



National Pg 2

Helping women reach their full potential



National Pg 3

Strong winds blow off roofs



National Pg 4

Markets for horticultural products



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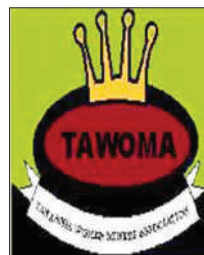
DOING BUSINESS

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PM orders ministry to set indicative cement prices

Traders, agents risk sabotage raps over hiking incidents

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday directed the Ministry of Industry and Trade to fast-track indicative prices for cement, to control unscrupulous traders and agents from hiking prices of the product.

The premier also warned cement selling point agents to stop hiding the product for purposes of creating an artificial shortage, noting that cement dealers proved to hide cement will be arraigned with economic sabotage charges.

He issued the directive at a virtual conference with top regional administrators and those of the relevant ministries plus major cement suppliers in the market.

Those included in the virtual conference are regional commissioners, regional administrative secretaries, regional commercial officers, major cement suppliers, along with permanent secretaries of the Ministry of Trade and Industries, the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Transport and Communication, with the meeting

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Dodoma yesterday making a virtual address targeting the Industry and Trade ministry permanent secretary, the Works and Transport ministry permanent secretary, regional commissioners, executives of cement manufacturing firms and cement distribution and sales agents. Photo: PMO

Korea gives WFP 292.5 tonnes of fortified corn for refugee camps

By Francis Kajubi

THE World Food Programme (WFP) is to dispatch 292.5 tonnes of super cereal worth US\$300,000 (695.80m/-) to three refugee camps in Kigoma Region.

The consignment of corn soya blended with sugar from South Africa is meant for hundreds of families living in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu refugee camps, who largely rely on the WFP food assistance.

The consignment arrived at the port of Dar es Salaam last week, following a donation of US\$300,000 dollars (695.80m/-) for the purpose by the Republic of Korea to WFP.

Accepting the humanitarian aid at a handover ceremony at the port of Dar es Salaam yesterday, WFP Country Director Sarah Gordon said the super cereal with sugar will be distributed to an estimated 242,000 beneficiaries and will cover their food needs for 24 days. The consignment includes fortified maize flour, pulses,

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Maalim Seif taking oath of office today

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi is today expected to swear in Seif Sharif Hamad as First Vice President at the Zanzibar State House.

Maalim Seif was appointed on Monday to the post in line with the requirements of Article 9(3) of the Amended 1984 Zanzibar Constitution which provides for power sharing in the Isles.

Chief Secretary Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee, who is also the secretary of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, said in a statement that the appointment took effect on Sunday, December 6.

"The Zanzibar Revolutionary Government system will be of national unity and its working will be in accordance with the procedure that ensures the perpetuation of the

country's national unity to attain democracy."

The move has come after the opposition ACT-Wazalendo agreed to join the Government of National Unity (GNU) in the eighth phase government led by President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

Secretary General Ado Shaibu told reporters in Dar es Salaam on Sunday that members of the Central Committee of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo have agreed to the quest by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi to become part of the GNU, considering that it is being formed with good intentions and for the interests of Zanzibar people and the country at large.

The party has allowed its cadres who were elected to be members of the House of Representatives, MPs

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TPDF praises Ngerengere airport environment boost

By Getrude Mbago

THE Ministry of Defence and National Service has handed over a tractor and grass cutting machine worth 57.2m/- to the TPDF Air Force Command to facilitate cleanliness at the military airport at Ngerengere in Morogoro Region.

The Ngerengere military airport is one of the best specialised airports in the region, accommodating large aircrafts such as Boeing or Dreamliner passenger jets, following major rehabilitation in the past few years.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Major General Kaisy Njelekela, the Judge Advocate General of the Tanzania People's Defense

Forces said workers at the airport were using mowers to keep the area tidy, which is time consuming and ineffective.

Standing in for Permanent Secretary Faraji Mnyepi, the senior officer said the tractor worth 48.7m/- was bought by the ministry while the 8.5m/- grass cutting machine was donated by the Chief of National Service, Major General Charles Mbuge.

The government recognizes the value of a modern military airport at Ngerengere, in which case its surrounding environment must be kept clean, he stated.

"We want to ensure the military airport remains

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PM tells ministry to have indicative prices for cement

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aimed at exploring the causes and stopping the hiking of cement price and availability of the commodity.

The premier asserted that indicative prices for cement will be essential as people need to know the price of the product in their respective regions and that it remains stable to plan building activities.

"We cannot have cement sold at 28,000/- per 50kg bag in Morogoro Region while it has been produced in Dar es Salaam or Tanga Region. We need to control and set indicative prices to avoid those in peripheral regions purchasing cement at hiked prices," he stated.

He said the government does not need to form a committee to deal with the matter since there are specific ministries, regulatory institutions and supervisory departments that can resolve the problem smoothly.

He directed the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) to conduct investigations on whether the current prices are competitive and reasonable, expressing concern that cement is sold at even higher prices in some parts of the country, thus causing inconveniences to users.

"Agents must stop hiding cement to create an artificial shortage. They are creating an environment to justify the price hike. Whoever

is doing this is sabotaging the economy, and once arrested they will be punished in line with the law," he declared.

Premier Majaliwa told top officials of the specific ministries to visit cement manufacturing factories to hear their challenges and discuss ways to resolve them.

Key cement manufacturers are Twiga Cement (Dar es Salaam), Tanga Cement (Tanga), Mbeya Cement (Mbeya), and Dangote Cement (Mtwara).

He also directed that despite the drop in sugar prices, regional commissioners should continue making close follow up in key market outlets to ensure the produce continues to be sold at reasonable prices.

Mjajiwa underscored the need for cement manufacturing industries to have their own agents at regional, district and village levels for the produce to reach many people as those in rural areas are in need of cement, with people eager to construct better houses.

Cement has for a whole been sold at higher prices in various inland regions including Dodoma, Ruvuma, Simiyu and Tabora.

A 50kg bag of cement retails for 15,000/- ordinarily but data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for October indicated that the price had risen by 30 percent to 22,000/- in various parts of the country.

Maalim Seif taking oath of office today

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and ward councillors to take up those positions in the relevant legislative and consultative chambers.

Shaibu emphasized that the central committee focused on the current situation in Zanzibar

where hate politics have re-emerged out of scars arising from the recent general election.

Members of the central committee expressed satisfaction that the GNU format was created with good intentions and will be in the interest of Zanzibaris and the nation in general, he added.



Warda Kimaro (3rd-R), Kilombero Sugar Company Limited's trade and marketing manager, pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend briefing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on the firm's activities. The PM was on a visit to the KSCIL pavilion at the ongoing Fifth Tanzania Industrial Products Exhibitions at Mwalimu Nyerere Trade Fair grounds. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Francis Kajubi

THE African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Tanzania chapter has counseled young women leaders to effectively link their peers in rural areas and those with disabilities for economic opportunities by learning the challenges that hold them back to progress and set solutions through their network.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at a one-day AWLN Tanzania intergenerational dialogue themed: 'Strengthening the women's movement and gender equality agenda through intergenerational linkage' Hodan Addou, UN Women Representative to Tanzania counseled young women leaders to be at the front line of leading their peers to opportunities and seek for help to order women when they incur challenges.

The dialogue focused on discussing the importance of intergenerational leadership both within the network and for women's leadership in Tanzania

African women network mentors young rural women to achieve gender equality

that went together with the launching of the chapter's young women caucus.

According to her, connecting younger and older generations of feminist activism greatly benefits women's collective capacity from the experience they share among themselves hence accelerate women's progress in leadership and development initiatives.

"The promotion of young women's leadership is one of the key priorities for UN Women. I am proud of seeing young women's pillar established that will be used as a platform to showcase their considerable skills through the intergenerational initiative;

Although there is some progress in advancing women's leadership in Tanzania, there is still work to be done to ensure that women are able to participate in the decision-making processes whether it be in the public or private sector and

civil society" said Addou.

She asserted that the benefits of inclusive leadership occur when young women are empowered to effect change. When they are given opportunities to demonstrate their abilities in building the resilience of their communities, develop innovative solutions, drive social progress, and transform their societies.

"Young women can effect change through leadership by challenging the prevalent social, economic, and political barriers to their vision, voice, and agency. The same is true for young women with disability, young rural women and other marginalized young women" she said.

She pointed out that by identifying the specific barriers that prevent the most marginalized groups of women from participating in

leadership matters, by taking an intersectional approach to supporting their mobilisation and active inclusion in decision making spaces incredible change can be achieved, hence inspire the next generation of the women's movement to continue advocating for their equality to men.

John Jingu, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children was of the view that if young women would wish to realise equality in leadership in all spheres so they have to be qualified.

"Equality in leadership will not be justified by gender differences but the competence of women themselves against men. I am glad to say that at my office almost 50 percent of the top leaders are women who are competent in their professions," said Jingu.



Silvia Santamali, project manager of an integrated rural development and urban poverty alleviation NGO based in Italy, speaks at empowerment seminar for people with disabilities engaged in entrepreneurship. It was held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

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safe and clean all the time. We appreciate the contribution from the head of National Service and it is now the responsibility of leaders to ensure proper supervision of the donated equipment," he affirmed.

TPDF praises Ngerengere airport environment boost

Major General Mbuge called on the public to continue purchasing quality tractors from the National Service Corporation (SUMA JKT) for various activities including agriculture.

He said the corporation is currently finalizing processes to place import orders for 100 more tractors which will be sold to farmers across the country. Using modern agricultural tools

including tractors shall boost the sector and contribute to the country's industrialization drive, he pointed out.

Brigadier General Shaban Mani from the Air Force Command

commended the government for recognizing the importance of the Ngerengere airport as well as considering supporting it to ensure clean surroundings.

"Ngerengere Airport is one

of the best specialized airports which can serve local and international needs. Having these modern cleaning machines will make its surroundings remain clean all the time," he added.

Korea gives WFP 292.5 tonnes fortified corn for refugee camps

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fortified vegetable oil, and salt, identified as the basic food basket under the UN agency's General Food Distribution (GFD) programme.

"The donation goes to Nduta, Mtendeli, and Nyarugusu refugee camps largely reliant on WFP assistance. I also would like to assure the government that WFP shall continue supporting Tanzania in the upkeep of the refugee population, covering various humanitarian needs especially for children and women in the refugee camps," she said.

Through the GFD programme, refugees are assured of food and nutrition security and an effort is made at wider health guarantee via fortification of good consignments as in this case, she elaborated.

"The donation reflects the Korean government's commitment to responding to and investing in the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children. We hope we can continue counting on

your support in the future," the representative observed.

In her remarks, Heashin Ahn, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Korean embassy, said that her country was committed to the eradication of hunger all over the world as a member of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC).

"WFP is Korea's key partner in carrying out our humanitarian assistance and development projects all over the world while Tanzania is Korea's biggest partner among African nations in terms of commutative ODA volume. I strongly believe the consignment handed over will provide life-saving food assistance to refugees in Tanzania especially at a critical time of worldwide food crisis coinciding with COVID-19 pandemic," she asserted.

Port director Elishuruma Lema said the port has shed reserved for handling WFP humanitarian cargo, welcoming landlocked countries in the region to continue using Dar es Salaam port for their shipments.



Ednah Mbwana (R), a communication and navigation engineer with the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority, briefs visitors in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on the agency's activities. This was at the TCAA pavilion at the ongoing Fifth Tanzania Industrial Products Exhibition at the Mwalimu Nyerere Trade Fair grounds. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Many homeless as winds cause havoc in 3 Kyela villages

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

MORE than 108 households in three villages of Ipinda Ward in Kyela District Mbeya Region have no homes after strong winds damaged roofs of their houses including Ipinda secondary school.

Chairman of Kyela disasters committee Amos Kayembele said the incident occurred last week that saw some villagers being sheltered by neighbours while trying to repair their houses.

He mentioned the villages involved as Kafundo (with 35 households), Ikulu (16) and Ipinda (57) and added that Ipinda secondary school's classrooms, teachers pit latrines and a library.

He said as for now the committee was repairing public infrastructure at the school and called on villagers to embark on rehabilitating their houses.

"We thank God that there were

no fatalities or even injuries, apart from the destroying the houses," he said.

Edward Mohamed, Ipinda Ward acting executive officer said they have started working with various stakeholders including cocoa farming investors to repair the secondary school's infrastructure.

Mohamed said as for now the students whose classrooms were destroyed have been shifted to rooms used for laboratories and added that more than 8m/- was needed to repair the infrastructure.

He said some stakeholders have pledged to donate cement but on condition that workers for the job were first available.

Kyela Member of Parliament Ally Jumbe inspected all the three villages last weekend to see for himself the destruction.

He contributed 4m/- for paying workers for the repair work as well as promising to assist the victims of the disaster.

Ministry: Nane Nane exhibition preparations afoot in Tabora Region

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PREPARATIONS for the 2021 annual agricultural exhibition commonly known as Nane Nane scheduled to be held at Fatma Mwasa grounds in Tabora had started, Permanent Secretary ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya said.

Addressing a press conference here, he noted that the exhibition that started in 1993 had been held 28 times in six out of the eight agro-ecological zones. It is the first time the national exhibition will be held in the western zone. He said the farmers' exhibition have been held in the following in southern highland, northern highland, central, eastern, southern and lake zones.

The PS noted that in all the zones, the exhibition had been held not less than three

times consecutively to help raise capacity of the zones to host the event annually since it provides opportunity for farmers to showcase their products.

He said through the exhibition farmers get more information and technology to improve the agricultural sector. "We expect more people to attend this year' agricultural exhibition and preparations for the national event are on high gear," said the PS.

He called on regional authorities to start planning for zonal exhibitions too, adding trend shows that the number of exhibitors increase almost every year, a good sign of development in agriculture sector.

Kusaya noted that despite COVID-19 pandemic, the number of exhibitors nationwide who showcased different technologies, livestock, farming equipment

among others increased from 2,750 in 2019 to 4,150 in 2020.

He said the exhibitions were held at different grounds in the eight zones of Eastern zone (Mwalimu Nyerere-Morogoro), Central (Nzuguni-Dodoma) Southern (Ngongo Lindi) Southern Highlands (John Mwakangale-Mbeya), Eastern Lake (Nyakabindi-Simiyu), Western Lake (Nyamhongolo-Mwanza), Western (Fatma Mwasa-Tabora) and Northern (Themi-Arusha).

Meanwhile, the PS also observed that the ministry is working on a strategy to boost horticulture sub-sector in the country, being a directive of President John Magufuli.

He noted that the main focus is on how to improve horticulture, noting that to achieve this, the government has plans to purchase cargo plane to ease transportation of fruits,

vegetables, fish and meat to other countries.

He said the president emphasized the need for Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Foreign Affairs, ambassadors and the private sector to find markets and sign contracts that will benefit the country.

He noted that in according to the president's speech, the horticulture is one of the sub-sectors in the country that are growing very rapidly, making Tanzania ranking 20th globally.

The PS explained that export of horticulture has increased from \$ 412 m/- in 2015 to \$779m/- in 2019. The existence of the East African Community(EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) with a population of 500 million people is a big market opportunity for horticultural products.

KILUWE BEN BUZWA
Mwenye picha hapo juu anambwa uraia wa Tanzania kwa Mh. Waziri wa Mambo ya Ndani ya Nchi, Utaifa wake kwa sasa ni Jamhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Kongo. Anajishughulisha na shughuli binafsi. Kwa sasa anashiki mkoani Kinga, na yupo hapa nchini toka mwaka 2008. Kwa yeyote mwenye taarifa / sababu za kwa nini mvombaji asipewe uraia wa Tanzania atume taarifa ya maandishi kwa Kamishna Jenerali wa Uhamiaji SLP 512, Dar es Salaam.

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FOR A PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ACADEMIC BLOCK AT BOKO CAMPUS IN KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY

- This Invitation for bids **FOR A PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ACADEMIC BLOCK AT BOKO CAMPUS IN KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY**, follows the desire of **HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY** to expand its research, teaching and learning facilities.
- HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY** now Invites sealed bids from eligible contractors registered in Class II and above for execution of the works as indicated in the Bills of Quantities, Drawings and Specifications.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents in the office no. 606 at **HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, P.O BOX 65300 MIKOCHENI DAR ES SALAAM**, from 8:00am to 4:00Pm on Monday to Friday except on Public holiday.
- A complete set of Bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tsh. 300,000/- (Tanzanian Shilling Three Hundred Thousand only). Payment should either be by Cash, Banker's draft, or Banker's cheque, Payable to **HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing declaration in the format provided in the bidding document.
- All bids in **one original and one copy** properly filled in and enclosed in plain envelope and marked **PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ACADEMIC BLOCK AT BOKO CAMPUS IN KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY**, must be delivered to the following address **on or before 11:00hrs of 18 December 2020**.

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- Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of bidder's representative who choose to attend the opening at **HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY Board Room in Floor 7**.
- Late bids, portion of bids, bids not received, bids not opened and read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

VICE CHANCELLOR
HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
P.O BOX 65300,

SNV Tanzania invites applications from eligible solar companies to pre-qualify for the supply of quality solar products in line with the Green Economic Recovery Fund Results-based Financing Programme (GERF)

SNV Netherlands Development Organization is an international NGO with a trusted presence in Tanzania for more than 40 years. Currently SNV is working throughout mainland Tanzania in three main sectors of Agriculture; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and Energy.

In support of the Government of Tanzania's diligent efforts to limit economic impact potentials of COVID-19 experienced within Tanzania, the Green Economic Recovery Fund Results Based Financing Programme (GERF) will support the strengthening of consumer clean energy markets that have undergone pressures due to the global pandemic response. The GERF is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Energising Development (EnDev) and implemented by SNV Tanzania.

The GERF will support pre-qualified firms with incremental financial incentives rewarded upon the verified proof of delivery of approved Pico-Solar PV sales to rural consumers in mainland Tanzania. For the period of 2020-2021, the GERF will open with €1,277,500.00 in results based financing (RBF) incentives available to the private sector to assist in the recovery of pico-PV solar and small solar home system consumer markets throughout Mainland Tanzania.

Prospective applicants will not be considered qualified unless in the judgment of SNV Tanzania they possess capability, experience, and qualified personnel to satisfactorily execute the contract for services.

Interested applicants may obtain the Pre-Qualification Application Package for the Green Economic Recovery Fund - Results Based Financing program from the SNV Tanzania website at <https://snv.org/explore-more> (and scroll to GERF documents).

Deadline for submission of applications for the only intake is 20th Dec 2020 at 2:00pm (East Africa Time, EAT)

Only Approved Service Providers will be contacted.

Ministry seeks stakeholders to find markets for horticultural products

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Agriculture plans to involve various stakeholders to find markets for horticultural products to boost the country foreign earnings.

The remarks were given at the weekend by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary Gerald Kusaya at a zonal meeting for horticulturists organised in collaboration with Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA).

Kusaya pledged to the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and horticultural stakeholders that the ministry will continue working together with other ministries including Works and Communications, Foreign and EDDA Cooperation as well the country's foreign embassies.

He said in 2019, the government

through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation conducted markets research in Gulf countries of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE through which it sold horticultural products.

He said a total of USD 779 million was earned from sale of horticultural crops worldwide.

"Already, more than 150 tonnes of avocado, pineapples, pepper has already been sold to those markets, a positive outcome from government-private sector partnership," Kusaya said.

He added: "In order to appropriately tackle the issue of markets, agricultural stakeholders via a technical committee with members from various government and private institutions has begun to prepare Horticulture Industry Market

Access Strategy (HIMAS). The strategy will identify important areas to work on in finding markets."

He said in order to boost supervision on plants life and pesticides, in June this year Tanzania Parliament passed a new law on Plants health which, among others established an authority on plants life and pesticide control.

The PS praised TAHA lead by Dr Jacqueline Mkindi for organizing the meeting and added that he would continue to work together with them to ensure the horticulture sector develops.

"Regional markets are viewed as huge opportunities for our horticultural products and today we have met here to find how our country will benefit from them" he added.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority technician Juma Tingisha has a rough and tough time - deep in muddy water - fighting to fix a defective pipe at Tegeta in Kinondoni District yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Remote volunteering keeps services going amid Covid-19

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

THE Australian Volunteers Programme which also runs activities in Tanzania has resulted into Remote Volunteering in order to keep things going during the times of global shut down due to the Corona Pandemic.

Musa Naroro the programme manager for Tanzania said as the country joined the rest of the world to mark the annual International Volunteering Day which was held on December 5, this year.

"Due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, the Australian Volunteers Programme made the decision to repatriate Australian volunteers. We have also temporarily suspended sending Australians overseas as skilled volunteers," Naroro revealed in an official statement.

"We remain committed to supporting our valued partner organizations in Tanzania through remote Volunteering, which allows volunteers to

complete a short-term remote assignment, supporting partners from Australia," he said.

According to the Program manager, three Australians have so far have undertaken remote assignments with organizations in Tanzania, with more to join over the coming months.

He added that there was also the Impact Fund, which provides eligible partner organizations access to a small grant that will help them and their communities respond to and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative (GLAMI) were supported with a grant to continue mentoring Tanzanian secondary school girls during COVID-19 and into the future by developing the GLAMI Radio Project, an innovative way to reach existing and new scholars with lessons on resilience, leadership and confidence.

Observed annually on the 5th of December, the International Volunteer Day was established by the UN in 1985 to recognize the valuable contribution

volunteers make to international development across the world. The theme for this year's International Volunteer Day is Together We Can through Volunteering.

The Australian Volunteers Programme matches a broad range of skilled Australians with partner organizations in 26 countries across the Indo-Pacific region, to support them to achieve their own development goals.

Skilled Australian volunteers have been contributing to development in Tanzania since 1964. Australian volunteers have supported more than 50 local organizations during this time, including in the education, agriculture and health sectors, and in women's empowerment.

Australian volunteers contribute unique experiences, networks and ideas to their volunteer assignments and the communities in which they live and work.

Volunteers come from all sorts of sectors, all across Australia, and apply for roles that match their professional skills.

JK assigns UDSM to address challenges facing graduates

By Guardian Reporter

UNIVERSITY of Dar es Salaam has been tasked to come up with better strategies that will help to address jobless graduates in the country.

Chancellor of the long-time university, Jakaya Kikwete made the call over the weekend when speaking at the official launch of the 21st century Generation Empower (GenEm) programme to be run in partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam and Empower Limited.

The former President said: "The University of Dar es Salaam is pleased to partner with Empower in a five-year partnership program which aims at preparing our University graduates with necessary skills for 21st Century labour market."

"If we are to remain relevant, this University, therefore, must answer to this crisis of our time of jobless graduates. I am delighted that the program we are launching today is a step in that direction. We must go further to see how best we can do to help those who wish to go for self-employment. We must ask ourselves a question, how helpful and useful our University can be to help them to create jobs for themselves and others? Answers to this question

and that of employability, will make our University and degrees it offers, relevant," said Kikwete.

Founder and managing director of Empower Limited Miranda Naiman said: "Our work with Tanzanian Youth over the last 11 years has culminated in this partnership; we are delighted to bring together all stakeholders to build our nation by investing in our future leaders. GenEm will work in tandem with UDSM's academic programmes to arm finalist students with relevant skills, industry exposure and connection to employment as they graduate. She went on to say 'Corporates can benefit from the very best graduate talent who will seamlessly add value to your organization.'

GenEm is being facilitated by the Empowers Youth Department in collaboration with The University of Dar es Salaam's Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (UDIEC), who strive to be the leading centre in Africa for enabling Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The first cohort will comprise of 270 students from varying disciplines in the year long GenEm Programme; allowing for a diverse and inclusive strategy for sustainable skills development. Empower's approach to learning

and development is participatory and practical in nature -GenEm participants will take part in interactive workshops, tutorials, fireside chats with industry leaders, culminating in a final group project.

UDSM and Empower welcome participation in GenEm from all stakeholders including the private sector, policymakers, and donor partners to catalyse efforts towards providing skills development through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. This will be the first programme launched in Tanzania with this unique approach; aligning the educational content of The University of Dar es Salaam to industry requirements through customized modules developed and facilitated by Empower and validated by the University of Dar es Salaam.

Speaking on behalf of his fellow students, one of the participants RajabuMkaku, a student from the College of Social Science at the University of Dar es Salaam commended the introduction of this training which he claimed will successfully build students' ability to withstand competition in the labor market in parallel with visualization entrepreneurial opportunities that will enable them to be self-employed.

WFP		World Food Programme Programme Alimentaire Mondial Programa Mundial de Alimentos برنامج الأغذية العالمي		SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES	
SALE OF USED VEHICLES, OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT					
The office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Dar es Salaam has a list of used vehicles, Office furniture and equipment for sale on "as-is-where-is" basis to the highest bidder. Prospective buyers will be responsible for payment of duty, VAT and other related charges as established under Government rules and regulations. Only bids with precise prices will be accepted. WFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Bids should be quoted in Tanzanian Shillings. The items can be viewed at the following places and on the indicated dates and time.					
Viewing Sites		Date	Time		
WFP Dar es Salaam Country Office		09.12.2020-11.12.2020	0900hrs-1300 hrs		
WFP Dodoma, Isaka, Kibondo, Kasulu & Kigoma office		09.12.2020-11.12.2020	0900hrs-1300 hrs		
Sealed bids should be addressed to the WFP Representative & Country Director, P.O. Box 77776, Plot No. 113 Mhindi Lane Street, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam and marked "BID FOR PURCHASE OF USED VEHICLES, OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT NO.01/2020" and should reach the MWFP Dar es Salaam Office before Friday, 18.12.2020 at 13:30hrs. Successful bidders will be required to pay and will collect the unit they have purchased within 7 working days after being notified of their successful bid. A successful bidder will be notified starting from 29.12.2020. USED VEHICLES, OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT WITH DETAILS FOR DISPOSAL VIA SALES					
LOT	REG. NUMBER	TYPE	CHASSIS NUMBER	STATUS	LOCATION
1	T257CD223	TOYOTA LAND CRUISER LC 76	JTEEB71J307027664	GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
2	T257CD218	TOYOTA PRADO KDJ150R-GKFEY	JTEBH9F30K126646	GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
3	T257CD217	TOYOTA LAND CRUISER LC 76	JTEEB71J307020164	GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
4	00248410	PROJECTOR HP		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
5	00248735	PROJECTOR HP		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
6	00329318	PRINTER - HP		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
7	00248729	PRINTER - HP		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
8	00885475	PHOTO COPIER - KYOCERA KM1620		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
9	00149935	DESKTOP COMPUTER - HP		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
10	00329348	PRINTER COLOUR HP		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
11	00471522	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
12	00694247	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
13	00694246	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
14	00471350	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
15	00471559	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
16	00149877	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
17	00694248	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
18	00329867	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
19	00214755	LAPTOP HP		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
20	00003549	PHOTOCOPIER MACHINE - KM 1620		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
21	00885815	DRILLING MACHINE / TOOL BASE		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
22	00885816	DRILLING MACHINE / TOOL BASE		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
23	00329903	METAL CONTAINER		BROKEN	DAR ES SALAAM
24	00329075	MOTORCYCLE HONDA XL 125		GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
25	00885475	PHOTO COPIER - KYOCERA KM1620		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
26	00885476	PHOTOCOPIER KYOCERA		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
27	00885490	PIGEON HOLE		GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
28	00885487	AIR COMPRESSOR		NOT WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
29	00885493	OFFICE TABLE		GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
	00248976	ROUND TABLE		GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
30	00885560			GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
	00885561	SOFA BLACK LEATHER 3 PCS		GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
	00885562			GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
31	00149512	FRIDGE LG		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
32	00885564	FRIDGE LG		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
33	00694245	DEEP FREEZER SMALL		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
34	00885563	DEEP FREEZER WESTPOINT		WORKING	DAR ES SALAAM
35	N/A	ALUMINIUM DOOR 1 PC		GOOD	DAR ES SALAAM
36	00375415	KYOCERA MITA TASK ALFA 180		WORKING	DODOMA
37	00248684	PRINTER HP		NOT WORKING	DODOMA
38	00471325	PRINTER HP LASERJET ENTERPRISE M 605		NOT WORKING	DODOMA
39	00248912	PRINTER COLOUR HP		NOT WORKING	KASULU
40	00149951	MONITOR HP		WORKING	KASULU
41	00248430	MONITOR HP		WORKING	KASULU
42	00149787	UPS		NOT WORKING	KASULU
43	00471259	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	KASULU
44	00471264	MONITOR - HP		WORKING	KASULU
45	00885167	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	KASULU
46	00694766	STABILISER		NOT WORKING	ISAKA
47	00471260	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	KIBONDO
48	00885032	GENERATOR SET PERKINS 240KVA		NOT WORKING	DODOMA
49	00015950	GENERATOR (JOHN DEERE 250 KVA) ENG. 6081		NOT WORKING	DODOMA
50	00694741	MILING MACHINE ALCAN BLANCH		NOT WORKING	ISAKA
51	00694312	CONTAINER - METAL		BROKEN	ISAKA
52	00375783	SOFA		GOOD	KIBONDO
53	00248477	BOOK SHELF		GOOD	KIGOMA
54	00471568	LAPTOP HP ELITEBOOK 850 G2		WORKING	KIGOMA
55	00471631	MONITOR HP		WORKING	KIGOMA
56	20001646	LAPTOP DELL LATITUDE 7280		WORKING	KIGOMA
57	00694050	LAPTOP HP		WORKING	KIGOMA
58	20001659	MONITOR DELLE2216H 21.5"		WORKING	KIGOMA
59	00694033	MONITOR-24 INCH HP		WORKING	KIGOMA

Govt, NGO to team up in empowering PWD

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has promised to team up with Dhahabu Foundation for Children and Youth with Disability (DFCYD) to ensure people with disabilities execute their performance like others without disabilities.

The National Arts Council (BASATA) executive director Godfrey Ngereza made the promise over the weekend at the awarding and launching of 2020 awards to the Children and Youth with Disability.

He said people with disabilities can execute duties performed by other people like others if their talent can be recognised and promoted such as singing, broadcasting and art crafts adding that the society should abstain from wrong belief.

“DFCYD has shown the way that people with disabilities have talents and can use it as a source of income. We therefore need to further promote to raise more talents from this particular group,” he said.

“The fifth phase - government focus is mainly on innovation to reach the industrial economy, therefore, as a government, we ensure that all the innovation rights are registered while on the other hand enable them to get income,” he added.

For her part, the Acting executive director from the Tanzanian institution responsible for regulating and promoting the Kiswahili (BAKITA) Consolata Mushi said Dahabu award to people with disabilities helps to promote and develop their talents seemed to have been forgotten.

She applauded DFCYD for ensuring the children and youths realise their dreams calling on the society to be responsible in the raising and promoting the talents of children in their respective area.

Dr Khadija Jilala, the Senior Lecturer at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) and Founder of DFCYD said that talents to people with disabilities are still not appreciated and recognised therefore concerted efforts were still needed.

She said the Dhahabu award was for the first time done in the country's history to raise, promote and recognise the talents of children and youth with disabilities to use their talents to generate income.

Dr Jilala said children and youth with disabilities are facing challenges compared to other women, but they are capable of doing great things.

She called on the society to look at their abilities, not disabilities adding that there are a good number of successful women with disabilities who will inspire children, youths and college girls to do much better in their studies.

“We are celebrating the launch of the Dhahabu award to children and youths with disabilities. We want girls to know that it is possible for them to become who they want in future despite their physical disabilities,” she said.

Government vows to continue addressing challenges disrupting ease of doing business

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has pledged to continue addressing challenges affecting the ease of doing business in the country while at the same time working to facilitate industries to produce more to boost economic growth.

Speaking when opening the 5th industrial forum in Dar es Salaam Dr Soud Nahodha Hassan the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock for Zanzibar said industries were a key element in creating jobs.

She said the industrial sector was very key in stimulating economic growth which trickles down to improve people's lives and help in the war against poverty.

He said the symposium was a platform to connect manufacturers and other service providers.

“The connections you are getting here will go a long way into linking you with markets which will enable our products to be sold in foreign markets hence promote the economic growth of our country,” he said.

He said in doing this the government was improving its implementing systems to allow the availability of various services such as provision of licenses, business information, tax payments and permits such as that of the immigration, investment and many others.

He said the government was changing many of the systems into electronic ones to remove challenges and complaints by manufactures to facilitate production hence promote economic growth.

In his remarks the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industry Prof Riziki Shemdoe explained further on the directive by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa when he opened the Tanzania Industrial Products Trade Fair last week to use the Julius Nyerere Trade Fair Grounds for other trade activities.

The official directed TAN-Trade to ensure they prepare such forums every quarter of the year so that local manufactures can have time to showcase their products.

When opening the trade fair PM Majaliwa hailed the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) for organising such exhibitions which he said will go a long into finding new markets for the country's products as well as create a platform for manufacturers to share experience.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff include experts in Health, Education, Nutrition, Environment, Economic Development, Civil Society, Gender, Youth, Research and Technology; creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries. We are currently seeking qualified candidates to apply in various mentioned below positions for an anticipated USAID project in Tanzania focused on improving reproductive, maternal, new-born, and child health outcomes by increasing use and access to high quality services (C3HP RMNCAH project).

All Positions and Recruitment will be subject to project award and funding.

1. Associate Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Director to be based in Dar es Salaam

Position Description: Under the leadership of the MEL Director will be responsible for the monitoring, evaluation and learning components of the project, including developing and managing the MEL Plan. Also providing critical coordination and management of MEL team members and ensuring that MEL activities are conducted in a timely manner and up to technical standards. S/he will play an active role in overseeing MEL activities and outputs of sub-grantees. Together with the MEL Director, will be supporting quality assurance in all MEL activities throughout the program. Additionally, will collaborate with the program team to design operations research (OR) and oversee the implementation of OR projects as well as analysis, dissemination, and use to support program learning.

Position Responsibilities:

Designing and overseeing the monitoring, evaluation and learning activities of the project; Working closely with technical leads, government, national partners and stakeholders to co-design program MEL approaches, activities and products; Ensuring compatibility and coordination within the M&E framework, and consistency with national and donor requirements; Providing support and management to the MEL team in the design, development, planning, and implementation of project evaluation activities. This includes development and dissemination of tools, materials, reports, papers, and intervention-linked research; Developing strategies and tools for monitoring of specific technical components; Providing technical assistance, developing and setting up systems for the timely collection, management, analysis, and reporting of valid and reliable data that meet donor reporting requirements; Working with the team to support Tanzania national HIS strengthening efforts; Working with the team to ensure the successful implementation of a robust learning agenda for continuous learning, collaboration and adaptation (CLA); Undertaking periodic reviews of program and/or country M&E systems, and participating in planning M&E system strengthening actions. Providing guidance on information systems for quality assurance, as well as best practices documentation and reporting;

Position Requirements- Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

Master's Degree or higher in monitoring and evaluation, public health, demography, health management, social science, biostatistics, statistics, or a related field with 7-9 yrs of relevant experience; OR Bachelors Degree in similar filed with 9-11 yrs of relevant experience • 8+ years' experience in monitoring, evaluation and research efforts, with at least three years experience in a management position- Experience leading MEL approaches within USG-funded projects, particularly maternal, newborn, and child health programs • Strong quantitative and analytical skills and ability to articulate technical information clearly and effectively to both technical and non-technical audiences • Demonstrated expertise in rigorous quantitative and qualitative research and analytical methods • Strong background or formal training in evaluating international development programs such as but not limited to, Family Planning and Reproductive Health and/or Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health-Excellent report writing, analytical, and communication skills, including oral presentation skills- Experience in knowledge management and dissemination of research findings • Demonstrated ability to create and maintain effective working relations with government personnel, stakeholders, NGO partners, and international donor agencies • Strong interpersonal, writing, and oral presentation skills in English and Swahili • Ability to work independently and manage a high-volume work flow • Experience using with databases including DHIS2, electronic data collection tools (DHIS2 Tracker, CommCare, SurveyCTO) • Skills in data visualization and software (DHIS2, Tableau, PowerBI, etc.). • Strong skills using MS Excel Word, PowerPoint, and at least one data management software program (SAS, SPSS, Epi Info, Atlas).
2. Health Informatics Advisor to be based in Dar es Salaam
Position Description: The position will be a key MEL team member, build the program data management systems for results and reporting, as well as being an active participant in national and subnational efforts to improve health information systems and interoperability in Tanzania in collaboration with government agencies.

Position Responsibilities:

Creation and smooth operation of internal systems to monitor and report on program results; ensuring project data are entered, cleaned and available in the necessary specifications; working with national and sub-national government agencies to build and strengthen systems for improved maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition; regularly cross-checking program results with data from national systems; participating in national discussions on indicator selection; and providing technical assistance to enhance interoperability and integration between health information systems related to maternal, newborn and child health to optimize data access and use for decision-making. Also must understand the complex environment of health information systems in Tanzania and work with technical staff from program, government and health services to propose workable solutions which will result in meaningful improvements to maternal, newborn and child health. Specifically will be responsible for Building the program's data management and reporting systems, using existing platforms for sustainability; Ensuring functional systems leading to timely and accurate reporting of program results; Directly or indirectly supervise team associated with data entry, cleaning, management and reporting; At regional/district level, providing support to roll out of health information systems to improve quality of health care & data use; Working jointly with technical, government and health services staff to identify best practices for informatics to improve maternal, newborn and child health

Position Requirements- Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

Master's Degree in computer science, monitoring and evaluation, public health, demography, health management, social science, biostatistics, statistics, or a related field with 7-9 yrs of relevant experience; OR Bachelors Degree in similar filed with 9-11 yrs of relevant experience; •5+ years' experience managing reporting systems and working with health information systems- Certification and demonstrated skills in programming (C++, Java, Python, SQL) and GIS mapping (ArcView GIS • Extensive experience with DHIS2 and EMR systems • Experience with data visualization software (PowerBI, Tableau, Domo) • Ability to translate data from routine data

systems into understandable lessons learned and action priorities for programmatic and other technical staff • Experience developing and field-testing data collection instruments for monitoring, evaluation and research; data collection planning and implementation (routine or survey) • Experience working with MEL and technical teams within USG-funded projects, particularly maternal, newborn, child health program • Strong quantitative and analytical skills and ability to articulate technical information clearly and effectively to both technical and non-technical audiences • Demonstrated ability to create and maintain effective working relations with host country government personnel and stakeholders • Strong interpersonal, writing, and oral presentation skills in English and Swahili • Ability to work independently and manage a high-volume work flow • Strong skills using MS Excel Word, PowerPoint, and at least one data management software program (SAS, SPSS, Epi Info, Atlas).

3. Family Planning & Reproductive Health Advisor to be based in Dar es Salaam

Position Description: Assisting the Technical Director in ensuring the overall success of the project and will be responsible for managing the technical direction and implementation of reproductive health and family planning-related facility and community-based programming. S/he will ensure high quality of technical assistance to government partners, with reference and incorporation of international guidelines and best practices

Position Responsibilities:

The position will assist with coordination, refinement, and implementation of family planning and cervical cancer and gender-based violence (GBV) screening and management service improvement across government and affiliated partners; monitoring quality of supportive supervision and mentorship; and providing focused technical assistance as needed to government and community partner teams. Specifically: Assisting in the assessment of inpatient, outpatient, and community-based reproductive health service readiness and quality assessment in conjunction with MoH, PO-RALG and consortium partners; Designing or refining family planning and reproductive health quality improvement and technical assistance activities and providing ongoing technical support in collaboration with government partners; Providing technical support in the development and dissemination of tools, strategies for technical assistance and mentorship, materials, reports, and interventions for improving family planning and reproductive health service provision access, and demand as part of an integrated project support strategy; Working closely with assigned team to ensure activities and mentorship are implemented according to standard operating procedures and national guidelines for practice and quality; Routinely assessing changes in international guidelines and best practices and providing input on these changes to assist with government partner policy, strategy, and guideline revisions; Assisting with the implementation of the project by monitoring and documenting technical assistance and mentorship approaches, processes, and outcomes; Monitoring and maintaining protocols, instruments, data sets, manuals, training and monitoring materials and reports; Preparing reports and papers summarizing project results, assists with publications, web pages and presentation development, technical briefs, or other necessary documents to facilitate research, best practices, policies and procedures related to reproductive health programming.

Position Requirements- Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

Master's degree in health, public health or related field with 7-9 yrs of relevant experience; OR Bachelors Degree in similar filed with 9-11 yrs of relevant experience; OR MBBS/MD with 5-7 yrs of relevant experience- specifically medical training as a midwife or doctor preferred •8+ years of technical assistance experience in health, particularly in the family planning and reproductive health and well woman's care areas. • Working knowledge of concepts, practices and procedures with providing technical support for reproductive health activities/ projects highly desired. Has sensitivity to cultural diversity and understanding of the political, contextual, and ethical issues in assigned areas, particularly regarding spousal consent issues and patient autonomy • Excellent oral and written communication skills in Swahili and English. • Articulate and professional and able to communicate in a clear, positive fashion with stakeholders. Prior work experience in a similar position within an NGO, government agency, or private company • Excellent organizational and analytical skills and strong ability to manage and meet multiple tasks

4. Maternal Health Advisor to be based in Dar es Salaam

Position Description: Assisting the Technical Director in ensuring the overall success of the project and will be responsible for managing the technical direction and implementation of maternal health-related facility and community-based programming. S/he will ensure high quality of technical assistance to government partners, with reference and incorporation of international guidelines and best practices.

Position Responsibilities:

To assist with coordination, refinement, and implementation of facility-based obstetric and postpartum care service improvement activities with government and affiliated partners; monitor quality of supportive supervision and mentorship; and providing focused technical assistance as needed to government and community partner teams. Specifically: Assisting in the assessment of inpatient and out-patient maternal health service provision quality and gap analysis in conjunction with MoH, PO-RALG and consortium partners; Designing or refining maternal health quality improvement and technical assistance activities and providing ongoing technical support in collaboration with government partners; Providing technical support in the development and dissemination of tools, strategies for technical assistance and mentorship, materials, reports, and intervention for improved maternal health service provision, access, and demand; Routinely assessing changes in international guidelines and best practices and providing input on these changes to assist with government partner policy, strategy, and guideline revisions; Assisting with the implementation of the project by monitoring and documenting technical assistance and mentorship approaches, processes, and outcomes; Preparing reports and papers summarizing project results, assists with publications, web pages and presentation development, technical briefs, or other necessary documents to facilitate research, best practices, policies and procedures related to maternal health programming.

Position Requirements- Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

Master's degree in health, public health or related field with 7-9 yrs of relevant experience; OR Bachelors Degree in similar filed with 9-11 yrs of relevant experience; OR MBBS/MD with 5-7 yrs of relevant experience- specifically medical training as a midwife or doctor preferred • 8+ years of technical assistance experience in health, particularly in the maternal and reproductive health and well woman's care areas • Proficiency with database management software, Microsoft Office Suite, and on-line search tools required • Substantial experience of developing working relations with government stakeholders; clinical skill training and capacity development experience preferred • Has sensitivity to cultural diversity and understanding of the political, contextual, and ethical issues in

assigned areas, particularly regarding spousal consent issues and patient autonomy • Excellent oral and written communication skills in Swahili and English. • Articulate and professional and able to communicate in a clear, positive fashion with stakeholders. Prior work experience in a similar position within an NGO, government agency, or private company • Excellent organizational and analytical skills and strong ability to manage and meet multiple tasks • Working knowledge of concepts, practices and procedures with providing technical support for reproductive health activities/ projects highly desired •

5. Gender Advisor to be based in Dar es Salaam

Position Description: Assisting the Technical Director in ensuring the overall success of the project and will be responsible for managing the technical direction and integration of gender-transformative and gender-sensitive components within facility and community-based programming. Also ensuring high quality of technical assistance to government partners, with reference and incorporation of international guidelines and best practices. The position will report to the Technical Director.

Position Responsibilities:

The Gender Advisor will assist with assessment, coordination, mentorship, and implementation of gender sensitive and transformative components integrated into service improvement activities across government and affiliated partners; monitoring gender integration as part of consortium partner quality of supportive supervision; and providing focused technical assistance as needed to government and national partner teams. Specifically: Leading the gender equity and social inclusion assessment in conjunction with MoH, PO-RALG, FHI 360 HQ-based Gender Advisors, and consortium partners; Designing evidence-based approaches to improving gender and social inclusion, including male engagement and participation, with government and other partners for integration within project activities. • Providing technical support in the development, and dissemination of tools, strategies for technical assistance and mentorship, materials, reports, and intervention for gender and social inclusion and integration within RMNCAH services; Working closely with assigned team to ensure activities and mentorship are implemented according to GESI best practices and frameworks; Maintaining routine assessment of changes in international guidelines and best practices and providing input on these changes to assist with inclusion of gender and disability provisions within government partner policy, strategy, and guideline revisions; Monitoring and maintaining protocols, instruments, data sets, manuals, training materials and reports.

Position Requirements- Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

Master's degree in gender, health, sociology, psychology, public health or related field with 7-9 yrs of relevant experience; OR Bachelors Degree in similar filed with 9-11 yrs of relevant experience • 8 - 12 years of technical assistance experience in gender and social inclusion, particularly in the reproductive and child health areas and social and behavior • Proficiency with database management software, Microsoft Office Suite, and on-line search tools required • Has sensitivity to cultural diversity and understanding of the political, contextual, and ethical issues in assigned areas, particularly regarding spousal consent issues and patient autonomy • Excellent oral and written communication skills in Swahili and English. • Articulate and professional and able to communicate in a clear, positive fashion with stakeholders. • Prior work experience in a similar position within an NGO, government agency, or private company • Excellent organizational and analytical skills and strong ability to manage and meet multiple tasks • Substantial experience of developing working relations with government stakeholders; training and capacity development experience preferred • Working knowledge of concepts, practices and procedures with providing technical support for gender and social inclusion activities/ projects, including gender integration into M&E systems, gender norm transformation and SBC approaches, GBV prevention and response, and gender sensitive health service delivery. • Qualitative research experience, including tool development, data collection around sensitive topics, and data analysis preferred • Qualified female and/or candidates with disabilities particularly encouraged to apply.

6. Contracts and Grants Manager to be based in Dar es Salaam

Position Description: The Contracts and Grants Manager will be responsible for overall oversight of contract portfolio management within the C3HP RMNCAH project- including negotiating the terms and conditions of contracts, coordinating assessments of potential grantees, adherence of procedures for efficient award and sub award management while ensuring the timely delivery of quality deliverables committed in the program. S/he will further be responsible for Regional Contracts Officers in the respective regions whereby through them will monitor the results of the performance of grantees, and proper compliance with donor regulations in order to ensure that C3HP RMNCAH project financing is channelled to achieve maximum impact. The position will report to the Project Director.

Position Responsibilities:

The Contracts and Grants Manager will among other tasks be responsible for implementation of the following: Managing the administrative processes for contract administration within the project from pre-award to contract close-out with a purpose of achieving successful and compliant contract performance; Ensuring consistent, coherent, clear support to sub grantees including capacity building to ensure their technical growth in the area of contracts administration. • Assisting grantees with proposal budgets, as needed; Analyzing, verifying and reviewing grantee budgets to ensure donor compliance and reasonableness; Monitoring grantee spending and reporting including implementing spot checking of grantees; Ensuring proper documentation of all correspondence with sub grantees, especially contractually, programmatic and financial changes; Identifying significant risks and recommend plan for mitigation including justification of working at risk.

Position Requirements- Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

Master's degree in finance, Accounting, Business Administration, Business Management, Public Administration, Legal Studies or a related field with 5-7 years' experience with concepts, practices and procedures of contract/operations and documentation management; OR Bachelor's Degree in similar field with 7-9 yrs related experience • Minimum of 4 years professional experience in Contracts Management or project management preferably in the health, social or finance sector • Demonstrated experience with organizational and project management procedures • Excellent analytical, financial management and evaluation skills • Strong critical thinking and analytical skills applied for problem solving • Demonstrated proficiency in use of management information systems, tools, processes and the associated computer software • Experience with USAID rules and regulations will be an advantage • Good interpersonal communication and negotiation skills • A team player with excellent planning and organization skills • Demonstrated commitment to accomplishing high quality deliverables on schedule • Resolves issues and navigates obstacles to deliver work products in a timely manner • Ability to perform and prioritise multiple tasks.

How to Apply:

FHI 360 is an Equal Opportunity Employer and has a competitive compensation package. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply online through www.fhi360.org/careers (<https://jobs-fhi360.icims.com>) by uploading an Application Letter, Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Resume, Photocopies of Certificates and Names and Addresses of three (3) referees

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted
Closing Date: December 13, 2020.

TAWOMA out to inspire more women on mining

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Women Miners Association (TAWOMA) is considering empowering women to higher levels through mining, said the chairperson, Gilly Raja.

Raja who was recently elected into the position replacing the outgoing chairperson, Eunice Ngele also observed that the mining sector contributes immensely to the national economy but women are left behind.

Speaking after the association's election held in Dodoma, the new leaders came out strongly vowing to work on the challenges facing women miners in a bid to help them improve their livelihoods as well as boosting the country's economy.

The election which saw Raja emerging victorious on the position of chairperson, replacing former chairperson of the association Eunice Ngele, who led the association for the past five years. In that election, Salma Kundy was elected the Secretary General of the association.

Speaking after the election, the new chairperson expressed optimism that it was time for women to get out of poverty through mining, a sector that contributes immensely to the country's economy.

Currently, the mining sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated at 4.8 per cent.

"One of our main tasks is to lift women from poor to higher status of lives through mining," she said adding that there was a need to increase value chain in mining activities especially gemstones in the country.

In ensuring that TAWOMA seeks for market in the mining sector, she insisted, from now on, the association would start convening a series of meetings with women in the mining sectors and all

stakeholders involved.

In the same note, the association's Secretary General Salma Kundy who was elected unanimously by members to serve for the second term said that her main task was to establish TAWOMA shops countrywide beginning with Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Arusha and Mwanza.

According to her, the shops were vital in helping women miners to have market to their mineral products. "We want to make sure that we help women in the mining sector to get out of poverty," she insisted.

TAWOMA's vision is to eliminate poverty while creating new jobs for women and youths within the mining sector.

Founded on August 22, 1997, the association also supports the education of women miners on topics such as the dangers of mining, health and safety, and the use of chemicals, such as cyanide and mercury for gold mining, and its effects on their health and the environment.

TAWOMA's main purpose is to develop and promote women miners and mining communities and address the problems of disorganized mining including economic hardships, poverty alleviation and the general needs of members.

The association cooperates with various national and International organisations to achieve its goals. They include the Southern Eastern Minerals Centre (SEAMIC) and University of Dar es Salaam (Geology Department).

Others are Tanzania Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Tanzania Chamber of Energy and Minerals, Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), MTL Consultants Limited, Gemological Institute of America (GIA), PACT TZ, UNECA and the Small Scale Gemstone Mining Cluster.



Dr Charles Mwamaja (2nd-L), Commissioner of Finance Development in the Finance and Planning ministry, presents TBL Plc finance manager Fred Kayanda (R) with a National Board of Accountants and Auditors trophy after the firm emerged runner-up (Manufacturing Category) for the Best Presented Financial Statements for last year. The event was held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt to spend 20bn/- to cement diplomatic ties, serving embassies abroad, official says

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

THE government is set to spend 20bn/- in this fiscal year to cement bilateral relations with other countries as well as serving embassies abroad.

Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Brigadier General Wilbert Ibuge revealed this here yesterday when opening a five-day seminar on Public Procurement Act, 2011 and regulations 2013,

involving directors and heads of department in the ministry.

Speaking on his behalf, director of human resources in the ministry, Alex Mfungo said, Tanzania owns 106 buildings in foreign countries and 11 land plots, this reveals a sustainable relationship with other nations, hence there's a need to repair infrastructures to avoid ambassadors not depends on these economic projects or entered unnecessarily.

"I hope this seminar will enable proper use of the 20bn/- in improving our diplomatic matters as well as construction and

maintenance of our buildings in our embassies," he disclosed.

He said the government has considered needs and recommendations from the embassies that's why it decided to increase the budget from 4bn/- in 2019/2020 to 20bn/- in 2020/21 financial year.

He listed projects to be implemented as the construction of embassy in Comoro will cost 1.8bn/-, Muscat Embassy, Oman (3.7bn/-), construction of embassy offices in Kigali, Maputo, Bujumbura and Lilongwe will take 1.5bn/- as

well as the construction of the commercial building in Nairobi Kenya worth 3.9bn/-.

Others include the construction of the commercial building in Kinshasa, DRC worth 2.3bn/-, maintenance of embassy in Washington D.C, maintenance of apartments of staffs in Harare, Zimbabwe worth 275m/-, renovations Kigali Embassy apartment in Rwanda worth 260m/- as well as the refurbishment of the Dar es Salaam-based Centre for Foreign Relations (CFR) buildings worth 2.4bn/-.



Tigo internet system manager Mkumbo Myonga addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the firm's final promotion for this year under which lucky customers will win motorbikes and televisions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Media key pillar in fight against GBV - activists

By Guardian Correspondent

HUMAN rights activists have described members of media fraternity as crucial pillars in the national battle against gender-based violence in Tanzania.

"We cannot win this war if media people are sidelined," said Wallace Mayunga, Executive Director of a non-government organisation, The Right Way (TRW) during consultative seminar for TRW executives held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Organised by TRW, the forum is part of the commemoration of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in Tanzania.

"Effective and active participation of media people and media outlets is more than important in the fight against GBV," stressed Mayunga.

Media people should be in the forefront if "we want to battle out the vice, which mostly affects women and female children—subjecting them to untold

suffering and various forms of violence," according to Mayunga.

Media information and investigative stories on various incidents related to gender based violence committed at the family, ward levels etc, helps the society to understand the magnitude of the problem, he said adding that "on the other hand, such information assist responsible government agencies to take correct actions and measures against perpetrators of these incidents."

"It's difficult to get to know how big the problem is without correct information...it is not ease for the government agencies to work on the problem without proper information on gender-based violence," said Mayunga, insisting that "such information needs to be traced and published by media people through their media outlets, including social media."

According to TRW boss, the government had taken initiatives in the fight against GBV by enacting

laws, setting up guidelines and policies, but "implementation of these laws and policies would be "next to impossible" in the absence of active and effective participation of media people—who are responsible to investigate and dissemination stories on GBV incidents happening at the family, wards, district levels."

As part of its contribution the war against GBV, The Right Way has come up with a comprehensive and long-term strategy to equip primary and secondary school students (main victims of GBV) with requisite knowledge and education on issues related to gender-based violence.

"Because of financial constraints, we will start with few schools based in Dar es Salaam, covering five schools every month. However, as time goes on, the project will be expanded to other regions and ultimately reaching out to many schools countrywide," noted TRW

director.

An activist and human rights defender, Kidani Mhenga said "16 days activism against gender based violence should not be confined to the national forums only, but it's the duty of local leaders and society members to educate activities down to the grassroots levels...education on gender based violence should be a daily and regular activity, we should not confine ourselves to the commemoration of 16 days of activism alone."

On her part, Coordinator of The Right Way, Mary Mihambo, proposed complete overhauling of operational systems, organs and regulations of various political parties in the country in order to get rid of "patriarchy systems" which discriminate against women—the main objective being to enable women participate effectively and efficiently in the political party-decision making processes and operations generally.

'Investigative reporting on forest value chain crucial'

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

FOREST stakeholders have underscored the need for the government to facilitate investigative reporting in forest value chain so as to highlight the underlying challenges facing the sector for the decision makers to act on them.

The national programme coordinator for Forest and Value Chains Development Programme (FORVAC) in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Emmanuel Msofe said this over the weekend when speaking at the two-day media training in Ruangwa District, Lindi Region.

According to Msofe, media is a right channel to communicate the potential of value chains in the forest products economically and socially. "Investigative reporting in forest sector helps to broaden awareness to the public about the values of forest products and thus enable them increase conservation of forest resources, the reporting will also reveal the illegal acts that happen in the forests as well as to highlight the good development done by villagers in the forest," he said.

The training is part of the ongoing four years project dubbed: Forest and Value Chain Development Programme (FORVAC) 2018-2022 at a cost of 25bn/-, it is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and implemented by Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

He added that, the government has been working hard on community based forest management (CBFM), but through FORVAC programme, the ministry is intending to increase awareness on the values of forest economically so as to benefit the community.

"We have been encouraging the government institutions working in forest sector to amend their laws and policies mainly to stimulate the

development of forest, so we need the media to join the efforts," he added.

Msofe said that Tanzania has more than 48 million hectares of forests whereby 22 million hectares are in the villages, while only 2million are conserved by villagers a situation which calls for journalists to highlight the need for forest conservation through reporting.

"So far, the project has benefited more than 330,000 people based in Lindi, Ruvuma and Tanga regions, but the intention is to reach more people," Msofe added.

According to him, the project is working to increase the value chain in the forest products like wood, charcoal and others available in the forest.

Senior advisor for FORVAC Tanzania Juhani Harkonen said that they are happy after reaching 10 districts in the programme which is scheduled to end in 2022.

He mentioned the districts that have benefited from the programme as Ruangwa, Nachingwea, Liwale, Namtumbo, Mbinga, Songea, Nyasa, Mpwapwa, Handeni and Kilindi.

"We believe that FORVAC will stimulate the development of (CBFM), but the media have a great role to make sure that the initiative yields positive results," he emphasized.

Natural resources officer for Lindi Region, Zawadi Joseph said the authority in the region provide fully support to the initiative together with other institutions working to encourage sustainable forest conservation.

He said the region is having more than 900,000 hectares of forest which are present in 70 villages; the idea is to strengthen conservation of the forest and its products.

Joseph added that, through the project, they have managed to develop proper land use management plan that put boundaries of forest and village land.



Julius Konyani (2nd-R), NCBA Bank Tanzania's head of retail banking and medium customers, shakes hands with GSM marketing officer Fatma Farah at the inauguration of a "Go shopping with discount from NCBA promotion" that will see customers get 10 per cent discounts in GSM shops. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mbeya-WSSA needs 75bn/- injection from govt to have massive water project going

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya-WSSA) seeks 75bn/- from the government for the construction of Kiwira River water project which when completed will eradicate water problems in the region.

Edna Mwaigomole, Mbeya-WSSA board chairman issued the request during a visit by Mbeya Urban Member of Parliament Dr Tulia Ackson to various water projects in Mbeya City.

Mwaigomole said if the grand water project would be completed, the City's water woes would be history and spur industrial activities that need a lot of water.

She said the project's evaluation has been completed and what remains was funds to enable pumping water from the project site to Mbeya City and other districts.

"Mbeya City is the centre for economic activities in the southern highlands zone, hence many such activities need water, also considering its fast growing population, hence the project is very much needed," said Mwaigomole.

She added: "We appeal to the government for assistance since the money involved is huge and we wanted to implement the project ourselves it will take us a very long time to complete."

Ndele Mengo, Mbeya-WSSA managing director said the project, when completed, will make Mbeya City to attain its water supply at 100 per cent as well as reducing water supply problems in the neighbouring

Songwe Region.

He said other districts to benefit from the water project include Chunya and Mbarali.

Mengo said the project will have the capacity to produce 100,000 litres of water per day while Mbeya City's water supply requirement was only 70,000 litres per day.

He said as for now the City was facing a shortfall of 30,000 litres of water per day as the total supply from the city's all water sources include boreholes stands at 40,000 litres per day.

Speaking after inspection various water sources in the city, Dr Tulia Ackson said the project was huge hence she would work together with other MPs from areas to benefit from the project to jointly plead to the government for funds.

She said due to huge amount of money involved there was the possibility for the government to conduct research to satisfy itself before committing funds.



We appeal to the government for assistance since the money involved is huge and we wanted to implement the project ourselves it will take us a very long time to complete

Madaba District farmers earn 1bn/- from ginger

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

FARMERS in Madaba District, Ruvuma Region have earned more than 1bn/- from sale of ginger crop for the 2019/20.

Joseph Mrimi, the district's agricultural, irrigation and cooperative officer told this paper at the weekend from the sale, Madaba District Council earned 16m/- as levy from three per cent of income.

Mrimi said ginger production in the district topped 5,117 tons that was sole inside and outside the country. "We, at Madaba District Council have in place a strategy to add value to the crop as well as to increase production as its demand is high," he said.

He said the Council has set aside a total of 400 hectares for investment in various agro processing factories including ginger.

Bosko Komba, Madaba District Council economist said the Council has taken various steps to advertise the crop at the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition in Mbeya Zone as well as at Investment Exhibition in Ruvuma Region this year. He said already Tanzania Company has pledged to buy ginger from farmers in Madaba and they expect in future the Council will get a big processor for the crop.

However, he said the Council plans to mobilise farmers who are able to cultivate and process the crop to do so, saying one farmer from Ifinga Village has come up and pledged to cultivate and process ginger.

He said it was the intention of the Council in cooperation with various stakeholders to buy and process ginger to enable it boost Madaba district's economy and Ruvuma Region in general.

Work hard to increase efficiency, Tamwa Zanzibar employees told

By Guardian Reporter

THE Director of the Women Journalists Association (TAMWA) Zanzibar, Dr Mzuri Issa has urged the staff of the institution to continue to work hard to increase efficiency in the interest of the whole community.

Dr Mzuri made the call yesterday in Bububu on the outskirts of Zanzibar city when speaking to the staff at a special meeting, which was meant to discuss the organisation's performance for 2020 and provide a work plan for 2021.

She explained that there are various challenges in the community that the people need to be supported so employees should be aware that they have a great responsibility to the community.

"There have been many cases of sexual harassment of women and children as well as other challenges. It is now our duty as workers to address this, including providing more education and enabling victims to give evidence," she said.



It is now our duty as workers to address this, including providing more education and enabling victims to give evidence

She said despite the presence of many operational works throughout 2020, but the staffs were not tired and worked with greater professionalism and there are achievements that have been achieved.

Dr Mzuri also called on the staff to ensure that they increase their diligence and efficiency next year.


Earlier, Tamwa Zanzibar board member Shifaa Said Hassan urged the workers to focus on increasing their education, believing that education increases productivity.

She also urged staff to reflect on all aspects of the performance and see challenges as part of the reform process by 2021.


Shifaa urged employees not to give up on the challenges they face and to take the challenges as motivation towards delivering better services to the public.



Bonavita Eahaihi (C), VSO Tanzania's Youth and Education programme manager, briefs visitors on the agency's greenhouse farming project at Fuoni Kibondeni in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.
lwr.org



IMA World Health
imaworldhealth.org

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and IMA World Health (IMA) are the prime contractors for the programs in Tanzania which will improve and increase access and utilization of quality health services and livelihoods in Tanzania through strengthened service delivery and institutional capacity of country health systems.

LWR and IMA invites expression of interest for supplier prequalification for the following supply categories **(to be undertaken within Tanzania)**. Existing and current vendors/service providers need to apply as well.

Bid No: TZPROC-002/FY-21-22	Goods/Services Description
LWR/IMA/ActToEnd/SAFE/ LWR//006/2021/2022	Provision of Medical Insurance

Bidders are required to send their expression of interest via email supported by:

- At least 3 references supported by copies of orders or contracts.
- Audited accounts for the last 3 years
- Copy of Business permit for the respective category
- Attach a copy of certificate of incorporation, TIN certificate and a Valid Tax Compliance certificate

Bidders should submit their EOI through the email below and should reference the bid number and description on the email subject as per the list above.

The deadline for responding to this EOI is Wednesday 8th January 2021 at 1:00 PM. Responses received after the deadline will not be reviewed and will be discarded. Responses must be submitted in pdf (preferred) or other **electronic format** strictly to tzprocurement@imaworldhealth.org Issuance of this EOI does not constitute a commitment on the part of LWR and IMA nor does it commit LWR and IMA to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, LWR and IMA reserve the right to reject any or all applications received if such action is considered to be in the best interest of LWR and IMA. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Please submit all questions or requests for clarifications concerning this EOI to the attention of the Tanzania Procurement via email to tzprocurement@imaworldhealth.org The deadline for submitting questions or requests for clarifications is **December 31st, 2020 (1:00 PM)**. Responses to questions, will be emailed to the bidders who ask them only. Shortlisted bidders will be issued with either a detailed "Request for proposal" (RFP) to move to the next level or a prequalification letter depending on the category. Bidders who do not hear back from IMA by **the end of January 2021** should consider themselves as unsuccessful.

Huge improvements needed in quality and safety of medicines

MEDICINE is the science and practice of establishing the diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. Medicine encompasses a variety of health care practices evolved to maintain and restore health by the prevention and treatment of illness. Contemporary medicine applies biomedical sciences, biomedical research, genetics, and medical technology to diagnose, treat, and prevent injury and disease, typically through pharmaceuticals or surgery, but also through therapies as diverse as psychotherapy, external splints and traction, medical devices, biologics, and ionizing radiation, amongst others. Medicine has been practiced since prehistoric times, during most of which it was an art (an area of skill and knowledge) frequently having connections to the religious and philosophical beliefs of local culture. Prescientific forms of medicine are now known as traditional medicine and folk medicine.

They remain commonly used with, or instead of, scientific medicine and are thus called alternative medicine. As an example, evidence on the effectiveness of acupuncture is "variable and inconsistent" for any condition, but is generally safe when done by an appropriately trained practitioner. In contrast, alternative treatments outside the bounds not just of scientific medicine, but also outside the bounds of safety and efficacy are termed quackery. This can encompass an array of practices and practitioners, irrespective of whether they are prescientific (traditional medicine and folk medicine) or modern pseudo-scientific, including chiropractic which rejects modern scientific germ theory of disease (instead believing without evidence that human diseases are caused by

invisible subluxation of the bones, predominantly of the spine and less so of other bones), with just over half of chiropractors also rejecting the science of immunisation.

The Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has launched a special project, which is aimed to foster medicine quality, safety, and ethical practices on clinical trials in the country.

Dubbed 'ASCEND-Moving Tanzania's clinical research ethics and medicines regulatory capacity to the next level', the two years and a half project will focus on strengthening systems and facilitate more clinical research.

Speaking during the project kick-off meeting held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, TMDA director general Adam Fimbo said the project is expected to strengthen pharmacovigilance systems to increase reports on adverse events and reactions originating from clinical trials and establishing an effective system for information sharing.

Pharmacovigilance, also known as drug safety, is the pharmacological science relating to the collection, detection, assessment, monitoring, and prevention of adverse effects with pharmaceutical products.

He said the project also secured funds worth Euro 498,750 (1.4bn/-) from the European Development Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) whereby the process of funding acquisition began in October 2019, the acquisition process engaged Seven institutions.

He cited the seven institutions as Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI), Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Zanzibar Food and Drugs Authority (ZFDA), Zanzibar Health Research Institute (ZAHRI), University of St Andrews (USTAN) and TMDA.

Healthy oceans truly invaluable for our generation and posterity

BLUE economy is a term in economics relating to the exploitation and preservation of the marine environment. Its scope of interpretation varies among organisations.

According to the World Bank, the blue economy is the 'sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.'

European Commission defines it as 'All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. It covers a wide range of interlinked established and emerging sectors.'

The Commonwealth of Nations considers it 'an emerging concept which encourages better stewardship of our ocean or 'blue' resources.'

Conservation International adds that 'blue economy also includes economic benefits that may not be marketed, such as carbon storage, coastal protection, cultural values and biodiversity.'

The Centre for the Blue Economy says 'it is now a widely used term around the world with three related but distinct meanings- the overall contribution of the oceans to economies, the need to address the environmental and ecological sustainability of the oceans, and the ocean economy as a growth opportunity for both developed and developing countries.'

A United Nations representative recently defined the Blue Economy as an economy that 'comprises a range of economic sectors and

related policies that together determine whether the use of ocean resources is sustainable. An important challenge of the blue economy is to understand and better manage the many aspects of oceanic sustainability, ranging from sustainable fisheries to ecosystem health to preventing pollution. Secondly, the blue economy challenges us to realise that the sustainable management of ocean resources will require collaboration across borders and sectors through a variety of partnerships, and on a scale that has not been previously achieved. This is a tall order, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) who face significant limitations." The UN notes that the Blue Economy will aid in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, of which one goal, 14, is "Life Below Water".

World Wildlife Fund begins its report [6] Principles for a Sustainable BLUE ECONOMY with two senses given to this term: "For some, blue economy means the use of the sea and its resources for sustainable economic development. For others, it simply refers to any economic activity in the maritime sector, whether sustainable or not."

As the WWF reveals in its purpose of the report, there is still no widely accepted definition of the term blue economy despite increasing high-level adoption of it as a concept and as a goal of policy-making and investment.

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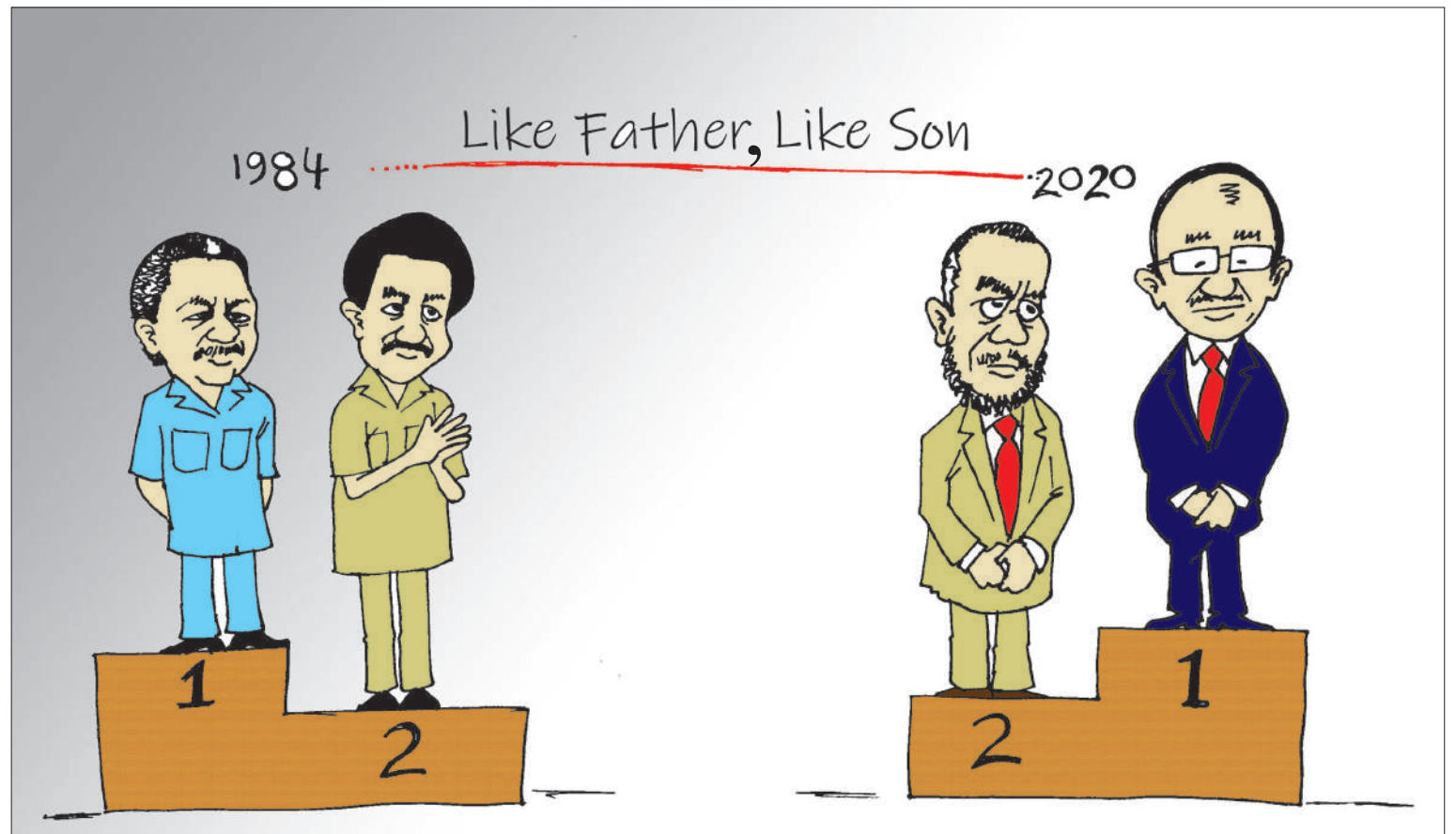
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By Special Correspondent

Lawmakers or law breakers?

LIBERIANS are beginning to raise concern whether their Representatives are lawmakers or 'lawbreakers' as they allegedly ignored measures put in by the Liberian Government through the Ministry of Health in the midst of the Coronavirus in the country.

The Ministry of Health has since put in measures prior to the confirmation of the virus in the country that anybody arriving in the country from outside be quarantined with approval from the ministry before going into the communities.

Such measures were reportedly ignored by the suspended Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Nathaniel Blama when he arrived from the Switzerland and confirmed as the first Liberian with the Coronavirus.

Since then, two other Liberians have joined him making the confirmed case of the virus in the country to be three.

Liberians have since being following the measures by reporting violators of the health protocols and reporting violators. Recently six Liberian lawmakers travelled to Ghana, one of the West African countries that has reported 19 cases of the Coronavirus in the region to represent the Liberian Government.

They include Representatives Edwin Melvin Snowe, Acarus Moses Gray, Clarence Massaquoi, Rustolyn Suacoco Dennis, Francis Dopoh, Munah Pelham-Youngblood and Samuel Kogar respectively according to Representative Francis Saïdy Dopoh.

After the completion of their duty in that west African nation, they reportedly returned separately on different flights in the country, but reportedly went into self isolation instead of reporting themselves to the Ministry of Health and possible quarantined.

Representatives Samuel Kogar and Francis Saïdy Dopoh used Ghana to Ivory Coast and entered Liberia through the Buutuo border in Nimba Electoral District five currently represented by Representative Samuel Kogar.

Their entry in the country through that border point reportedly brought commotion as citizens in that part of the country have serious problem with their entry without the approval of Health authorities in the country.

But when contacted via mobile phone, Representative Samuel Kogar denied the issue of commotion and said it is the statutory District Superintendent in the area who have had long standing issue with him and wanted to blow their entry out negatively.

According to him, upon their arrival at the Liberia side of the border, health authorities were not present and as such; they waited and called in Bahn for health officers to go at the border and check them.

The Nimba County lawmaker said after checking them, he and his colleague moved into self isolation for fourteen days and asked everyone to stay away from them as part of the health protocols.

"It's the Statutory District Superintendent talking his thing

because he has problem with me. I quarantined myself for 14 days and asked my people to stay away from me. I am in Buutuo currently. Our entry is not illegal. There was no commotion," Rep. Kogar said.

For his part, Representative Francis Dopoh said he has the right to use legal borders of Liberia as citizen and they went through the health and immigration processes at the border.

According to Representative Dopoh, they used the border point because their flight from Ghana to Liberia (Africa World Airlines) had technical problem after 45 minutes.

He said they stayed in a best hotel in Ghana and followed all measures put in my the Ghanaian Government and decided to go by road due to limited flight at the time by using a private vehicle to Ivory Coast and another private vehicle to the border with Liberia.

"When we got in Nimba, we went to Kogar's office and there was no commotion. If we think we should be isolated, we can do so. I spoke with the Minister of Health," Rep. Dopoh spoke to this paper via mobile phone.

In his official Facebook post, Representative Dopoh said "Racing against the Ghana borders closure pronouncement, I boarded Africa World on March 22nd

from Accra, but due to technical reason the flight was grounded after about 30 minutes in the sky. I later boarded a chartered Toyota Prado, along with Hon. Kogar to Liberia through Cote D'voire, since our both districts border that

Country. We were scrupulously given access through those borders and landed through the Bin-huye Buutuo corridor on March 24th at 9am. Hon. Kogar chose to stay in his district to respond to the necessary health protocols, while I chose to come to Monrovia to do same."

"I am in touch with the House Committee chair on Health who also put me in connection with the Health authority. I am well, and very well. I was never tested anywhere for COVID-19, and I am observing the health protocols. I was never in Burkina Faso, never attended any wedding or public gathering in Ghana or Cote D'voire. If the Health authority decides to conduct a test on me, I will be more than glad to do so. Should they want to assume the cost of myself isolation, I will be glad also," he said. The River Gee lawmaker further said "God forgive these proponents of false messages, for they are wedded in ignorance, greed, and sycophancy."

Liberians On Radio Station: Following the report from Okay FM's Nimba County Correspondent, callers on the Okay Morning Rush expressed serious disappointment in their lawmakers.

According to them, lawmakers who should be enforcing the measures put in by the government are breaking the law by not going through the process.

The government of Liberia has warned officials of government and ordinary Liberians against violating the health protocols put in place as part of the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

Will the election make any difference to corruption?

By Michael Nyantakyi Oti

THE two front-runners in Ghana's 2020 election have weak records on tackling corruption. This leaves voters with little choice.

Make no mistake, Ghana is doing well. It's one of only four sub-Saharan African countries ranked "free" in 2020 on the Freedom in the World index that measures political rights and civil liberties.

In addition, Ghana has a strong and independent broadcast media and consistently ranks in the top three countries in Africa for freedom of speech and press freedom.

As for the economy, the West African country shows an "impressive story of economic growth," to use the words of the World Bank. In the past three decades, real GDP growth has quadrupled and extreme poverty dropped by half. There is little doubt that the country of nearly 30 million people is on course to lift its citizens out of poverty.

Ghana plagued by corruption. It isn't all rosy, however. Pervasive corruption in the public sector is undermining Ghana's progress.

This costs the country \$3 billion (€2.47 billion) every year, according to the Ghana chapter of Transparency International. That is a third of what the country needs to stop perennial flooding.

Corruption has long been a topical issue in the country, with corruption stories consistently making headlines.

And ahead of Ghana's presidential election on December 7, much of the discussion is about which candidate is potentially less corrupt.

A dozen candidates are running for president but only two are serious contenders: Former president John Mahama (pictured top right) of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the incumbent, President Nana Akufo-Addo (pictured top left) of the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Akufo-Addo and Mahama have both only served as president for a single term, although both have also

been active in high-level politics for more than two decades.

John Mahama's administration hit by youth unemployment scandal

Let's start by looking at the corruption record of John Mahama, who was president from 2013 till January 2017.

In 2015, mid-way through Mahama's term, Ghana ranked seventh in Africa on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. That sounds good on the surface, but in fact Mahama's administration was hit by several corruption scandals.

In one of the biggest, an investigation by Ghanaian journalist Manasseh Azure Awuni in 2013 revealed that the government agency GYEEDA had spent nearly \$500 million on a program that was supposed to provide employable skills to young people. But 80% of the funds ended up in the pockets of politicians, their cronies and crooked business people.

The seeds for this scandal might have been sown under the previous

NPP government. But Mahama failed to terminate corrupt contracts or prosecute the officials involved.

Nana Akufo-Addo accused of corruption

President Akufo-Addo, who won the December 2016 election, campaigned vigorously on the promise of fighting corruption.

A year after assuming office, he created the Office of the Special Prosecutor to investigate corruption, including cases implicating public servants and politicians.

The head of that office, Martin Amidu—who resigned recently amid controversy—is a leading member of the opposition NDC.

But in November 2020, after more than two years in office and with very little to show for this period, Amidu accused Akufo-Addo of corruption. Before the resignation of the special prosecutor, the auditor general Daniel Yaw Domelevo was placed on involuntary leave by the Akufo-Addo administration, effectively hounding Domelevo out of office.

Covid-19 has tested Africa to the limits – but there are signs of hope

By Abebe Shimeles

THE Covid-19 pandemic is one of the most devastating global health and economic crises in modern history. The crisis has affected virtually every facet of socioeconomic functioning, including public finance, which is concerned with the capacity of governments to mobilise resources, primarily for building institutions to promote security, competition and market development, as well as for redistributive purposes.

The pandemic has significantly compromised Africa's state of public finance. First, it led to unprecedented contraction of tax revenue. Second, it placed extreme stress on public spending as governments struggled to respond to the health crisis, including increased funding for the health sector, social and business relief, measures to reduce and combat the spread of the virus and various other related needs.

Covid-19 poses tremendous challenges for Africa. However, it also offers opportunities for constructive change.

Challenges for public finance in Africa

The onset of the viral outbreak exposed and amplified existing weaknesses in public finance management in African countries. Inefficiencies and inequalities in the delivery of public services were magnified. The crisis also revealed a lack of preparedness when it comes to the ability to weather economic shocks and manage resources effectively.

Poor GDP Growth

The African Development Bank projects that real GDP growth could reach -3% in Africa due to the Covid-19 pandemic - a collapse of about seven percentage points from the growth rate achieved in 2019, the worst outcome in the region since the 1990s. Reduced GDP growth means reduced mobilisation of taxes, adding fuel to macroeconomic instability and burden of debt.

Given the weakened macroeconomic stability in Africa prior to Covid-19,



trade restrictions, regional lockdowns and other Covid-19 measures impeding economic activities further compromise fiscal sustainability in the wake of the crisis.

Rising debt levels

Despite a recent rise in debt levels, the Covid-19 crisis forced many African countries to borrow even further to cope with the increased demands. According to the World Bank, public debt in emerging markets has surged to levels not seen in 50 years. Not only has the crisis worsened fiscal deficits for African countries, but it limits future borrowing capacity.

This puts increased pressure on macroeconomic stability and fiscal sustainability, especially due to the need to continue dispensing large amounts of funds to combat the virus. The debt burden is further heightened by often high borrowing interest rates, exchange rates for foreign loans and other influential economic factors.

Increased poverty and social needs

High levels of African populations across all sectors suffered loss of earnings as a result of the pandemic. The World Bank estimates that the Covid-19 pandemic will set back global poverty reduction goals by three years. The African Economic Research Consortium's (AERC) recent work in five African countries showed that policy responses to contain the spread of the virus, such as lockdowns, closing down of some businesses, travel and mobility restrictions and so forth, led to an increase in poverty levels that washed out gains that had been made in the past decade.

Most importantly, inequality worsened in the five countries as the burden of economic slowdown fell disproportionately on low wage earners, small business owners and casual labourers.

Opportunities and the way forward for Africa Despite the dire situation, it is not all doom and gloom for Africa. This crisis has also revealed opportunities for positive change. There are some measures that can help move the continent forward:

- Fast-track reforms in public finance management aimed at tackling future debt burdens;
- Citizen participation and support are also key to transformative solutions;
- Use the pandemic as an opportunity to

recognise the importance of having strong healthcare systems, including financing and access to resources;

- Appreciate healthcare workers and the resilience they have shown during this period, and look at ways to improve earnings and benefits aimed at retaining skilled healthcare workers;

- Improve ICT mechanisms relating to both the health sector and overall public services for enhanced communication and service delivery to citizens for both emergency and day-to-day needs;
- Develop cross-country peer exchange systems that will allow countries to share information on response efforts with each other in real time, thus pooling knowledge resources and working together to help with Covid-19 reduction, as well as other healthcare, social or economic crises that might occur in the future;

- Stimulate local and intra-African trade to reduce the shocks of global crises felt by the continent. As highlighted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a high dependency on imports in areas such as food, drugs, machinery and equipment over-exposed African countries to the economic consequences of the pandemic. Hence, we need to build infrastructural and trade frameworks to boost in-country and

pan-African economic capabilities, and reduce our level of reliance on imports;

- Explore the scope for instituting effective, comprehensive social programmes in Africa;

- Foster better transparency and governance to improve trust in the rule of law, strengthen business conditions and encourage external support as key elements for developing a better future; and

- Transformative domestic reforms to improve revenue mobilisation, digitalisation, trade integration, competition, social safety nets and climate-change mitigation will be critical for Africa's resilience, growth and job creation (IMF).

While the sheer destructive impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to resonate across the continent, we should not ignore the lessons learnt and the uplifting stories that have risen up through the crisis. Never have Africans come together the way we have during this catastrophic situation - we have seen the best of humanity through this trying period.

International aid organisations, local charities and normal citizens showed compassion and care in helping out their fellow citizens. Healthcare and essential workers rose to the title of "hero" for the sacrifices they made to keep country processes going. African countries were lauded by our Western counterparts for the way we responded to the pandemic, including our swift action in imposing lockdowns. African governments did well overall when it came to educating the population on Covid-19 prevention measures, and hence helped save lives on a large scale.

The road ahead for Africa is difficult, and the challenges undeniable. But for us to overcome, rebuild and move forward stronger than ever, we need to take an inspired and solutions-focused stance, and work together for the benefit of the continent and its people as a whole.

AGENCIES

When big powers clash, the UN's most powerful body disappears

UNITED NATIONS

AT the height of the Cold War back in the 1960s, a Peruvian diplomat, Dr. Victor Andres Belaunde, characterized the United Nations as a politically wobbly institution that survives only at the will- and pleasure- of the five big powers.

Simplifying his argument in more realistic terms, he said: "When two small powers have a dispute, the dispute disappears. When a great power and a small power are in conflict, the small power disappears. And when two great powers have a dispute, the United Nations disappears."

And more appropriately, it is the UN Security Council (UNSC) that vanishes into oblivion, particularly when big powers clash, warranting a ceasefire, not in some distant military conflict, but inside the UNSC chamber itself.

The only international body with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of global peace and security, the UNSC has often remained in a state of near-paralysis, particularly when the five veto-wielding members (the P-5) - namely the US, UK and France (in one corner) and China and Russia (on the other) - are determined to protect either their national interests, or the interests of political and military allies and client states.

As the New York Times pointed out last week, the world now has to cope with the new political realities of an "aggressive Russia" and a "rising China" which will continue to be reflected in the Security Council chamber.

After nearly 75 years in existence, one of the UNSC's biggest single failures is its inability to end the Israeli occupation of

Palestine - or even ensure the implementation of its own resolutions.

The UNSC has also remained either frozen or failed to help resolve some of the ongoing military conflicts and civil insurrections worldwide, including in Syria, Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Hongkong, Somalia, Western Sahara, and most recently, Ethiopia, among others.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and coordinator of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of San Francisco who has written authoritatively on the politics of the Security Council, told IPS perhaps the biggest failure has been the UNSC's inability to effectively respond to the illegal expansion by some member states of their territory by force.

"It was such aggression by the Axis powers in World War II that led to the UN's founding and the categorical prohibition of such invasions in the UN Charter. Yet Israel and Morocco, protected by the veto power of allies on the Security Council, continue their illegal occupation and colonization of territories (Palestine and Western Sahara respectively) they forcibly took over". Similarly, he argued, Russia has effectively gotten away with its occupation of Crimea.

The Security Council, Zunes pointed out, was unable to enforce its resolutions regarding Indonesia's conquest of East Timor and apartheid South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia until global civil society campaigns forced them to eventually withdraw decades later. If the Security Council cannot even prevent member states from invading and occupying other nations, something that the UN's founders assumed the world body would insure would remain a



UN Security Council in session. Photo: United Nations

historic anachronism, how can it be expected to address more complex problems? asked Zunes.

Meanwhile, after more than 20 years of failed negotiations, the current President of the General Assembly (PGA) Volkan Bozkir of Turkey is making another attempt at reforming the UNSC, including expanding its current membership of 15.

Ambassador Joanna Wronecka of Poland and Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani of Qatar have been appointed co-chairs to continue with the stalled Intergovernmental Negotiations on reforming the UNSC.

Asked if big power rivalry, and protection of client states, were some of the reasons for the frequent deadlocks in the UNSC over the years, Zunes said the United States prides itself on the principle of the universal applicability of domestic law - that is, the decision to uphold certain legal principles should not be based on an individual's politics, position, or personal connections.

However, when it comes to international law, the United States has pushed the United Nations to use force or impose

tough sanctions towards adversarial nations regarding weapons proliferation, support for terrorism, and conquest of neighboring states while blocking the UN from taking any effective action towards allies guilty of the same offenses.

Meanwhile, he pointed out the United States and Russia have abused their veto power to protect Israel and Syria respectively from accountability for major violations of international humanitarian law. Ultimately, the failure is not with the United Nations system. It is the failure of the United States and other P5 members to live up to their responsibility as Security Council members to enforce the Charter and related international legal statutes based on their merit, not on narrow geo-political interests, said Zunes, a columnist and senior analyst, Foreign Policy in Focus.

Bozkir said last month the early appointment of the co-chairs should allow for Member States to start their consultations in a timely manner - and he encouraged delegations to look into starting the intergovernmental negotiations early in 2021 and increasing the number of meetings this session.

He said dialogue among Member States is the most effective way

to move this process forward and the membership and working methods of the Security Council must reflect the realities of the 21st century.

Brenden Varma, Spokesperson for the President, told reporters the President hopes that, through active engagement of Member States and pragmatic approaches, "we would be able to make meaningful progress on this difficult issue". The President was committed to support this process in an impartial, objective and open-minded manner, said Varma

On the question of equitable representation and an increase in the membership of the Security Council, about 113 Member States (out of 122 who submitted their positions in a Framework Document), support expansion in both of the existing categories.

Currently, the UNSC has five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members who are elected to serve two-year terms on the basis of geographical rotation.

The potential candidates for permanent memberships include India, Japan and Germany, with South Africa or Nigeria (in Africa) and Brazil or Argentina (in Latin America). But any new permanent members are unlikely to have veto powers - a privilege only the P-5 countries will exercise as their "legitimate birthright".

But, considering the deadlock, and the implicit opposition from the P-5, what are the chances of significant changes in both the composition and working of the UNSC?

Asked if the current attempt at reforming the Security Council is just another exercise in political futility, Zunes said: "There is no serious chance that the P5 will allow these reforms to go through any time soon".

However, repeatedly calling attention to the undemocratic and unrepresentative nature of the Security Council is important to mobilize the world's governments and global civil society to press harder to make the United Nations live up to its mission, he declared.

AGENCIES

Millions now denied right to education in Zimbabwe

By Thandekile Moyo

THE education sector in Zimbabwe has been rapidly deteriorating, yet the government is unmoved. This year, because of Covid-19 and striking teachers, most learners have had no teaching at all. Inequalities in education have widened and education is becoming a luxury most people can't afford. What will happen to Zimbabwe's children?

In January 2020, teachers in Zimbabwe did not go back to work when schools opened. They said they were incapacitated, they did not have transport money to go to and from work and they did not have any money to buy meals to eat at work. They also said they could not afford to clothe themselves for work.

Not only that, teachers explained that with their meagre salaries, they could not afford to pay school fees for their own children at the same schools they taught at. They said they could not afford to buy uniforms, school shoes, stationery, textbooks and lunches for their school-going children. They also lamented about how they could no longer afford to pay domestic workers to look after their children while they were at work.

There were endless negotiations between the several teachers' unions in the country but despite the back and forth, teachers and their employer (government) failed to reach a suitable compromise. Teachers decided they would go back to school, but they would only go on certain days. Some schools had lessons just once a week, others twice a week and the lucky ones got to have lessons on three days of the week.

The first school term of each year is important as that is when students in new grades are introduced to new syllabi and concepts. It is in the first term that students are introduced to new teachers and must familiarise themselves with those teachers' teaching styles. It is in the first term that teachers familiarise themselves with new learners and adapt to their capabilities, deficiencies and learning styles.

Zimbabwean students and teachers did not go through this process in 2020.

Instead, the government through its state media - newspapers, radio and television - ignored the strike by pretending nothing was happening. They wanted to portray an image that all was well.

Children at private schools, however, were going to school as normal from January 2020.

In March 2020, due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the government issued a directive to close schools.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa's administration announced on 22 September that students sitting for Grade 7, Ordinary and Advanced Level Zimbabwe Schools Examinations Council (Zimsec) examinations would be required to return to class on Monday 28 September to start preparations for their final examinations. All other grades returned on 9 November.

The majority of Zimbabweans are rural-based. They have no access to the internet because of poor network coverage as well as poverty, which means very few have smartphones or laptops with which their children can access online learning platforms. The majority of Zimbabwean rural areas are also not electrified.

The government announced that universities, colleges and schools were to hold lessons virtually during the lockdown period and there was an outcry from parents and students about how that was an impossible feat for students in the rural areas and poor urban dwellers who, even if they had smartphones, could not afford to buy data for their children to participate in virtual lessons.

In a bid to again portray a false image of normality, the government introduced radio lessons. These failed dismally to address the challenge as, again, rural learners were excluded as many have no radios or even electricity.

This means that between March and November 2020, the majority of Zimbabwean learners had no access to education.

During the same period, however, children in private schools were learning via the various online learning methods such as ZOOM and Google classroom. They were able to have virtual lessons and to do classwork and homework and submit assignments to teachers for marking.

The opening of schools on 9 November brought with it myriad challenges. Teachers again announced they were incapacitated, citing the same reasons as at the beginning of the first term. The government offered a 40% salary increase which teachers rejected and called a mockery. They vowed not to return to school until they were paid a decent living wage.

The 40% increment would have led to teachers earning ZW\$18,237 (about R2,500). Teachers demanded at least US\$520 (around R7,900) which is what they were earning before the government reverted back to the local currency.

The government threatened to fire striking teachers and replace them with unemployed teachers desperate for work. One of the teachers' unions, the Zimbabwe Teachers Association (ZIMTA), agreed that their teachers would return to work leading to an exodus of teachers from the union as they believed the union was no longer serving their needs.

Other unions held fast and refused to



Primary school children in Harare, walk home after reporting for school on November 9, 2020, seven months after schools closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. File photo

go back to work until their grievances were met.

Some teachers have gone back to work out of fear of victimisation as well as unemployment, but the majority just go to check in, but not teach. The government is fine with that situation as all it wants is to portray an image of normality, even at the cost of education.

Children of most of Zimbabwe's elite attend private schools and have not been affected much by the teachers' strikes and by Covid-19. Government officials in Zimbabwe also send their children to private schools, which could explain why they are neglecting the plight of public schools. Teachers and parents who speak out about the death of education in the country are victimised by the government and accused of being "regime change agents" who are paid by the West to destabilise the country.

The education sector in Zimbabwe has been rapidly deteriorating and the government is unmoved.

In 2019, several schools reported a zero percent pass rate. This was shocking and when I interviewed teachers from affected schools they said they did not have enough teaching materials. They had no textbooks at schools and parents could not afford to buy textbooks. They also said many students could not afford to pay school fees which made the running of

schools difficult.

In one school, the headmaster explained that most of their students could not afford exercise books so they could not make notes, they could not write down classwork and homework, making it difficult for students to remember concepts and for teachers to assess progress.

A teacher at another school explained that some of her students walked up to 15km to get to school. She said many of her students were too tired or hungry to learn as most of them walked these distances on empty stomachs. She said their school used to get donations of porridge and beans and learners could at least have a meal a day at school, but the school was no longer getting those food donations. She explained that the teachers were not motivated either because they too were hungry.

There is a crisis in education in Zimbabwe and the government is turning a blind eye. Covid-19 has made things worse with many schools closed due to a spike in Covid-19 infections. Schools were opened despite teachers explaining that they did not have adequate PPE and that most schools had no capacity to adhere to Covid-19 requirements. Learners in most schools have to share scarce resources such as textbooks and desks so physical distancing is almost impossible.

Due to water shortages, many schools have no running water so it is difficult to ensure consistent washing of hands. This is exacerbated by the shortage of funds to purchase hand sanitisers. Most parents cannot afford to buy their children PPE or hand sanitiser. To portray an image of normality, and to pretend there is no crisis in Zimbabwe, the government opened schools and the Zimbabwe School Examinations Council (ZIMSEC) announced examination dates.

Teachers and parents protested against the move to make learners write final examinations when the entire education year had been lost due to Covid-19 and the incapacitation of parents, teachers, schools and learners.

How can students who had not learnt anything since January write exams? How can exams proceed when many schools have been forced to shut because of Covid-19 outbreaks? Who will invigilate the exams considering that most teachers are on strike? How will physical distancing be managed, seeing as many schools do not have enough furniture and not enough classrooms?

Robson Chere, the secretary-general of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ), says they have launched a campaign to help save education as the government is failing to prioritise this sector in Zimbabwe. He says education has been privatised, taking it out of the reach of most families.

Children of most of Zimbabwe's elite attend private schools and have not been affected much by the teachers' strikes and by Covid-19. Government officials in Zimbabwe also send their children to private schools, which could explain why they are neglecting the plight of public schools. Teachers and parents who speak out about the death of education in the country are victimised by the government and accused of being "regime change agents" who are paid by the West to destabilise the country.

What will happen to Zimbabwe's children as the government buries its head in the sand and ignores the plight of education in the country?

Education is a basic human right and to pretend all is well in the education sector, when nothing is well, is a human rights abuse. It is also unjust to have a situation where only children of the elite have access to quality education. All children deserve equal opportunities, especially in education

AGENCIES

Persons with disabilities among worst affected by coronavirus

KATHMANDU, Nepal

THE 13th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) that was initially supposed to be held in New York back in June recently wrapped up with the final session coinciding with the International Day of People with Disabilities, whose theme, this year was on the issue of building back better inclusively.

In the context of Covid-19, this means creating accessible and sustainable post-pandemic pathways of self-realization and prosperity for persons with disabilities. More than what it is normally thought, disabilities are not really isolated conditions affecting the few but rather the opposite.

Millions of people worldwide have their lives adversely impacted by them, often with ailments that are apparently invisible, if you think, for example, to all of us suffering of mental health.

The COSP therefore is very important for many of us and is undoubtedly the premier annual event centered on disabilities.

Its focus this year was on three related topics: inclusive job markets, the need to address the needs of older persons with disabilities and the promotion of inclusive envi-

ronments for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

These are big topics that should be find appropriate space on the major news outlets but instead the same COSP is just an "expert" meeting, a niche forum that is very far from receiving the due coverage that it really deserves.

At the moment of writing, no major news outlets have been reporting about it and neither other "powerful" organizations with global outreach seemed to care about it. For example, on the main homepage of the influential World Economic Forum, I found a vast array of issues from the need to have leadership and trust to fight corruption to an op-ed piece by Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan about leading by doing in climate action.

Yes quite understandably climate change is big for the World Economic Forum together with a focus on work diversity, a consequence of Black Lives Matter protests. Unfortunately, I could not find anything about disabilities.

The problem is the inability to connect the threads of social problems affecting the world.

For example, it is a huge missed opportunity not link-



A 9-year-old girl plays on a seesaw in a new inclusive playground built in her school in Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan. Photo: UNICEF

ing the ongoing debate on how to make working places more diverse and inclusive of minority groups to the wider debate on the rights of persons with disabilities to employment and job security.

After all a global job market that is truly inclusive refers to wide opportunities for all members of minority groups, not just those who are more vocal and loud.

The idea of building back better that normally refers to more sustainable and eco-friendly solutions, from more environmentally friendly means of transportations to more efficient and cleaner energies, is set to play a determinant role if we want to achieve net zero emissions in the decades ahead.

While the 13th COSP focused on its last day on inclusive reconstruction and more accessible environment for persons with disabilities, there is an urgent need to link the rethinking of urban places with the overall prominence disability rights should receive in this global "building back better" movement.

It is not just about redesigning urban

spaces that are fully accessible while being eco-friendly and it is not only about better approaches to have more persons with disabilities in the work places everywhere, from developed nations to those still developing.

We need instead to frame one comprehensive and holistic strategy, from transportations to energies to jobs to affordable housing that is truly inclusive for all citizens, especially members of minority groups that have been so far often excluded from the economic gains of this world economic order.

Connecting the dots is the only way to really provide persons with disabilities and, very importantly, members of other vulnerable groups, with the opportunities to have fulfilling and meaningful lives.

Employment is so central in this equation and consequentially, only after achieving it, persons with disabilities and their "invisible" peers will become equal actors in the post pandemic order.

Some examples of disconnected approaches. In relation to better urban pat-

terns, the global network of major global cities, C40 has leading a progressive agenda to reinvent urban spaces but again, accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities is not on their radar.

Also, within the United Nations, the New Urban Agenda is promising for its holistic inclusiveness that covers also the economic sphere but again we need major efforts to connecting the dots, including such agenda with broader development priorities, rather than keeping such strategy as standing alone framework in an already very fragmented development agenda.

The Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, should help in this tactical exercise to frame and organize issues according to different priorities and agendas, linking together issues that only apparently seems disconnected.

How many of us are really aware of the New Urban Agenda? How many times did you read about it in the last 6 to 8 months?

As per Joan Clos I Matheu, the former Executive Director of UN Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development, Habitat III held in Quito in 2016 from where the New Urban Agenda stems from, we were supposed to moving towards "a new sustainable urban paradigm" back then.

Four years forwards, only the most devastating pandemic of the century is forcing us to rethink our priorities and the way we want to live.

Yet no matter how inclusive urban spaces will be, real inclusion will

only happen when minority groups without much a voice on world stage, will be able to reclaim their rights to participation and economic prosperity.

Inclusion is only one and multifaceted, let's not forget it. That's why events like COSP should have a much stronger visibility on the world stage. That's why International Disability Alliance should be supported to establish new partnerships with influential business and other lobbying organizations across the sectors.

Disability, after all, should not be just an "UN agenda" targeting diplomats and experts.

For example, the World Economic Forum's Platform for Shaping the Future of the New Economy and Society is a unique initiative that should be better researched and highlighted 365 days a year, not just occasionally.

All of us interested and engaged in the disability sector, we need better public relations and better connections with the international media.

That's why Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and Professor Gerard Quinn, the recently appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities have their work cut out.

For them to succeed and become visible, they will need support, extensive resources to raise the issues of persons with disabilities on the global stage.

The goal is to make the next COSP a truly big deal for the world.

Agencies

Villagers call for government intervention in land dispute

By Beatrice Philemon, Handeni

VILLAGERS in Gole village, Handeni District in Tanga Region are up in arms demanding for the government's intervention to end a dispute between them and invaders alleged to illegally conduct fish farming, agriculture, cattle grazing and timber production at Gole Forest Reserve. The invaders are also accused of attacking villagers when conducting patrols in the forest.

They raised their concerns over the weekend when speaking in separate meetings organised by the village government with the intention of

listening to their challenges.

Gole Village Natural Resources Committee member, Abdalla Mwingwa claimed that the land dispute which has not been resolved since 2017 poses serious security threat to the residents. The dispute has to date affected over 3000 villagers in Gole, he said.

According to him, Loserian Emanuel Lekoko and two others have invaded the village land forest reserve and constructed permanent water dams for farming. They are also accused of building residential houses as well as conducting agricultural activities.

"We called on President John

Magufuli, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development to visit the area and see how big the environmental destruction problem is.

He said they are scared because Lekoko's workers attack villagers conducting patrols inside the forest. He claimed that despite conserving for several years, they are not benefiting from it.

"They have so far taken 4,135 acres of land for their illegal activities. They have also invited a number of livestock keepers from Manyara, Arusha, Sin-

gida and other regions. The environmental destruction is serious, threatening the existence of the forest and water sources," he noted.

He explained that arrested livestock keepers refuse to pay fines to the village government claiming all the fines are paid to Lekoko, the land invader.

"The village government is not getting any money from the forest; we want top government executives to intervene in the matter for the villagers to start benefiting from the conservation activities," he added.

The village natural resources committee member said they

were supposed to collect at least 200m/- from Gole Forest Reserve per year, of which, 20 percent of it goes to Handeni District Council. The Gole village forest reserve has 6,703 hectares of land.

A 50-years-old farmer, Habib Juma said: "The land invaders are now cutting trees for construction of cattle housing, the environment is under threat. They also burn the forest to clear land for agricultural activities."

Gole Village Chairman, Bakari Mkwaju added that the invader has been claiming to purchase the land from Negero village and that he has all

the documents.

"Negero is not part of our village, he bought the land in Negero village but he has been conducting all the activities in our forest reserve", said Mkwaju insisting investigations by PCCB would give a clear picture on the matter.

He said they filed a court case at the District Land and Housing Tribunal in Korogwe, but the court declared that Lekoko is the rightful owner of the disputed land.

So far, he has taken some 3.3 kilometers of the reserve forest, he added.

Monies collected from Gole village forest reserve were allo-

cated for construction of four classrooms and one teacher's office. Villagers have also contributed 100 cement bags for the project.

Handeni District Council Legal Officer, Amani Mangesho ordered villagers to submit their Certificate of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to the Gole village government to help the district to have proper data which will help officials in addressing the ongoing land dispute.

He gave the village leaders three weeks to submit all the required documents to prove their ownership. He also urged them to submit all the receipts

'Don't hide children with disabilities'

By Guardian Reporter

PARENTS having children with disabilities have been urged not to hide them at home instead help in giving them hope by ensuring they go to school.

Representing Kinondoni District Commissioner, Daniel Chongolo, Kawe Division Officer, Salum Chitale called upon parents having children with disabilities to grab the loan opportunities at the district office to be able to establish income generating activities.

He was speaking recently during an event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) held at Antonia Verna children centre in Kawe, Dar es Salaam. The centre takes care of children with disabilities including youth.

The event was organized by the 'All Inclusive' project - a multi sectoral initiative fostering the inclusion of people with disabilities within the Dar es Salaam community. It was funded by the Italian Agency for Cooperation and development and implemented by Com. Sol in collaboration with Ivrea Sisters and other partners.

The law requires each of the districts across the country to set aside 10 percent of its internal revenues for issuance of loans to special groups including women, youth and the disabled.

"There are loan opportunities for people with disabilities and women at the Kinondoni district; grab them so that you can raise more income to take care of the disabled children and your families," said Chitale.

Sister Karitas Kaihura from Ivrea Sisters who is the assistant head su-

pervisor of the centre which includes a hospital and school, appealed for more support to be able to take care of children as the their number increases every day.

Sister Kaihura noted that the centre is need of nutritional food, medical supplies, health care providers and physical fitness exercise equipment.

"We have also trained youth on various life skills as a way of empowering them economically," she said.

The centre's social welfare officer, Chausiku Fred said that it was unfortunate that there are some parents who still hide their children with disabilities.

She said they now take care to 345 children including those with disabilities.

The IDPD is annually observed on December 3rd to promote the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities and to take action for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development.

The global theme this year was 'Building Back better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post Covid-19 World'.

According to the World Bank (WB) one billion people, or 15 percent of the world's population, experience some form of disability, and disability prevalence is higher for developing countries.

The Bank says that persons with disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes than persons without disabilities, such as less education, poorer health outcomes, lower levels of employment, and higher poverty rates.



Parents follow proceedings during an event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) held recently at Antonia Verna children centre Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) promotes the full integration of persons with disabilities in societies. CRPD specifically references the importance of

international development in addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, and that about 177 countries including Tanzania have ratified the CRPD, which carries the force of binding law.

Survey: Repeated waves of the giant African land snail invasion in Kerala

By Abdul Latheef Naha

A recent study on the Giant African Snail (*Achatina fulica*) in Asia and Africa has found that the dangerous pest species had multiple episodes of invasion in India, particularly Kerala, and that new snail populations continue to arrive in India from snail-infested countries across the world.

The study observed that its population found in India had a higher genetic variety than those in the native African continent. "The higher genetic diversity found in our country indicates that the snail continues to have multiple invasions from different countries," said Keerthy Vijayan, assistant professor, Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education (KARE), Tamil Nadu.

The study done along with researchers from the Environmental Agency, UAE; Nottingham University; and Natural History Museum, London; found the same genetic strains of the snail population in India and the UAE.

"The populations in India and the UAE share the same haplotypes (a set of genes within an organism inherited together from a single parent). The snail could be introduced repeatedly back and forth in the UAE and India, considering material movement between the two countries," said Dr. Keerthy.

Study period

Conducted at the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) with the support of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) between 2016 and 2020, the study was published in the biological journal of the Linnean Society.

According to Dr. Keerthy, the snail reached Kerala for the first time when a researcher brought them from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, and accidentally released them at Elapully in Palakkad in the early 1950s.



Population spread

The snail population spread rapidly in the State, spurred by two more waves of invasion in the 1970s and in 2005.

The import of timber from two dozen snail-infested countries sped up their spread in Kerala. "In 2005, this snail was recorded only in Palakkad, Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta. But by 2020, it has spread to all districts except Idukki," said Dr. Keerthy.

One of the worst invasive species declared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Giant African Snail is suspected to spread eosinophilic meningitis, septicaemia and peritonitis in humans.

Many cases of eosinophilic meningitis were reported among children in Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram.

Dr. Keerthy said controlling this snail would be difficult because of its repeated invasions.

Editors vow to lead changes to ensure media are suitable amid Covid-19, digital disruption

KISUMU

KENYA'S editors have pledged to play their role in leading the changes to ensure media sustainability in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and digital disruption.

But they also called on the government to play its role in safeguarding media survival, through tax and other regulatory policies, including reverting to advertising directly, and reducing or removing the role of the Government Advertising Agency. The editors said in a statement that the government should also pay for the advertising services, which have remained as pending bills for years.

The editors requested that consideration should also be given to proposals to set up a media sustainability fund which has been discussed.

These were some of the resolutions reached at the end of the four-day Third Kenya Editors' Annual Convention in Kisumu. The theme for the Convention 2020 was: Redefining the Media in the Post Covid-19 Era.

The Convention had three training tracks, themed: Innovative Change: Management and Leadership in the 21st Century Media, Driving the Digital Culture in the Newsroom, Legitimacy and Elections: The Role of the Media in the Democratic Process.

The elections training benefited journalists from counties in the region, including Kisumu, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Kisii and Nyamira, were trained on election reporting. The training was jointly carried out by the Kenya Editors' Guild, Elections Observations Group (ELOG) and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). Editors were also

trained on how to develop innovative and transformational leadership to ensure they possess the knowledge and skills to handle current challenges. The editors also examined the opportunities and challenges brought about by digital technologies.

There were also discussions on the journalists' welfare, including mental health, newsroom safety, government and media relations during and post covid-19.

They said: "Training is critical for continuous development. New skill sets are necessary in a new media landscape, and newsroom culture that is dynamic. In the dynamic environment, knowledge and skills are important on how to adapt to the developments, and deal with both societal and newsroom changes."

On innovative change, they said: "A new type of leadership is necessary, and management skills are key to dealing with challenges that journalists are currently facing and what they anticipate in terms of innovative and transformational leadership."

On driving the digital culture in the newsroom, editors said: "It is important to note that technologies have disrupted business models, newsroom cultures and operations."

Journalists must thus develop visions and strategies that work for both the media houses and themselves. Journalists must find ways of appropriating technologies and making them work.

This includes developing new business models, new revenue streams, producing interesting and appealing content, which can be monetised to develop sustainable media keen to promote public interest."

'The great Covid-19 vaccine heist'

By Fatima Hassan

Why COVAX is a part of a bigger global health injustice and patent monopoly problem.

So, 2020 is almost over, the Covid-19 pandemic is not. Worse, socioeconomic inequality, hunger and health colonialism have been aggravated.

Vaccine research has accelerated on an unprecedented, although welcomed, basis, with over 200 vaccine candidates in various stages of clinical research.

Early results from among a handful of vaccine candidates show some promise that in the medium term we could exit this pandemic, but perhaps not its devastating consequences.

Global health leaders have agreed that potential future Covid-19 vaccines must be considered a global public good and become the People's Vaccine. And last week, the UK government even issued emergency regulatory approval for one such vaccine candidate.

But it is one thing to have an approved vaccine, quite another to afford and have access to it, in an equitable fashion. This is because rich countries have pre-ordered enough doses to cover their populations several times over, leaving us in the global south with insufficient supplies for our populations in greatest need and at high risk.

In South Africa, this is exacerbated by our two-tiered health system which often benefits those with private health insurance, unless of course, the government steps in to develop an equitable access and allocation plan or framework.

Also, it is important to note that despite the pace of global developments and research, there is no clinically approved vaccine candidate for the South African market yet. And any commitment to purchase one or more vaccine/s will be speculative, even if necessary.

This is because from among the range of potential vaccine products being investigated in many parts of the world, including South Africa, no one knows which candidate will work in the long term and for our context and health burden.

Nor do we know the full details of the cost of production and pricing determinations. There is only limited information, largely being pieced together by activists and journalists on the level of public funding and other forms of non-commercial investment in vaccine research, most notably the US government's Operation Warp Speed.

The South African government has spent public funds on vaccine clinical research (approximately R10-million) and has committed to "sign up" to COVAX.

For example, to give a sense of scale: MSF reports that vaccine candidates are benefiting from more than \$4.4-billion of public and philanthropic funding including nearly \$1-billion from the US Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to just two companies, Johnson & Johnson



and Moderna.

Mariana Mazzucato, Henry Lishi and Els Torreele in Project Syndicate wrote that BioNTech received \$445-million from the German government, while Moderna was also given \$1-million by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. The AstraZeneca-Oxford University vaccine research has been reported to have received more than £1-billion (about \$1.3-billion) of public funding.

In addition, while governments, philanthropists, multilateral institutions and drug companies have been working on researching vaccines, richer countries have also been "buying up" potential vaccine candidates. In other words, committing to advance purchase agreements, via bilateral agreements with drug companies, the terms of which are often secret. Recent estimates suggest that rich countries representing 13% of the world population including the US, UK, Canada and countries in the EU have bought up at least half of the world's global potential vaccine supply before these vaccine candidates have even been approved for use.

Like most poor countries around the world that did not have the resources and funds to behave in a nationalistic way, the South African government to our knowledge has not committed to any advanced purchase of any vaccine candidate with any drug company, yet. Richer countries, on the other hand, are buying hope and effectively have "VIP vaccine access". In some cases, by being guaranteed access, they have committed to a price, independently of their country's medicine price regulatory framework, and agreed to patent rights or even monopolies in advance by precluding the possibility of accessing a generic version over time either through public health crisis licensing negotiation or by issuing a compulsory license as sovereign state actors.

Mariana Mazzucato, Henry Lishi and Els Torreele pointed out that "high-income countries have already bought close to 80% of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccine doses that will be available within the first year". And they state that wealthy countries have

bought 3.8 billion doses from different vaccine makers, compared with 3.2 billion (which includes about 700 million doses via COVAX) for the rest of the world combined.

Even though there are at least four Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials being conducted in South Africa with potentially two vaccine manufacturing agreements (still being negotiated) to produce just two of the many vaccine candidates being researched globally and here, if they are eventually approved for use in South Africa, there is no guarantee of access, preferential pricing or supplies for South Africans and other global south countries or populations in need either. No one has seen these agreements (or drafts) and we have not been assured as a nation, that if we manufacture certain vaccines in East London, that East London and other parts of South Africa will benefit too - in terms of supplies and no profit pricing.

Alongside the bilateral contracting taking place between richer countries and drug companies, COVAX (the Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility), a new global financing mechanism that is being coordinated by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) was established in the context of the WHO's Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Initiative.

About two weeks ago, it was reported that South Africa missed the deadline for signing up to the voluntary COVAX facility. Last week much was made (in error, in my view) of the COVAX imposed "payment deadline" being missed by our government - following on from a public commitment by the South African Minister of Finance to contribute at least R500-million to COVAX, presumably to secure some supplies of a potential vaccine, one day.

Because COVAX is a pooled negotiating mechanism, not a company, or supplier, it is incapable of being subject to public tender and procurement rules or PFMA norms - not just for South Africa, but for many countries with strict public procurement rules.

Not all countries have signed on to COVAX

yet, and not all drug companies are participating in COVAX exclusively either (in other words, in a global pandemic, countries and companies are hedging their bets, by pursuing bilateral pre-purchases). It is also unclear whether COVAX will continue beyond 2021, whether low, or no profit price agreements are temporary or if they terminate mid-2021 or December 2021 or rather when each individual drug company "deems" the pandemic being "over". This has opened-up an important debate about COVAX itself - where however well-intentioned it may be, it now yields extraordinary global power, and only recently agreed to civil society representation on its structures after organisations such as MSF and others advocated for this.

In respect of South Africa and COVAX, media reports last week suggested that the Solidarity Fund will pay the "COVAX commitment fee" because of PFMA and other considerations that led to a delay in the payment. COVAX limitations aside, the Solidarity Fund, which is being treated as a private funder, may now be involving itself in highly complex vaccine selection and procurement acquisition processes with COVAX - itself an imperfect voluntary structure.

Because we live in a time of great anxiety, it is understandable that people around the world want their governments to be part of initiatives such as COVAX. But countries such as South Africa, regarded (wrongly, I believe) as "middle income" countries (MICs) do not qualify for subsidised support in COVAX and have to self-finance their participation. Low-income countries (LICs) are eligible for support mainly by virtue of ODA and philanthropic support to COVAX, but only for limited dosages and supplies that many reports indicate is likely to only vaccinate up to 20% of their respective populations, when herd immunity requires much greater population coverage. MICs are also being asked to self-finance their participation as the full-funding target for the entire negotiating facility has not yet been reached either (note: there are approximately 92 MICs and LICs combined).

If we wish to achieve global equity in access

and allocation, then unfortunately, COVAX may not alone lend itself to that. Because everyone, everywhere will not be guaranteed vaccine access as things stand. While we advocate that vaccines and other interventions that could save lives in this pandemic be regarded as "global public goods" and while our president promotes "the people's vaccine", even with COVAX, the public does not own the intellectual property yet, nor have governments around the world retained the rights to "determine adequate production, supply and allocation", or compel it. Without that, drug companies can determine which country gets supplies and when, at what price as well as the quantities.

Instead, what we need is a global equitable allocation process and plan - and for states to reassert their authority and mainly, exercise powers that could guarantee equitable access and allocation in a public health crisis. This includes restrictions on patent monopolies.

Interestingly, because of the concern about the undue exercise of monopoly rights in a pandemic, in October, South Africa and India submitted a joint formal request for a waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS agreement (agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) for the prevention, containment and treatment of Covid-19 for the duration of the pandemic. Support for the request is growing including from several developing countries. Unsurprisingly this request is being opposed by a handful of wealthier nations, which, ironically, have already pre-purchased vaccines.

Other shortcomings of COVAX and the set of bilateral vaccine access and pricing negotiations is that companies are rarely fully transparent about their costs, including total research and development (R&D) investment, publicly funded R&D and, as MSF points out, "cost investments into manufacturing scale-up/capacity, cost of goods, or the cost of manufacturing future Covid-19 vaccines". It is also unclear whether licences will be opened to all available manufacturers to ensure life-saving vaccines are supplied to everyone who needs it, in a pandemic.

COVAX is not the only solution to the global vaccine access and equity problem, nor will it assist with patent and pricing transparency or citizen oversight, issues that have been on the public health transparency and activism agenda for many years. **MC**

Small village in China's mountainous area shakes off poverty, marches towards prosperity

By Zhang Fan

WITH 3,439 mu (about 229.27 hectares) of woodlands, 502 mu of arable land, annual average temperature of 23 degrees Celsius, and annual precipitation of 1,374 millimeters, Manbansandui hamlet located in the mountainous area of southwest China's Yunnan province is a place where "whatever sowed can flourish".

However, such a great place for growing crops was classified as severely impoverished village in 2014.

As a natural village of Manbansandui hamlet in Bulangshan township, Menghai county, Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture of Yunnan province, Manbansandui hamlet is inhabited by people of Lahu ethnic group, who experienced a dramatic change in society from primitive society directly to socialist society after the founding of the People's Republic of China.

After two times of relocation and years of construction of supporting facilities, villagers in Manbansandui hamlet now live in wooden still houses.

The per capita net income of residents in the hamlet jumped from 350 yuan (\$53.2) in 2008 to 2,380 yuan in 2014. However, it was still below the national poverty line in 2014.

"One of the major causes of poverty was low level of education," said Luo Zhihua, head of the poverty alleviation working group stationed in Manbansandui hamlet.

Almost none of the villagers above the age of 16 has been to school, and most of them do not understand and cannot speak Mandarin Chinese, according to Luo, who added that most of the 58 residents in the village have never left the village.

Since they were dispatched to Manbansandui hamlet at the end of 2015, Luo and his fellow team members have made continuous efforts to help improve the literacy of the locals, change their outdated ideas and notions, and enhance their initiative in seeking development.

Besides hunting and gathering food, villagers in Manbansandui hamlet also grow tea, transplant rice seedlings, and raise pigs.

In the eyes of Luo, villagers took a laissez-faire attitude toward the crops they planted in the past. Their tea trees were of old varieties, and they never made plans for growing and simply let nature take its course. Besides, they neither watered nor weeded their rice fields.

The poverty alleviation working group then adopted the approach of unified organi-



Villagers in Manbansandui hamlet, Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan province, use machinery in the fields.

zation, management and sale for farming, and helped villagers gradually learn and get used to more scientific methods such as introduction and breeding of new varieties, fine planting, weeding and fertilization.

Over the years, villagers of Manbansandui hamlet have tasted the fruits of the new production modes.

Rice and corn are now grown in two seasons in the village, instead of just one in the past.

The rice yield per mu has increased from 299 kg to 560 kg. Since the annual rice output of the village can support villagers for three years, Manbansandui hamlet no longer needs relief grain from government.

At the same time, the tea planting area of the village has grown from 60 mu to 460 mu, generating an average annual income of 1,165 yuan for each household.

The family of Nasi, a villager in the hamlet, now owns 8 mu of rice paddies, 4 mu of cornfields, and five pigs. The family of seven sees good rice harvest every year. The rice they collect is always more than they could eat. They feed their pigs and chickens on corn.

Nasi and her husband hold high expectations of their new tea garden, which covers an area of nearly 30 mu and will be ready for picking tea leaves next year.

The couple received training in tea picking and raw tea processing from a factory under Taetea Group, world's largest Pu'er tea group. Nasi's husband even took part in a tea art competition in Menghai county.

"Tea produced in Bulangshan township is famous. Many bosses outside the village have contacted me via WeChat to buy tea," Nasi said happily.

The poverty alleviation working group has organized cultural training for young and middle-aged residents in the village.

Villagers aged between 18 and 45 years old all came to take part in the training, said Li Huobao, a member of the poverty alleviation working group.

"We started by teaching them how to hold a pen correctly. Eventually 15 of them received a certificate for Mandarin training," Li added.

In an effort to encourage villagers to take part in activities such as improving the living environment and transforming social traditions, and change their old-fashioned ideas and living habits bit by bit, the working group has also established a shop that allows villagers to exchange the credits they gained because of good behavior for daily necessities.

So far, Manbansandui hamlet has basically shaken off poverty. All registered poverty stricken households in the village have been freed from worries over food and clothing and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing.

In addition, many residents in the hamlet have learnt to use short video platform Tik Tok, shop online, and contact tea buyers via WeChat.

Villagers of the hamlet have also started to show their talents in cultural activities and celebrations held by Bulangshan township and Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture.



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Cement firm overall winner in best presented financial reports

By Smart Money Reporter

TANGA Cement Plc emerged the overall winner of National Board of Accountants and Auditors' best presented financial report this year, being the fifth year in a row to clinch the award.

At a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam last Saturday, NBAA said Tanga Cement's financial statement remains excellent every year for the past five years in a row hence judges gave the overall award to the cement manufacturer in the category of companies using the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The award, held as the ultimate gauge for financial reporting prowess among companies in the country and which passes through a rigorous screening system overseen by seasoned judges with diverse backgrounds, involves compa-

nies using the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

According to Isaac Lupokela, Chief Accountant of Tanga Cement Plc, the company has been successful in terms of the total number of users in the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) category for five consecutive years.

In addition, Tanga Cement emerged as the best in the manufacturer category as the best presenting financial reports. Other winners in the same category were Tanzania Breweries Plc and Tanzania Cigarette Company Ltd (TCC).

"This victory has made me feel very happy as it was daily looking after the financial reports if my books are clean because of tension. I have received the victory with all my happiness as it is our fifth consecutive times victory in the manufacturer category," Lupokela said.



Commenting on the secret of emerging the winner in five years in a row, Lupokela said that "Every day Tanga Cement wants to be better than yesterday where they have set very high standards for its daily operations."

Lupokela said he always reads a lot to make sure every time the accounting systems change he goes with the changes and adopt the same. He com-

mended the NBAA for starting the awards that help increase quality in accounting in public and private institutions.

"Everyone who prepares auditing knows that there is a competition behind it so this competition gives us a lot of motivation to do better. But professionally large accountants are the ones who make sure companies operate. Properly prepared calcu-

lations help those who use them to make better decisions," he said.

This year the participants reached 61 where they were divided into 13 groups; Big Banks, Small Banks, Manufacturers, Trading & Distribution Agencies, Government Agencies, Public Accounts, International Accountants (IFRS), Companies Insurance, Water Supply Companies, Local Governments, Colleges, Local Government, Ministries, Government Departments, Non-Profit Institutions (NGOs), Small Audit Companies.

Accounts must be for 2019 (January-December 2019), Accounting reports must be compliant with international standards, company must be registered in Tanzania, company or Government Institution must have complied with international standards of preparation and auditing must have used a registered auditor and the NBAA, should have received a clean inspection certificate.

Commenting on this year's competition, NBAA's Executive Director, Pius Maneno appealed to companies and public institutions that did not participate this year to do so next year because it is important professionally.

"NBAA started the competition to ensure consumers use professional standards. It has become common for public and private institutions to bring their accounting reports to NBAA where we have set standards available online. The standards have compliance and the winner must at least score 75 points," Maneno noted while noting that over the years, the awards have become popular among accountants and auditors.

Dar residents benefit from Cefa 4.96bn/- 'All Inclusive' project

By Francis Kajubi

CEFA Tanzania has through its three year 'All Inclusive' project reached hundreds of disabled people in Dar es Salaam by exposing them to income generation trainings thus steering development of their lives.

The project which started in 2017 and carried out in the districts of Temeke, ilala and Kinondoni was funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation at a tune of 4.96bn/- (1,764,936Euros).

The All Inclusive Project Manager Silvia Santamaria, told Smart Money that to the end of the project 1,008 people with disability were subjected to direct and indirect employment opportunities.

"Almost 640 people with disabilities were trained through vocational training courses and job orientation training. About 150 were supported in

finding employment, 110 beneficiaries started an income generating activity while 187 employers participated in awareness sessions on disability inclusion at workplace" said Santamaria.

According to her, the project also worked on improving rehabilitation services. In the middle of the project implementation construction of the Antonia Venue rehabilitation center that so far has assisted 345 children with disabilities in Dar es Salaam was completed.

"On top of the centre's construction more than about 132 local authorities were sensitized on disability act and community based rehabilitation and 437 health workers trained on prevention and early recognition of various forms of disability" she asserted.

On promoting educational inclusion and social integration of children with disabilities, 180 teachers and

300 family members were trained on school inclusion, 15 inclusive youth clubs were formed in the districts. About 2,170 children belonging to 20 schools involved in inclusive sports activities.

Roberto Mengoni, Italy's Ambassador to Tanzania said that CEFA Tanzania was the project custodian on behalf of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, a government's agency.

"The dignity of disabled toward the community should be the same as of non-disabled in order to promote and strengthen community spirit of being united regardless of how we look. Italy is committed to working with Tanzania in all aspects of community developments for better life for all" said Mengoni.

Wambura Kizito, Deputy Director Disabled department in the Ministry of State, Prime Minister's Office (Pol-



Italian Ambassador to Tanzania Roberto Mengoni

ity, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled) who graced the ceremony said that from the 2012 Tanzania Population and Housing census with 44.93 million people, 9.3 percent of them are disabled. "With this percent of people

with disability in our country calls for the government to set appropriate strategies that don't isolate them hence are all inclusive.

Every one of us is tomorrow's disabled thus it is crucial for employers and creditors to

consider the disabled with non-disabled with equality of opportunities" said Kizito.

CEFA implanted the project in collaboration with COPE, Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), CCBRT and Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park.

Kenyan to take reins as BAT boss Beverley Spencer exits

NAIROBI

BRITISH American Tobacco Kenya has named a Kenyan to head the cigarette-maker as it marks over 113 years in the market.

The firm on Monday announced Crispin Achola as its new managing director effective January 1, 2021, replacing Beverley Spencer-Obatoinbo. Achola, who had previously worked at BAT for 19 years before exiting in 2017, makes a comeback and will head the cigarette-maker that entered Kenya in 1907.

Between 1993 to date, BAT Kenya has had nine CEOs, all of them foreign. The firm was listed on Nairobi Securities Exchange in 1969 but available disclosures are from 1993.

Achola is an executive with regional experience spanning over 15 years, 12 of which he served in BAT—both in Kenya and outside.

He first joined BAT in 2005 as the head of marketing in East Africa and rose through the ranks to become the marketing director for BAT Democratic Republic of Congo, and managing director BAT Mozambique.

Achola also served as the general manager for BAT Mozambique, Zam-



The British American Tobacco Kenya Industrial Area plant in Nairobi. FILE PHOTO | NMG.

bia, Zimbabwe and Malawi clusters and exited in 2016 as the BAT general manager for Sudan.

His latest assignment was at Kimberly-Clark Corporation where he served as the general manager for the West, East and Central Africa.

BAT said on Monday that Spencer's term had come to an end but will continue serving in an advisory role for some time to ensure smooth transition to Mr Achola's administration.

She leaves at a time the firm has stepped up efficiency by putting more than two-thirds of its machines on the integrated work systems programme.

However, the company faces a rising tax burden and heightened criticism of its planned manufacturing of nicotine pouches as an alternative to traditional cigarettes.

Other previous BAT Kenya managing directors in the last 27 years include Keith Gretton, Chris Burrell, Gary Fagan, Nicolas Maistre, Simon Welford, JD Pike, I Hussain and T P McDowell.

Cap; The British American Tobacco Kenya Industrial Area plant in Nairobi. FILE PHOTO | NMG.

Stanbic Bank emerges as Tanzania's Bank of the year

By Smart Money Reporter

STANBIC Bank Tanzania Limited has been named as the country's 'Bank of the Year 2020' by The Banker magazine of London in UK thanks to its handling of business during the coronavirus outbreak earlier this year.

"We are delighted to have received this award, we thank our customers and other stakeholders for their continued support in this difficult and unprecedented year. Without them, we could not have achieved this award," said Stanbic Bank CEO, Kevin Wingfield.

Wingfield paid tribute to the bank's staff for their energy and commitment during the challenging year during which Stanbic launched its new tagline, 'It can be' aimed to inspire belief in Tanzania's future while renewing its commitment to providing client-centric and innovative solutions.

"Our customers are at the heart of everything we do, and our focus during the year was to continue building relationships with them, getting closer to them, listening to them and gaining a better understanding of their needs and dreams," he added.

While selecting the winner, The Banker's judging panel placed particular emphasis on which banks have led the way in meeting client needs and maintaining resilience in the face of the pandemic. At the height of the pandemic, Stanbic Bank undertook a range of initiatives including; offering debt relief to businesses and individual clients to cushion them from the impacts of COVID -19 pandemic. The bank also launched the Africa China Agency Proposition (ACAP) to enable businesses to continue to thrive.

Insurance Commissioner hails bank for 'Kava Assurance' services introduction



CRDB bank Plc Retail and Medium banking Director Boma Raballa (R) talks at the launch of CRDB "KAVA Assurance" in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with him (from 2nd-R) are Head of CRDB Bank Insurance Ltd, Wilson Mnzava, Sanlam Insurance East Africa director general Julius Magabe and CRDB Senior manager Private Customers Monika Mushi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Smart Money Reporter

COMMISSIONER of Insurance, Dr Mussa Juma has commended CRDB Bank Plc for introducing bancassurance services that cover clients' lives and property against risks.

Speaking during the launch of the bank's 'Kava Assurance' in Dar es Salaam this week, Dr Juma said the service which is immediately available to the bank's clients is an important step towards improving lives of the people as per government's plans.

"This type of insurance cover for the bank's account holders has come at the right time when Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority is pushing for all Tanzanians to have such protection," Dr Juma said saying the move by CRDB to partner with Sanlam Insurance is geared towards meeting TIRA's ambitions.

He further pointed out that banks and insurance companies should continue to team up in order to ensure that all Tanzanians in-

cluding those in rural areas have access to bancassurance and financial services.

Briefing the TIRA chief and invited guests who attended the launch, CRDB's Director of Retail and Wholesale Banking, Boma Raballa said over three million account holders will get compensation which include burial costs in case of death.

"In case of emergency, our customers will be entitled to compensation of 2m/- for ordinary account holders; 5m/- for special account holders and 15m/- for those living in the Diaspora," Raballa said while noting that the insurance cover is complementary to CRDB account holders.

He said all types of accounts including deposit, Junior Jumbo, Scholar, Malkia and others qualify for the free 'Kava Assurance' which is meant to give clients more value for choosing to bank with CRDB. "Customers simply need to use their CRDB accounts regularly to transact to qualify for this service," the CRDB Director of Retail and Wholesale Banking noted.

Speaking at the same event, CRDB Bank Insurance Broker Limited's General Manager, Wilson Mnzava said in addition to introducing the new services, the bank is also in the final process of providing online insurance services so that many people can access them easily.

Sanlam Insurance East African Director, Julius Magabe commended CRDB's management for teaming up with his company saying the move will ensure that over three million people have now got an insurance cover free of charge.

"Let me advise Tanzanians who want to benefit from these services to join CRDB Bank as account holders because this also plays well with government plans to ensure all Tanzania have an insurance cover," Magabe noted.

Nairobi faces service paralysis as Sonko keeps funds locked



City Hall, Nairobi County headquarters.

NAIROBI

NAIROBI County government is staring at total service paralysis on Governor Mike Sonko's refusal to authorise withdrawal of cash from City Hall's accounts.

This as the budget impasse between Sonko and the county assembly continues with the county government unable to implement the Sh37.5 billion budget.

City Hall employees, MCAs and assembly staff have not been paid salaries for the last two months because of the stalemate.

The budget was passed by ward representatives (MCAs) in October but the governor declined to assent to the Nairobi City County Appropriations Bill, 2020 referring the bill back to the assembly through a memorandum.

The memorandum was later rejected by the assembly on November 3 and the bill gazetted into law a week later.

The contested budget allocated Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) Sh27.1 billion, leaving Mr Sonko's administration with Sh8.4 billion and the county assembly with Sh2 billion.

Nairobi County government has been using Vote on Accounts, which allows it to access 25 percent of the annual budget or approximately Sh8.5 billion - to run its recurrent expenditure since June.

However, this was stopped last month by the Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakango after the passage of the budget.

Sonko's spokesperson Ben Mulwa confirmed that use of the Vote on Account was stopped leaving the county government unable to run both recurrent and development expenditure until the new budget is uploaded to enable release of funds to the county.

He said the contested budget cannot be implemented without Governor Sonko signing warrants - a document authorising withdrawal of funds from the County Revenue Fund.

The National Treasury, Controller of Budget and Central Bank require the warrants to implement a budget, the absence of which has left the Nairobi county government technically grounded.

"Everyone is stuck and we cannot move because without the warrants, funds cannot be withdrawn. Everybody is grounded. MCAs and county staff are likely to stay without salaries for the next six months as it is impossible to pay them without the budget," Mulwa said.

Nairobi County Assembly Speaker Benson Mutura faulted the governor for the impasse, likening Mr Sonko's refusal to holding MCAs, county staff and residents at ransom.

"No one can access any fund, not the assembly, NMS or Nairobi County government. That is the problem we are currently facing. We are staring at a paralysis just because the governor has not signed the warrants," said Mutura.

AU Member States underscore need to start trading activities under AfCFTA

NAIROBI

AFRICAN Union Heads of State and Government have underscored the urgent need for member states to kick-start trading activities, under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The decision was adopted during a virtual meeting of the 13th Extra Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on the AfCFTA, held on Saturday 5 December 2020, under the Chairmanship of Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the African Union (AU).

The summit is taking place just four weeks before the AfCFTA commences trading on the 1st of January 2021, to consider the adoption of the legal instruments that will facilitate its operation.

Welcoming all the participants to the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, Chairperson Ramaphosa said "today we stand on the cusp of a new era in the progress of our continent.

The moment that we have all been working painstakingly towards has finally arrived...We are all filled with a great sense of pride at how far we have come to reach this moment".

The AU Chairperson further recalled the collective journey embarked upon over four decades ago, with the adoption of the Monrovia Strategy in 1979, followed by the Lagos Plan of Action in 1980, the Abuja Treaty in 1991 and the subsequent Decisions and Declarations adopted during previous Summits relating to the economic development and integration of the African continent.

"And now, we are about to witness the realisation of one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063." Stated the Chairperson of the Union, with great relieve.

"Throughout this process, we have stood united, with 55 sovereign AU Member States rallying together, despite different levels of economic development and diverse strategic priorities. The commencement of trading under the AfCFTA on the 1st of January 2021 is one of the most significant milestones in the continental integration project," the UN chairperson noted.

He underlined that, this is going to be the clearest affirmation that Africa is determined to take charge of its own destiny, and that its success and development is fundamentally tied to harnessing the potential and energies of her citizens.

According to President Cyril Ramaphosa, the AfCFTA will boost intra-African trade, it will promote industrialisation and competitiveness and contribute to job creation, and it will unleash regional value chains that will facilitate Africa's meaningful integration into the global economy.

The AfCFTA will also improve the prospects of Africa as an attractive investment destination. It will help advance the empowerment of Africa's women, by improving women's access to trade opportunities which will in turn facilitate economic freedom for women, and expand the productive capacity of countries.

"To support this, we must strengthen women's participation in the continental economy by ensuring there is greater public procurement earmarked for women-owned businesses. We must ensure that there is sufficient support given to women-owned SMMEs and cooperatives in both local and regional economies" Emphasised Chairperson Ramaphosa.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission on his part expressed satisfaction on the milestone achieved in the implementation of the AfCFTA.

He said it is the fulfilment of the dream long aspired by the founding fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), who have always wanted to create an African common market.

Moussa Faki noted that, for this dream to finally become a reality, this continental project had to go through several stages. First was the signing in 1991 of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, followed by the signing in March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, of the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA, during which 44 countries signed the Agreement, and it is with great satisfaction that in record time 34 countries have ratified the legal instrument on the AfCFTA.

This, the AUC Chairperson said, shows the determination by member state to quickly achieve the economic integration of the continent.

Speaking from the headquarters of the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana, the Secretary General of AfCFTA, Wamkele Mene stressed that integrating 55 markets will not be easy but giving up is not an option.

He recalled that in August 2020, the Government of Ghana officially handed over the AfCFTA Secretariat building to the AU Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat. Reiterating that, H.E. President Akufo-Addo has given his full support and is committed to see the AfCFTA truly commercially start off trading by the announced date of 1st of January 2021.

"Today, 54 countries have signed the agreement while 34 countries have deposited their instruments of ratification, and 41 countries/customs unions have submitted their tariff offers, including the EAC and ECOWAS" underlined the AfCFTA SG. He however noted that, none of this remarkable progress would have been achieved without the unwavering leadership and commitment of President Mahamadou Issoufou, the Champion and Leader of the AfCFTA".

SG Wemkele called on AU Member States to aggressively implement the AfCFTA as one of the tools for effecting a fundamental structural transformation of Africa's economy and placing Africa on a path of long term industrial development.

He said; "women in trade, young Africans and SMEs, confront significant challenges when attempting to benefit from trade agreements". Adding that, for the AfCFTA to be inclusive and to ensure shared growth across the continent; women, young Africans and SMEs have to be at the heart of its implementation.

Worth recalling that it is the AU Assembly Decision adopted at its 33rd Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9th - 10th February, 2020, that recommended the holding of this 13th Extraordinary Summit to approve all instruments required for the start of trading under the AfCFTA.

During the meeting, the Heads of State expressed their appreciation to the report presented by Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, the leader and Champion of the AfCFTA, and adopted the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved on the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



African Union chairman Cyril Ramaphosa

Rolls-Royce kicks off disposal plan with nuke instrument sale



A Rolls-Royce logo is seen during the 87th International Motor Show at Palexpo in Geneva, Switzerland, March 7, 2017. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse/File Photo

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Rolls-Royce has signed a deal to sell its civil nuclear instrumentation and control business for an undisclosed sum, kicking off a plan to raise 2 billion pounds (\$2.65 billion) from disposals to recover from the pandemic.

COVID-19 has shattered the aero-engine maker's finances because it is paid by airlines on a flying-hours

basis. It has raised 2 billion pounds from shareholders, taken on new debt and said it will raise another 2 billion pounds from selling off units.

The company has said it wants to sell its Spain-based ITP Aero business, and analysts have said smaller disposals will make up the remainder of the target.

Rolls-Royce said in a statement on Monday that it had agreed to sell its I&C business, which has operations in France, the Czech Republic and China and employs 550 staff, to French engineering company Framatome.

"This transaction marks a further simplification of our business and contributes towards our target to generate

over 2 billion pounds from disposals," said Rolls-Royce chief executive Warren East in the statement.

The I&C business sits in Rolls' power systems division and had revenues of 94 million euros in 2019.

The British company said none of its staff in the UK would be affected by the sale which, subject to regulatory approval, it expects to complete at the beginning of the second half of 2021.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

AfDB president bags CIBN award and tasks leaders

ABUJA

PRESIDENT of African Development Bank (AfDB) Dr Akinwumi Adesina has tasked leaders in the banking sector on "audacious leadership" to navigate challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and restore hope and confidence in Africa.



Adesina gave the charge at the 2020 Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) Fellowship Investiture with the theme, "Financial Services in a Post COVID-19 Environment: Strategic Imperatives".

The event, held in Lagos and also attended virtually, saw several leaders in the banking sector across the country and the continent being conferred with awards as Honorary Fellows, Elected Fellows and Honorary Senior Members.

The bank president expressed delight at being decorated with the emblems of admission and recognition.

"Today, as we are being honored, consider us as "security-backed assets". Our integrity is our honor, and our honor is our security.

"We wish to express to the Council of the CIBN, our commitment to carry these awards with dignity, integrity and honor.

"Leadership from each one of us is needed in these challenging times of the Coronavirus pandemic," he said. Adesina charged leaders to work to grow back the country and continent safer, healthier and with greater resilience.

He stressed that honorary awards were deposits of trust that came with great responsibilities of selfless work, being exemplary and role models in the profession and for the society.

"Now, let us arise and collectively support Nigeria to recover and build back, stronger, better, with greater economic resilience. Let's join hands and deliver greater prosperity and hope for Nigeria.

"For Nigeria to be at its best, it deserves the best from all of us. As Honorary Fellows, we promise to continue to be beacons of hope, carrying with dignity, the green and gold emblems of the CIBN," Adesina said.

The AfDB president noted the challenges that the pandemic had on African and global economies and development.

He, however, reiterated the contributions of the AfDB to ease the effects of the pandemic.

Adesina assured of the bank's readiness to support African countries, financial institutions and the private sector to accelerate Africa's economic growth.



KCB BANK TANZANIA LIMITED RECEIVES THE BEST- PRESENTED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AWARD

KCB BANK Tanzania Limited receives the best- presented financial statements second (2nd) Winner Award for the year 2019 in the category of Small and Medium Banks in Tanzania. The trophy was awarded by the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) on December 5th 2020 in Dar es salaam. This is the second time KCB Bank wins in this category.



Receiving the award, is Goodluck Alphonse -Finance Manager, KCB Bank.

WORLD

Biden makes picks for key public health roles as pandemic rages - sources

WILMINGTON

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden has made his selections for two key public health positions, sources said on Sunday, as he prepares to take office next month as the coronavirus pandemic rages to new levels across the United States.

Biden plans to nominate California Attorney General Xavier Becerra as secretary of health and human services, two sources said, placing the Latino former congressman in a critical role battling the pandemic.

The former vice president is also expected to nominate Rochelle Walensky, chief of infectious diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital, to run the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a person familiar with the decision said.

The choice of Becerra, 62, who also had been considered a candidate for U.S. attorney general, came as Biden faced more pressure to add diversity to his Cabinet appointments, including complaints from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus about the lack of Latinos.

Becerra will lead the health agency as it struggles to handle a resurgence of the coronavirus, including record infections and a daily death toll that has exceeded 2,000 in recent days, and prepares a mammoth effort to vaccinate Americans against the virus.

Neither Becerra nor Walensky could be reached for immediate comment. A spokesman for Biden's transition declined to comment.

More than 281,000 Americans have died from the COVID-19 disease, according to a Reuters tally.

The announcement of the choice of Becerra could come as soon as Monday, said one of the sources familiar with the decision. Biden named some top members of his health team last week, and is expected to roll out the full team this week.

"Biden is living up to his commitment to make the Cabinet a reflection of diversity," said Robert Garcia, mayor of Long Beach, California, and a longtime ally of Becerra and Biden.

Garcia said Becerra "has a strong record on healthcare but I think it goes beyond that. The president-elect selected someone with the highest levels of integrity and intellect."

In Congress, Becerra played a key role in



California Attorney General Xavier Becerra

passing the Affordable Care Act - former President Barack Obama's key domestic policy achievement. In his current role, Becerra leads the coalition of 20 states defending the program better known as Obamacare, including before the Supreme Court last month.

Biden has asked Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of President Donald Trump's coronavirus task force, to stay on as chief medical adviser.

The Democratic president-elect also has named Jeff Zients, an economic adviser touted for his managerial skills, as a coronavirus "czar" to oversee an unprecedented operation to distribute hundreds of millions of doses of a new vaccine, coordinating efforts across multiple federal agencies.

Biden picked Vivek Murthy, a physician and former surgeon general who has gained prominence in recent months as co-chairman of Biden's advisory board dealing with the pandemic, to return for a second go-around as surgeon general.

Becerra served as a Democratic U.S. representative from 1993 to 2017 before moving back to his home state to become attorney general. In that post, he succeeded Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

Agencies

Global issues discussed at BRICS events

By Chen Qingyun

BRICS countries should join hands to innovate in governance and tackle common challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and alleviating poverty, experts said at a BRICS seminar.

Richard Levin, special master for labor tenants at the Land Claims Court in Randburg, South Africa, said at the BRICS Seminar on Governance and Cultural Exchange Forum 2020 that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the world, and all countries need to make adjustments and work together to address global problems,

such as poverty.

He added that China, South Africa and other African countries have always been committed to multilateralism and could play important roles in pushing forward the innovation of governance, and that he hopes BRICS countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will gain larger voices in global governance.

Du Zhanyuan, president of China International Publishing Group, said that BRICS successfully evolved from a concept into an organization and it continues to develop, because BRICS countries represent emerging powers in the world. The countries have

consistently put forward new ideas and solutions on major global issues from a new perspective to promote the development of global governance, Du said.

The BRICS mechanism is a product of innovation, he said, and should continue to be a source of innovation and play a more active role in leading the world out of difficulties.

Pavel Negoitsa, general director of the editorial office of the Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper, said that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, more people across the world will fall into poverty.

China has made tremendous achievements in poverty alle-

viation in the past few decades and its experiences are worth learning from. He also suggested that BRICS countries hold a forum especially to share experiences of lifting people from poverty.

Cultural exchanges

People-to-people and cultural exchanges are also critical to BRICS countries. Chinese film director Lu Chuan previously organized the filming of Kids and Glory, the first documentary jointly produced and broadcast by BRICS countries. He said the film has been a cultural product and popular art form with people of all countries, and it could serve as an

ambassador in international cultural exchanges.

Lu expected to make more jointly produced documentaries among BRICS countries in the future on a wide range of topics, including music, history, and literature.

More than 150 participants from BRICS countries participated in the seminar and forum on Thursday and Friday.

The events were co-organized by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, China International Publishing Group, Guangming Daily, Rossiyskaya Gazeta and the Russia-China Friendship Association.

China's vice-foreign minister: 'Wolf warrior' job unfounded

BY ZHOU JIN

VICE-FOREIGN Minister Le Yucheng has dismissed criticism that Chinese diplomats engage in "wolf warrior" diplomacy, saying the term is just another version of the "China threat theory" and a rhetorical trap aimed at preventing China from retaliating when its dignity and interests are harmed.

The label shows misunderstanding of China's diplomacy, Le told a forum at Renmin University of China on Saturday, adding that China has never taken any provocative actions against others.

"Now that they are coming to our doorstep to flex their muscles, interfering in our internal affairs, constantly insulting

and tarnishing us, we have no choice but to firmly defend our national interests and dignity", he said.

At the forum, Le (pictured) rejected the view that China makes enemies all around the world, saying that, on the contrary, it has been making friends widely.

Some major countries attempt to suppress and contain China by coercing other countries to take sides, but even under these circumstances, China's "circle of friends" has grown, not narrowed, he said.

Many developing countries and friendly people have withstood pressure in order to cooperate with China and have spoken out in support of China on international occasions, he



added.

So far, nearly 170 countries and international organizations have participated in the joint-building of the Belt and Road, he said, and the member nations of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have increased to 103.

The United Nations resolution on dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, backed by China, was adopted by a vote of 169 to 2.

As a responsible country, China has always been a cham-

panion of the international order and a contributor to global governance as well as a provider of international public goods, Le said.

The international community should have a clear view of who is withdrawing from the international organizations and agreements, and who is pursuing unilateralism and hegemony, he said.

The "coercive diplomacy" label cannot be pinned on China, he repeated. It is not China that is coercing others, but the countries that accuse China of engaging in "coercive diplomacy", he said.

They undertook various ways to suppress China by illegally arresting Chinese citizens, groundlessly oppressing Chi-

nese enterprises, searching and questioning Chinese journalists for no reason, wantonly meddling in Hong Kong and the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region as well as other domestic affairs of China and threatening and bribing other countries to forge an anti-China alliance.

These practices are aimed at forcing China to give up its legitimate rights and interests, abandon socialism and take an erroneous path and accept their systems, which is the real "coercive diplomacy", he said.

Regarding China-US relations, Le said, Washington should respect the Chinese people's choice of their own social system and development path, instead of thinking about changing China.

UK, EU negotiators meet in 'last-ditch' effort to strike post-Brexit deal

LONDON

NEGOTIATORS from Britain and the European Union (EU) resumed their talks in Brussels on Sunday in a "final throw of the dice" as they try to secure a post-Brexit trade deal before the Brexit transition period expires at the end of this month.

British chief negotiator David Frost and his EU counterpart Michel Barnier met in a last-ditch effort to resolve the remaining issues in the trade talks as the time is running out.

Ahead of the meeting on Sunday, however, British sources warned there was no guarantee they would succeed, the London-based Evening Standard newspaper reported.

"We will be working very hard to try to get a deal," Frost told reporters at the Brussels train station as he arrived from London by Eurostar train. "We will be looking forward to meeting our European colleagues later on this afternoon."

The return to the negotiating table followed an hour-long call on Saturday between British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, in which they agreed on a final push to get an agreement.

Frost and Barnier wrote on Twitter on Friday that "the conditions for an agreement are not met, due to significant divergences on level playing field, governance and fisheries."

They agreed to "pause the talks in order to brief their Principals on the state of play of the negotiations."

Failure to reach a free trade agreement with the EU means bilateral trade will fall back on World Trade Organization (WTO) rules in 2021. **Xinhua**

Iran says 'smart satellite-controlled machine gun' killed top nuclear

DUBAI

THE killing of Iran's top nuclear scientist last month was carried out remotely with artificial intelligence and a machine gun equipped with a "satellite-controlled smart system", Tasnim news agency quoted a senior commander as saying.



Iran has blamed Israel for the assassination of Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh (pictured), who was seen by Western intelligence services as the mastermind of a covert Iranian programme to develop nuclear weapons capability. Tehran has long denied any such ambition.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied responsibility for the killing, but in the past has acknowledged pursuing covert, intelligence-gathering operations against the nuclear programme of its arch-enemy Iran.

The Islamic Republic has given contradictory details of Fakhri-zadeh's death in a daytime Nov. 27 ambush on his car on a highway near Tehran.

"No terrorists were present on the ground...Martyr Fakhri-zadeh was driving when a weapon, using an advanced camera, zoomed in on him," Tasnim, a semi-official agency, quoted Ali Fadavi, the deputy commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, as saying in a ceremony on Sunday.

"The machine gun was placed on a pick-up truck and was controlled by a satellite."

Fadavi spoke after Iranian authorities said they had found "clues about the assassins", though they have yet to announce any arrests. Shortly after Fakhri-zadeh was killed, witnesses told state television that a truck had exploded before a group of gunmen opened fire on his car.

Last week Ali Shamkhani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, said the killing was carried out with "electronic devices" with no people on the ground.

Experts and officials told Reuters last week Fakhri-zadeh's killing exposed security gaps that suggest its security forces may have been infiltrated and that the Islamic Republic is vulnerable to further attacks.

"Some 13 shots were fired at martyr Fakhri-zadeh with a machine gun controlled by satellite...During the operation artificial intelligence and face recognition was used," Fadavi said. "His wife, sitting 25 centimetres away from him in the same car, was not injured."

Fakhri-zadeh, identified by Israel as a prime player in what it says is a continuing Iranian quest for a nuclear weapon, was the fifth Iranian nuclear scientist killed in targeted attacks since 2010 inside Iran, and the second slaying of a high-ranking Iranian official in 2020.

The commander of the Revolutionary Guards' elite Quds Force, Qassem Soleimani, was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq in January. Tehran retaliated by firing missiles at U.S. military targets in Iraq.

Agencies

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Nov. 21 attended the Session 1 of the 15th G20 Leaders' Summit via video link in Beijing and delivered important speech.

He called on G20 members to follow the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, uphold multilateralism, pursue openness and inclusiveness, promote mutually beneficial cooperation and keep pace with the times. The G20 ought to play a bigger role in this process, he stressed. On the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, China stands ready to pursue peaceful coexistence and common development with all countries.

The international community believes that the important initiatives and proposals raised by Xi address the concerns of the international society and are of huge signifi-

China calls for bigger role of G20 members in post-COVID era

cance. His remarks demonstrated China's major country responsibility.

G20 is a cooperation platform that was born amid crisis. After the outbreak of the international financial crisis in 2008, G20 members worked with mutual assistance and acted in solidarity, and finally brought the endangered global economy back to the right track of stability and recovery.

This outgoing year, humanity has experienced the most serious global pandemic in a century. Over one million people have lost their lives.

The world economy is in recession. Societies and livelihoods are taking a big hit. The impact of COVID-19 is even worse than that of the 2008 global financial crisis.

The G20 has taken swift actions in the wake of COVID-19. At the Extraordinary Summit earlier this year, G20 members agreed to step up cooperation to fight the pandemic, advance the R&D of medicines and vaccines, maintain economic and financial stability, keep the industrial and supply chains open, and ease the debt burden of developing countries. In this global battle, the G20 has once again played an important and, indeed, irreplaceable role.

The spirit of partnership is even more highlighted when the world is facing a critical test. At present, the international architecture is evolving at a faster pace. Rising unilateralism and protectionism are causing disruptions to global industrial and supply

chains. The world still has a long and arduous journey to defeating the virus, stabilizing economy, and securing livelihood, given the expanding deficits of governance, trust, development and peace.

The international society places extremely high attention on global governance and international order in the post-pandemic era, as well as the role that the G20 will play. It also attaches great importance to how the G20 will transform from a crisis response mechanism to a long-term governance mechanism and expand its focus from short-term policy response to a combination of short-, medium- and long-term policymaking.

To cope with the challenges brought by

COVID-19, Xi believes that more efforts are needed in the following areas: building a global firewall against COVID-19, ensuring the smooth functioning of the global economy, harnessing the role of the digital economy, and pursuing more inclusive development.

From the height of building a community with a shared future for mankind and grasping the trend of the world and the times, Xi has chartered the course for the G20 to play a more prominent leading role in maintaining international order and global governance in the post-pandemic era.

He called on G20 members to strengthen the UN-centered international system, improve the governance architecture for economic globalization, promote the sound development of the digital economy, and build up capacities for tackling global challenges. **People's Daily**

Giuliani tests positive for COVID-19, latest in Trump's inner circle

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani has tested positive for COVID-19, Trump said on Sunday, prompting one state legislature to close for a week after Giuliani visited to try to persuade lawmakers to help reverse Trump's election defeat.

The 76-year-old former New York mayor is the latest in a long string of people close to the White House, including Trump himself, sickened in a pandemic that has killed more than 280,000 Americans.

"@RudyGiuliani, by far the greatest mayor in the history of NYC, and who has been working tirelessly exposing the most corrupt election (by far!) in the history of the USA, has tested positive for the China Virus," Trump said, using a term for COVID-19 that has drawn backlash.

Giuliani tweeted his thanks to "friends and followers" Sunday evening for their concern about him. "I'm getting great

care and feeling good. Recovering quickly and keeping up with everything," he wrote on Twitter.

Two sources familiar with the situation told Reuters that Giuliani was at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., on Sunday and one said he had been admitted for treatment. The hospital did not immediately respond to requests for confirmation.

Giuliani has been spearheading Trump's floundering effort to overturn his Nov. 3 election loss to Democratic President-elect Joe Biden through a flurry of lawsuits. Both Trump and Giuliani have repeatedly claimed, contrary to evidence, that the outcome was marred by widespread fraud.

State and federal officials have repeatedly said there is no evidence of fraud on any significant scale.

Giuliani visited Georgia on Thursday, where he urged state lawmakers to intervene to overturn Biden's victory in



Rudy Giuliani

the state, after making similar pleas in Michigan on Wednesday and Arizona on Monday.

After news of Giuliani's test, the Arizona state legislature said it would close both chambers this week out of caution "for recent cases and concerns relating to COVID-19." Giuliani met with about a dozen Republican lawmakers there last week.

The Trump campaign released a statement from the president's legal team Sunday evening saying Giuliani had tested negative just before his trip to the three states.

"Mayor Giuliani tested negative twice immediately preceding his trip to Arizona, Michigan, and Georgia. The Mayor did not experience any symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 until more than 48 hours after his return," the statement said. "No legislators in any state or members of the press are on the contact tracing list, under current CDC (Centers for Disease Control) Guidelines."

It said other members of the president's legal team "who are defined as having had close contact" will follow their doctors' orders and CDC guidelines about self-isolation and testing.

Trump and many of his close associates have balked at public health officials' advice to wear masks and avoid crowds to stem transmission of the respiratory illness, which has roared to record levels in the United States as winter approaches.

Agencies

Moscow deputy mayor says 'no end in sight' to fight against coronavirus pandemic

MOSCOW

THERE is "no end in sight" to the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, Moscow Deputy Mayor Anastasia Rakova said at the 13th Russian Scientific and Practical Conference with international participation dubbed "Medicine and Quality 2020" yesterday.

"We have been fighting the infection for nine months. The marathon continues with no end in sight," she pointed out.

However, Rakova was hopeful that Moscow would be able to defeat the pandemic in the coming months.

"The pandemic made the entire world, including our country and city, face unprecedented challenges. In order to combat them, we had to completely overhaul the city's healthcare system," the deputy mayor noted.

According to her, "rapid responses and moves to change the existing rules" were crucial. "I think we have never before had to make changes so fast as far as the healthcare system is concerned.

It's important not only to be able to promptly change the rules of the game depending on how the situation develops. It's crucial to make sure that doctors start using new technologies as soon as possible," Rakova added.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, we had to establish a new system to manage all the processes," she went on to say.

"All work, from detecting suspected patients and providing drugs to patients, is carried out for each individual case. The focus is on the people," the Moscow deputy mayor emphasized.

Agencies

China launches 1st lunar sample return mission, aims for multiple breakthroughs in aerospace history

THE Long March-5 Y5, China's state-of-the-art carrier rocket and strongest member of the Long March launch vehicle family, blasted off early on Tuesday morning, November 24, from the Wenchang Space Launch Center located in South China's Hainan Province, successfully sending the Chang'e-5 lunar probe into planned orbit.

About 2,200 seconds after lift-off, the Chang'e-5 lunar probe separated from the rocket and entered the Earth-Moon transfer orbit with the perigee at 200 km and the apogee at about 410,000 km.

Despite the difficulties brought by the COVID-19 epidemic, China's aerospace sector has been able to launch not only the country's first-ever Tianwen-1 Mars probe, but also the latest lunar sample return mission, showcasing the country's resilience and increasingly mature capabilities in the space sphere, according to observers.

Dubbed one of the most complicated and challenging space exploration projects ever attempted, Chang'e-5 will carry out the third stage of China's current lunar programs, which involves three phases—orbiting, landing and return. The first two phases have been completed successfully.

Wang Yanan, chief editor of Aerospace Knowledge magazine, told the Global Times that the highly complex, forward-looking technology applied in this project could be regarded as "an unmanned task that lays the foundation for future manned lunar missions."

"Analysis of the lunar samples shows that contents within the soil and rocks could be turned into water and oxygen, which will be useful in supporting the operation of the Moon base and serve as supplementary fuel for lunar landing vehicles," Pang Zhihao, a Beijing-based space expert, told the Global Times.

More importantly, scientists have found in the lunar samples the ideal material for nuclear fusion, and enough of it to meet human's energy needs for about 10,000 years, Pang added.

China's future Chang'e-6 mission will also automatically collect lunar samples for comprehensive analysis and research, and hopefully carry international payloads on board.

Chang'e-7 will comprehensively explore the moon, while Chang'e-8 will explore the possibility of building an international lunar research base, Global Times previously learned from CNSA. Chang'e-8 will also test 3D printer technology in the hopes of assisting future lunar residents.

"To build a research base on the Moon, we first need to figure out what it is made of, by analyzing the soil composition and geological structure, and then making use of the raw materials at hand on the Moon for

our own exploration purposes," Song Zhongping, an aerospace observer and TV commentator, told the Global Times.

Perfect success rate

China launched its first lunar probe mission, Chang'e-1, in October 24, 2007 via a Long March 3A Y14 carrier rocket. In the 13 years since then, China has launched a total of five missions, all named after the lunar goddess Chang'e, with domestically developed Long March rockets, scoring a perfect success rate.

The 57-meter-long Long March-5, with a take-off weight of about 870 tons and a thrust of over 1,000 tons, is capable of launching a payload of up to 14 tons into the geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO), making it the go-to rocket model for the mission, as the Chang'e-5 lunar probe weighs 8.2 tons, one of the heaviest probes that has ever been launched by China.

According to China Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT), during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), the Long March-5 rocket series will be deployed to launch core and experimental cabinets for the country's first-ever space station, and will be tasked with completing the construction of the space station in two to three years.

"Long March-5 is the only member of the Long March family that is capable of launching such a heavy payload into the lunar transfer orbit. And the mission in return examines the rocket's capabilities and showcases the strength of China's space sector," Li Minghua, the first commander-in-chief of the Long March-5 and Party chief of CALT, under the state-owned aerospace giant China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), the rocket's developer, told the Global Times.

Global Times

Russia to start deliveries of 'world's best' Armata tank to troops in 2021

MOSCOW

SERIAL deliveries of the latest T-14 'Armata' tank to the Russian troops will begin in 2021, Head of the state hi-tech corporation Rostec Sergei Chemezov announced yesterday.

"Serial deliveries of the T-14 tank based on the Armata platform will begin in 2021. This is, undoubtedly, the world's best tank today. In the future, this vehicle will become the main battle tank in the Russian Army," the Rostec chief said.

In 2019, Russia formalized all the necessary documents for the export of Armata tanks, he said.

"We are advertising this tank to foreign customers. This year, it was demonstrated 'live' at the Army forum: visitors could come up to it, take a picture of it and touch it. It is a pity it has been impossible to demonstrate it abroad yet due to the absence of foreign exhibitions," the Rostec chief said.

Unmanned Armata version

The uncrewed version of the latest T-14 'Armata' tank won't be serial-produced but will be designed for testing unmanned technologies



T-14 Armata battle tank

for other land-based robots, Chemezov said.

Currently, Russia's Kalashnikov Group is actively developing ground combat robots. These systems have also been employed in Syria, the Rostec chief said.

"A number of our other enterprises are working on developing such systems. Even the Armata was tested as an unmanned tank. Of course, this will not be a serial-produced vehicle. We are testing unmanned technologies on it," he explained.

However, even the serial-produced Armata tank with the crew will be maximally robotized, the Rostec chief

said.

"The Armata crew does not need to aim accurately. It only has to aim the gun roughly. Electronics will do all the rest: it will accurately determine the distance to the target and aim the gun at it. That is, the vehicle uses artificial intelligence elements that help the crew deliver fire," the Rostec chief said.

This algorithm is already being used in the combat robots that have been tested in Syria, he stressed.

The Armata is a heavy tracked standardized platform serving as the basis to develop a main battle tank, an infantry fighting vehi-

cle, an armored personnel carrier and some other armored vehicles.

The T-14 tank based on the Armata combat platform has been developed by Uralvagonzavod defense manufacturer (part of Rostec). The latest tank was shown to the public for the first time at Red Square's Victory Day parade on May 9, 2015. The Armata tank underwent preliminary trials in 2019.

The new combat vehicle differs fundamentally from its predecessors. It features fully digitized equipment, an unmanned turret and an isolated armored capsule for the crew. Agencies

South Sudan's main opposition party declares end of armed struggle - official

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's main opposition party currently in a power-sharing government with President Salva Kiir has declared the end of its armed struggle as it reorganizes to participate in the upcoming elections scheduled for 2022.

Regina Joseph, secretary general of Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In-Opposition (SPLM-IO) led by First Vice President Riek Machar (pictured), said they have started the process of transitioning towards a viable political party.

"This brings an end to the armed struggle starting a phase of political participation," Joseph told party officials on Saturday at the end of the three-day annual conference of the party in Juba.

The SPLM-IO waged an armed rebellion against Kiir's government starting in December 2013 after a political disagreement between the two leaders caused a split within the army leading to soldiers loyal to the respective leaders to fight.

The conflict that lasted about six years killed tens of thousands and displaced millions of people both internally



and externally. "This conference today has set a stepping stone for our movement to start the process of transitioning towards a viable political party.

Therefore, the SPLM-IO secretary has launched its functions in the country as we are now working on restructuring of the political bureau and national liberation council," said Joseph.

She also said that the SPLM-IO remains committed to implement the 2018 revitalized peace agreement it signed with the government in Ethiopia.

"SPLM-IO came back to South Sudan to implement the peace agreement, so we are committed to this peace agreement as the only best

option for sustaining peace in our country. Despite all these challenges, we are moving forward with the implementation of the agreement," said Joseph.

Meanwhile, Machar while closing the conference said they are working with President Kiir to first put in place a unified army command to oversee the eventual unification of opposition and government soldiers to take charge of security during the transitional period.

He also noted that once all this is done, the region and international community will avail necessary support to the transitional unity government which is in dire need of financial support amid cash crunch caused by economic hardship. Xinhua

Ethiopia's Abiy denies guerrilla war emerging in Tigray

ADDIS ABABA/NAIROBI

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed denied yesterday that a rebellious northern force his troops have battled for over a month would have the capacity to mount a guerrilla war from the mountains of Tigray.

Federal troops have captured the regional capital Mekelle from the former local ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), and declared an end to their offensive.

But TPLF leaders say they are fighting back on various fronts around Mekelle. Ethiopia experts fear a drawn-out insurgency with a destabilising impact around east

Africa.

"The criminal clique pushed a patently false narrative that its fighters and supporters are battle-hardened and well-armed, posing the risk of protracted insurgency in the rugged mountains of Tigray," Abiy said in a statement.

"It also claimed that it has managed to undertake strategic retreat with all its capability and regional government apparatus intact. The reality is the criminal clique is thoroughly defeated and in disarray, with insignificant capability to mount a protracted insur-



There was no immediate TPLF response. With communications

largely down and access for humanitarian workers and media restricted, Reuters has not been able to verify claims from all sides on the state of fighting.

AID NEEDED FAST

The conflict, which has its roots in Abiy's push-back against Tigrayans' past dominance of federal government and military posts, is thought to have killed thousands of people.

It has also sent nearly 50,000 refugees fleeing to Sudan, seen TPLF rockets fired into Eritrea, stirred ethnic divisions, and led to

the disarming of Tigrayans in Ethiopia's peacekeeping contingency combating al Qaeda-linked militants in Somalia.

The United Nations and aid agencies are pressing for safe access to Tigray, which is home to more than 5 million people and where 600,000 relied on food aid even before the war.

However, two senior aid officials told Reuters over the weekend that looting and lawlessness meant the region was still too dangerous to dispatch convoys.

The government says that with peace restored, its

priorities are the welfare of Tigrayans and return of refugees. However, some residents, diplomats and the TPLF say clashes persist, with protests and looting also reported in Mekelle on Friday.

The TPLF dominated government for nearly three decades, until Abiy took power in 2018 and began democratic reforms.

The party accuses him of seeking to centralise power at the expense of Ethiopia's 10 regions and says Tigrayan officials were unfairly targeted in a crackdown on corruption and rights abuses. The government denies that and accuses TPLF leaders of treason for attacking federal forces in early November. Agencies

SPORT



National U-20 football squad 'Ngorongoro Heroes' players jubilate after the team had scored against of their opponents in this year's Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-20 Championship, which took place in Arusha from November 22-December 2.

Ngorongoro Heroes' players close in on professional stints

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S U-20 football squad 'Ngorongoro Heroes' players, who put impressive showing for the squad in this year's Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-20 Championship that took place in Arusha, stand a to ply their trade outside the country.

A South Africa-based soccer scout, who had attended the competition, told The Guardian recently that he was monitoring players from all participating countries and has spotted several players from Ngorongoro Heroes that have what it takes to perform well for clubs outside the country.

The scout who boasts of having links with many top clubs around the globe, said U-20 is the right age group for identifying talents that can sustain clubs for a long time.

The scout, who opted for anonymity, has a vast experience in managing players, especially those from the East Africa region.

He revealed that he was impressed with the performance of many of Ngorongoro Heroes' players.

He, however, stopped short of mentioning players he has identified, saying he and his technical department's members needed to analyze the earmarked players, contact the prospective clubs and then make the players' names public.

"Yes I was in Arusha watching the CECAFA U-20 Championship's matches, it was a good tournament with abundant talents, we managed to spot genuine talents," he disclosed.

"We were in Tanzania looking for the

next generation of great talent from East Africa who can play in either other top African countries or abroad."

"For now it won't be easy for us to mention the players that we have identified, as you know, we look at many things before we take a player to a potential club, I have the videos of many players, soon we will analyze the players' weaknesses, strengths and abilities and see where they fit, follow the right procedures, then make it public," he said.

Many of the Ngorongoro Heroes' players are turning out for either Vodacom Premier League outfits or First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL) sides.

Reports also say many local elite clubs were keeping a close eye at the tournament with the aim of either monitoring their players' progress or identifying new talents to be recruited into the respective clubs.

However, history in the country has shown that almost half of elite league's clubs depend on the old guard at the expense of up-and-coming talents.

The clubs prefer tried and tested players as the sides are in search of instant results, a situation which has seen many young players fail to get chance to realize their full potential.

The clubs, as a result, end up frustrating the youthful players' careers.

Ngorongoro Heroes qualified for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U-20 Championship finals which will be held in Mauritania.

They settled for the runners-up spot in the CECAFA U-20 Championship after losing 4-1 to Uganda in the final.

The Ngorongoro Heroes have such good players, who were at their best in the showpiece, like Kelvin John, Khelfin Hamdoun, Abdul Selemani, who was the tournament's top goal scorer, and the tournament's best player, Paschal Mshindo.

Dar professional boxers to participate in non-title fights

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S prominent professional boxers, Abdallah Pazi 'Dullah Mbabe' and Twaha Kassim, are expected to once again prove their worth in the sport, as they will participate in non-title bouts which will take place in Dar es Salaam on December 26.

The Next Door Arena, located at Masaki in the city, will host the day's fights, known as 'Champions' Fight Night'.

Apart from the two boxers, other domestic boxers set to feature in the day's fights are Mfaume Ahmad, Tonny Rashid, Ismail Galitano, Issa Nampepeche, Selemani Kidunda, Baina Mazola, Haidari Mchanjo, Juma Choki and Loren Japhet.

The bouts' co-ordinator, Chris Mahundi, noted the boxers will trade blows with their counterparts from outside Tanzania with the aim of developing the sport.

He stated: "There will be an international,

non-title fight pitting Kassim against Congolese, Guy Tshimanga Tshitundu, Mfaume will face Malawian, Chikondi Makawa."

"Pazi will take on Simon Tchetcha of Malawi."

Morogoro-based Kassim, a domestic Super Middleweight sensation, has had a string of impressive results in bouts he has taken part in recently.

He posted a Technical Knockout (TKO) win over Thailand's Sirimongkhon Lamthuan in an international non-title fight which took place in the city early last month.

Kassim stopped the Thai boxer in the seventh round of the scheduled 10-round bout at the PTA Hall, Saba Saba.

Mfaume's latest fight ended with the stylish boxer beating fellow domestic boxer, Keisi Ally, by points in a non-title bout, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in the city last year.

SPORTS

Simba SC did well to see off Nigerian journeymen Plateau United



Simba SC's players listen to instructions by the team's coaching panel when the club participated in a recent training session in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SOCCER enthusiasts in Dar es Salaam and well beyond are having a hard time trying to put down lessons of the results of two matches in the preliminary round of the 2020/21 CAF Champions League pitting Simba SC and Plateau United of Nigeria.

The tantalizing issue is not the fact that the Nigerian side lost at home and Simba held to their goal in the home game, but rather the idea that the side was the best Nigerian football can offer, even if most Nigerian soccer stars play in Europe and elsewhere.

It is this seizing up of Plateau United which shall take a while to settle- and perhaps in due course be forgotten.

For one thing, except perhaps in the Nigerian social media, there was little in the major print media or outlets on reactions to the 1-0 loss the side suffered in the home game to the visiting Tanzanian champions, and not much of reflection on the return game either.

With pundits used to the hard hitting Enyimba FC and earlier Enugu Rangers and others, this plainly ordinary side from Plateau State in the middle belt of the country as a bit of a novelty.

But surprisingly Nigeria does not have major club sides identified with the two major cities, namely Lagos and Abuja, with provincial teams doing the rounds.

After the first match, home side midfielder Isah Ndala first apologized to the local fans on the results- a not so surprising situation as Simba are a lower ranking regular participant or entrant to the CAF Champions League.

Chances are that a one-time Nigerian professional league champion club, which has been once or twice in the past decade, would take Simba

for a pushover, and then it eats into their physical and psychological preparations.

A top side from Nigeria will respect clubs from North Africa and a few on the southern belt like DR Congo's TP Mazembe or AC Horoya of Guinea and a few others, not more.

So there is always the shadowy advantage of not being well known to your opponents, as for instance Simba would have worked hard as the side was from Nigeria, not because it knows the club specifically.

When one introduces a club as Nigerian champions, one has a feeling that it is better, or it can be better than Enyimba FC, and that is to say a lot, and this is not the sort of impression that the fans got in the game in Dar es Salaam, and the previous one in Jos couldn't have been an improved version, definitely.

That leads to a rather confusing situation as to how it comes to represent Nigeria in the CAF top tourney.

One could take an example of the often recurring situation locally where once in a while we have two clubs in the CAF Champions League preliminaries, or where the winners of the FA Cup (the Azam Sports Federation Cup more accurately) features in the CAF Confederation Cup tourney.

So one meets a side like Namungo FC or say Ihefu FC as Tanzanian second top most club, and there is consternation, as the win was based on some chance in some matches, the way Leicester City were crowned England Premier League champions, to worldwide consternation.

Plateau United are an ordinary premier league side in Nigeria, despite that in the past year or so it has made efforts - to sort of attain remarkable achievements.

Midfielder Ndala, after his team suffered a 1-0 defeat at home, is reported to have 'promised revenge' in the return match, which does not say much about recriminations in the dressing rooms and club corridors on apportioning blame.

Again it was hard to find any such material in routine searches, in which case one is pushed to the routine newspaper refrain, 'no news means good news,' that there was no discussion on the loss in an audible manner because it was not surprising.

That would scarcely be the case with Enyimba as then Simba would have floored an elephant, and people start looking at the new powerhouse in soccer, that is, at the continental level, as winning over Plateau United journeymen is not a frenzied feat out there.

To get a glimpse of the psychological tussling with the situation, a local newspaper wrote that the Simba CEO, Barbara Gonzalez, hailed the players and the team's technical bench for winning the away clash in Nigeria, 'where she (sic) said it is always difficult to come out with a win when playing teams like Enyimba, who are among the heavyweights in African football and rated among the favourites in CAF Champions League'.

Voila! Scarcely was anyone thinking of Plateau United, except in the faulty impression that it was an equal to Enyimba, which means to the likes of TP Mazembe, AC Horoya or Al Ahly, that rank.

Just figure out that a January 2018 list of club's players had just one foreign professional, Junior Salomon, from nearby Benin. It is the proper ranking of the Jos hard hitters as a professional side.

Simba SC not planning to recruit Okwi

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA Sports Club has said that so far the team have no plans to bring back their famous former player, Emmanuel Okwi.

The Vodacom Premier League's defending champions, moreover, claimed they are looking to signing two players to bolster their squad.

Simba SC's information officer, Haji Manara, said that so far there is no plan to bring back the Ugandan forward, who is a favourite to the side's members and fans.

"Personally, if you ask me I would like to see him come back, he is a very good friend of mine, but so far the club has not had that plan, it will maybe zero in on the plan in the future," he stated.

Manara, in the process, quashed rumours in some of domestic media outlets and social media sites that claimed Simba SC is in the process of bringing the player back for the third time.

Okwi had always been putting outstanding performances when he turned out for Simba, helping the side perform well in major tournaments.

The player is currently playing for Egypt Premier League club Al Ittihad.

Okwi was first signed by Simba SC in 2009 from SC Villa of Uganda and he was sold by Simba to Tunisia soccer big guns, Etoile du Sahel, in 2013.

A year later returned to SC Villa before moving to Simba's rivals, Yanga, where he played for a while.

He later returned Simba and played for the club until 2015, when he headed to Denmark side, Sonderjyske.

He again returned to Simba in 2017 and



Emmanuel Okwi

played for the side until last year, parting ways with the team and opting to play in Egypt.

Meanwhile, Simba's Chairman, Mwina

Kaduguda, said that after the team had signed midfielder Thadeo Lwanga from Uganda, the outfit is planning to sign two more players, a forward and a defender.

Palace flop Sorloth aiming to shoot down Man Utd for RB Leipzig

LONDON

AFTER finally breaking his goal drought for RB Leipzig, the pressure is on Norway striker Alexander Sorloth to hit the net again in Tuesday's Champions League clash at home to Manchester United with a last-16 berth at stake.

Having failed to score in his first 10 games for Leipzig, Sorloth struck a last-gasp winner in the crucial 4-3 victory at Istanbul Basaksehir last Wednesday to his huge relief.

Sorloth came on for the last 25 minutes and his low drive sealed the away win which kept Leipzig's hopes of reaching the knock-out stages in their own hands.

"It's always important to score your first goal for a new club – I am incredibly happy and relieved," Sorloth beamed in Istanbul.

"In an exciting and balanced group, it was a very, very important victory.

"Now we have a final against Manchester United that we definitely want to win."

Only victory on Tuesday will assure either club a last-16 spot.

Going into the final round of matches, Leipzig, Man Utd and Paris Saint-Germain are all on nine points in Group H.

- Score to settle -

To add extra spice, Leipzig have a score to settle from October's 5-0 thrashing at Old Trafford when United striker Marcus Rashford scored a hat-trick.

Backed by energy drinks giants Red Bull, RB Leipzig want to be a permanent fixture in the Champions League and build on last season's run to the semi-finals.

Bowing out in the group stage would hurt the ambitious club from Germany's east.

Leipzig paid Palace 20 million euros (\$24 million) for Sorloth in September to replace Timo Werner following the Germany striker's move to Chelsea.

While Norway national teammate Erling Braut Haaland has sent Bundesliga records tumbling at Dortmund since his January transfer from Salzburg, Sorloth has not found the move to Germany so easy.

Despite sealing the win over Basaksehir, Sorloth is likely to start on

the bench having often struggled in front of goal this season.

Another goal in Europe would boost his standing.

After forwards Emil Forsberg, Justin Kluivert and Christopher Nkunku all netted in Saturday's 3-3 draw at Bayern Munich, Sorloth came on for the last 13 minutes at the Allianz Arena.

Sorloth is still waiting for his first Bundesliga goal after nine games, including four starts. He is no stranger to goal droughts.

Crystal Palace paid Danish side Midtjylland nine million pounds (\$12 million) for Sorloth in 2018, but he failed to score a Premier League goal in 16 appearances – 12 off the bench.

He was loaned out to Gent, then Trabzonspor, where he hit the ground running last season with six goals and three assists in his first nine appearances.

- Turnaround in Turkey -

He set the Turkish league alight with 24 goals in 34 games, ending with a total of 33 goals in 49 appearances in 2019/20.

Trabzonspor wanted to sign Sorloth permanently. However, the club's ban from UEFA competitions for breaching financial fair-play rules left Sorloth searching for a Champions League club.

Leipzig came calling.

After failing to score in his first seven Bundesliga games, worry lines were etched on his face after his weak penalty attempt was saved in a 2-1 win at Arminia Bielefeld 10 days ago.

Sorloth's goal drought was such a concern that Leipzig coach Julian Nagelsmann admitted "a stone lifted from our hearts" when he scored in Istanbul.

In a bid to boost his confidence, Nagelsmann sat down with Sorloth before the Basaksehir game to watch videos of his time in Turkey and his goals for their rivals Trabzonspor.

The result was the winner as Sorloth combined with Yussuf Poulsen to score with a superb finish and his head coach would love to see another goal against Man Utd.

"Things will probably be easier for him – that's mostly how it is with strikers," said Nagelsmann.

AFP

Son, Kane worked like 'animals' vs. Arsenal - Mourinho

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur strike duo Harry Kane and Son Heung-min both scored in Sunday's 2-0 derby win over Arsenal, but manager Jose Mourinho was more impressed with their work rate when Spurs were out of possession.

Spurs absorbed huge amounts of Arsenal pressure and scored twice on the counter-attack in the first half, with Kane and Son assisting each other in two clinical moves.

Mourinho praised his two forwards, who have scored 18 league goals between them this season, for being "world class professionals."

"They are working like animals, with all due respect to animals, I love animals," Mourinho told Sky Sports.

"They worked amazingly hard when the team didn't have the ball. Harry Kane was clearing balls in the box. Son, in the first 60 minutes as a winger working a lot on [Hector] Bellerin, then as a second striker working a lot on the centre-backs.

"They have a very good sense of the balance that they need and they also do incredible tactical work for the team when the team doesn't have the ball."

Spurs' form has given fans hope that their trophy drought will soon be over. They have not won the league since 1961 and last picked up a trophy in 2008 with their League Cup triumph.

"One game at a time," Kane said. "We're doing well in a tough period, but results like this will only help us.

"We go away to [Crystal] Palace next week and then to Liverpool

(three days later), so the tough games keep on coming."

Spurs have now picked up seven points from their last three games against Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal. They lead the table on goal difference from Liverpool.

Meanwhile, Arsenal's Thomas Partey suffered a recurrence of a thigh injury in their 2-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur, manager Mikel Arteta said.

The Ghana international, who moved to Arsenal from Atletico Madrid for €50 million during the summer, injured his thigh last month and only returned to the side on Sunday.

Partey pulled up injured shortly before half-time and was standing on the touchline when Spurs broke from their own box. Arteta then urged him back on to try to stop the counter-attack but the midfielder could only run a few yards before stopping.

Ahead of Partey, Spurs striker Harry Kane finished off Spurs' sweeping attack, handing the Premier League leaders their two-goal cushion.

"I was trying to push him but I don't think he realised the gravity of the situation when he left his position but that was probably because he was in a lot of pain," Arteta told reporters.

"Suddenly they are coming to attack us and Thomas is walking to me and I was trying to push him. I haven't spoken to him so I don't know exactly how it happened or if he felt something really serious."

Partey's absence will be a cause for concern for Arteta amid a busy schedule where Arsenal, 15th in the league, play eight games in 23 days.

ESPN

Arsenal exposed by Spurs as Arteta falls into Mourinho's trap

LONDON

IN trying to be the team Mikel Arteta wants them to be, Arsenal revealed yet again what they actually are. On Sunday, Tottenham beat Arsenal 2-0 in the North London derby, and nobody could be surprised about how it happened. Nobody, that is, except Arteta, who by setting up his team with greater attacking purpose than in many of Arsenal's biggest games, fell neatly into the trap Jose Mourinho was always going to set.

Anyone with even a passing knowledge of the methodology with which Spurs have climbed to the top of the Premier League table would understand the importance and form of Son Heung-Min and Harry Kane adding a razor-sharp edge to an otherwise conservative approach. Spurs beat Manchester City in precisely this manner two weekends ago, but there was at least a sense of jeopardy on that occasion as Pep Guardiola's side probed with more purpose than Arsenal managed at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Arteta's side could have played on for another half an hour and not scored, so content Spurs were to dig in and defend what they had once the damage had been done.

It was, in truth, another entry in the catalogue of alarmingly naive and painfully blunted performances that have cost Arteta's predecessors their jobs.

Put simply, Arsenal have been done on the break for years, usually at Emirates Stadium. The scenery changed, but the story remains the same. The Gunners won the FA Cup last season with a highly effective counter-attacking style of Arteta's making, ceding possession and territory to City and Chelsea before picking them off on the break. A back three was central to achieving this greater balance and stability yet here he went to a 4-2-3-1 shape to little effect.

Sunday's deployment was more in line with the "Guardiola style" that Arteta was expected to deliver, yet this was further evidence they are simply not capable of playing that way against the top sides with their current squad.

"In terms of the performance, they did everything I asked them to do," Arteta said after the match. "We played the way I believe we have to play this game. If you look at all the stats, they are in our favour but at the end of the day it is about putting the ball in the box.

"We had the chances, we generated probably more than ever this season, we put the ball in the box more than ever, we had the numbers, but at the end of the day, you have to score the goals. To build something, you need results."

Arsenal lack the requisite quality in midfield to dictate terms without leaving themselves vulnerable on the counter-attack. That is why Arteta tried to sign two central midfielders in the summer; it also explains the gamble in starting Thomas Partey despite private reservations he had not yet fully recovered from a thigh problem. The acute nature of this problem was best exemplified by the sight of Arteta pushing a palpably injured Partey back onto the pitch in a forlorn hope of stopping Spurs scoring on the counter-attack.

Perhaps the most damning indictment of Arsenal overall was that Mourinho appeared only too happy to give them the ball. Spurs sat on the edge of their box and waiting for Arsenal's attacks to break down. Granit Xhaka was terrified of allowing Kane to turn and launch Tottenham on the counter-attack, rugby tackling him as early as the second minute, but the England captain was able to wriggle free all too easily to play to Son into space on the left with just 13 minutes played.

Hector Bellerin made the first of a series of mistakes – later in the game, he made his fifth foul throw in 11 Premier League games – by ball-watching to allow Son time to cut in on his



Arsenal inexplicably went away from the style that had been successful against top teams, and in doing so, fell into Mourinho's trap as Spurs ran out comfortable winners. (Agencies)

right foot, before the Spurs attacker unleashed a superb curling shot that gave Bernd Leno no chance. Son has now scored 10 league goals this season: the same number as Arsenal.

Long periods of sterile Arsenal possession followed, punctuated by Spurs threatening on the break. And, yet again, perhaps tellingly in contrast to Chelsea, who deliberately opted not to over-commit numbers forward in their goal-less draw with Tottenham last Sunday, the visitors were caught out. This time it ended with Son releasing Kane, who thrashed a left-foot shot in off the crossbar.

Son and Kane have now combined for 31 league goals, with only Didier Drogba and Frank Lampard (36) boasting a better record. You've probably heard that before, because everyone has. Yet Arsenal were caught out. Arteta knows it too, of course. He's a studious and diligent manager trying to restore Arsenal to the fearsome presence of the peak Arsene Wenger years.

Stopping the Kane-Son axis is clearly easier said than done, but Arteta abandoned the short-term pragmatism, which got him promising results, for a more expansive strategy against Tottenham that ultimately backfired. In one sense, he was trying to run before he could walk.

Arsenal ended with 69.2% possession and just two shots on target, both second-half headers from Alexandre Lacazette. They attempted 44 crosses, an odd approach for a team whose forwards are so poor in the air. All this

was, of course, also due to another superbly organised and disciplined Tottenham performance, with Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg at the heart of it. He was not the most high-profile summer signing, but Hojbjerg's £15 million arrival from Southampton is a huge factor in enabling Mourinho to play the way he wants to.

Sergio Reguilon's dynamic style at left-back also helps Spurs transition with lightning speed. Gareth Bale, just as he was against Chelsea, watched the entire game as an unused substitute.

Arsenal need to be equally shrewd in the market going forward. Arteta previously adapted the style of football he wants to play so that his side could have greater stability, but somewhere along the way they've lost the attacking threat that gave them a fighting chance in almost any game. The difficulty now for Arteta is that he needs to find a route to more consistent short-term results before the squad overhaul Arsenal desperately need.

"It's very simple. We need to score goals. If not, it doesn't matter what we do in the other departments of the pitch," Arteta said. "If we don't score goals, we can do nothing, so we need to put the ball in the net urgently."

There is a widespread recognition of the sheer scale of the task the Spaniard has inherited, but Arsenal are 15th in the table now, 11 points adrift of their bitterest rivals. Otherwise there is further pain ahead, exacerbated by Tottenham's continuing emergence as genuine title contenders.

ESPN

Qatar plans 'normal' World Cup after vaccines

By ROB HARRIS

QATAR is now planning for a "complete normal" World Cup in 2022 after the rapid progress in producing vaccines for the coronavirus, the tournament CEO told The Associated Press on Sunday ahead of the European qualifying draw.

Early in the pandemic that forced the cancellation of the European Championship and Olympics this year, Qatar was concerned about the long-term impact of COVID-19 on the first World Cup to be staged in the Middle East.

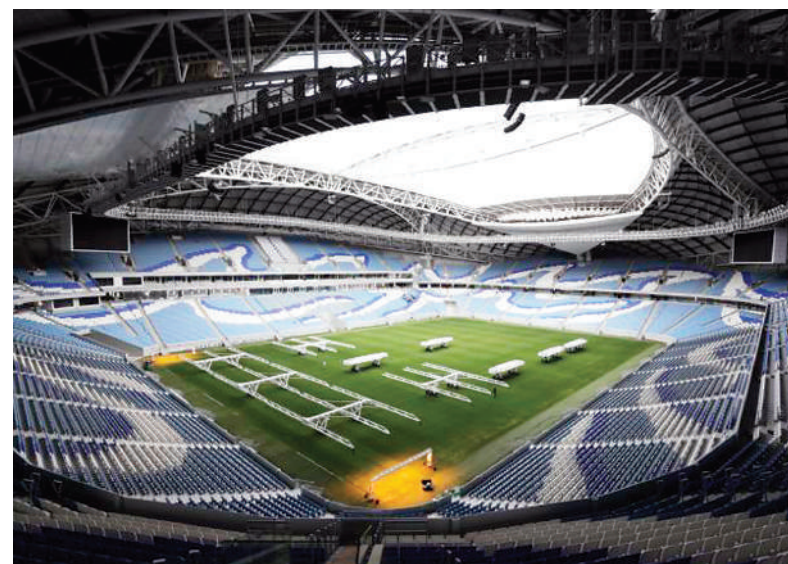
Across the world sports have resumed in front of limited or no crowds, but the vaccines have provided hope that crowds can return in large numbers from next year.

"The introduction of the vaccine and the rollout of the vaccine, it's definitely good news for everybody," 2022 World Cup chief executive Nasser Al-Khater said in an interview with the AP. "Everybody's looking forward to going back to some sort of normalcy in life and especially in sports as well.

"We're very hopeful and very looking forward that, by 2022, hopefully things will really be back to complete normal and looking forward to hosting the fans and having a normal and successful World Cup."

European nations on Monday will discover their path to securing one of 13 spots in the tournament when the qualifying draw is staged at FIFA HQ in Zurich. The pandemic has prevented the event being staged in the host nation as would usually happen before a World Cup.

"In the post-COVID pandemic era, we hope that sports will go back to normal as quickly as possible," Al-Khater said.



In this Monday, Dec. 16, 2019 file photo, a view shows the Al Janoub Stadium, one of the 2022 World Cup stadiums, in Doha, Qatar. (AP Photo)

The tournament isn't just going to a new region, but being played at the end of 2022 rather than the usual June-July slot, due to the fierce summer heat in the Gulf nation.

"When the announcement was made for the World Cup to be played in November and December, obviously at that time there was a lot of feedback about the disruption to the different calendars of the leagues," Al-Khater said. "One thing we learned from the pandemic is that many leagues were able to adapt."

And the months without any football during the pandemic will put into a new

perspective the necessary break in the European seasons in 2022 to accommodate the World Cup. The later tournament gives more breathing space for qualifying to be completed rather than the tournament starting in about 18 months. It also should provide a break eventually for players in the summer of 2022 after enduring a long stretch of games from around June this year through rescheduled events, including the Euros, and next season.

"There was always that advantage that the World Cup is taking place midseason, so players are going to be fresh and it would translate into much better football on the field of play," Al-Khater said. "We hope that remains the same that they will have a break in the summer (of 2022)."

Last week marked 10 years since Qatar won the right to host the World Cup in a contentious FIFA vote that sparked corruption investigations into the entire bidding process. Evidence was not found by FIFA to warrant stripping Qatar of the hosting rights. AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Arsenal exposed by Spurs as
Arteta falls into Mourinho's trap**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam's swimming coach, Ramadhan Namkoveka (L), imparts the sport's skills to a domestic Paralympic swimmer during a recent course, which took place in the city.

Swimming coach wins award in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Paralympic swimming coach Ramadhan Namkoveka has said an award he was presented with at the Champion Rise Swimming Awards' gala will motivate him to give his all in unearthing new talents and promoting the sport in the country.

Namkoveka was, on Sunday, awarded as the best domestic Paralympic swimming coach at the event, which took place in Dar es Salaam and was attended by swimming stakeholders from across the country.

The coach disclosed he was happy that the accolade has been achieved, highlighting that the award will motivate and encourage him to work hard.

He thanked Champion Rise outfit for hosting the awards, noting he is more honoured that Para swimming is being recognized in the country.

Namkoveka said he has been involved in the sport since 2017 and, during this period, the country has managed to make such strides in the sport like organizing seminars for coaches and having swimmer, Gerald Sokolo, as the only local Para swimmer classified by World Para Swimming Association (WPSA).

He said his efforts to seeing to it that Para swimming is recognized have become a success because of the backing of all stakeholders, who have supported him throughout this movement.

"I started training the sportsmen with disabilities in 2017 with 14 swimmers and, to be recognized at the maiden Champion Rise Swimming Awards is a great achievement to the sport in the country," he noted.

"This is an honour to me and all stakeholders who have taken Para swimming in the country to where it is," he stated.

The coach is also the immediate former Secretary General of Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA).

At the awards' gala, Para swimmer, Amos Boniface, who is trained by Namkoveka, was also awarded as the best domestic Para swimmer.

Namkoveka said he scouts his athletes at schools and centers, where youngsters with disabilities are taken care of, and some times in the streets, but he faces a lot of challenges, which include lack of female Para swimmers and transportation.

"We have many young girls with disabilities, who attend training, but, due to their age, they can not compete at local and international events," he said.

He stated: "We have been looking for girls, who are either below 18 years or above the mentioned age, but it is very difficult to find them, hence, we have never had female representation at either local or international events."

"The other challenge is that, due to the nature of their disabilities, many swimmers cannot use public transport, hence the need for private transport."

"Not all of them can manage to hire either a vehicle or motorcycle so as to attend the training, due to this problem many do not report for training on regular basis," he said.

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The other challenge is that, due to the nature of their disabilities, many swimmers cannot use public transport, hence the need for private transport

All set for inaugural Dar-Moshi cycling tour

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

OVER 28 riders have lined up for the maiden Dar-Moshi Cycling Tour as preparations for the race, scheduled for later next week, are on top gear

The 552.1km cycling race, slated to start from Dar es Salaam and climax in Moshi, Kilimanjaro, has been scheduled for December 18-20 this year.

The race, known as 'Grand Dar es Salaam-Moshi tour', comes after successful hosting of a race, dubbed 'Twende Butiama Cycling Challenge', which is the longest cycling tour in the country.

The 'Twende Butiama Cycling Challenge' was held in October this year to honour former President, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

The whole Dar-Moshi Cycling Tour, according to the race's organizers, will cover four regions.

Gabriel Landa, one of the event's organizers, said in Dar es Salaam on Saturday that everything is going well so far.

He confirmed that 28 cyclists, including himself, have been listed for the event.

Landa said out of all 28 participants, there is only one female cyclist, Ruth Wangui, in the list.

He mentioned other participants as Abdu Elmahry, Ammar Yunus, Amon Mwaka, Amon Hendry, Khuzeima Khanbhai, Eden Mushi, Frank Marariki, Godbless Baluhya, Hafeez Thawer, Hsam Thawer, Hubert Pius, Hussein Dossajee, Hillary Edward and Issa Murshid.

Others are Kwasi Frimpong, Martin Mchemwa, Murtaza Mesmailjee, Omary Makumba, Omary Fire, Peter Nkwabi, Pritesh Dharsi, Rob Mwamamba, Robert Komba, Salehe Mvungi, Salum Kizoka and Shafran Merali.

Landa added that the three-day race will have three service stops at Msata in Coast Region, Same in Kilimanjaro and the final spot in Moshi, Kilimanjaro.

He stated: "The first service stop will be at Msata, 195.2km from Msasani, Dar es Salaam, and the next day's stop is Same, about 249.9km from Msata, from Same, riders will complete the final 107km distance to Moshi, the final destination."

He said that they expect the Dar-Moshi Cycling Tour will be one of the most exciting tours due to the nature of the areas



Cyclists from across Tanzania prepare for a recent race which took place in Dar es Salaam.



Gabriel Geay

Dar es Salaam athlete wins plaudits for excelling in 2020 Valencia Half Marathon

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has hailed the performance of the country's half marathoner, Gabriel Geay, in Sunday's Valencia Half Marathon, which took place in Spain and ended with the athlete finishing in the top 10.

Tullo Chambo, AT information officer, said the Valencia Half Marathon attracted many elite athletes from all corners of the globe, and it is ex-

remely pleasing that Geay was among the top 10.

He said AT is more pleased that Geay's time at the event was very good and, if he improves, he stands a chance of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics, which will take place next year.

At the Valencia Half Marathon, Geay took the 10th spot with 1:00.40. All top four finishers in the half marathon managed to beat the previous mark of 58:01 set by Kenyan

Geoffrey Kamworor last year in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Kenyan athlete Kibiwott Kandie emerged as the half marathon winner by clocking 57.32 while Ugandan Jacob Kiplimo came second with 57.37.

The race's third to fifth spots went to Kenyans, Rhonex Kipruto with 57.49, Alexander Mutiso who clocked 57.49 and Philemon Kiplimo who recorded 58.11 respectively.

"We are very delighted

by the performance of Geay at the Valencia Marathon, this was the biggest event attracting elite runners from all parts of the world," Chambo stated.

"If you can look at his time it is evident that he is in the right direction to qualify for Tokyo Olympics," he said.

This is the second best performance by Geay in less than three weeks as, days ago, he won this year's NBC Half Marathon in Dodoma.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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