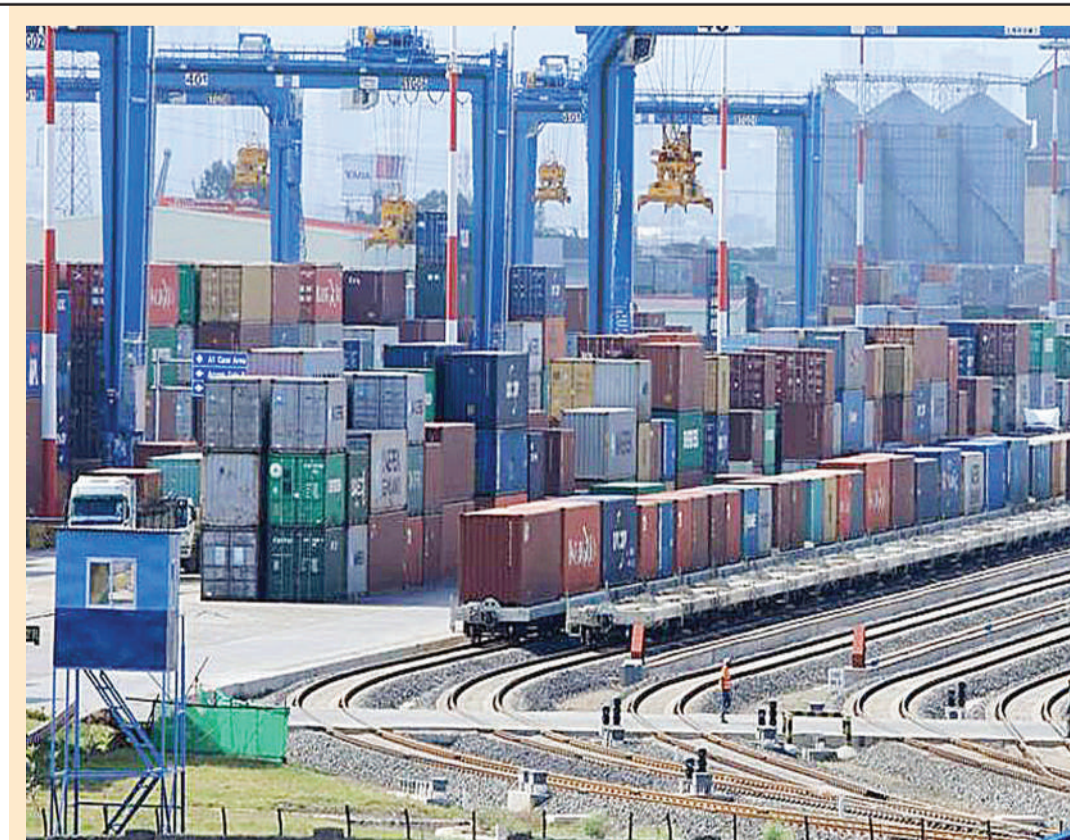
On his part, Vodacom M-Pesa Director, Epimack Mbeteni said the new open M-Pesa API enhances digital user experience making it more convenient, faster and efficient to integrate payments systems onto the financial services platform.

Mbeteni called on developers to take use of them and devise new applications for business-to-consumer, consumer-to-business and business-to-business that can be plugged into the open tech backbone.

"With the Open M-Pesa API's it is now faster and easier for you to test the integration of your



Vodacom Tanzania Plc's managing director, Hisham Hendi.



Nairobi inland container depot.

CONSTRUCTION

INDIA'S TOURISM SECTOR STRUGGLES DESPITE REOPENING OF POPULAR MONUMENTS

NEW DELHI

India's tourism sector will continue to struggle despite last week's reopening of the historic Taj Mahal and other top attractions as part of the country's ongoing efforts to kick-start the economy, according to industry experts.

With international tourism into the country still largely restricted, and even Indian citizens put off travel because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the slowdown in the sector will be more prolonged than previously forecast, analysts predict.

"Because of this pandemic, people aren't even prepared to travel within the country," says Ankit Singh, the founder of Extra Edge Travels, a New Delhi-based company that offers tours in India and abroad. "It's almost like this industry has come to a halt now. We've been impacted financially and we had to issue some refunds out of our own pocket."

Despite the reopening of the 17th-century Taj Mahal and other tourist attractions, coronavirus infections continue to surge in India. On Saturday, India's total confirmed Covid-19 cases crossed 5.9 million after more than 85,000 new infections were added in 24 hours, according to government data.

According to a report released this month by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the travel and tourism industry is expected to lose a total of \$65.57 billion (Dh240.8bn) as a result of the pandemic. "The coronavirus pandemic has given a crippling blow to the Indian travel and tourism industry," CII says in the report.

"The shutdown and slowdown, which was initially expected to affect revenue streams until October, have now indicated otherwise and it will be far more prolonged than the sector had earlier anticipated." Hotels in India are only likely to be able to achieve an occupancy level of 30 per cent until the start of next year, according to CII, which adds that revenue streams are likely to be eroded by 80 to 85 per cent.

"The figures are quite alarming and the industry needs immediate measures for survival," CII says. The travel and tourism



Indian tourists pose for photographs in front of the Taj Mahal monument.

industry in India makes up 9.2 per cent of the country's gross domestic product and employs 8.1 per cent of the population, its figures reveal.

In a report released in June, Grant Thornton in India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) forecast that there could be more than 40 direct and indirect million job losses in the travel and tourism sector.

The latest data available from India's Ministry of Tourism shows that the country received 10.56 million overseas tourists in 2018, which generated \$28.59bn in foreign exchange earnings. Two of India's biggest source markets for tourists are the United States and the United Kingdom, which are also struggling to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

At the beginning of the government-imposed lockdown in March, which closed hotels and brought commercial flights

to a standstill. "We fell off the cliff there and we were completely locked out for two months, as was the rest of the country", Vibhas Prasad, director of Leisure Hotels Group, says.

With limited flights within India restarted in May and the government permitting hotels to open in June, Mr Prasad says the company, which has 27 properties in India, including in the states of Uttarakhand, Goa and Himachal Pradesh, was up and running again within a matter of days.

But he says occupancies have remained low because of strict requirements imposed by individual states, which, for example, require domestic travellers entering from another state to have a Covid-19 test and to enter quarantine for up to 14 days.

There is still no clarity on when commercial international flights will reopen for India - beyond limited "air bubble" agreements with certain countries, including

the UAE, which allows essential workers and Indians to travel into the country.

Within India, restrictions are steadily being relaxed and the peak festive travel season is approaching. But hoteliers fear there will not be a rush of domestic travellers given the spread of the virus and low consumer confidence as people are concerned about their jobs. "We do expect some pent-up demand to materialise," says Mr Prasad. "So from virtually a five per cent occupancy, we are hoping in another month's time we'll be at a 20 to 25 per cent occupancy."

"This is nothing to look forward to in the short term, but this occupancy will perhaps lead us to operational break even, so we'd not be haemorrhaging money on a monthly basis." Hoteliers have also faced the challenge of having to adapt to the crisis to reassure travellers they are safe and meet requirements,

including investing in sanitisation equipment and training staff in the necessary hygiene procedures.

This comes as hotels are also seeing a sharp drop in room rates. "Room rates are down by 50 per cent - that's across the whole market," says Ankur Bhatia, executive director of Bird Group, an Indian travel and hospitality company that operates a chain of luxury hotels.

Like Mr Bhatia, many are hoping that domestic travel could at least partially help to revive the sector, as they turn their focus from abroad to the major market on their doorstep. The number of domestic tourism trips in India totalled more than 1.85 billion in 2018, according to the country's Ministry of Tourism. Now, with Indians unable to freely travel overseas, for many the only option is domestic travel.

"My hotels in Delhi are doing 80 to 90 per cent occupancy over the weekends, and these are people

who are citizens of Delhi who want to have a respite and they're checking in for a staycation to take a little break without getting into the hassle of moving from one state to another or taking a flight," says Mr Bhatia.

Many hoteliers say their marketing focus is on targeting potential customers who are within reasonable driving distance of their properties, with an expected increase in demand as lockdown restrictions continue to ease.

"Domestic travel has a huge scope for [the] Indian travel industry post-lockdown," says Shalini Raj, founder of travel consultancy Journey Weavers. "The country has numerous tourist destinations ranging across mountain tourism, cultural tourism, wildlife tourism, adventure tourism and heritage tourism." But with a slow recovery expected, many industry insiders lament that there has not been a bailout package specifically for the travel and tourism sector.

The government has, however, launched some measures to help various sectors, including a moratorium on loans from the Reserve Bank of India until August 31 and a package from the government backing loans for small and medium-sized businesses.

"There are a lot of livelihoods involved, so this industry is very critical," says Anirban Chakraborty, managing director and chief executive of Tourism Finance Corporation of India. He says there are several finance options to "tide over" companies in the sector with liquidity, which they are taking advantage of as they need working capital in the current environment just to stay afloat, as expansion plans are largely put on hold.

Mr Chakraborty says the tourism industry could play a major role in reviving India's economy and he expects domestic tourism to bounce back strongly next year. "People will travel much more in domestic tourism locations in India rather than going abroad, which is quite economical also. There's a strong middle-class bracket."

But all hopes for the industry are now resting on a Covid-19 vaccine. Until then, a meaningful recovery looks difficult - even for domestic travel. "We're looking forward to the vaccine," says Mr Prasad. "People will be more comfortable travelling. We stopped being in denial mode a long time back. We realised that we can't expect inbound travellers to come in, in large numbers at least, for the next year or so."

Union Properties receives Dh400m bid for minority stake in Dubai Autodrome

ABU DHABI

Dubai developer Union Properties has received a Dh400 million offer to sell a 40 per cent stake in its subsidiary, Dubai Autodrome, the company said in a bourse filing on Thursday.

"We are working on studying the offer and it will be discussed in the upcoming meeting of the board ... to allow us to take the appropriate decision for the full benefit and interest of the company's shareholders," Khalifa Hasan Al Hammadi, chairman of Union Properties, said in a statement to the Dubai Financial Market, where its shares trade. The company board, which is scheduled to meet on September 29, will also discuss the acquisition of real estate assets in the UAE worth Dh740m.

Dubai Autodrome, which is the UAE's first multi-purpose motorsports and entertainment facility located in Motor City, is Union Properties' trophy asset. The subsidiary is 100 per cent owned by the developer and was established in 2004.

Mr Al Hammadi said Union Properties has a number of subsidiaries with "added value and works in vital sectors that achieve sustainable growth." "We are in the process of converting a number of those subsidiaries into private joint stock companies," he added.

In August, the developer outlined it plans to list three of its subsidiaries on the DFM, as it



Dubai Autodrome, the UAE's first multi-purpose motorsports and entertainment facility located in Motor City.

reorganises its business to cut costs and improve its bottom line. Facilities management company ServeU; The FitOut, which specialises in interior fit-outs of offices, hotels and restaurants, and Dubai Autodrome are among the firms lined up for listing. In August, Union Properties said it is looking for "suitable in-

vestment opportunities in various sectors, including the health and hospitality sectors" where it is assessing the right targets for acquisitions. Union Properties narrowed losses for the second-quarter by 54 per cent, on the back of cost-cutting measures. The group's net loss for the three months ending June 30

reached Dh38.6m, compared with a Dh84m loss a year ago. The company, whose projects include Motor City and Uptown Mirdif, reached an agreement with Emirates NBD in August to restructure an outstanding debt of Dh946m.

The developer also announced plans to start a new

project, Motor City Hills, in Dubai overlooking Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road near Dubai Autodrome. The project includes 195 villas, 490 townhouses and six commercial land plots. Union Properties has built more than 60,000 units in recent years across a number of projects in Dubai.

KKR buys a stake in Great Portland, a real estate firm in the UK

LONDON

KKR has bought a stake in London developer Great Portland Estates, betting against the demise of the downtown office.

The private equity company has acquired a 5.35 per cent stake in the landlord, according to a filing, becoming the latest of several money managers to build stakes in UK real estate companies during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Great Portland, which owns and develops mainly office buildings in central London, has fallen almost 36 per cent this year as restrictions to contain the virus triggered a severe recession and raised questions about the long-term outlook for urban workspace. Spokesmen for KKR and Great Portland declined to comment.

Real estate stocks have been among those hit hardest by the virus fallout as tenants struggle to pay rent, retail spending shifts online and office workers do their jobs from home. That's lured buyout firms attracted by deep discounts between the value of landlords' assets and their market capitalisations. Brookfield Asset Management bought a stake in rival landlord British Land in June and upped its holding earlier this month.

KKR's stake, acquired for about £74.3 million (\$94.7m) based on Wednesday's closing price, makes it the sixth-largest holder of Great Portland, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The London-based company is now valued at about £1.4 billion.

While private equity firms have raised vast real estate funds targeting distressed deals, the impact of the coronavirus has yet to translate into widespread defaults and forced sellers. That's encouraging the managers to deploy further capital on shares and bonds in companies that have strong track records but which have been badly affected by negative sentiment due to the virus.

Great Portland has sold off completed buildings at high prices in the past five years and reduced its debt to about 15 per cent of the value of its properties, a level that's among the lowest in the business. The company has cash and undrawn loans of about £390m.

According to a July 10 trading update, it had collected 69 per cent of the rent due in June and 82 per cent of what was owed in March, with stores and restaurants that occupy the ground floors of its mainly West End office buildings particularly hard hit.

WORLD

Over 50 Republican former US national security officials join Biden endorsement

LOS ANGELES

MORE than 50 Republican former national security officials will endorse Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden yesterday, joining one of several Republican organizations opposing the re-election of President Donald Trump.

The group, called Former Republican National Security Officials for Biden, launched in August with 70 members. The new endorsements will bring it to nearly 130 individuals who have publicly broken with the Republican president, including seven who served under Trump, people familiar with the effort said.

Others worked as senior defense

and security officials in the administrations of Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush.

The 56 new people endorsing Biden include Greg Brower, a former FBI assistant director; Larry Pfeiffer, a former CIA chief of staff; and Alden Munson, former deputy director of National Intelligence.

The group was expected to start running full-page newspaper ads later yesterday in seven competitive states that will help decide the Nov. 3 election: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida, Arizona, North Carolina and Texas, a person involved in the effort said.

The ad accuses Trump of being un-



fit to serve as president and of having failed America with his response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 200,000 people in the United States and triggered a severe economic downturn.

The group also will run a TV ad during Fox & Friends, which Trump is known to watch. The ad features Michael Leiter, former director of the National Counterterrorism Center, accusing Trump of making the United States less safe because of his disregard for facts, his criticism of America's intelligence officials and his demeaning of U.S. allies.

Elizabeth Neumann, Trump's former assistant secretary for threat prevention in the Department of Homeland Security who joined the national security group backing Biden in August, said Trump's failure to unequivocally denounce white supremacists during Tuesday's presidential debate reinforced members' belief that he must be defeated in November.

"He has an inability to clearly condemn white suprema-

cists," Neumann said. "He either likes the ambiguity or he's intentionally endorsing these people. He's unfit, and I think he's extremely dangerous."

The Trump campaign has described Republican-led groups campaigning for Biden as disaffected former officials "trying to take down the duly elected president of the United States." Trump on Twitter last year referred to "Never Trump Republicans" as "human scum."

The organizations of Republicans backing Biden include Republican Voters Against Trump and 43 Alumni for Biden, which consists of hundreds of officials who worked for George W. Bush.

Agencies

US protectionism violates WTO rules - senior advisor

BEIJING

A SENIOR Chinese political advisor said protectionism by the United States has not only failed to help its manufacturing industry recover, but also violated WTO rules, aggravating the international trade situation.

Lou Jiwei, standing committee member and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, made the remarks in an inclusive interview with Xinhua Tuesday.

China has become the world's second largest economy over the past over 40 years of reform and opening up, contributing more than 30 percent to global economic growth for several consecutive years. However, some US

politicians accused China of "taking away" the US industrial chain, causing huge job losses in the country.

"This is a gross lack of common sense," said Lou, adding that the US "declining manufacturing sector" and "loss of absolute advantage in its economic standing" as claimed by itself are rooted in its own structural problems.

Lou said structural problems in US economic development have a long history.

As early as the 1970s, heavy industry and manufacturing centers such as Pittsburgh and Detroit in the United States experienced large-scale recession, decline in economic growth, and a rise in unemployment, becoming the so-called "Rust Belt." Then, China was yet to open up.

"In the following years, there



was a massive transfer of traditional US manufacturing industries abroad, an objective necessity that had nothing to do with China," Lou said.

Noting the United States has the advantage of being an international currency issuer, Lou said tax revenues in the country are relatively low, so long-term financial deficit must be balanced by issuing a large number of bonds. Low savings rate and inadequate domestic

investment will inevitably lead to a huge trade deficit and massive outflow of US dollars.

At the same time, an active financial market has caused a large flow of funds into the US financial industry and the purchase of US bonds, forming a cycle of inflow and outflow of the US dollar. The decline of traditional manufacturing industry in the United States was further aggravated by the development of the finance-centric service industry.

With sustainable long-term financial and trade deficit, American people enjoy a higher standard of living, but certain US politicians still say they are at a disadvantage. "The United States wants the status of a currency issuer, and on the other hand seeks balanced trade, which lacks economic common sense," Lou said.

Noting the current US administration has created protectionist barriers by clamoring for "America First," Lou said if all countries shut their doors and impose a blockade, multilateralism will collapse, then plunging the world into chaos and crisis.

The global governance system has indeed exposed weaknesses that need to be addressed, Lou said, adding that in the face of an anti-globalization trend, China has responded by continuing to deepen reform and opening up and bringing benefits to the whole world.

"China is ready to work with other countries to actively participate in the reform and building up of the global governance system and jointly seek a more just and reasonable international governance structure," he said. Xinhua

Agencies

Britain, EU 'split on state aid in crunch week of trade talks'

BRUSSELS

BRITISH and EU trade negotiators have failed to close the gap on state aid, a key element barring their new agreement on post-Brexit trade ties, officials and diplomatic sources with the bloc said as 27 national leaders gather in Brussels yesterday.

Disagreements over corporate subsidies, fisheries and ways to solve disputes have overshadowed trade talks, while a proposed UK law that would undermine its earlier divorce deal with the bloc triggered a new crisis last month.

Britain's lower house of parliament approved the Internal Market Bill on Tuesday and it is now with the House of Lords. Britain say ensuring that its nations can

trade freely with each other after Brexit would require breaking the divorce deal provisions on the sensitive Irish border.

The executive European Commission, which negotiates with Britain on behalf of all the bloc's members, wants London to agree to broad state aid rules that would be compatible with those the EU has.

The bloc wants an independent British regulator to decide on state aid there, as well as seeks a new EU-UK dispute settling mechanism that would create a new Joint Committee and an Arbitration Panel to adjudicate.

Should one side fail to honour decisions made through that process, the Arbitration Panel could impose fines and the other side could retaliate by hitting bilateral



trade elsewhere.

"The problem is that the UK doesn't want to follow that path," an EU diplomat following Brexit told Reuters.

An EU official, who is involved in the talks, echoed that: "It remains to be seen if the UK can sign up to that ... We haven't got there yet. Not sure we'll ever get there."

Britain has opted for more lenient procedures typical for free trade agreements and said Brussels would no longer have even an indi-

rect say in its policy on corporate subsidies.

'WITHDRAW INTERNAL MARKET BILL'

With time available until the end of the year running out, pressure is growing on EU and UK to seal a deal to avoid putting an estimated trillion euros of annual trade at risk. This week's ninth negotiating round is the last scheduled so far and EU leaders will again assess progress on Oct 15-16.

They could switch to contingency planning for the most damaging economic split without new arrangements or, should trade talks cover enough ground, authorize a final make-or-break negotiations known as the "tunnel" until the end of the month.

The EU says a deal must be at

hand by early November to give the European Parliament and some national parliaments enough time to ratify it before Britain's standstill post-Brexit transition expires at the end of the year.

A senior EU diplomat said the bloc has become more hopeful over the last fortnight that Prime Minister Boris Johnson - the key face of the Brexit campaign that took Britain out of the bloc this year - was looking for a deal despite the new legal controversy that increased risk of a 'no-deal' exit.

"Signals are being sent that suggest a more hopeful scenario, and certainly the UK government has been signalling a very strong interest in entering the tunnel," the diplomat said. "We remain hopeful that a deal will be concluded."

Agencies

China vows to balance ecological protection with economic progress

CHINA will undertake development in line with the concept of ecological civilization, all the while shouldering its responsibility of global environmental governance, said Chinese President Xi Jinping at the UN Summit on Biodiversity on Wednesday.

During his speech, the Chinese president called for realizing global economic recovery in the post-pandemic era through green development.

The biodiversity is the foundation as well as the goal and a tool of sustainable development, Xi said.

The summit is part of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) which is being held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Themed "Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development," the summit aims to facilitate the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Green development

As the world's second-largest economy, China has been working hard to coordinate economic growth with green development.

Highlighting the close relationship between biodiversity and human wellbeing, Xi said it is important to facilitate a green development mode that balances economic development and ecological conservation.

In recent years, rapid extinction of species around the world, biodiversity deterioration and the degradation of the ecosystem have threatened the survival and development of mankind, he said.

China has been stepping up efforts in biodiversity conservation by making detailed plans, setting up specialized organizations and launching multiple projects aimed at various aspects of biodiversity conservation.

It has evidently managed to make positive changes. For example, satellite data shows that from 2000 to 2017, 25 percent of the newly-added green space in the world was in China, making it the largest contributor to the greening of the global landscape.

Global environmental governance

As a mega-biodiversity country as well as one of the countries with the most threatened biodiversity, China has put biodiversity conservation high on its agenda.

Addressing the summit, Xi called on the global community to have a stronger sense of responsibility and build capacities to tackle environmental challenges. China has incorporated the concept of ecological civilization into its development and taken concrete measures in this regard, he noted.

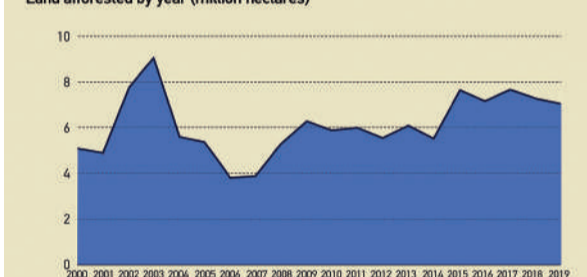
Moreover, the Chinese president said China will adopt more rigorous policies and measures to actively participate in global environmental governance. The country aims to reach peak carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, he added.

CGTN

China is making the planet greener

Satellite data show that more than 25% of the newly-added green space in the world between 2000 and 2017 was in China, making it the largest contributor to the greening of the global landscape.

Land afforested by year (million hectares)



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Master Plan for National Key Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Major Projects (2011-2035), National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

CGTN

Belarus never went back on its word on constitutional reform - diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW doesn't think that Minsk has withdrawn its statements on constitutional reform, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday in an interview with TASS, answering the question whether Russia is alarmed that statements on constitutional reform have been voiced more and more seldom by Belarus.

"I think nobody went back on anybody's word. At least, I haven't seen it yet," Zakharova (pictured) said.

The spokeswoman stressed that it is unacceptable to interfere in the internal affairs of Belarus and to point out to the country's residents what needs to be done.

"A lot is going on these days around Belarus but the most important thing is to let Belarusian people, Belarus as a state, go through this rather difficult period on their own, to sort it out and to make decisions," she continued.



To foster new generations capable of shouldering mission of national rejuvenation

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) attaches great importance to the development of education, culture, health and sports sectors, as these sectors are closely linked with people's lives, and their aspiration for a better life has always been the goal of the Party.

On the afternoon of Sept. 22, Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired a symposium attended by representatives of experts from education, culture, health and sports sectors, at which he delivered a speech and heard opinions on the country's economic and social development in the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).

The Party and the State have attached great importance to the development of education, culture, health and sports

sectors, and a series of strategic plans and arrangements have been made since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, Xi said.

Party committees and governments at all levels should better implement the plans and arrangements to foster a new generation capable of shouldering the mission of national rejuvenation, Xi stressed.

Xi called for solid efforts to advance the construction of socialist culture, promote the development of health undertakings, speed up building China into a major sport country, and provide fresh impetus for and break new ground in various social sectors, so as to constantly enhance people's sense of gain, contentment and security.

Priority should be given to the development of education during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, with efforts to cultivate talent for the Party and the country and to manage education to the satisfaction of the people, Xi said, adding that the country should foster a new generation capable of shouldering the mission of national rejuvenation on its new journey of accelerating modernization of education.

Xi's remarks serve as significant guidance on developing education as a gambit to advance the endeavors of the Party and the state in all areas and nurturing socialist builders and successors with an all-round moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic grounding, in addition to a hard-working spirit.

Centering on the fundamental questions of what kind of talents China shall cultivate, as well as how and for whom the country shall cultivate talents, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi at the core has adhered to the overall leadership of the CPC in China's education sectors, comprehensively strengthened political education for schools at all levels, advanced comprehensive reforms in education, and enhanced the power of the state in the compilation of textbooks since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012. As a result, the country's education landscape is witnessing major changes.

To promote economic and social development during the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China should raise newer

and higher requirements for education to match its efforts to further promote the implementation of the reform and opening-up policy, the socialist modernization, the all-around development of individuals and comprehensive progress of society.

The country must make planning and deployment for accelerating education modernization and building China into a country with a strong educational system from a higher and further historic perspective, with a broader international vision, and a profounder strategic insight.

In this way, China can constantly make its education sector suit the needs of the undertakings of the CPC and the country, the expectations of people, and

the country's comprehensive national strength and international status.

Education concerns the country's development and the future of the Chinese nation. No other sector can influence or even determine the cultivation of the country's socialist successors, the long-term peace and stability of the country, and the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as much as education.

China must adhere to the socialist orientation in running schools, always keep in mind that the fundamental mission of education is to cultivate virtues and morality, and make sure that education plays a key role in fostering and practicing core socialist values.

People's Daily

Sound ecosystem essential for prosperity of civilisation - Xi

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity Beijing, 30 September 2020

Mr. President, Colleagues,

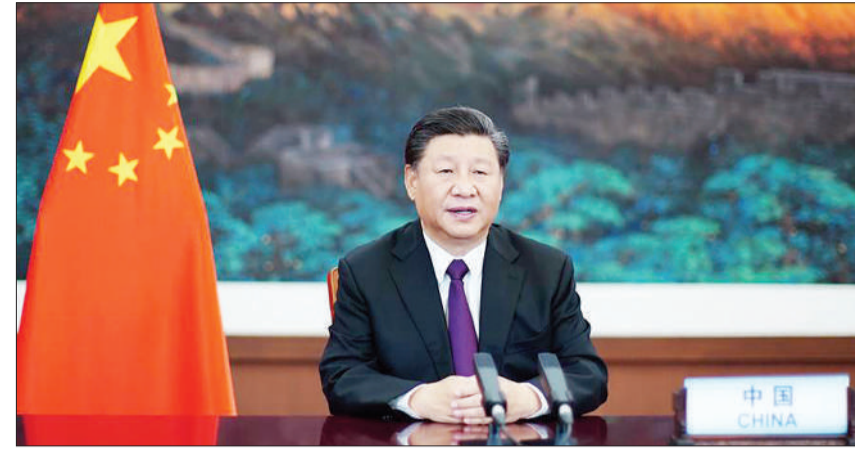
At the special moment as the United Nations marks the 75th anniversary of its founding and countries around the world strive to emerge from COVID-19 and promote high-quality economic recovery, the UN has convened this Summit on Biodiversity. It gives us an opportunity to discuss major issues of biodiversity protection and sustainable development and therefore has both practical and far-reaching significance.

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) will be hosted by China next year in the city of Kunming. COP15 offers an opportunity for the parties to adopt new strategies for global biodiversity governance.

At present, there exists an acceleration of the global extinction of species. The loss of biodiversity and the degradation of the ecosystem pose a major risk to human survival and development. COVID-19 reminds us of the interdependence between man and Nature. It falls to all of us to act together and urgently to advance protection and development in parallel, so that we can turn Earth into a beautiful homeland for all creatures to live in harmony. To that end, I would like to make the following proposals:

First, we need to adhere to ecological civilization and increase the drive for building a beautiful world. Biodiversity affects the well-being of humanity and provides the very basis for the human race to survive and thrive. The industrial civilization, while creating vast material wealth, has caused ecological crises as manifested in biodiversity loss and environmental damage. A sound ecosystem is essential for the prosperity of civilization. We need to take up our lofty responsibility for the entire human civilization, and we need to respect Nature, follow its laws and protect it. We need to find a way for man and Nature to live in harmony, balance and coordinate economic development and ecological protection, and work together to build a prosperous, clean and beautiful world.

Second, we need to uphold multilateralism and build synergy for global governance on the environment. Since the founding of the UN,



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity via video on Wednesday. (Photo/CGTN)

the international community has made active efforts toward global environmental governance. International instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement form the legal foundation for environmental governance in their respective fields.

They represent important accomplishments of multilateral cooperation and enjoy broad support and participation from the international community. Faced with the risks and challenges to the environment worldwide, countries share a common stake as passengers in the same boat and form a community with a shared future. Unilateralism finds no support; cooperation is the right way forward. We must firmly safeguard the UN-centered international system and uphold the sanctity and authority of international rules so as to enhance global governance on the environment.

Third, we need to continue with green development and increase the potential for high-quality economic recovery after COVID-19. Globally, the coronavirus has wreaked havoc on every aspect of economic and social development. We need to have our eyes on the long run, have determination and stay the course for green, inclusive and sustainable development. The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development points the way forward, and recognizes biodiversity as an important basis, a goal and the means for achieving sustainable development. Recognizing that "our solutions are in Nature", we could strive to find development opportunities while preserving Nature, and achieve win-win in both ecological conservation and high-quality development.

Fourth, we need to heighten our sense of responsibility and strengthen the power of action to tackle chal-

lenges to the environment. Being at varying stages of development, developed and developing countries have different historical responsibilities and practical capabilities for addressing environmental issues. We need to uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits, and accommodate developing countries' concerns over funding, technology and capacity building. We need to earnestly fulfill our commitments, focus on our targets, and effectively reverse biodiversity loss so as to protect the planet we call home.

Mr. President,

"Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth", which is the theme of next year's Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, embodies humanity's hope for a better future. As the host country of COP15, China is happy to share with all parties its experience of advancing biodiversity governance and ecological progress.

China has pursued development under the vision of building an ecological civilization. From the traditional Chinese wisdom that the laws of Nature govern all things and that man must seek harmony with Nature, to the new development philosophy emphasizing innovative, coordinated, green and open development for all, China has always prioritized ecological progress and embedded it in every dimension and phase of its economic and social development. The goal is to seek a kind of modernization that promotes harmonious coexistence of man and Nature.

China has rolled out strong policies and actions. China adopts a holistic approach to conserving the mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes and grasslands, and makes coordinated efforts to advance biodi-

versity governance. We have stepped up national legislation for preserving biodiversity, and are drawing red lines for protecting the ecosystems. We have effected a national parks system, carried out major biodiversity conservation projects, and increased social participation and public awareness. For the last 10 years, China has topped the world in forest resource increase, with more than 70 million hectares of land afforested. We have made long-term, large-scale efforts to combat sandification and desertification, and we have effectively protected and restored the wetlands. We now have one of the world's largest banks of genetic resources reserve. Ninety percent of terrestrial ecosystem types and 85 percent of key wild animal populations are under effective protection.

China has taken an active part in global environmental governance. China takes seriously its obligations under environment-related treaties, including on climate change and biodiversity. We have hit, ahead of schedule, the targets set for 2020 for tackling climate change and establishing protected areas. As the largest developing country, China is prepared to take on international responsibilities commensurate with its level of development, and contribute its part to global environmental governance.

Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China will continue to make extraordinary efforts to scale up its nationally determined contributions. China will adopt even more forceful policies and measures and strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, thus making greater efforts and contributions toward meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Mr. President,

As the saying goes, "Little by little, grains of soil pile up to make a mountain and drops of water converge to form a river." To enhance biodiversity conservation and global environmental governance require sustained efforts by all parties. I want to welcome you to Kunming, the beautiful "Spring City", next year, to discuss and draw up plans together for protecting global biodiversity, and I look forward to the adoption of a comprehensive, balanced, ambitious and implementable framework of action. Now, let us proceed from this Summit and work in concert to build a beautiful world of harmony among all beings on the planet.



President Donald Trump

Joe Biden

Organisers mull change to format after chaotic Trump-Biden debate

WASHINGTON

AFTER a messy face-off between U.S. President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden late Tuesday, the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) is mulling changes for the next two 2020 presidential debates.

"Last night's debate made clear that additional structure should be added to the format of the remaining debates to ensure a more orderly discussion of the issues," the CPD said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that it "will be carefully considering the changes that it will adopt and will announce those measures shortly."

"The nonpartisan body also said it is grateful to moderator and Fox News anchor Chris Wallace "for the professionalism and skill he brought to last night's debate and intends to ensure that additional tools to maintain order are in place for the remaining debates."

The statement came shortly after contentious exchanges and personal attacks between Trump and Biden overshadowed what was meant to be a policy debate, which drew wide criticisms of being messy and un-presidential.

"That was a hot mess, inside a dumpster fire, inside a train wreck," CNN anchor and correspondent Jake Tapper commented Tuesday night. "That was the worst debate I've ever seen. It wasn't even a debate."

The first debate was designed to fall into six 15-minute segments, each on major topics selected by Wallace. After the moderator opened each segment with a question, each candidate was supposed to have two minutes to respond before exchanging with the other candidate.

Trump, however, interrupted Biden on nearly every topic he was talking about and also claimed that the Democrat is not intelligent.

Meanwhile, the former U.S. vice president hit back by calling his opponent a "liar" and a "clown" and told him to "shut up." "Gentlemen! I hate

to raise my voice," Wallace, who had to frequently intervene, said at one point. "I think that the country would be better served if we allowed both people to speak with fewer interruptions." "I'm just sad with the way last night turned out," Wallace later said in an interview with The New York Times.

"I never dreamt that it would go off the tracks the way it did," he said. "I guess I didn't realize -- and there was no way you could, hindsight being 20/20 -- that this was going to be the president's strategy, not just for the beginning of the debate but the entire debate."

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Wednesday before leaving for campaign events in Minnesota, Trump said he thought "the debate last night was great" despite several instant polls showing most viewers thinking Biden did better. "We got tremendous reviews on it," the president said. "I thought it was a great evening. It was an exciting evening. I see the ratings were very high ... By every measure, we won the debate easily last night. I think he was very weak."

During a stop on a campaign train tour of northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania on Wednesday, Biden, who is leading Trump in national and battleground state polls, accused the Republican of trying "everything to distract, everything possible." "I just hope there's a way in which the debate commission can control the ability of us to answer the question without interruptions," he said.

An estimated 73.1 million people tuned in to watch the first Trump-Biden debate on Tuesday night, according to viewership data released by measurement company Nielsen. A CBS News poll on Tuesday showed that the vast majority of likely voters planning to watch the debate had already decided on their candidate and were mostly watching to see how that candidate did. "Clearly, the lines are drawn. I don't think either candidate took votes from the other. I have no idea how an undecided voter might

Uganda resumes commercial flights after seven-month suspension

KAMPALA

UGANDA yesterday resumed scheduled commercial passenger flights after seven months of government suspensions over COVID-19 pandemic.

Vianney Luggya, communications officer of Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, told Xinhua by telephone that the phased flight operations at Entebbe International Airport, about 40 km south of the capital Kampala, resumed after the government eased COVID-19 restrictions on aviation. He said the first passenger flight to arrive at Entebbe airport was Turkish Airlines, which landed at 3:55 a.m. and departed at 4:50 a.m. local time.

"The flights have resumed today. We expect about 12 flights today. In this first phase, October to December, we are going to have an average of one flight per airline per day to reduce congestion," said Luggya.

The resumption of commercial flights came after President Yoweri Museveni last week directed the reopening of the international airport and land borders, which were closed when the pandemic broke out in the country in March. "In these three months, our operations will be scaled down."

Then for the next six months we will increase on the operations but still not entirely full," said Luggya. "We shall continuously review the situation as it is on the ground. The flights will be increased depending on the reviews," he said.

Xinhua

Putin instructs government to stop uncontrolled export of unprocessed timber

NOVO-OGARYOVO

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin instructed the government to stop uncontrolled export of untreated timber following a meeting on the development and decriminalization of the timber industry.

"I ask the government to prepare a legislative and regulatory framework for solving the following tasks: it is necessary, finally, to put a rigid barrier against uncontrolled export of unprocessed timber," the president said.

Instead of timber processing, Russia is exporting raw materials, "smuggling them out," the president elaborated.

"There are obvious imbalances in the development of the Russian forestry complex. The leading processing enterprises

of the industry are located far from the main centers of product consumption, primarily in the Asia-Pacific region, where a favorable pricing environment is observed, a growing demand, including for ecological fuel, for fuel pellets," President Putin said.

"At the same time, our Far Eastern constituent entities of the Federation, having potentially good competitive positions, meaning low cost of forest resources, and a convenient delivery option, cannot yet take advantage of this, and increase the capacity for deep timber processing," he said.

According to President Putin, "instead, the practice of exporting simple raw materials, low-value products continues." "Moreover, often all this



goes through all sorts of "grey" or openly criminal schemes for exporting products. Simply put - what is it called? - Smuggling," the president said.

The president also requested completely banning shipments of round timber of coniferous species out of Russia starting January 1, 2022.

"I request imposing complete ban on shipment of unprocessed or roughly processed conifer and valuable hardwood out of Russia start-

ing January 1, 2022," he said on Wednesday and tasked the government with "preparing the legislative base to solve the task of preventing uncontrolled outflow of unprocessed timber."

The president also ordered that a program of subsidized loans for upgrading wood processing facilities be launched starting January 1, 2021.

Vladimir Putin called for effectively and consistently building a top-down management system in the timber industry and decriminalizing it. "Undoubtedly, we need to act broadly in a number of areas. Exercising maximum decisiveness and taking into account the accumulated experience, [we'll] build an effective top-down chain of management in the timber industry. We

need to engage in consistent, I would even say, a hard-hitting decriminalization of the industry," the president said.

In his opinion, what is happening in the timber industry "is out of line." "It is necessary to improve the quality of state forest supervision. Overall, it is necessary to create conditions and a solid foundation for steady growth and development of the industry," he said.

President Putin called the criticism of public organizations and environmentalists regarding the level and quality of the authorities' work on the forestry complex "fair." "I don't think that all government structures, government bodies at all levels work effectively here. Unfortunately, this is not the case," President Putin said.

Agencies

IT is astonishing to know that, according to a World Bank report, there are around 1 billion people who earn less than 1.90 US dollars per day and are living in extreme poverty, with half of the world population living under the poverty line, roughly earning only 2.5 US dollars per day.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted and increased the number of people pushed under the poverty line, especially in developing and underdeveloped countries, which have no sufficient social welfare support programs.

Poverty is a curse, and the United Nations (UN) has realized this threat to humanity. The Sustainable Development

China's victory against poverty appreciated

Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015 by the UN, is the most comprehensive and ambitious poverty reduction plan the world has embarked upon. All countries have devised their policies to address this issue and take concrete measures to eradicate it.

Achieving success in eradicating poverty, China has become a leader in poverty elimination. China aims to eliminate extreme poverty and complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all aspects in 2020.

China's achievements and efforts in eradicating poverty

have not only contributed to the global cause of poverty reduction but also set an example of practical importance to the international community.

Over the past seven decades, China has successfully lifted 850 million people out of poverty, accounting for more than 70 percent of global poverty alleviation. At the end of 2019, the number of underprivileged people in China's rural areas fell to 5.51 million from 98.99 million in 2012.

China has set a new benchmark, and the rest of the world may follow it. If eradication of poverty can be achieved in such

a big and formerly impoverished nation like China, other countries can do it as well.

China is willing to share its valuable experience to overcome poverty and extends all possible cooperation to any friendly and needy nation.

Up against the damage COVID-19 has already done to the global economy, causing further poverty around the world, China has not only brought COVID-19 under control but is trying its best to restore the routine economic activities to minimize financial losses caused during the pandemic. After gaining

specific achievements, China is in a position to help other nations revive their economies. As almost half of the nations across the world have joined the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China's mega strategy aimed at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes, some are already beneficiaries of the BRI.

While China's accomplishments in achieving the poverty reduction goal set by the UN 10 years in advance are highly appreciated among sensible countries and the UN, there are a few

adversaries who are not able to digest the country's achievements and unnecessarily criticize China.

China continues to play a proactive role in global cooperation, such as offering help to the poverty-reduction efforts of other countries via providing material, financial aid or personal support, international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has praised China's national development and success in implementing the SDG,

saying it was integral to global gains in the field.

As always, unilateralism and protectionism pose a stumbling block in the global cause of poverty reduction. The world should remain sober and realize that only through open cooperation can we embrace joint development, which is the fundamental way to wipe out poverty.

China's poverty reduction efforts will never end, as alleviating poverty in all forms still remains a long-term cause for the whole world.

Thus it is indispensable for countries to tackle this common challenge facing humanity with strong political wills, targeted policies, and close international cooperation.

People's Daily



Taifa Stars' head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije.

TFF unveils gate fees for Stars, Burundi friendly

BY NASSIR NCHIMBI, TUDARCO

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has announced gate fees for an international friendly game pitting senior national football squad, Taifa Stars, against Burundi, to be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 11.

The match is expected to be highly competitive due to the fact that majority of players making Taifa Stars are now turning out for their respective sides in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL), as it is the case their Burundian counterparts.

Soccer fans that will seek to attend the game, TFF disclosed, will pay 3000/- for the popular stands, the ones wishing to access VIP B seats will pay 10,000/- each, VIP A seats will cost 20,000/- each.

The international friendly clash promises to be quite thrilling, as Taifa Stars are coached by Etienne Ndayiragije, a Burundi national, whose team will take on opponents he knows well.

Burundi's squad for the coming duel includes forward, Bigirimana Blaise, and keeper, Jonathan Nahimana, who turn out

for Lindi's Namungo FC which takes part in the VPL.

The two players' presence in the match is set to add up to the excitement, given Blaise is in fine form, netting two goals for his club, Nahimana has also been impressive between the posts for the squad.

The two national teams last met in the preliminary stage of the World Cup qualifiers in August last year.

Taifa Stars triumphed in the two-legged game, bundling their opponents out in penalty shootout of the second leg.

The two teams' first leg game, held in Bujumbura, had ended in a 1-1 draw and the second leg, which took place in Dar es Salaam, had the squads locked to a 1-1 draw, forcing the clash into penalty shootout.

Soccer fans in Tanzania have called upon TFF to see to it Taifa Stars face much more competent opponents in the continent in friendly duels.

Playing neighbouring countries' teams that are almost on the same level with Taifa Stars, according to the enthusiasts, will hardly help Taifa Stars improve.

MultiChoice Talent Factory launches Masterclass Series

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE MultiChoice Talent Factory (MTF) is excited to launch a training program, known as 'In Focus Masterclass Series', hosted by South Africa-based film and Television veteran, Ken Kaplan.

The series, MultiChoice Africa officials disclosed, comprises pre-recorded conversations which are now available on the MTF Portal.

The masterclass series will see Kaplan in virtual conversation with some of the most formidable creative technical professionals in Africa's film and TV industry.

Kaplan has had over 25 years' experience in film and TV and has worked on various local and international features as a producer, director, creative executive, and distribution, among others.

Masterclasses have been a crucial feature of the MTF shared-value initiative since its establishment in 2018.

The training program has been held in various African countries in line with one of MultiChoice Africa's strategy of technical and creative knowledge sharing as a means of empowering emerging and professional creatives.

"Investing in the next generation of storytellers on a technical and creative level is something that has been at the heart of the MTF initiative," Reatile Tekateka, MultiChoice Africa Group Executive Head of Corporate Affairs, stated.

He noted: "We're excited to launch MTF In Focus, a series of in-depth virtual conversations with leading filmmakers from across the continent."

The first set of conversations, Reatile noted, includes Kenyan producer, Appie Matero, South African editor and director, Vuyani Sondlo, Nigerian director, writer and producer, Akin Omotoso, South African documentary filmmaker, Michael Cross, and cinematographer, Kabelo 'KB' Thathe.

Each week a new conversation with one of the creatives mentioned, will be available for viewing.

The MTF Masterclasses is an important training platform alongside the MTF Acad-

emies, a 12-month regional fully funded training programme aimed at upskilling the next generation of passionate young film creatives.

The academy is also the first touchpoint of the MTF shared-value initiative, with a one-of-a-kind curriculum that MultiChoice Africa has tailored alongside its partner, Mnet channels, as well as its curriculum support partners including the Henley Business School Africa, Pan-Atlantic University in Lagos, Kenyatta University in Nairobi, and the University of Zambia in Lusaka, among others.

The first conversation of In Focus Masterclass series with Kenyan producer, Appie Matero is now available on <https://multichoicetalentfactory.com/> for all registered users to access.

People who are yet to be registered on the portal have been asked to do so.

In this MTF In Focus Masterclass, Kaplan will be in conversation with Matero, leading Kenyan producer based in Nairobi with an impressive list of film and TV credits to her name.

Sondlo is a South African editor with notable feature films and TV credits to his name.

Kaplan will, in MTF In Focus Masterclass, discuss Sondlo's works on the feature film 'VAYA' (2016), directed by Akin Omotoso, and explores his technique in editing this multi-layered drama.

Kabelo 'KB' Thathe has steadily made a name for himself as cinematographer in South Africa.

In the MTF In Focus Masterclass, Kaplan will dissect KB's work and his collaboration with director Akin Omotoso on the movie 'VAYA' (2016).

Kaplan will also be in conversation with director, Akin Omotoso, to talk about the latter's early work, his method, his inspirations and his collaboration with other filmmakers and artists.

Kaplan will moreover have conversation with Michael Cross, a prolific documentary filmmaker, to talk about his process and his approach to his work.

Yanga yet to win and convince

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

FOUR games into the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) campaign, Yanga's results have been good, but the performances do not fit the definition.

Head coach Zlatko Krmpotic's honeymoon period is over. The club is winning but not convincingly.

The final score has been too close for comfort for fans. The sceptics and the doubts are back as they point out Yanga have not scored more than one goal in any competitive match this season.

The club could only draw one-all against 10-man Prisons on the opening day of the campaign. That was followed by a hard-fought 1-0 late victory over Mbeya City FC to earn their first maximum points.

It was assumed that Yanga would now go on to win comfortably against Mbeya City, who had been walloped 4-0 by KMC FC in the previous round, but instead what they found in front of them was a dogged and disciplined opponent who was in no mood to go quietly.

The early intense pressure began to fade as they became loose with the ball, Mbeya City who had made six changes to their squad appeared comfortable and were now able to have short spells of possession. In the end Yanga were rescued by a set piece goal.

Ghanaian defender, Lamine Moro, headed home a corner kick delivery from midfielder, Carlos Fernandez 'Carlinhos', five minutes to stoppage time to the relief of many fans.

Against Kagera Sugar, Yanga always looked vulnerable in a game they never had small control of and were fortunate to walk away with three points thanks to the individual brilliance by the Congolese duo of Tuisila Kisinda and



Yanga forward, Yacouba Songne (R), dribbles past Prisons' Nurdin Chona in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. Yanga were held to 1-1 draw by Prisons. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Mukoko Tonombe.

Their third league outing ended with yet another narrow 1-0 win against hosts, Mtibwa Sugar.

A third straight clean sheet indicated the team is improving from a defensive point of view. However fans were more concerned with how the team looked blunt in attack.

Once again, the strikers struggled and were bailed out by Lamine Moro and Carlinhos goal combination. A determined Mtibwa Sugar played off the park particularly in central midfield.

Yanga assistant coach, Juma Mwambusi, has come out to defend the series of narrow wins likening them to poison.

Mwambusi said: "1-0 is not a bad scoreline, it is like poison, whether you take a half-teaspoon or full glass, you'll die."

It is only four games but the

fans are generally unhappy with what they perceived to be a poor brand of football.

Yanga are third on the standings but fans are aware given the vast difference in financial between the top three and the rest of the clubs, they can play poorly and still defeat any opponent bar the title contenders, Azam FC and Simba.

Ten points out of a maximum 12 show the results have been good but fans are right this Yanga side does not look close to the sum of their parts. They feel there is an over reliance on individual brilliance.

The ever-restless Yanga fanbase is worried about what happens when the set piece goals dry.

Their arch rivals, Simba, have already scored twice and half the number of goals in the same number of games.

More importantly, the Yanga fans believe with the quality in their squad they should be playing a brand of exciting, attacking football.

Despite how unconvincing Yanga have been in the first month of the season, sacking Krmpotic is not the answer, at least not yet.

Are the alternatives a genuinely better option? Fans might feel Krmpotic is slowly understanding his best XI, and still needs more time.

Krmpotic has a huge job on his hands. Tasked with transforming Yanga's style of play, that could not happen without some sort of transition period or a pre-season.

Yanga were aware when they appointed Krmpotic that the team would not suddenly transform overnight.

Lakers, LeBron roll in Game 1 of finals, top Heat 116-98

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

LEBRON James finally got an easy Game 1 in the NBA Finals.

A very easy one, at that.

Anthony Davis scored 34 points, James had 25 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists and the Los Angeles Lakers rolled past the Miami Heat 116-98 on Wednesday night.

"The bigger the moment, he's just raising his play," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said about Davis, who was making his finals debut and made it look easy.

The Heat left beaten and battered. Point guard Goran Dragic left in the second quarter and, a person with knowledge of the situation, said he was diagnosed with a torn plantar fascia in his left foot – which obviously jeopardizes his availability for the rest of the finals. And All-Star center Bam Adebayo left in the third quarter after apparently aggravating a left shoulder strain.

"We're much better than we showed tonight," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "You have to credit the Lakers, and we'll get to work for the next one."

Game 2 is Friday night. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 13 points, Danny Green had 11 and Alex Caruso finished with 10 for the Lakers. They re-



Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis (3) bumps shoulders with LeBron James while celebrating after a dunk against the Miami Heat during the second half of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

turned to the finals for the first time in a decade and sent a very clear message. James' teams had been 1-8 in Game 1 of past finals, with losses in each of the last seven openers.

Not this one. "We kind of picked it up on both ends of the floor," Davis said.

Jimmy Butler fought through a twisted left ankle to score 23 points for Miami. Kendrick Nunn scored 18 points for the Heat, Tyler Herro had 14 and Jae Crowder 12. "I, and we, are here for him," But-

ler said about Dragic. "We know how much he wants to win, how much he wants to go to war and battle with us. And obviously, we love him for that and we want him out there with us. But whatever the docs tell him to do, that's what he's got to do. ... He's got to take care of himself first."

Adebayo was held to eight points in 21 minutes, and Miami went with subs for a fourth-quarter burst that turned a total rout into something only slightly more palatable in terms of final margin.

The Lakers did whatever they wanted. They outrebounded Miami 54-36, led by as many as 32 points, and made 15 3-pointers – a big number for a team that doesn't necessarily count on piling up that many points from beyond the arc. They're 21-3 this season when making at least 14 3s.

The only stretch that provided hope for Miami came in the first six minutes. The Heat scored on six consecutive possessions in what became a 13-0 run to take a 23-10 lead midway through the opening period.

So, the first six minutes were fine for Miami.

Everything else was all Lakers. "You have to get a feel for how hard Miami plays," James said. "They smacked us in the mouth and we got a sense of that. ... From that moment when it was 23-10, we started to play to our capabilities."

The simplest way to sum up what happened over the rest of the opening half is this: Lakers 55, Heat 25. The Lakers came into Game 1 ranked 21st out of the 22 teams that spent time in the bubble from 3-point range, making only 33.6% of their tries from deep at Disney. They were the only team in the postseason to have two games shooting less than 25% on 3s. AP

Simba SC coach impressed by players' improvement

BY SETH DENIS, TUDARCO

SIMBA SC head coach, Sven Vandebroek, says his players are getting stronger every day, so, he believes he will get three points in the squad's matches in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

The league's defending champions are placed second in the standing with 10 points after playing four matches.

Simba will next take on JKT Tanzania in a VPL duel scheduled for October 4 at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma.

In Simba's previous league duel, they recorded 3-0 win over Gwambina FC in the game that took place in Dar es Salaam.

Dodoma-based JKT Tanzania are smarting from 1-0 loss to Coastal Union.

Simba and JKT Tanzania

locked horns twice in the 2019/20 VPL, in which the two clubs shared the six points.

Simba notched 3-1 victory over JKT Tanzania in the season's first phase match, the second phase game ended with the latter cruising to 1-0 victory over the former.

There are injury concerns for Simba, considering Brazilian midfielder, Gerson Fraga,

and striker, John Bocco, are still sidelined by injuries.

Vandebroek noted: "The players are getting better and stronger, after every match we work on the shortcomings to see how the players can be more stable."

"Finishing is the biggest problem, it is what we're working on right now." Meanwhile, Simba are keeping on distributing

the club's fans cards to their followers in Kongwa, Chamwino and Kibaiwa areas in Dodoma.

The squad is expected to leave for Dodoma tomorrow for preparations for the game.

The team will later return to Dar es Salaam to gear up for a VPL match against Yanga, dubbed 'Dar es Salaam Derby', which will take place on October 18.

Messi's happiness not in my hands, says Koeman

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Ronald Koeman has said Lionel Messi's happiness is not in his hands but admits he was pleased to hear the Argentine saying on Tuesday he wants to end his disputes with the club.

Koeman also confirmed Ajax defender Sergino Dest is "almost certain" to join Barca, with the 19-year-old expected to complete his medical on Wednesday before completing the move.

The signing of Dest would continue the shake-up at Barcelona, who have allowed Luis Suarez, Ivan Rakitic, Arturo Vidal and Nelson Semedo all to leave as they try to reduce the wage bill and refresh their squad.

Messi was forced to stay and expressed his disappointment at the way Suarez was pushed out to Atletico Madrid but in an interview with Diario Sport published on Tuesday, the 33-year-old said he wanted to "put an end" to the "disagreements".

"I don't know if after Messi's words I will have a quiet life as coach of Barcelona, I don't think so, there is always something, but of course it is very positive that the captain has come out like that asking us to be united," Koeman said in a press conference on Wednesday.

"This was very positive and hopefully everything will be a bit quieter than it has been recently."

Koeman was asked if he thinks Messi is happy at Barcelona. "I don't know if I have that sort of thing in my hands. As a coach we have to look to make a better team for him, where he can shine, and look for a position in the team where he can deliver the best performances that he has always delivered for this club."

"I have seen in these four weeks that he lives for football, even in training matches he does everything to win and I think that winning matches is the remedy for Leo to be happy in this team."



Dest will offer competition at right-back after Semedo was sold to Wolves. "Sergino is doing his medical and still the contract has to be signed so until he has signed, I prefer not to give an opinion," Koeman said.

"But it's almost certain that he will be here and then we will have a young full-back. It's also a matter of changing things, having young players for the future of this Barca."

Koeman said the future of Ousmane Dembele, who has been linked with a move to Manchester United before the end of the transfer window, is not up to him.

"The first thing to say is it's up to the club and the player," said Koeman. "While the player is with us, I am going to count on him. He has not played the last match because there are other players and Ansu (Fati) has shown he is a very good player for this team so he has to wait for his chance to play."

"He was better physically in the first few weeks, he had a little dip last week, but today he has trained well, so I want to say I am counting on him."

Barcelona play away at Celta Vigo on Thursday after winning their opening La Liga game 4-0 against Villarreal on Sunday.

AFP

Bayern win German Super Cup to lift fifth title in 2020

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich claimed their fifth title of the year on Wednesday as a late Joshua Kimmich goal sealed their 3-2 win over Borussia Dortmund to land the German Super Cup.

Hosts Bayern built a 2-0 lead with first-half goals by Corentin Tolisso and Thomas Muller, only for Erling Braut Haaland to equalise early in the second half after Julian Brandt pulled a Dortmund goal back just before the break.

However, Kimmich settled the matter through sheer determination behind closed doors at the Allianz Arena.

His initial shot was saved by Dortmund goalkeeper Marwin Hitz but the rebound clipped Kimmich's boot and looped in for the winning goal eight minutes from time.

"Joshua is a classy player. The way he chipped that ball in," said Bayern captain Manuel Neuer in admiration.

Having had their record 23-match winning streak ended by a shock defeat at Hoffenheim on Sunday, Bayern bounced back with Kimmich leading the charge.

"As long as I have known him (Kimmich), his mentality is very special. He is well on his way to being one of those players who shape this club," Bayern head coach Hansi Flick told broadcaster ZDF.

Bayern have already won an eighth-straight Bundesliga title, the German Cup, Champions League and the UEFA Super Cup this year.

This is the fourth time in five years they have won the showcase match.

- Sancho missing - Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Buerki and England winger Jadon Sancho missed the flight to Munich with "a respiratory infection", the club said, but both tested neg-

ative on Monday for Covid-19.

Flick made five changes from the side which lost 4-1 at Hoffenheim.

Leroy Sane was sidelined by a knee injury, Leon Goretzka rested and Segre Gnabry started on the bench.

Canadian left-back Alphonso Davies moved up to the wing and Tolisso started in central midfield.

The Frenchman gave Bayern the lead when Robert Lewandowski put in a short cross from the right wing and Tolisso side-footed home on 18 minutes.

Muller grabbed Bayern's second when he headed home after Davies floated in a cross on 32 minutes.

Brandt put Dortmund back in the game five minutes before the break when Benjamin Pavard's loose pass was snapped up by Marco Reus and Brandt finished the move.

It was 2-1 at the break, but Dortmund defender Thomas Meunier fired a golden chance over the bar early in the second half with just Manuel Neuer to beat.

Dortmund drew level when central midfielder Thomas Delaney slid a great pass into Haaland, who showed ice cool finishing to fire past Neuer on 55 minutes.

It was the 20-year-old's 19th goal in 22 games for Dortmund.

With time running out, Kimmich robbed Delaney of possession near the halfway line and sprinted clear with Lewandowski in support.

The pair exchanged passes and although Hitz saved the initial shot, the rebound looped over his head into the Dortmund goal after clipping Kimmich's boot.

The Super Cup was the final game for Bundesliga referee Bibiana Steinhaus, 41, the first female to officiate in one of Europe's top leagues, before retirement.

AFP

Which African footballers could still make a move this transfer window?

BY ED DOVE, SPECIAL TO ESPN

HIGH-PROFILE African stars such as Victor Osimhen, Achraf Hakimi and Kevin-Prince Boateng have already secured moves during the ongoing transfer window, but which other deals could be completed before the close of business on Oct. 5?

Here are the unanswered questions involving African players which will be resolved before the window slams shut on Monday evening.

Will Partey's move to Arsenal get over the line?

As the big African saga of the transfer window, few would have predicted that we'd still be talking about Thomas Partey's potential move to Arsenal so close to deadline day, considering how intensely the deal has been discussed throughout the English summer.

Back in June, sources in Spain reported that the Gunners were on the brink of offering €50 million to sign the Ghana powerhouse from Atletico Madrid, but almost four months later, he remains with the Rojiblancos.

While renewing Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's contract was surely Mikel Arteta's biggest signing, Partey is understood to be seen as a key component in his Arsenal vision, and could solve a problem that the Gunners have had difficulty with since Arsene Wenger's tenure.

However, the Gunners may well have to sell first to raise funds to get Partey over the line, and with the likes of Matteo Guendouzi and Lucas Torreira still at the club, time is running out.

Complicating matters, the return to the fold of Egypt's Mohamed Elneny from his loan stay at Besiktas gives Arteta -- to some degree -- the presence and the combativeness that he'd hope for from Partey, which means he may prioritise a move for Olympique Lyonnais playmaker Houssein Aouar.

Should Arsenal complete a deal for Aouar -- they've already had a €35m bid rejected -- then a move for Partey will likely have to wait.

Could Zaha secure Crystal Palace exit?

Last summer, Zaha's seemingly imminent Crystal Palace exit was one of the key transfer talking points, although ultimately, his would-be buyers Arsenal opted to move for LOSC Lille's €72m man Nicolas Pepe instead.

Zaha's mood fell and his form slumped, but he's started this season strongly, with his magnificent showing against former club Manchester United in Palace's second match reminding fans of his elite qualities.

Could it also tempt one of his would-be suitors to move for him before the end of the window?

Eagles boss Roy Hodgson has revealed the forward's ongoing desire to move on.

"He thinks it would be nice if a club did come in and pay that market price," Hodgson told journalists after their victory over Southampton. "Let's see what transpires, for me hopefully nothing."

Palace would require over £50m for the 27-year-old, but which clubs would really stump up that amount for a player who's demonstrated he can blow hot and cold?

Everton, Paris Saint-Germain and Borussia Dortmund have been named as potential destinations for the Ivorian, while former employers Manchester United might see some merit in signing Zaha as an x-factor up front if they cannot pull off a deal for Borussia Dortmund's Jadon Sancho.

Will unwanted Moses, Aurier, Baba, Slimani get the moves they need?

As we approach the end of the window, some of the African players presently out of favour at their current employers may be getting a little anxious about their prospects of spending the first half of the new season training with the reserve team and seeing zero competitive action.



That way to North London? - Thomas Partey, probably. (Agencies)

At Chelsea, Victor Moses has been there before, having spent the first six months of Maurizio Sarri's tenure sidelined after being deemed surplus to requirements by the Italian coach.

He's facing up to the same situation again, with Frank Lampard negotiating earlier this week that the Nigeria wideman wasn't in his plans. "We have a bubble at the training ground with the first-team squad, which Victor isn't a part of," Lampard told journalists. "I know [him] well and we'll see how that develops over the next week."

At 29, Moses is still in his prime, although with time running out and an absence of tangible transfer talk, another loan move away from Stamford Bridge is looking more likely than a permanent deal.

His teammate Abdul Rahman Baba may well be even lower down the pecking order in West London.

The left-back's career has unravelled since sustaining a devastating injury during the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations while on duty with Ghana, and he's struggled to rediscover his previous form across loan spells at Schalke 04, Stade de Reims and Real Mallorca.

Slightly less desperate for a move, perhaps, is Serge Aurier of Tottenham Hotspur, who has been tipped for the likes of Spartak Moscow and AC Milan during the window so far.

The signing of Matt Doherty at Spurs immediately relegates Aurier to the role of back-up, but he still has a decision to make; accept life as a rotational option in the cups for Jose Mourinho, or seek a reboot

elsewhere.

Even if Aurier is keen to exit, it remains to be seen whether the Rossoneri and the North Londoners can agree a fee for the 27-year-old.

Finally, at Leicester City, Islam Slimani is another high-profile African star who clearly has no future at his current employers.

He's struggled to replicate the form he showed at Sporting Lisbon in the Premier League, although a loan move to AS Monaco last term resulted in nine goals and seven assists, testament to his enduring class.

The Telegraph reported on Tuesday that newly promoted West Bromwich Albion are considering the veteran as they look to give themselves more clout up top, but the Foxes would prefer to offload the 32-year-old permanently.

Are Sarr and Benrahma destined to remain in the Championship?

Despite being hotly tipped for a move to the Premier League -- or beyond -- throughout the transfer window, Watford's Ismaila Sarr and Brentford's Said Benrahma remain in the Championship as the days tick down before the window closes.

It's a particular surprise in the case of Benrahma, who proved himself to be too good for the second tier last term as he weighed in with 17 goals and nine assists to underpin the Bees' promotion push.

However, after initially sitting out the first few games of the season, he made his first appearance of the new campaign -- a 17-minute cameo against Millwall on Saturday

-- suggesting that Brentford may well have started including him in their plans once more.

The Londoners' head coach has acknowledged that he wouldn't stand in the way of a Benrahma exit for the appropriate fee. "If the price is right, we're open because that's the way the club operates," he told Football London.

Aston Villa have already signed Ollie Watkins from Brentford and may return for Benrahma, while Crystal Palace are also monitoring the situation, with Hodgson making no secret of his admiration for the attacker.

Arsenal and Chelsea were heavily linked with the forward's signature earlier in the window.

Just over a year after Watford paid a club record £25m to sign him from Stade Rennais, Sarr is facing up to life in the second tier with the Hornets, which is surely an unacceptable scenario for a player of his quality.

Premier League fans saw that class in glimpses last term -- notably as Sarr netted twice as Watford ended Liverpool's undefeated streak -- but as yet, no one has taken a punt on the Senegal wideman.

He's been tipped as a potential target for Liverpool to spruce up their forward line, while the Standard believe that Manchester United have held discussions about moving for Sarr should they fail in their bid to get Sancho over the line.

Sarr's Watford teammate Isaac Success is another player who may be looking for an exit before 11pm on Monday, although the Hertfordshire-based side may have trouble shifting a player who made just five Prem appearances -- all from the bench -- as they were relegated last term.

Any other business? South Africa midfielder Bongani Zungu was linked with a move to Rangers FC earlier in the window, and the Scottish giants have reportedly renewed their interest in his services ahead of deadline day.

The Bafana Bafana star was relegated with Amiens last term as Ligue 1 was wrapped up early due to coronavirus, and is unlikely to wish to remain in Ligue 2.

Tottenham Hotspur have been linked with a move for both AS Roma midfielder Amadou Diawara and Red Bull Salzburg striker Patson Daka.

Sources in Italy suggest that both Spurs and Arsenal have sounded out Diawara's representatives about his availability, while a deal to bring Zambia's Daka to North London may have to wait until 2021 as the Austrian heavyweights are unwilling to sell him during the current window.

Their resolve to keep their man may be tested if Spurs fail in a bid to bring Napoli's Arkadiusz Milik to the capital.

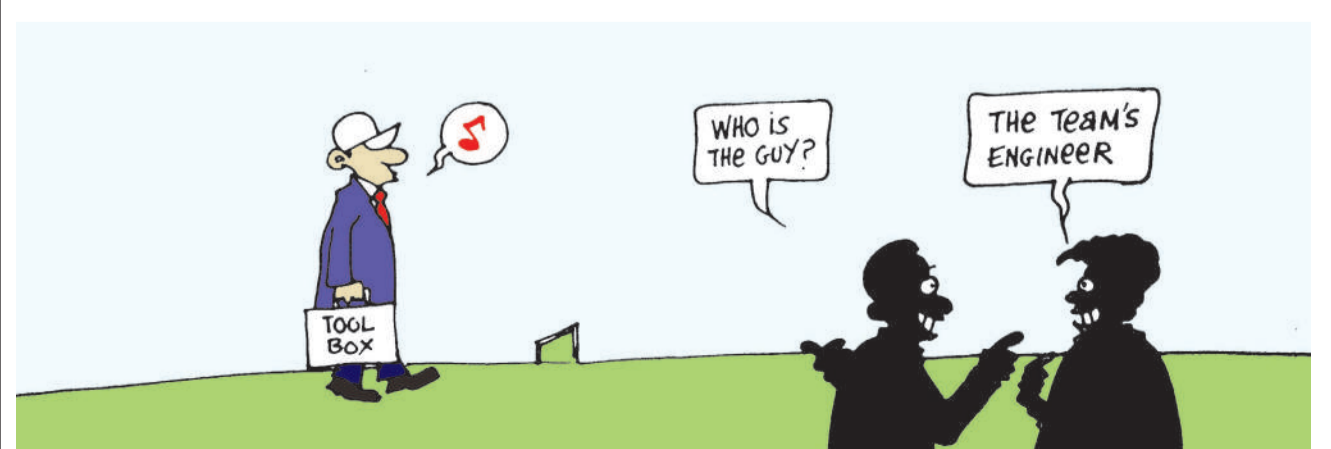
Finally, Manchester City's signings of Ruben Dias and Nathan Ake close the door on a potential move for Napoli's Kalidou Koulibaly to the Etihad Stadium... and one of the few clubs who could afford him.

However, centre-backs of Koulibaly's qualities are few and far between, and with various European giants struggling at the back, could any make a late-window bid for his services?

Liverpool, Everton, PSG, and Manchester United are just some of the clubs tipped to be considering the centre-back, whose arrival could have a significant impact on the race for Champions League qualification.

PSG were also linked with his services earlier in the window.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Messi's happiness not in my hands, says Koeman

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzanian marathoner, Alphonse Simbu, features in the 2017 London Marathon, which took place in London.

Dar runners miss out on 2020 London Marathon

By Seth Denis, TUDARCO

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has said it has not received invitation from organizers of the 2020 London Marathon for the country's runners to compete in the race.

Tullo Chambo, AT's information officer, confirmed the development to journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

Chambo also said that AT is closing in on sealing an agreement with various athletics sponsors in the country to back domestic athletes.

The official disclosed the agreement will, within a few days, be signed, noting it will benefit both AT and the athletes.

The 2020 London Marathon will be the 40th edition of the annual event, which takes place in London, United Kingdom. It has been slated for Sunday.

The race was originally scheduled to be held on April 26 but it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the first London Marathon to be run in the autumn.

On August 6, it was confirmed that the marathon will go ahead as an elite-only race, with the mass participation event cancelled.

Fields of around 30-40 athletes will compete for each title.

It will be the first time that the London Marathon has been an elite-only event.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the race will be run without spectators, in a bio secure environment.

All participating athletes will be tested for COVID-19 multiple times before the race, and will wear face coverings and observe social distancing when not competing.

As a result of the need for a biosecurity environment, the race will not follow its traditional route.

Instead, the 2020 London Marathon will consist of 19.6 laps of length 2.15 kilometers (1.34 mi) around St James' Park, taking in The Mall, Horse Guards Parade, Birdcage Walk and Buckingham Palace.

The final circuit is 1.345 meters (0.84 mi) along the Mall, following the finish line of the traditional London Marathon course.

The area around St James's Park will be closed to prohibit spectators from attending.

Dodoma Jiji FC, Ruvu Shooting looking to bounce back



Dodoma Jiji FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

DODOMA Jiji FC and Ruvu Shooting will both be looking to bounce back to winning form in the Vodacom Premier League when they meet at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma today in the afternoon.

Hosts Dodoma Jiji FC suffered their first defeat of the season when they lost 3-0 away to Polisi Tanzania last weekend,

ending a run in which they had claimed seven points from a possible nine.

Prior to that loss, the newly promoted side had drawn 0-0 at home to Coastal Union which came after back-to-back wins over Mwadui FC and city rivals, JKT Tanzania.

Speaking in a pre-match press conference, Dodoma Jiji FC's head coach Mbwana Makata, on the one hand, oozed confidence

and also confirmed a double injury boost to his side.

He disclosed: "It is true our unbeaten run ended in the fourth match, we have identified and sorted the mistakes that we committed."

"It is just another league match so we will have a similar approach like in the previous home games."

"Mbwana Kibacha is back in the squad and Anuar Jabir is

also back. They are both fit to start."

The duo missed out on the club's game against Polisi Tanzania after they sustained injuries in the away draw against Coastal Union.

On the other hand, it remains to be seen which Ruvu Shooting side will pitch up onto the field today, with coach Boniface Mkwasa's men struggling for consistency in the league thus

far.

Ruvu Shooting went to Mtwara Sugar and got a point, yet lost to a struggling Ihefu FC and also failed to beat Biashara United in their second home fixture last weekend.

Dodoma Jiji FC's line-up in their 3-0 loss to Polisi Tanzania on September 26:

Aron Kalambo, Anderson Solomon, Abubakar Ngalema, Augustine Samson, Justine Omary, Salmin Hoza, Dickson Ambundo, Steven Mganga, Michael Chinedu, Peter Mapunda and Jamal Soud.

Ruvu Shootings' line-up in their goalless draw with Biashara United: Bidii Hussein, Eradius Salvatory, Maulid Bofu, Santos Mazengo, Juma Nyoso, Zubeir Dabi, Abdulrahman Mussa, Shaban Msala, Fulgence Maganga, Mohamed Issa and William Patrick.

The league will continue on Saturday with four games on the menu.

Promoted side, Gwambina FC, will host another new side on the block, Ihefu FC, in an early kick off at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

Yanga shall be home to Coastal Union at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania Prisons will visit Mbeya City FC while Namungo FC will take on Mwadui FC at Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi.

Coastal Union take aim at Yanga

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

Mchekadona

TANGA's Coastal Union have said they are well prepared for their encounter against Yanga in the Vodacom Premier League, slated for tomorrow at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Coastal Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda, said they are ready for the match and he is optimistic of good results for his squad.

Mgunda said he has analysed Yanga's strengths and weaknesses, they are a good side but can be defeated," he noted.

"I have watched how Yanga are playing, I have analysed their strengths and weaknesses, they are a good side but can be defeated," he noted.

"I have told my boys that Yanga are like any other side in the Premier League, only that they have vocal supporters and they also have large following in the media," he said.

The Saturday game is expected to be entertaining as Yanga defender, Bakari Mwanyeto, who previously donned Coastal Union jerseys, will face his former club.

Mwanyeto carved his niche at Coastal United, where he rose to become

one of dependable players for senior national team.

He moreover emerged as one of the most expensive defenders in the domestic league, once he was signed by Yanga.

Yanga assistant coach Juma Mwambusi said his side is taking the Saturday game seriously as the aim is to collect three points.

"The team is now in the right direction, it has improved on many aspects like coordination and scoring, I'm sure on Saturday our supporters will watch one of the best football from our side," he said.

Mwambusi issued the comments after his side had cruised to 2-0 win over KMKM of Zanzibar in a friendly clash at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Yanga scored the two goals through midfielder, Mukoko Tonombe, on the 10th and 30th minutes of the first half of the friendly.

The coach said Yanga arranged the friendly match against KMKM so as to keep his charges ready for Premier League and other domestic matches as most of the players were out of action due to Coronavirus pandemic.



Coastal Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MY WIFE HATES IT WHEN I INTRODUCE HER AS MY EX-GIRLFRIEND!

