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Northern circuit to shift to Tanga port next May

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

WITH Tanga Port set to start handling giant ships next May, Tanzania's northern zone regions have started being encouraged to shift from Mombasa harbour, officials say. Tanga harbour will by then have the capacity to handle large vessels, making it the port of choice for Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.

Tanga port officials met here at the weekend with members of the Arusha's business community, with the latter raising the issue of harbour charges. The port officials are reported to have said that these would be reviewed so as to accommodate all clients.

Tanga port officials met here at the weekend with members of the Arusha's business community, with the latter raising the issue of harbour charges. The port officials are reported to have said that these would be reviewed so as to accommodate all clients.

Tanga port manager Donald Ngaile said that the implementation of rehabilitation and expansion projects at the facility, including dredging, have increased port channel depth from around four meters to 11 metres on average. This places the port in a better position to handle large ships directly docking at the quay, he said, adding that the port now boasts a modern quay wall comprising two bays with a total length of 462 meters up from the previous 381 meters.

The manager said the port, the second largest in the country and third the third largest in East Africa, has capacity for 1.2 million tonnes of cargo handling per annum.

He explained that the country's northern regions and parts of neighbouring countries can use the port as their first-choice

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan bids Burundi President Évariste Ndayishimiye farewell at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday just before the latter jetted back home at the end of a three-day State Visit to Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Burundi leader praises CRDB credit outreach

By Guardian Reporter

BURUNDI President Évariste Ndayishimiye has praised CRDB Bank Plc for playing a key role in boosting bilateral trade and investments between Burundi and Tanzania.

Speaking in Dodoma city on Friday after laying the foundation stone for the construction of a fertiliser factory operated by Itracom Fertilisers Ltd of Burundi, to which CRDB provided a loan, the president said the bank has been an important partner in facilitating strategic government projects in his country, thus enhancing its growth outlook.

“Honourable President, your presence here today to lay the foundation stone for the construction of Itracom ...

“Financing the construction of this fertiliser factory is yet another testimony that

the bank is committed to facilitating stronger bilateral trade and investments between our sister countries,” he said, on the very first day of his just-ended three-day State Visit to Tanzania.

He said the factory will have capacity of producing 600,000 tonnes of fertiliser per annum, creating employment for up to 10,000 people along its value chain.

CRDB Group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela said that the bank has three branches in Burundi, financing strategic government projects in that

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Govt to ensure farmers get improved sunflower seeds

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SUNFLOWER farmers have a reason to smile as the government embarks on distributing subsidized improved seeds across the country ahead of the next planting season.

The distribution of 1,600 tonnes of sunflower seeds to be sold at a retail price of 3,500/- per kilogram started on Saturday, aimed at empowering poor farmers to access improved seeds.

Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda said at the launch that the demand for improved seeds stands at 6000 tonnes, “and the target is to reach 2000 tonnes in the near future and finally the full demand.”

This initiative will help farmers to access improved seeds as a kilogram of such seeds, when imported by private firms, fetches around 35,000/- per kilogram, he affirmed, noting that it was a ‘revolution’ for common farmers to get better seeds that improve yields, their income and the national economy in general.

“for the bold step aimed at empowering farmers and increasing availability of edible oil in the country

He said the government welcomes private sector players to continue importing sunflower seeds to increase availability, as local production of seed was still quite expensive.

The government has spent 2.2bn/- to ensure availability of improved seeds in the country, with stakeholders demanding that a further 8bn/- be devoted to purchasing those seeds.

Reaching this milestone took time and was not easy to foresee, he stated, expressing gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for steadfast leadership aimed at improving the lives of the common people.

The country imports over

365,000 metric tonnes of edible oil annually, taking up around 443bn/- in foreign exchange resources, he stated, emphasizing on diligent work by extension officers to ensure seeds are available up to village level in needy wards.

Earlier, Bahi District Commissioner Mwanahamisi Mkunda noted that Dodoma region is well known for sunflower farming and will not lag behind in ensuring that farmers access improved seeds.

Speaking in the place of Regional Commissioner Antony Mtaka, she said the regional authorities are well prepared to make sure the seeds are made available and that no farmers are left behind. “This is a great innovation in the agriculture sector, aimed at changing lives of poor farmers,” she declared.

Stephen Mareale, representative for the Sunflower Farmers Association of Tanzania, showed praise on the government “for the bold step aimed at empowering farmers and increasing availability of edible oil in the country.”

“We welcome the move taken by the government and appreciate its commitment to improve the agricultural sector,” he added.

Kagera Sugar Co. wants bridge completed, applauds TRA visit



Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata (4th-R) poses for a photo with Kagera Sugar Company board chairman Seif Ali Seif (4th-L) and agronomists during the tour by a delegation of members of the TRA top management to the firm in Missenyi District, Kagera Region, at the weekend. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

By Selemani Mpochi, Kagera

DELAYS in the completion of the construction of a bridge over Kagera River have disrupted Kagera Sugar Company's productivity, impinging on the firm's ability to pay the relevant taxes. The bridge is of strategic national importance as it stands

as a crucial link between Kagera Region's Karagwe and Missenyi districts, with the company located in the latter district. Construction was supposed to have been completed some three months ago.

Seif Ali Seif, chairman of the sugar firm's board of directors, said he was pleased

with efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in her vision of cooperation between the government and private sector players. He made the remarks at the firm's premises as he showed around visiting Tanzania

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Burundi leader praises CRDB credit outreach

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country just as is the case in Tanzania.

The bank is planning to open another branch in Gitega, the Burundi political capital, later this year, while also financing the construction of Fomi fertiliser factory and a cement factory in Rutana, to the tune of US\$10 million in loan already provided.

"Honourable President, your presence here today to lay the foundation stone for the construction of Itracom factory is testimony to the strong bilateral relations between Tanzania and Burundi," he declared.

He added: "As a local bank with an international vision, CRDB has a deliberate strategy to facilitate trade and investment relations in the East Af-

rica region to boost economic growth and improve people's livelihoods."

The bank has so far invested US\$107 million in Burundi spread across different sectors of the economy, including the Mpanza hydroelectric project.

In Tanzania, CRDB has financed Minjingu fertiliser factory, also operated by Itracom. The firm, which is located in Babati District, was part of the group's credit extension as Itracom's banker in Tanzania, taking up around US\$12 million.

The bank has been operating in Burundi for the past ten years as CRDB Burundi. It is also an important taxpayer to the Bujumbura authorities in addition to creating jobs for the country's youth, the CEO further noted.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula (R) pictured in Dodoma on Friday introducing Burundi President Évariste Ndayishimiye (next to her) to CRDB Bank PLC CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd-L) shortly before the president laid the foundation stone for the CRDB-supported Itracom Fertilisers Ltd factory in Dodoma Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Northern circuit to shift to Tanga port starting May

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transit point.

Locken Massawe, chairman of the Arusha city lobby, meanwhile said that rapid delivery of goods is what all traders want, adding that the proposed dry port project in Arusha would complement the expansion of Tanga Port facilities.

Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella said it was high time the country's northern zone regions started making noticeable use of Tanga port instead of continuing to rely on Mombasa.

Ngaile explained that the Tanzania Ports Authority is also developing a modern

jetty at Raskazone oil terminal, a facility capable of accommodating medium-sized tankers carrying petroleum products with a deadweight tonnage of 80,000 tonnes to 120,000 tonnes.

He said the government decided to use Tanga port as the second entry point option for petroleum products under the Bulk Procurement System from July 2015, the port of choice being Dar es Salaam.

More than 705,000 tonnes of petroleum products have been handled at the port in the past six years, including liquefied petroleum gas, he added.

Kagera Sugar Co. wants bridge completed, applauds TRA visit

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Revenue Authority Commissioner General Al-phayo Kidata, who was on a working tour primarily meant to help the tax body have a fuller and clearer understanding of the situation facing large taxpayers.

"Having the commissioner general physically visiting the factory for a feel of what is actually going on will enable TRA to know about the challenges facing the factory, and the sugar sector in general, and thus be in a better position to work together in finding a way

out," said Seif. He added that any further delays in having the bridge ready would touch off losses, mainly those resulting from the impending destruction of over 150,000 tonnes of sugarcane, "a situation that just cannot be taken into account on the strength of distant tax assessment". TRA officials meanwhile commended the firm for its efforts in uplifting the country's sugar sector, with commissioner general Kidata noting that the weekend visit by TRA top officials was

part of a series of visits to the premises of large taxpayers. He explained that the tour sought to explore tax and investment issues in sugarcane cultivation and sugar production, citing the company's outlay as a serious investment worth emulating by investors elsewhere in the country. "Truly, this is a big investment by an indigenous Tanzanian who has responded to the government's call to strengthen the country's industrialisation drive and contribute to the na-

tion's economic growth," he said. Kagera Sugar Company's investment has provided direct employment to more than 7,000 people, many of them youths from various Tanzanian universities and colleges, as well as 60,000 informal jobs that have conveniently gone to residents of Kagera Region. The TRA head specifically expressed pleasure upon learning that the firm had extended employment to Tanzanian graduates from the Sokoine University of Agriculture and the University of

Dar es Salaam, among other local institutions of higher learning. He said continuing to do so would further push the transfer of skills in the sector as well as the localisation of a wide range of technologies. According to Kidata, the tour was in response to a call by President Samia to the effect that TRA should place a premium on collecting tax basing on legal compliance, "and hence the concentration of efforts to get to the bottom of the activities of large taxpayers".



His Beatitude Theodoros II, current Greek Orthodox Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, gifts Vice President Dr Philip Mpango a souvenir after talks at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Osteoporosis: Experts urge greater awareness

By Special Correspondent

LACK of physical activity, excessive alcohol intake and a sedentary lifestyle heighten the risk of debilitating bone fractures among men and women in their early 50s due to osteoporosis, doctors in Tanzania warned.

Osteoporosis is a serious public health condition affecting the aging population. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one in three women and one in five men suffer a fractured hip, leg or arm due to osteoporosis.

As nations marked World Osteoporosis Day last week, medical experts in Tanzania have called for increased public awareness on the disease's risk factor to avert a devastating epidemic of broken bones.

Zulfiqarali Abbas, a consultant, endocrinologist and diabetes specialist based in Dar es Salaam, said weight-bearing exercises such as walking, jogging and climbing stairs can positively influence men and women's bone health.

"People who spend a lot of time watching TV have a higher risk of bone fractures," he said.

Osteoporosis, which causes bones to break and the skeleton to weaken, affects mostly elderly women. However, experts say an increasing number of men suffer from the disease due to unhealthy lifestyles.

"It is often perceived as a disease of women that doesn't affect men, but the reality is otherwise," Abbas said.

Osteoporosis occurs when bone mass decreases quicker than the body can replace it, leading to loss of bone strength, according to experts. Although the disease affects all bones in the body, fractures occur most frequently in the hips, wrists and spine, the primary weight-bearing parts of the body, experts say.

According to Abbas, men and women with underlying conditions such as diabetes and hypertension are at increased risk of suffering fractured bones and early mortality. He said inadequate calcium intake, excessive alcohol use, vitamin D deficiency and insufficient exposure to sunlight are some of the risk factors for weakened bones.

He said osteoporosis may cause hip fractures among people aged 50 and above, thus causing minor spinal fractures that result in chronic back pain.

People diagnosed with osteoporosis can alter lifestyles such as quitting smoking and drinking, exercising regularly and eating a balanced diet with enough calcium and vitamin D.

Christopher Mlewa, 52, who suffered a broken arm after a minor fall three years ago, said Osteoporosis can strike at any age irrespective of one's gender.

"I was 49, when the doctor discovered that my bones were weak and fragile and prescribed some medications for reversing bone loss and increasing bone strength," he said.

According to him, a minor impact had caused the wrist

bone to break.

Joseph Mwanga, a senior orthopedic surgeon at Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI), said many people who go for treatment don't realize that bone loss can strike anytime during middle age.

"It doesn't suddenly happen on your 50th birthday, the sign for low bone density come at a much younger age," said Mwanga.

While men in their 50s do not go through the rapid loss of bone mass that women experience in the wake of menopause, experts say the rates of bone loss are the same for men and women by the age of 65.

The 65-year-old Maria Mkaikuta recalled the most devastating moment of her life when excruciating pain ripped through her body.

"I didn't realize it at the time, but I was later diagnosed with severe osteoporosis," she said.

Mkaikuta, who suffered a broken hip after she had stepped on a bar soap in the bathroom and fell down, spent several months hospitalized.

"The pain caused by this disease robbed me of my life. I couldn't even take care of myself," said Mkaikuta, who uses a walker to move around her house.

She said Osteoporosis is not just the case of a broken bone; it can be a depressing, debilitating and devastating experience.

"I was filled with constant fear, afraid to fall down again," she said.



Energy minister January Makamba (2nd-R) talks with his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, during an official visit to the Arab nation at the weekend. With them are Tanzania's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ali J. Mwadini (2nd-L), and Dunford Mpelumbe, an assistant to Makamba. Photo: Correspondent Malik Munisi

South Sudanese president lauds historic, brotherly ties with Cairo

JUBA

South Sudanese President Salva Kiir Mayardit expressed appreciation to the historic and brotherly ties between Egypt and South Sudan. The remarks were made during the reception of Egyptian ambassador in Juba Mohamed Qadah on the occasion of the end of his line of duty in South Sudan, said a statement of the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday, last week.

Kiir (pictured) lauded the efforts of the Egyptian embassy in Juba to boost Egyptian-South Sudanese relations.

He also lauded the achievements realized till now at the level of bilateral cooperation.

Meanwhile, Qadah reviewed the Egyptian-South Sudanese ties over the past period, highlighting the historic visit of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi to Juba in November 2020 and the recent visit of Kiir to Cairo this month.

He thanked the South Sudanese leadership and people for their support to him during his tenure of duty.

AGENCIES



Benin vows to work closely with Pan African court in enhancing human rights

By Guardian Reporter

BENIN has said it is committed to strengthen human rights and good governance, and that it will work very closely with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to attain its objective.

The assurance was given over the weekend by Benin's Minister for Justice and Legislation, Séverin Maxime Qunum, during talks with the visiting African Court delegation led by its President Lady Justice Imani Daud Aboud.

The delegation included the Vice-Presi-

dent of the Court, Justice Blaise Tchikaya, and key registry staff.

The minister lauded the visit, adding that it was encouraging to see that the Court's new leadership has taken a renewed approach of engaging with AU Member States on ways to strengthen the continental judicial body.

"The new leadership of the Court has embarked on a renewed approach to its cooperation with States due to challenges it has faced recently in this respect. This is a most welcome and refreshing move," the Minister said during the joint

meeting.

The minister challenged the Court to undertake reforms to make it more effective by reviewing the structure of the Court and its registry as well as conditions of service of Judges.

"The Court needs an overhaul of its statutes to take into account some operational challenges it has been facing," the Minister pointed out.

Justice Imani said the Court has been facing challenges include the relatively low level of ratifications, very few declarations which have been on the decline in recent years, and poor level of implementation of

decisions of the Court.

"The protection of human and peoples' rights is a collective responsibility, with the member states at the centre as the key stakeholders. The African Court was established at the instance of the Heads of State who were convinced, and still remain convinced, that the African Court is a key player in the socio-economic and political development of the continent," she reminded.

The Court, she added, was established to help States meet their obligations to ensure the enjoyment of human rights of their nationals and for the Court to

effectively discharge its mandate and the support of States is very critical.

She added: "The Court is extending a hand to all Member States of the Union to work together for the enhancement of human rights on the continent."

The Court is marking its 15th anniversary this year and needs every support to ensure it executes its mandate as enshrined in the Protocol.

"The Court is organizing a retreat with the policy organs of the African Union to discuss possible reforms of the Court in Zanzibar in December," president Imani said.

Zanzibar has ideal conditions for investors, says Dr Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has welcomed investors as well as other firms to invest in Zanzibar while assuring them a friendly environment for their investments.

Dr Mwinyi (pictured) made the remarks at the weekend in his speech read on his behalf by the Second Vice President, Hemedi Suleman Abdullah at the exhibition organised by the Ministry of Lands and Settlements Development at Hotel Verde Grounds, Mtoni in Zanzibar.

He called on financial institutions and other stakeholders to grab the opportunity to build residential houses and allayed fears on their investments due to current great demand of residential houses in the Isles.

In his speech, Dr Mwinyi said the Phase VIII government continues with the process to relocate Zanzibar by establishing new satellite towns with modern houses including Matemwe, Chumbuni and Kilimani, for Unguja, and Finya and Mfikiwa for Pemba.

Also he said in regard to investment, the government through its Lands ministry has already set aside areas at Dunga and Pangapatupu as special industrial investment zones.

He said Zanzibar, as an islands nation has small geographical area hence he directed experts in the Lands ministry to continue with land planning while abiding by urban planning policy.

Dr Mwinyi praised the ministry for its creativity in making the important exhibition a success and urged the ministry officials to hold the exhibition every year.

For his part, the minister for Lands and settlements Development Rizi Pembe Juma said the exhibition aims at efforts to build the blue economy and enhance the Isles economic growth and people's development.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Joseph Kilangi said the population increase has made the ministry to come up with a robust plan for better land plans as well as the construction of low cost houses.

For his part, NCBA Bank Ag Assistant Relations Manager, Mulindwa Tishekwa said:



"In the exhibition, NCBA bank has come with good news to all NCBA bank customers and other participants that we have services that can make you realise your potential... Our soft loans can make you build or complete your residential houses.... And this concerns individuals, firms and corporations."

He added: "any kind of house building needs correct decisions that enables loan applicant to have ample information on how to obtain financial assistance to implement your project."

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A symposium conducted by KCB Bank Tanzania's business forum known as Biashara Club in progress in Mwanza city at the weekend. It was chiefly meant for entrepreneurs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TBS provides education to 11,636 people on goods quality standards

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 11,636 people, 7,536 who are primary and secondary school students residents of Lushoto, Rombo and Hanang districts have been provided with education on the importance of buying goods approved by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) as well as mobilizing traders to register their food and cosmetics shops.

The residents were provided with the education through a campaign conducted by the bureau that ended at the weekend.

The mass education campaign was conducted in various areas including primary and secondary schools, market places, bus stands, auctions and other open areas at which people emerged in great numbers to learn on various issues regarding goods' quality standards.

TBS Head of Markets Relations, Gladness Kaseka reminded the people that the war against substandard goods should not be waged by TBS alone, but by all Tanzanians.

"This campaign has been able to reach 11,636 people out of who 7,536 are primary and secondary schools students," said Kaseka.

Kaseka explained to students and teachers on the importance of goods quality standards in their day to day lives as well as the opportunity on free services to small traders, and called upon them to be good ambassadors to mobilise other members in the community about goods quality standards.

She also stressed upon the people to continue providing information when they come across of expired goods or of any goods they suspect to have been prohibited including underwear, brake fluids and cosmetics.

She also called on traders to abide by proper procedures in registering their goods or buildings.

Lushoto District Executive Director, Ikupa Mwaisyoge hailed TBS for providing the education to the people at district level, saying the move will increase awareness on the issue of trading in substandard goods.

Mkalema Secondary School Headmaster in Rombo District, Gerson Temu praised TBS for the good job they were doing and called upon them to continue doing so, especially in regard to frequent inspections in these districts.

Govt urges TCRA to strengthen quality management services

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government has called upon Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to increase efforts in the management of communications resources in the country, including mobile telephone numbers, postcode system and communications frequencies.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at Arusha Internal Conference Centre when he visited the TCRA pavilion at the Annual Conference of Information Communications Technology (ICT) experts.

Majaliwa stressed on the importance of TCRA to manage the country's commu-

nications resources as it was thriving to build digital economy that is largely depending on the communications sector.

He also hailed TCRA for the good job it was doing and stressed on the need to safeguard the country's frequencies resources.

Addressing conference participants, the PM stressed that the government has vowed to build the digital economy by 2025 with ICT being its main lever towards that end.

He also said the government is set to work on all challenges to be raised by the experts at the conference.

"The government's aim is to make sure that in the coming five years Tanzania will be recognized in the African conti-

nent and the whole world as the country driven by the digital economy," he stressed, and added that all ICT systems including provision of government services will reach all the people in both urban and rural areas to ensure the country realise its digital economy dream.

Meanwhile, Majaliwa said the government was in early stages to build a big ICT centre in the City of Dodoma to empower innovation and research in the ICT sector.

In regard to postcode addresses, Majaliwa directed the Ministry for Information, Communications and Information Communications Technology to make sure it speeds up the postcode addresses project in the country.

In regard to investing in ICT, Majaliwa directed the Ministry, in collaboration with Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) to create an enabling environment to invest in ICT in order to make sure the digital economy dream is early attained.

"The ministry has put in place strategies to make sure the national communication grid reached all areas in the country to facilitate the creation of economic opportunities in the country, said Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Information, Communications and Information Communications Technology.


Kijaji said the government has prepared guidelines on the registration of ICT experts in the country as part of policy requirement in order to make sure all ICT experts in the

country are registered to facilitate the government's aim to build the digital economy.

She also stressed on the government's aim to empower the creative youth in ICT to enhance their talents.



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JOB VACANCY

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- 1) Strategic Planning, Research, and Monitoring:** Informing and influencing the targeted wildlife species conservation and management strategies, plans, policies, and resource flows of targeted partners and stakeholders – including NGOs, government, and international cooperation agencies. Identifying needs and gaps for wildlife research and monitoring, and marshalling resources to address them as well as documenting the publications in peer reviewed papers. (Lead role.)
- 2) Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching:** Strengthening law enforcement and anti-poaching activities of key partners and stakeholders by bringing support for improved surveillance, inspections, transboundary collaboration, judicial action, and intelligence. (Lead role.)
- 3) Community Based Natural Resource Management:** Scaling up community-based approaches to wildlife and forest management to empower communities as managers and beneficiaries of wildlife and resource stewardship and to reduce degradation of critical habitats. The position will contribute through technical guidance on wildlife management and species protection to WWF colleagues and partners working on community-based resource management. (Contributing role.)
- 4) Trafficking and Demand Reduction:** Engaging with the WWF Network and external partners on reducing demand for ivory and other illegal wildlife products through market led approaches, public awareness campaigning, advocacy, and enhanced international cooperation. The position will contribute to this work by sharing lessons, research, and experience from Tanzania, and through coordination with TRAFFIC and the WWF Global Wildlife Practice. (Contributing role.)

REQUIRED SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES:

- High level expertise and practical experience in wildlife management and conservation.
- MSc in Wildlife management at a minimum, and a PhD as an added advantage.
- At least 10 years' experience in any of the following areas - Protected Areas management, Wildlife research and monitoring, Capacity building of wildlife stewards.
- Practical experience in wildlife species conservation and management with priority on Black Rhino, Lions and Wild Dogs
- On the ground working experience on wildlife management in Ruvuma Landscape.
- Experience working on wildlife policy advocacy and addressing wildlife crime issues in Tanzania.
- Ability to design and manage wildlife species conservation programs.

Additional information, including Terms of Reference, can be obtained via https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/. Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager through hresources@wwftz.org by Friday, 05th November 2021 at 4:30 pm. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam or via zoom video conferencing.

WWF is an equal opportunity organization.

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Charity organisations donate 7m/- food items to 200 widows and orphans in Coast Region

By Correspondent Julieth Mkireri, Kibaha

MEDEWELL charitable health centre in collaboration with Beta Charitable Trust has donated food supply worth 7m/- to over 200 widows and orphans in Coast Region.

The support which included a range of food items was part of the commemoration of the World Food Day which is celebrated annually on October 16.

Speaking during the hand over event human resources officer, Amina Rama-

dhan said the organization had the duty to land a hand to needy groups as they also wanted support to live happily.

"We have been commemorating this important day every year by supporting needy groups, we have been extending our support without discrimination and this year we are here to celebrate with widows and orphans," she said.

She said Medwell has been providing eye medical services at affordable costs so as to enable every person in

need to access the service and become healthy.

Haji Saheb, Medwell sponsor, urged the public to create a culture of helping each other so as to promote love and unity within their areas.

"The government alone cannot address all the challenges facing communities in the country, only with support from other people, so we need to continue strengthening our relations with the government," he said.

He urged parents to invest in their children's moral development by

training them to have fear of God and always remain good persons in the society.

"We should educate our children to have religious knowledge for them to be moral people who can dedicate their lives doing good things to others and thus help reduce the number of single parents and street children," he added.

Tumbi ward councilor Raymond Chokola commended the organization for remembering the poor.

Hamida Fazal, a nurse at the Kibaha-

Medewell called on the government to rehabilitate the road reaching the centre as it was in a devastating state.



We should educate our children to have religious knowledge for them to be moral people who can dedicate their lives doing good things to others



Dr Zainabu Chaula (R), Permanent Secretary in the Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry, exchanges views with Absa Bank Tanzania chief operating officer Oscar Mwamfwagasi (2nd-L) and chief information officer Emmanuel Mwinuka (L) during the Fifth National Annual ICT Conference in Arusha city at the weekend. Second right is one of the event's coordinator, Tumaini Magila. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB offers consultation on new strategy for quality health infrastructure in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has launched consultation process with health ministers and other partners as it develops strategy to drive enhanced access to health services across Africa through 2030.

Input from ministers in the Bank's 54 regional member countries, development partners and civil society is expected to strengthen the Bank's Strategy for Quality Health Infrastructure in Africa (2021-2030). A robust scoping study titled "Good Health and Well-being" underpins the strategy.

"These consultations are crucial to ensure the delivery of an efficient, impactful and sustainable strategy. The global Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on lives and livelihoods strongly justifies the Bank's renewed investments in Africa's health infrastructure and efforts to strengthen its health systems resilience," said Dr. Beth Dufford, the Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development.

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed serious gaps in African national health systems and overwhelmed capacity to test for and treat the disease. Health infrastructure is unevenly distributed, and often of poor quality. Only half of the primary health care facilities in sub-Saharan Africa have access to clean water and adequate sanitation.

The Strategy focuses on areas that match the Bank's comparative advantage, including health infrastructure and building in flexibility to respond to the needs of regional member countries. Particular focus areas are primary health care infrastructure for under-served populations, with supporting infrastructure investment to ensure that facilities are connected to water and sanitation, energy, transport and communications services; diagnostic infrastructure, utilizing a range of delivery models, including public-private collaborations; and connectivity for innovative health solutions, to expand information and communications technology links and facilitate innovations in health service delivery.


The Bank's investments in health infrastructure will be packaged with knowledge work, policy dialogue and technical assistance and in partnership with other health sector actors. This support will focus on effective health financing strategies, including the expansion of health insurance to ensure low-income household access and that investments are used effectively and sustainably.

"Poor health undermines Africa's economic productivity. The continent's health infrastructure needs are too big to be met by any one, single player. I welcome stakeholder inputs as the Bank formulates a pipeline of operations in support of building stronger African health systems," said Dr. Martha Phiri, Director for Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development at the Bank.

The Strategy has been developed in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 3 and the African Union's Agenda 2063.



These consultations are crucial to ensure the delivery of an efficient, impactful and sustainable strategy. The global Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on lives and livelihoods strongly justifies the Bank's renewed investments in Africa's health infrastructure and efforts to strengthen its health systems resilience



TENDER FOR SALE OF USED GENERATOR

UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office invites interested bidders for the sale of the following used generator:

Brand	: FG Wilson
Model	: PEP 25 150KVA
Engine	: Perkins
Rating	: 150 KVA
Canopy	: Sound Attenuated Canopy
Accessories	: Automatic Change Over Switch - ATI 250, Static Battery Charger
Status	: Working in good condition

The generator may be viewed at the UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office compound, 59 Mtwara Crescent, Oysterbay during the working hours from 09:00 – 12:00 Hours from 25/10/2021 – 02/11/2021. A viewing appointment should be made by contacting Ms. Lilian Bujimu on Mobile 0766 603 461 or Mr. Leonard Kisenha on 0754 288 391. The tender conditions are as follows:

- 1) The generator will be sold "as-is where-is" basis without any warranty whatsoever.
- 2) The bid shall be valid for a period of 8 (eight) working days.
- 3) The minimum selling price of the generator is TZS 30,000,000
- 4) The opening of the bid shall take place on 03/11/2021 at 10:00AM at UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office meeting room in the presence of bidders or their legal representatives.
- 5) The successful bidder/s shall pay full tender amount within 48 hours from the notification of award. Payment shall be by bank transfer to UNESCO account in Dar es Salaam and a transfer confirmation document must be provided to UNESCO.
- 6) The bidder/s determined to be winner of the bid shall execute the contract agreement for the sale of used generator with UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office within seven (07) calendar days of the notification of that effect.
- 7) UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office reserves the right to reject the bid in total or partially and will not be under any obligation to accept any of the bids received.

Tender must be submitted to UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office by indicating the offer amount and currency both in figure and in word on or before the deadline date of 02/11/2021 before 2:00 PM in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

The Head of Finance and Administration
UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office
59 Mtwara Crescent, Oysterbay
P.O. Box 31473
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
TENDER FOR SALE OF USED GENERATOR



ON SALE **UP TO 5000 \$ OFF**

BEST OFFER EVER,



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Address: P.O.Box 105333, Mfugale Flyover, Nyerere Road, Dar es Salaam
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Quality Changes the World **SANY**

Organisation empowers over 100,000 youth with job creation skills last year

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

YOUTH-led charity organisation – Restless Development has empowered more than 100,000 young people in the country with different skills for them to be self-employed, create various job opportunities last year, an official has said.

Restless Development's project follow-ups manager Nassor Kikumbih said this here at the weekend when speaking to journalists at the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) week.

"Helping young people to become self-employed and create job opportunities is one of our key priorities in our projects," Kikumbih said.

He noted that in the organization young people are drilled on how to see and grab business projects and help them improve it and send them to the government for loans particularly the loans offered by local government authorities (10 percent that targets women, youth, and people with disabilities).

He also said that other training they provide to young people includes empowering them to make arguments about their rights to policymakers.

"We give them the ability to make

arguments for policymakers, but with the data of what they claim and this helps leaders to listen to them from the data they have."

"We don't want to create young people who complain about social media, we just want to have young people with arguments when they give something they have data as if it is a lack of credit, they determine exactly who is wrong and the directors are working," he said, adding:

"We're also empowering them with skills to be good leaders of today and tomorrow."

"60 percent of the people in the country are young so we must make young people the current leaders from the grassroots level."

He said the young man should be a leader starting from his area of residence by participating in various activities including those of disasters.

"If today there is a flood that even sweeps the house in his/her area, the youth should be the front line to participate in providing assistance even in the event of an election the community must have faith in the young man who volunteered and elected him," he said.

On reproductive health and development, the official said: "We've been providing education to groups of boys and girls to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies."



Ruvuma Regional Police Commander Joseph Konyo has a word with government drivers at the weekend on the importance of their serving as role models to other drivers in observing road traffic regulations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Projects worth \$140 million on the table for vaccines, healthcare in West and East Africa'

By Special Correspondent

MEMBERS of the Africa Investment Forum team showcased two projects during a virtual investor roundtable as the continent looks to boost its healthcare sector and attract much-needed investment in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The projects, jointly worth around \$140 million and located in East and West Africa, were previewed for potential investors.

The roundtable, held 21 October, is part of a series of events organized by the Africa Investment Forum and hosted by the Atlantic Council to drum up interest in the Forum's upcoming Mar-

ket Days, where a range of investment opportunities will be unveiled. The invited participants represented the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.

The first opportunity, with a project cost of \$96 million, is for the development of a 250-bed specialist hospital offering world-class healthcare services in a West African country. Feasibility studies have been undertaken and the land has been secured.

The second entails the construction of a \$45 million WHO-prequalified vaccine production plant in East Africa that will be capable of routine production of three vaccines, including for Covid-19.

After the presentations, a panel of

investors provided their insight on investing in Africa's healthcare sector. The panelists were Rhulani Nhlani-ki, sub-Saharan Africa Cluster Lead at Pfizer; Jean-Philippe Syed, Principal with private equity firm Development Partners International; Afsane Jetha, Managing Partner & CEO at private equity firm Alta Semper Capital; Stavros Nicolaou, Senior Executive - Strategic Trade at Aspen Pharmacare; and Dr. Dumani Kula, Chief Operating Officer for Africa with Evercare Group, a healthcare company. Aubrey Hruby, a Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council's Africa Center, moderated.

Syed said the African hospital sector, and in particular health tourism, had suffered as a result of pandemic-related travel restrictions.

Nicolaou said Africa's disease burden—the highest of any continent—made preventive care, including vaccines, all the more important for Africans. The need for pharmaceuticals will increase the requirements for partnerships that can overcome constraints such as research & development.

Other challenges mentioned by the participants include overcoming cold chain and last-mile-delivery issues, and ways to scale up pilot technologies, such as the use of drones to facili-

tate vaccine delivery.

Health is one of five priority investment sectors under the Africa Investment Forum's Unified Response to Covid-19 (link is external) pillars. The others are agribusiness, energy and climate change, ICT/Telecoms, and industrialization and trade.

At a panel discussion organized by the University of Edinburgh last week, Africa Investment Forum Senior Director Chinelo Anohu referenced the East Africa vaccine plant project in the context of Africa's current limited access to Covid-19 vaccines. Through trade and investment, particularly in its pharmaceutical sector, the continent can avoid vaccine inequity, Anohu said.

Dar's 'Afya Kwanza' campaign attracts big number of people

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM residents have come out in big numbers to check their health status in the ongoing "Afya Kwanza" campaign.

The campaign started on October 11, this year and it is expected to end this week.

Nseyia Kipilyango, director of Inspire Consults Limited, the coordinator of the project, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday that they are impressed on how Dar es Salaam residents value their health.

"A crowd of people who came out to check their health status made us very busy to attend; we served a lot of people in the first two days at Mbagala area in Temeke District. A similar situation happened when we were at Kigamboni. Apart from screening, many showed interest in knowing more about the three types of cancers," Kipilyango said.

However, she said the total number of screened people and those who should go for further checking and treatment at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) will be disclosed at the end of this week.

She said they started the campaign at Mikochehi in Kinondoni district before moving to Mbagala and then Kigamboni.

"Tomorrow (today) we are expecting to be at Kimara, Ubungo district and then

we will wind up the campaign at Kawe in Kinondoni district," She said.

Kipilyango said those who will be diagnosed with preliminary signs of cancer including breast, cervix or prostate, will be referred to the ORCI for more specialized screening and treatment.

She said her company cooperates with three other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to form the team to implement the Afya Kwanza campaign.

Apart from her company which is responsible to manage the project, Kipilyango mentioned the other NGOs as Shujaa Cancer Foundation which works to improve the quality of life of cancer survivors who are in transition from active prescription to life after treatment.

Another is Genesis for Palliative Care Services Foundation which came on board to make a close follow up with patients to make sure they get required treatment and the Associazione Ruvuma Onlus Tanzania (ARO-T) which offers a full clinical equipped track for free screening.

The Secretary with ARO-T, Happy Rwechungura said their aim is to make sure everybody, especially those who can't afford regular screening of those cancers to be provided with their free services.



Dr Jasson Rweikiza, director of Dar es Salaam's St Anne Marie Academy, eats a cake served by one of his nursery school leavers at a ceremony held in the city's Mbezi Kimara kwa Musuguri suburb at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

She said if diagnosed early, any kind of cancer can be cured, that's why they are taking efforts to educate the public on

the importance of conducting checkups of their health.

"We are screening for breast and cer-

vix cancers to women who are aged more than 18 years while men are tested for prostate cancer," she added.

Police and NGO launch special students road safety programme

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE traffic department in collaboration with international non-governmental organisation -AMEND have launched a special road safety programme which will include installation of road signs.

The programme which will implement in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region will enable students to cross the roads safely.

Head of the traffic department in Temeke District, MussaManyama commended AMEND for the various efforts in reducing road accidents insisting the need

to continue collaborating to educate Tanzanians especially students on safe road uses.

According to the officer, primary and secondary school students should be given priority in road safety training because they are among the vulnerable groups.

"We are thankful to AMEND because they have also been assisting us in fixing road signs and improving infrastructure," he added.

Speaking at the event, AMEND country manager, Simon Kalolo said the programme will be implemented at six schools within the district.

Kalolo said the road signs to be installed includes zebra crossings at all the roads crossing near school, markets and playgrounds. He said the NGO will also provide road safety education to students, teachers and surrounding communities.

"Statistics indicates that every year more than 1.35 million people die on road accidents globally while 50 million others get injured," said Kalolo, adding that most of the road accidents occur in the Africa continent.

In Africa, he said, there are about 26.6 deaths caused by road accidents every year, the number which is high compared

to 17.4 deaths recorded globally in 100,000 people.

Road traffic injuries are the leading killer of children and young adults aged 5- 29 years.

He said although Africa has a small number of vehicles, it has been leading in the number of road crashes globally. He said continued education is needed to ensure fewer accidents especially to schools zone to protect children.

Kalolo added that the NGO has been implementing road safety education programmes to nine schools in Africa whereby in Tanzania, the selected primary

schools were from Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Tanga.

Madenge primary school head teacher, LissyKaluvya commended the police force (traffic department) for choosing the school to benefit with the programme. He said since the NGO installed road signs and zebra crossing at roads cross the school, the number of accidents have gone down.

"We a number of students who were knocked by speeding vehicles and now hospitalized. We are thankful to AMEND because there are only few accidents occurring near by the school; pupils are crossing the roads safer," she stated.

START THE WEEK WITH CYNTHIA STACEY

Caring for the nation's money...but who cares?

WELL, greetings for the coming week, and I've just found my subject for today in an old file.....marked ".....Decision making and accountability...why isn't there any"?

I posed this question on 12th November 2018.....and President Samia asked it this month, on the 15th of October 2021 when she instructed the Prime Ministers Office and the Prevention of Combating Corruption (PCCB), to take action against all those involved in the embezzlement of funds intended for 49 development projects worth 68.3bn/.

Magafuli came into office with a mandate to deal with corruption, but before his tragic demise, let's hope he had long enough time to pass on "some tricks," which can assist the current government 'work force' to finally give good service to the people.....and delight the President!

But it's not just insider looters diminishing the treasury, but also those spending state funding, that has culminated in so many expensively failed projects, yet the careless 'custodians' responsible seem beyond censure.

One good example of this was the completion of the Makumbusho market complex in Dar es Salaam in 2003. Built with a loan from the World Bank, and described at the time by a local newspaper, as the biggest white elephant in town, but why should this well designed amenity be described in such terms?

Well among other issues of contention, traders said the booths were dubiously allocated but this didn't really matter, because there was virtually

no business or customers anyway.... and the real scandal amidst the administrative bungling, was that no feasibility study had been done, neither was there any viable road network for buses, and little or no attempt to advertise the markets location, or the services it offered.

The Kinondoni Council Director at the time was quoted as saying that he was "unaware of the problems, and because of his senior position, couldn't be expected to handle everything".....maybe demotion might have helped him cope instead!

For many years I visited the market, and watched the gleaming white structure slowly rot away, as the orderly trading areas were either abandoned or put to other uses, though a few vegetable and clothing sellers did a slow business. As always, I wondered if non-tax payers are still penalised, but who punishes the wasters of the tax payers money...no one apparently....but over time, other white elephants appeared....whole herds of them....and they must be all over the country!

Well let's divert a little though we're still with the same subject. In November 2018 the Dodoma's Municipal Council increased the rents for street traders by 900 %, in one of those government diktats that make you ask "can they really do that?".....and to paraphrase Barrak Obama, it seemed a case of...."Oh yes they can!"

This crazy price hike requested by the Dodoma 'daddies', seemed to go against President Magafulis directive to those leaders in the country, to stop collecting levies from poor people. Said at a rally in Mwanza, it resulted in media headlines of "I'll



Could this building really offer a pleasant shopping experience? Originally designated to accommodate many thousands of traders, like the Machinga complex in Ilala, Dar es Salaam, had been rejected by sellers and customers alike. But who sanctioned the go ahead, and should bad decisions that incur huge losses for the nation be investigated?. File Photo

tax the rich, and spare the poor".JPM.

But this humane advice, and the citizens it partially applied too, the street traders, has been mishandled for over many years particularly in Dar es Salaam, by an on-going succession of inept officials.

Some of these privileged people, whilst traversing various foreign places to learn something of value to improve their own, don't seem to have done so, as is self evident by some of the mistakes made.

And yet the solutions should be straight forward, because in most urban areas which need re-juvenat-

ing, we're talking about trading outlets and street markets etc.... not rocket science or nuclear physics! Yet to service this simple objective, large amounts of public money have been squandered unchallenged on impractical schemes, which is what angers the President.

.....and what better example of this than Dar's own "Guantanamo"laughably labeled "a state of the art" market, and called the Machinga complex, this huge concrete bunker built with a loan from NSSF, and resembling an old style multi story car park, is

comprised of row upon row of wire cages, but with one redeeming feature, compared to that famous US prison, those who enter it, can of course escape, but who'd ever want to go there in the first place!

The future King of England, Prince Charles, once famously described an unsightly modern structure as a "carbuncle" (an ugly or painful swelling) this became a widely used expression, but the Machinga building "out carbuncles" that one, and costing billions of shillings, it was certainly painful for the nations pocket.....because loans are debts which have to be paid back.....though lots of big guys don't seem to know this!

This complex, a mighty mishap of a project, has been mostly empty for years, yet ironically, makeshift trading goes on outside, with randomly displayed items on the ground, and hung from walls etc....and it's safe to say it's been another very big elephant indeed!

There are many differing open spaces in the inner city centre, where small kiosks could be sited. Of various sizes, colourful and well designed, these could be hired from the City Council, daily, weekly or longer, and would help create a vibrancy that's always been lacking in Dar es Salaam, as it still is today.

These simple ideas or similar ones, could be viable, but they won't be, because as critics said at the time, the Machinga Complex was thought of as a prestige project, and politically motivated....so where would be the Kudos in giving people a pleasant informal shopping environment....without much profit...political or otherwise!

P.S. Interestingly, Makumbusho market is now central to a thriving bus terminus, and finally doing business because of it....so one white elephant partially redeemed....but how many to go?!

An emerging cycling giant in Eritrea

By Simon Woldemichael

WHEN 21-year-old professional cyclist Biniam Ghirmay beat world athletes in the under-23 men's road race in Belgium to become the first black African to win a medal in the world championship, Eritreans were flooded with pride. The pride has been extensively written and talked about in the media, on the streets, and in tearrooms. Throughout history sport and national identity have been inseparably linked. A national team or an individual athlete in international arenas represents an entire nation and gives pride to members of their nation.

On Saturday, 9 October, President Issaias Afwerki received the victorious national cycling team in Adi Halo and on behalf of the Government donated 15 million Nakfa for the development of the sport. At the welcoming ceremony, President Issaias congratulated the team and described their victory as "a pride to the people and nation." The colorful welcoming celebration was a clear sign of excitement and pride felt by Eritreans. Upon arrival at Asmara International Airport, the national team was accorded a warm welcome by sports officials and athletes, and it was greeted and applauded by thousands of people lining the main streets of Asmara as the national team's motorcade passed by.

Eritrea, a young developing country, has been making major strides in cycling. It has produced world-class athletes who have won world championships and wore King of the Mountain jersey in the Tour de France. It has been able to showcase its potential in sport. The recent outstanding victory has received the attention of commentators and news outlets. In his article titled 'Biniam Ghirmay: World's silver is for Eritrea and for Africa,' Patrick Fletcher wrote that "Biniam Ghirmay hailed a landmark moment for Eritrea and all of Africa after win-

ning the silver medal in the U23 men's road race at the UCI Road World Championships." Biniam Ghirmay is the first black African to podium at the cycling world championships. In another article titled 'Biniam Ghirmay: A black African rider will win a Grand Tour stage soon,' Alessandro Poggi wrote that "The 21-year-old sprinted to silver in the under-23 men's road race at the world's championship in Belgium to become the first black African to win a medal in the competition and cement Eritrea's reputation as Africa's leading cycling nation."

Alessandro Poggi's opinion that Eritrea is maintaining its reputation as Africa's leading cycling nation is a good observation. Through the victory in the world championship, Eritrea has also been able to showcase its overall national stature. Tesfaldet Mebrahtu, a sports journalist of Hadas Ertra, also wrote an illuminating article titled 'Biniam will return to Asmara on Saturday with his silver medal' in the Tigrinya newspaper. He wrote "only nine countries, including Eritrea, have received the Gold and Silver medals. Generally, there have been 33 medals (gold, silver, and copper) that have been won by 14 countries: Eritrea from Africa, the USA from North America, Australia from Oceania and eleven countries from Europe." Many Eritreans living in Europe traveled to Belgium to give their support to the Eritrean Cycling team. Biniam acknowledged the contribution of the Eritrean fans by saying "Listening to the encouraging voices of Eritreans and seeing them waving our national flag is a big deal."

Sport has been described as a valuable means and an alternative medium to showcase a country's national identity. In this sense, the national team of Eritrea symbolizes the whole country and through their excellence, the athletes demonstrate the nation's pride. The national team, in general, and Biniam, in particular, have made history for



Eritreans and Africans as a whole. In the post-race press conference, Biniam said, "This means a lot for me, for my nation and for Africa... I am really happy. I am really proud of my nation, so I say congrats to all Eritreans and also to all Africans."

Sport is at par with public diplomacy. Public diplomacy seeks to promote the national interest of a country by informing and influencing foreign audiences. In Eritrea, where public diplomacy has an equal weight with formal or traditional diplomacy, many activities that seek to advance the interests of Eritrea are undertaken by indi-

vidual Eritreans and organizations. Sport can serve as a means of correcting misconceptions and creating positive perceptions about Eritrea. In this sense, sport is a public good and its development is crucial for the development of the country.

Through sports, Eritrea will have an opportunity to win in the battle for hearts and minds. For this reason, the Government has been taking various initiatives to develop and manage sports better at the national level. Currently, sport is administered under the auspices of the Commission of Culture and Sport. Acknowledging the huge po-

tential of sports to contribute toward peace, diplomacy, and development, Eritrea is participating in various regional, continental and international contests.

Today, there exists a strong acceptance of sports as an important enabler of sustainable development. For example, Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) has emerged as an important sector of international development. This initiative with strong interest and a commitment to continue using sport as a unique tool to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is gaining the attention of planners and decision-makers.

Many countries have recognized sports' growing contribution to the development and tend to integrate sports in the framework of achieving SDGs. They recognize the growing contribution of sport for the realization of development and peace, promotion of tolerance and respect, and the empowerment of young people. In Eritrea, sports can serve as a new engine in advancing various dimensions of development.

Cycling is a popular means of transportation in Eritrea and contributes to sustainable livelihoods, a better environment, improved health, and overall improvement in the quality

of life of Eritreans. Cycling is popular and the pathways to the professional ranks are widening from time to time. In Eritrea, cycling is a game, sports activity, and culture.

The American cycling coach, Jock Boyer, has once said "Eritrea is the only African country that has such deep roots in cycling. It's a deep-seated culture. Every young kid in the country has tried cycling to see if they can make it onto a team. They're highly motivated and dedicated." Eritrea proved itself as a cycling giant nation. Eritrean riders have reached a peak to become champions at international grand tours.

Emergency declaration and the Igbo question

By Onikepo Braithwaite

Anambra and the Declaration of a State of Emergency

IF the situation in the country had not deteriorated to such an all-time low in so many ways, especially in terms of tribalism, ethnicity and distrust of Government, and issues were hitherto handled in the best possible manner, the statement of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) would not have been received as badly as it was in the South Eastern Nigerian Quarters - it would maybe have been weighed properly on its merits. Suspicion among the different Nigerian ethnic groups and political parties, is palpable. Therefore, it was easy for some to 'cherry-pick' the part of the AGF's statement which mentioned not ruling out the possibility of declaring a state of emergency in Anambra State, and leaving out the more categorical part of his same statement where he said: "The Government will certainly do the needful in terms of ensuring that elections are held in Anambra, in terms of ensuring necessary security is provided, and in terms of ensuring protection is accorded to life and property".

Or did the fear of even such a hint in the AGF's statement, stem from the fact that in 2004, President Obasanjo did actually declare a state of emergency in Plateau State, suspending the Governor and State Legislature, following a crisis of attacks and killings by Christian Militants on Hausa

and Fulani Muslims in the Yelwa area of the State in May 2002? The state of emergency lasted for about six months, but by virtue of Section 305(6)(c) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) (the Constitution), a state of emergency can be further renewed and extended by the National Assembly. In 2013, President Goodluck Jonathan also declared a state of emergency in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, due to deadly Boko Haram attacks.

I suppose to many, the thinking is that, if elections could hold in Maiduguri, Borno State on February 23, 2019 just hours after a Boko Haram attack in which rocket propelled grenades were fired into the city and several explosions were heard throughout Maiduguri a couple of hours before voting began, and a state of emergency was not only not declared there, but the voter turnout was recorded to be even higher than that of Lagos that suffered no terrorist attack at all, then what is so special about the pockets of violence that Anambra may be experiencing, that would warrant the declaration of a state of emergency? After all, these days, there are pockets violence all over the country, and no state of emergency has been declared anywhere (see Section 305 of the Constitution).

Closer to home, if a state of emergency has not been declared in the APC State of Imo where all manner of violence occurs practically on a daily basis, including a massive jail break in which 1800 Prisoners es-



aped (as of May 2021, over 1200 were still at large); where there's a breakdown of law and order, why should one be declared in Anambra, because less than 20 people were killed in the space of a few weeks there? (Every life that is lost, is precious).

As most things in Nigeria these days, the allusion to the declaration of a state of emergency in Anambra State ahead of the upcoming November Gubernatorial election, has been translated to mean that the South East zone is being treated more harshly than the rest of the country, contrary to Section 42 of the Constitution (discrimination), or that the APC wants to take Anambra State by all means. The issue of whether the conditions for such a declaration exist, is immaterial - its now about - "since you didn't make the declaration in Borno, Ondo, Kaduna or Imo (all APC States), you cannot make one in Anambra". Sadly, for quite a while now, this is how our country has been governed - not always on the basis of what is in the best interest of the country and the people, but, unfortunately, on the basis of partisanship, tribalism, ethnicity and their ilk; and since "what is good for

the goose, is good for the gander", even if the conditions did exist in Anambra to warrant a declaration of a state of emergency, to the extent that such conditions also existed in Maiduguri, Imo and other places and no state of emergency was declared in those places, it would be unfair and discriminatory to do so in Anambra. Thankfully, President Buhari has laid this controversy to rest, by confirming to the outgoing Governor of Anambra State, Willie Obiano, that no state of emergency will be declared there.

The truth of the matter is that, whether it is the Boko Haram insurgents, or bandits, or those who are destroying national assets in Imo State, or forcing people to sit at home, or the hoodlums that hijacked the #EndSARS Protest and destroyed transport buses and the Lagos High Court - they are all terrorists within the definition of Section 1(2) of the Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2011 (TPA). With the state of the economy, plus the kind of hardship Nigerians are currently passing through, I can't understand why IPOB which claims to be acting for the benefit of the Igbo people, will be using threats, violence

and intimidation to prevent the people from going out to earn their daily bread. How do they expect their people to survive, especially those who earn daily wages, like Labourers - who if they don't work on a particular day, won't have money to feed themselves and their families that day? This is also an act of terrorism, within the context of Section 1(2)(b) (ii) of the TPA (seriously intimidating a population).

Marginalisation of the South East: Fact or Fiction?

The issue of the marginalisation of the South East zone or discrimination against it, is one that now occupies the front burner in Nigeria, especially as it has not only given rise to secessionist movements like MASSOB (Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra founded in 1999), and the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), but is also alleged to be the cause of the unrest and violence that the South East zone is currently experiencing. Cries for secession by the South East have always met with stiff resistance from the Federal Government - whether by means of the 1967-1970 Nigerian Civil War to prevent the establishment of Biafra by Lt Col Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, or the arrest and detention of the Founder of MASSOB, Ralph Uwazurike in 2005 under the Obasanjo administration on charges of Treason, and now the arrest and detention of Nnamdi Kanu, the Founder of the Proscribed IPOB on charges of Terrorism and Treason.

The foundational principles of persuasion

CENTRAL to understanding persuasion is the concept of neutrality. The laws of persuasion are neither good nor evil. They simply exist. Just as nuclear energy can be used to create electricity or an atomic bomb, persuasion can be used to create unity or to force compliance. Whether the outcome is good or bad depends on the person using the laws and how that person applies the techniques of persuasion. Some people desire to win at any cost, using any available tactics including misusing the laws of persuasion. These individuals are willing to use guilt, violence, intimidation, temptation, bribery, and blackmail to get the desired result.

However, when used properly, persuasion is our best friend. Through persuasion we create peace agreements, promote fund-raising efforts, and convince motorists to buckle up. Persuasion is the means by which the coach of an underdog team inspires players to win. It is also the method employed by the Health Service to convince people to have regular mammograms and prostate examinations, by managers to increase employee performance and morale, and by hostage negotiators to convince criminals to free their captives.

Persuasion must have an audience. The art of persuading and influencing others always requires an au-

dience, whether it is a single person, a small group of ten, or a much larger assembly of listeners. This component is constant, so it is critical to know how to adapt quickly to your audience's needs, wants, fears, and desires. Knowing how to research and read your audience will help you determine which tools or techniques will be the most effective in any given situation.

Using the wrong techniques and tools, on the other hand, will automatically create barriers between you and your audience, which in turn will diminish your potential to persuade them. When you effectively integrate the principles and laws of persuasion with the characteristics of influence, power, and motivation, your audience will always be friendly, and desirable results will be the outcome.

Commitment is the highest ideal of 'Maximum Influence' because its impact is the most permanent and far-reaching. Your reputation as one possessing integrity, honor, trust, and respect will continuously inspire commitment from everyone you seek to persuade.

Getting people to do what you want and, at the same time, to enjoy it is not an accident or coincidence. You must use techniques based on the proven laws of persuasion and influence to achieve such results. As you master these techniques, you will experience predictable control and



influence over others.

Professional negotiators, sales professionals, and upper management professionals around the world use these laws. They are the same principles that help thousands of people gain control of their lives and their financial futures.

Effective persuasion requires adaptation. Have you ever tried the same ap-

proach with a customer that your boss uses on you and had it fail miserably? Becoming a 'Master Persuader' requires more than mimicking other persuaders. You must not only fully understand the wide variety of persuasive techniques available, but you must also be ready to use the techniques best suited for any given situation. Acquiring this level of skill demands a commitment to watch,

analyze, study, and apply the concepts of Maximum Influence.

Human nature is as varied as the colors of the rainbow. Human actions and thoughts are never perfectly predictable because each of us has different emotions, attitudes, beliefs, personalities, and traits. A beginner's tendency is to find one persuasive technique that works and stick with that. Unfortunately, you cannot use the same persuasion tool on everyone. Depending on the situation and the techniques you use, people will agree with you, refuse to listen, or be indifferent to your efforts. The Master Persuader has many tools and can therefore adapt and customize them to suit any situation or personality.

Do you want short-term temporary results or long-term permanent results? Effective persuasion has lasting impact, but it requires dedicated study and long-term commitment on the part of the persuader.

The twelve laws of persuasion Mortensen in the book 'Maximum Influence' explores and categorizes the twelve essential Laws of Persuasion. These laws form the basis of the art and science of persuasion and influence. Adherence to these laws can help you understand and gain control of any situation involving persuasion.

Our minds are programmed with automatic persuasion triggers. Most of us experience persuasive situa-

tions without realizing or thinking about it. Master Persuaders know what these triggers are and how to utilize them to their advantage. Understanding the Laws of Persuasion helps us become aware of how we are influenced without having conscious knowledge of it.

Learning to influence and persuade takes time, skill, and experience. What most people do not realize is that we already instinctively use many of these laws in our daily communications. The same Laws of Persuasion that we unknowingly use every day are the very same ones Master Persuaders use deliberately, consciously, and consistently.

'Master Persuaders' make persuasion a habit. Think about how conscientious you were when you first started driving. Now, after years of practice, driving a car does not require as much thought or focus. Master Persuaders understand the rules of persuasion and practice them constantly. They can apply the techniques subconsciously, without even thinking about them. For them, the application of persuasion has become second nature.

Two paths of persuasion According to Mortensen, there are two paths to persuasion: the conscious and the subconscious. Both paths can persuade others to your way of thinking, but each path uses a very different means of processing information.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Govt mulls building vibrant ICT centre in Dodoma to promote expertise and research

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government is set to build a vibrant center to promote expertise and research in the country that will be built in Dodoma through the Digital Project "Digital Tanzania".

Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology, Dr Ashatu Kijaji said this over the weekend in Arusha when speaking at the Fifth Annual ICT Conference in Tanzania.

The center, according to Dr Kijaji will help the country bridge ICT experts' gap and make the sector grow and bring swift socio-economic development.

For his part, Huawei Tanzania chief executive officer, Damon Zhang said: "We commit ourselves to continue promoting digital in-

clusion through bringing digital to every person, every home, and every organization for a fully connected Tanzania."

He also said the company was ready and committed to working with the government in taking its common vision forward, growing the digital economy, and increasing Tanzania's national competitiveness to seize the opportunities and manage the challenges brought by the digital era.

Officiating the conference, Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa said that the government has set aside 170bn/- for the national backbone in the financial year 2021/2022 while also emphasizing the importance of security systems through Information Communication Technology (ICT) in various cities in the country.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa poses for a photo with various stakeholders, including senior government officers and Huawei Tanzania CEO Damon Zhang during the Fifth Annual ICT Conference held in Arusha city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

On the national backbone, the Prime Minister said the funds will enable the construction of 4,244 kilometers of the backbone to reach a total of 12,563 kilometers.

"Our target is to enable telecoms service providers to use this infrastructure to improve communications services in the country and facilitate internet access to various public and private sector," he said

Majaliwa used the opportunity to direct the Ministry of Information, Science and Information Technology to closely monitor the expansion of the national backbone so that more citizens can participate in building a digital economy.

"Currently the government has built 8,319 kilometers of the national backbone up to September 2021. Our goal is to build up

to 15,000 kilometers by 2024/2025. This requires significant investment and the government is committed to investing effectively but we also invite partners and investors in this area as well as other ICT areas," he insisted.

Regarding the importance of the existence of security systems through ICT in various cities in the country, the Prime Minister said they will help increase security as

it will enable you to have records of various incidents including crime in those areas.

"I had the opportunity to visit China and I visited Huawei, where I saw great and modern technologies that we can use here in the country as well," he said.

Majaliwa also launched an ICT professional's registration system and issued certificates to some ICT professionals who are registered.

Make organic farming one of the primary school subjects, govt urged

By Correspondent Faustine

Feliciana

THE government has been urged to include organic farming into primary school curriculum to encourage pupils to be able to identify potentials available in farming for the country's sustainable development.

Agricultural stakeholders made the call when speaking at the two-day Second National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference held in Dodoma last week.

One of the organic farming stakeholders, Richard Mhina said the move will enable children to grow up having enough knowledge about farming and be able to take action.

He said that teaching children with organic farming practices will also stimulate self-reliance and employment when they grow up.

Mhina, who is also the director of the Floresta Tanzania said apart from conserving the soil and its other biological organisms,

organic farming that from time immemorial has been practiced by forefathers, also ensures farmers and the community get fresh food crops.

"It is high time now we collect efforts and invest in educating children and communities at the grass-roots on natural and affordable agriculture, telling them the effects of chemical applications to the soil," he said.

He said that agriculture courses are vastly taught in higher education institu-

tions forgetting to put emphasis in primary and secondary schools.

According to him, Floresta has prepared educational textbooks for farmers and the community but the government's efforts were still needed to ensure that the knowledge reaches more people in every corner of the country.

"The government hasn't put much emphasis on this, but we should now work together and ensure that our children are taught about organic farming. Flo-

resta provides education to farmers but we have also prepared books for young people and we are ready to work with the government," Mhina said.

He said his institute has now reached 11,000 farmers educating them and empowering them in agriculture.

"Organic farming helps to maintain environmental health by reducing the level of pollution. It reduces the cost of agricultural production and also improves soil health. In most cases

it maintains and improves fertility, soil structure and biodiversity, and reduces erosion... reduces the risks of human, animal, and environmental exposure to toxic materials," he further noted.

He said they are partnering with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) as well as the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) to provide natural farming education and training to farmers.

Jumanne Kishimba, Ka-

hama MP said by teaching organic farming as a subject in primary school will save the country's soil but boost health and development.

"It is true that modern agriculture uses a lot of chemicals that weakens and destroys the land, at the end of the day, our land will fail to produce as it will become infertile," Kishimba said.

Meanwhile, Kishimba urged the government to allow farmers to sell their produce freely and in the markets of their choice so as to benefit from their efforts.

TAHA, UNDP come up with national centre of excellence to unleash horticulture potential

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

HORTICULTURAL growers can now learn practically about good agricultural practices, climate-smart technologies, and crops commercialization for high yields and income respectively, at a newly opened state-of-the-art 'National Centre of Excellence for Horticulture'.

The full-fledged Tengeru horticulture farmer's services centre of excellence on the southern slopes of Mount Meru in Arusha, built by the private horticultural apex body Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), through financial support from UNDP, will showcase some of the most advanced and climate-smart technologies for horticulture nursery and cultivation.

The UK BRC recognized CoE which already created decent employment for 250 mostly women and youth, is also the strategic trans-shipment hub, serving as a one-stop centre for perishable crops destined to various international markets.

To be specific, the hub with the state-of-the-art cold storage, packaging and sorting facilities designed to guarantee horticultural crops reach the overseas consumers at their optimum quality.

The centre also offers shipment services under one roof, offering a ray of hope for thousands of local small-scale growers and exporters to participate in the export value chain.

"The perishable hub eases the transport of local perishable goods, such as green beans, fruits, spices and vegetables to export markets around the world," says TAHA Group CEO, Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi during the launching of the centre.

An environmental friendly hub stationed at Tengeru vicinity along the Arusha - Moshi highway to offer perishable exporters a hassle-free connection to the country's largest gateway, Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) to dispatch their products to various destinations in the World.

Dr. Mkindi said the centre also has a mobile cold refrigerator, the first facility of its kind in the country, courtesy of Brunel University London and Centre for sustainable energy use in food chains, with a capacity to offer cold chain management for perishable crops from farm gate to the pack house, potentially reducing a post-harvest loss.

"Our strategy is to unleash the full potential of horticulture. It's our conviction that horticulture has the potential to turn around the country's economy and drive the majority of youths from abject poverty to a promised land of milk and honey" said TAHA Chairman, Eng. Zebadiah Moshi.

Inaugurating the CoE, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe poured a lot of praises to TAHA and UNDP for truly complementing the government's efforts in building key infrastructures critical to unleash potential of the agriculture sector.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate TAHA, UNDP and urge development partners to emulate the spirit to work towards enhancing the infrastructures in the agricultural sector to enable the farmers to meet the market requirements".

"We can train farmers to the sky, but without requisite infrastructures to support their crops reach consumers at their optimum quality, there's no way we can transform the destiny of the farmers by



Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (C) cuts ribbon at Tengeru in Arusha Region recently to inaugurate a national centre of excellence for horticultural farmers. He is with, among other people, UNDP Resident Representative Christine Musisi (3rd-L), TAHA Group CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi (2nd-R) and TAHA board chairman Zebadiah Moshi (3rd-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

enhancing their income manifolds," Bashe explained.

He asked TAHA and UNDP to ensure that the centre is equipped with hi-end lab technologies so that extensive research could be carried out for producing high yielding varieties of fruits and vegetables.

"This Centre of excellence must have high tech poly-house for vegetable nursery and a high tech nursery for fruits to help farmers to maximise their profit," Bashe noted.

UNDP Resident Representative, Christine Musisi said that in a year or two, she expect to see tangible results of the centre evident through exponentially higher yields of quality products in the country, increased exports of horticultural products with clarity on the country of origin, improved nutrition nationwide and true

economic empowerment of a critical mass of smallholder farmers in Tanzania, particularly women and youth.

"This centre is a celebration of our partnership and efforts in transforming the horticulture industry in Tanzania. For us UNDP and TAHA, the hub means to bring prosperity, especially for smallholder farmers - youth and women - with sustainable gains for the nation as a whole" UNDP boss noted.

Musisi said that she had an opportunity to visit numerous small-holder farmers in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Bunda, and Busega where she encountered untold testimonies about increased incomes, children's education, improved health, and enhanced social status with access to decision-making processes in their communities, courtesy of TAHA and UNDP

project.

"As UNDP, we are delighted to partner with TAHA in providing high-quality extension services, transforming over 3,900 subsistence farmers, mainly youth and women, into modern competitive entrepreneurs by facilitating access to financing, technology, inputs, infrastructure, and markets in Europe and the Gulf," Musisi.

Indeed UNDP in collaboration with TAHA and other development partners such as Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA), Trias, and Recoito, have recorded tangible achievements in nine districts in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Mara, and Simiyu.

For example, the official data shows, farmers are now harvesting 35,000 kg of tomatoes per acre, compared to 9000 kg acre before the joint intervention, equivalent to a 77 percent in-

crease in productivity.

The project also saw increased access to inputs. For instance, TAHA has facilitated a blanket registration of 213 pesticides and Biological control agents in Tanzania, making them more readily available as per market demands.

The trend also applies to climate-smart technology adoption, with 70 percent of trained farmers have been embracing new technologies and practices that increase productivity, cut post-harvest losses from 65 to 32 percent, and meet quality standards of high-end markets.

In terms of nutrition through school gardens, the project imparted the knowledge to over 2,206 (1,119 Girls; 1,087 Boys) pupils in Bunda and Moivaro primary schools in Mara and Arusha regions respectively.

These pupils are taking these practices to their families.

The joint report further indicates that the project saw the new markets opened for smallholder farmers in the Middle East, and negotiations are underway to secure the Ukraine market worth more than \$4million per year.

On the issue of access to finance, TAHA and UNDP have successfully linked over 300 farmers to financial institutions to access affordable loans, as they have unlocked one billion Shillings from NMB and TADB.

"As we launch this Tengeru Farmers Centre, we see it as a centre of excellence in horticulture from which innovations will lead to transformation and growth of the horticultural sector in the country," Musisi said.

Abortion stigma a possible death sentence for Kenyan women

By Special Correspondent

VICTIM of sexual violence hangs her laundry outside her house in Nairobi's Dandora slum on September 16, 2021.

Victoria Atieno was waiting at a Nairobi bus stop when she felt blood gush from her body, the result of a secret, self-induced abortion - a method used by thousands of Kenyan women, with potentially fatal consequences.

Kenya's constitution eased access to abortions in 2010 but entrenched stigma about the procedure means that many women resort to traditional practices or backstreet clinics which put their life in jeopardy.

Even a reproductive health counsellor like Atieno - her mind blanketed with fear - ended up gulping down a herbal concoction to induce an abortion in secret.

Hours later, as she experienced a public and hugely traumatic termination, she faced a flood of abuse from onlookers, living out the very nightmare she had tried to avoid.

"People will condemn you, criminalise you, try to chase you out of the community," the 35-year-old mother-of-three said.

Many women will do anything to avoid that fate, from drinking bleach to using knitting needles or clothes hangers to end their pregnancies.

The results are horrific, ranging from ruptured uteruses, cervical

tears and vaginal cuts to severe infections, bleeding and death.

Every week, 23 women die from botched abortions, according to a study by Kenya's health ministry in 2012 - the most recent available government data.

Campaigners say the real number is even higher.

A report released last year by the non-profit Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) estimates that seven women and girls die every day in Kenya due to unsafe abortions.

In the Dandora slum in the eastern suburbs of Nairobi, where Atieno works with the Coalition of Grassroots Women Initiative, sanitation workers sometimes find abandoned foetuses in the neighbourhood's huge garbage dump.

Volunteers tasked with cleaning up the Nairobi River in 2019 retrieved 14 bodies from its trash-clogged waters, most of them babies.

Cultural and religious beliefs in the deeply Christian country have contributed towards creating a stigma so strong that even women who procure safe abortions believe they have committed a sin by doing so.

A victim of a gang-rape leaves the offices of the Coalition of Grassroots Women Initiative that provides psycho-social support among other services to victims of sexual violence in Nairobi's Dandora slum on September 16, 2021.

More than a year after Susan aborted a pregnancy resulting from



Kenya's Constitution eased access to abortions in 2010 but entrenched stigma about the procedure means that many women resort to traditional practices or backstreet clinics which put their life in jeopardy

a gang rape, the churchgoing mother-of-four still battles intense guilt. "People see you as a murderer... it makes me feel like I did something very bad," the 36-year-old said.

De facto ban

Kenya's constitution says abortions are illegal unless "in the opinion of a trained health professional, there is need for emergency treatment, or the life or health of the mother is in danger, or if permitted by any other written law".

No other conditions or terms are spelled out.

The vaguely-worded document puts decision-making power wholly in the hands of health providers.

abortion at all. That's the policy."

Teen mothers share a dormitory with their infants during a break their classes at the Serene Haven Girl's Secondary School, an informal school that boards under-aged mothers with their infants, some of whom are victims of sexual violence in Kenia, Nyeri county on September 24, 2021.

The ministry was pulled up by the Nairobi high court in 2019 for violating women's and girls' right to physical and mental health by halting training for legal abortion providers.

Yet little has changed on the ground since then, leaving the field open for unscrupulous backstreet clinics to exploit women's need for secrecy.

Ken Ojili Mele's niece died at 26 after a botched abortion.

Long opposed to abortion, the 48-year-old carpenter said he was filled with regret after her untimely death en route to a hospital.

"Maybe she didn't want to tell me because she knew I would have been angry," he said.

"I wish she had shared it with me, I could have maybe helped her find a safer hospital."

Silence and tears

Abortions are extremely difficult to access at state hospitals. Some private health providers perform the procedure, for which the fee starts at around 3,000-4,000 Kenyan shillings (\$27 / 23.5 euros). Pills are used to curtail shorter-term pregnancies.

For women who turn to these sources, fear of disapproval and shame can run deep. The silence lingers even in doctors' waiting rooms.

"In Kenya, it's not easy to say you want an abortion," said Samson Otiago, a doctor specialising in reproductive health.

Dozens of women visit his Nairobi clinic every month and most have to be coaxed into telling him about their intention to terminate a pregnancy.

Some start crying before they have even said a word, he said.

Many can't afford to pay his fees, which start at 4,000 shillings (\$36), so occasionally he offers his services for free or on credit.

"Once a woman has decided to do an abortion, she will do it whichever way she can.

"So we would rather do it (for less money) than expose her to quacks and see her again with complications," he said.

In Dandora, as rape survivor Seline awaited the results of a pregnancy test, she had little doubt about what to do next.

Barely surviving on a monthly wage of 5,000 shillings, the 38-year-old domestic worker said she was determined to get an abortion if the test was positive.

"If the hospital refuses, I will do it the traditional way, with herbs," she said, her voice barely rising above a whisper.

"I am ready to do anything, as long as I don't have to have this baby."

Plight of rural people in Gambia must be addressed

By Lamin Darboe

Mr President, during your Meet the People's Tour - a constitutional requirement tour - that allows you to meet and listen to views of ordinary Gambians on issues affecting them, priorities areas should be identified for action.

Mr President, we have been keenly following the tour through the newspapers, television and of course on social media. However, what has mainly been the centre of discussion in the rural Gambia is the lack of clean and potable water, poor road networks, and lack of gardens for women farmers among a host of others.

It's therefore important to let you know that access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water is a basic human right. After more than four years of your government, one would have hoped that by now the issue of water shortage in some communities in the country should have been a thing of the past. Your government should have some years back assessed the needs of Gambians especially on the issue of water shortage with a view to addressing them. Addressing the issue of water shortage in the country should be a priority.

Mr. President, on the issues of the road network, your government is doing well in this aspect. However, more is needed especially around the Kiang area. No one needs to tell you that these are people that have been marginalised for the past 22 years of the Jammeh regime for the simple reason that they opposed his administration.

Mr. President, there are big settlements within the Kiang and Kabada areas. In the past decades, the previous governments have given little attention to improving the rural road network in the country. Therefore, we hope that your government would work closely with the local government councils in addressing these challenges for our local dwellers and also rehabilitate feeder roads and streets in the Urban areas.

On the issue of fertiliser, it has been reported that your government has bought a lot of fertilisers for this year's rainy season. However, in some areas some farmers have complained that they didn't receive any fertiliser while others say the places where the fertilisers were sold were too far from their destinations, hence accessing them has become a challenge. We hope that this would also be addressed before the next rainy season.

Mr. President, as farmers

across the country are expecting a bumper harvest especially on groundnuts, it's therefore significant that you work with your team in coming out with a good price for groundnuts ahead of the trade season.

Mr. President, on health, your government has made significant progress in the health sector by providing 80 ambulances, constructing six health centres and bringing 216 Cuban doctors including specialised ones for major diseases but Gambian health workers should be motivated and their allowances should be paid on time.

Mr. President, your government is facing serious challenges in the communication system. The internet service is poor and expensive compared to many countries in the sub-region.

Gamcel should be rescued financially with its poor network which has resulted in many of their customers pulling out.

Both Gamtel and Gamcel need to be restructured to modernise their technical service and get partnership with foreign investors to save them from being out of business.

Finally Mr. President, in recent times, there were coups in Mali, Chad and Guinea Conakry and Sudan failed coup. To avoid coups, African leaders should respect the two-



term limit. Had Alpha Conde respected the two-term limit, he would not have been overthrown.

Both AU and ECOWAS parliaments should enact a law for heads of state to respect their constitution and stick to the two-term limit, so that after retirement, they will be entitled to all the privileges as a respected former statesman and get immunity.

If heads of state over stay and condone corruption and nepotism, coups will be rampant in Africa

Good Day!

In the four years 2014-17, some 1.7 million people risked their lives by fleeing across the Mediterranean Sea for Europe, a journey in which over 13,000 have died or have gone missing.

This report is a contribution to understanding what the proper policy responses to this movement of people should be.

The Gambia, thousands of whom have been seeking a better life in Europe - often called the 'back way'.

This study asks: Why have so many young Gambians become irregular migrants and

what can be done to help them and The Gambia manage this exodus and promote national development?

Evidence suggests that addressing these questions involves analysing issues lying at the root of this migration.

Until recently, Gambian migration was to a large extent the result of repressive government policies and the lack of political and civil rights.

The democratic election of a new government in December 2016, which swept away 22 years of often brutal and repressive rule, means that the prospects for Gambians are

much brighter now.

But not all Gambian migration was the result of political repression and many young Gambians are still leaving the country.

Unless and until The Gambia improves job prospects and agricultural livelihoods - which also involves seriously addressing climate change - large-scale migration from the country is likely to continue.

Young people are leaving because of the lack of jobs and opportunities in rural and urban areas, the lack of adequate support to farming which is being badly affected by climate change and because they see a better life in Europe.

But the other side of this is that migration can be a development strategy and a livelihood choice for people, who have a right to migrate for economic purposes if they choose.

The right to movement and the right to leave and return to one's own country are fundamental rights, but often overlooked in the debate about migration and development.

Indeed, Gambians who have migrated are contributing to the development of their country by sending back remittances to their families.

These remittances averaged US\$181 million a year during 2013-15, equivalent to around 20% of GDP, one of the highest

RADIO One RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME

BUSINESS



SA Environment minister Barbara Creecy.

ECO-FRIENDLY

SA to develop \$500m green investment plan

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa will develop a green investment plan of as much as \$500 million, representing a fraction of what's needed, to fund its energy transition away from coal.

The allocation of at least \$200 million would come from the Climate Investment Funds, including a \$1 million grant to draft the plan. Environment Minister Barbara Creecy told reporters in the capital, Pretoria, ahead of the COP26 climate talks to be held in Glasgow later this month.

The initial amount from the CIF's Clean Technology Fund "can leverage additional blended finance" from development banks with a multiplier of three or four to one, she said. The country is the world's 8th-largest emitter of greenhouse gases and offers a major opportunity to shift from burning coal to generate the bulk of its electricity to using clean energy technologies.

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, the nation's main power producer and the world's biggest emitter of sulfur dioxide, is central to the government's investment plan that also involves a hydrogen strategy and electric vehicles. But with the state-owned utility making losses and stuck beneath unsustainable debt, it also needs financing to make the tran-

sition.

It has outlined about R400 billion needed to build generation to replace coal stations as well as transmission and distribution infrastructure. "What's on the table at the moment is small" and additional funding including grants will be needed for South Africa to achieve such an undertaking, Creecy said.

Earlier this month, envoys from some of the richest nations visited South Africa to discuss a potential deal toward ending its reliance on coal ahead of the COP26 meeting. The most industrialized nation on the continent will join others in Africa to call "for a common definition of climate finance, and accounting modalities as well as realistic, predictable and ambitious support" balanced between mitigation and adaptation, Creecy said.

The minister watered-down expectations around the summit to be mainly an opportunity to explain the challenges faced by the country. "We don't expect that at Glasgow anyone is going to be there with their checkbook," she said.

In the meantime, Creecy said she's reiterated with Eskom and petrochemicals manufacturer Sasol, the nation's biggest polluters, that emission limits will be enforced. "We are not going to be giving exemptions."

BREAKTHROUGH

Dodoma sorghum farmers linked to market in South Sudan by WFP

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

ALMOST 22,000 smallholder farmers of organic sorghum from three districts of Dodoma region have been linked to a South Sudan market by World Food Programme (WFP) to sell their commodities at premium prices.

Addressing journalists in Dodoma last week, Head of Sub-office and Programme Policy Officer at WFP in Dodoma, Neema Sitta said Climate Smart Agriculture programme which is funded by the Irish government, has enabled the farmers to access markets through private buyers and companies. Sorghum is South Sudan's staple food.

"Farmers have so far sold 17 metric tons of sorghum worth over 9bn/- to South Sudan from January this year. The three districts covered by the programme are Kongwa, Bahi and Mpwapwa. The programme is part of the WFP Country Strategic Plan for 2017/22. Almost 203 villages of the 700 Dodoma region villages have been reached," Sitta said.

According to her, the programme apart from educating smallholder



WFP's head of sub-office and programme policy officer in Dodoma, Neema Sitta (in specs), speaks to journalist. File photo

farmers to practice climate smart agriculture that follows the organic farming model, has played a vital role of keeping the farmers away from middlemen as they are linked directly to the buyers.

As a result, the farmers sold a kilogram of sorghum at 550/- instead of 250/- that they used to receive prior to the programme. WFP and its funding partners have been spending 1.75bn/- every year for the programme.

"Our supply chain com-

ponent favours purchasing of local agricultural commodities and supply them to other countries in the region. This is especially for the WFP refugee programme. Since the past ten years, the agency has purchased over 700,000 tons of maize and beans for refugees and neighbouring countries," she added.

She asserted that not less than 20 percent of the purchases are made from smallholder farmers while the bulk mostly come from

Cereal and other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) and National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA).

Sitta noted that in its second Country Strategic Plan for 2022/27, WFP will feature sunflower farmers because the government is focusing on the cash crop as it has good market potential within and outside the country.

"One of the challenges that sorghum farmers have been facing is shortage of seeds and the WFP started by initiating a seed

production facility in the region. The current market does not meet demand thus we are considering extending the coverage of the programme to the rest of the districts in Dodoma region.

"The local market is mostly Tanzania Breweries Limited which this year demanded 10 metric tons that we have not yet managed to provide," the WFP Head of Sub-office and Programme Policy Officer at WFP in Dodoma, noted.

RECOMMENDATION

Minister Mkenda urges farmers to use genuine seeds certified by Tosci

By Guardian Reporter

FARMERS should strictly buy seeds which have been certified by Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institution to avoid using counterfeit or substandard seeds being sold in the country illegally.

Minister for Agriculture, Professor Adolf Mkenda said in Moshi municipality last week when officiating at an exhibition to mark World Food Day that Tosci certified seeds have an official mark of the institute to distinguish them from illegal seeds.

"Tosci has done a very good job in easing the seed verification process by farmers through use of electronic gadgets but also using mobile phones which has helped the country get rid of substandard seeds," Prof Mkenda said.

He pointed out that the institute's success at the exhibitions was a clear sign that its management and staff are serious in the running of their activities. Minister Mkenda further stated that the sixth phase government of President Samia Suluhu Hassan is serious about revolutionising the agriculture sector by ensuring that farmers use modern equipment, inputs and knowledge in conducting their business.

"Use of research use is very important in farming, for example before applying fertilizer to the farm, a farmer needs to know what type of soil has the farm has and therefore

which type of suitable fertilizer should be applied," he added while saying the government and International Fund for Agriculture Development have set aside 8bn/- for research purposes.

Speaking to journalists after receiving the award for the best pavilion, Tosci Director General, Patrick Ngwediagi backed Prof Mkenda's observation and urged smallholder farmers to strictly

buy certified seeds to avoid making losses.

"When farmers use Tosci stamped seeds they are assured of quality hence will get bigger yields, better quality and contribute to rapid growth of the country's economy," Ngwediagi said while commending his staff and management for winning the trophy at the exhibitions.

He noted that during the exhibi-

tion, Tosci's officials sensitized the public on the importance of buying official certified seeds in the market because many smallholder farmers do not know how to distinguish counterfeits from genuine seeds. "We are also using the media in sensitizing the public on quality seeds but also how to verify them using mobile phones," the Tosci chief executive noted.



Agriculture minister Prof. Adolf Mkenda (R) presents a trophy to Tosci director general Patrick Ngwediagi after the institute's pavilion at a World Food Day exhibition held in Moshi municipality last week emerged the best. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

MasterCard ramps up Fintech platforms in Malawi, Zimbabwe

LILONGWE

Global payments platform MasterCard has been integrated with Zimbabwe's electronic payments platform, Zimswitch, which means that locals can now make seamless domestic and international e-commerce transactions using one bank card.

BancABC, the local unit of Atlas Mara, is the first Zimbabwean bank

to issue a debit and credit card that will enable Zimswitch and MasterCard local and international payments respectively.

The Zimswitch and MasterCard integrated debit and credit cards can be used for online transactions and payments for subscription services for pay regional and international television and streaming services as well as travel, among others.

This comes as "Zimbabweans are

increasingly seeking safe, seamless and consistent digital payment experiences," according to MasterCard. The integration of MasterCard and Zimswitch enhances the transition of Zimbabwe's financial services to digital platforms, the company added, and aids financial inclusion.

COVID-19 has accelerated migration to digital platforms. Zimbabweans often have to buy a once-off virtual international debit card into

which they deposit foreign currency to make international e-commerce payments.

The country's financial services ecosystem struggles for foreign currency against the backdrop of volatility in the exchange rate and cash shortages. Despite this, electronic payments still dominate local payments platforms.

Apart from Zimbabwe, MasterCard has been ramping up its Fintech

capacity across the region. It has just launched Malawi's first debit card that is linked to mobile money yesterday when it partnered with TNM's Mpambwa platform.

The MasterCard integrated mobile money debit card will connect TNM mobile company's Mpambwa wallet holders "to a global marketplace, enabling them to use mobile money to make safe online and in-person payments on the MasterCard

network," the company said on 21 October.

The card, powered by National Bank of Malawi, also enables mobile money account holders to withdraw money from Automated Teller Machines. The TNM Mpambwa MasterCard debit card will "add over nine million people to the national payments system in one fell swoop," said Wilson Banda, Reserve Bank of Malawi governor.



PARTNERSHIP

NMB Bank Northern zone club in business, targeting mining value chain needs

By Guardian Reporter

SMALL scale miners and their partners from the entire value chain have a reason to smile as NMB Bank Plc introduces a club aimed at building their capacity technically and financially.

Dubbed, 'NMB Northern Zone Mining Club,' the vehicle was unveiled last week in Arusha city by the bank's Northern Zone Manager, Dismas Prosper who said the initiative is aimed at empowering sectoral players financially and technically.

"What we are launching today is the result of adequate research that established existence of funding needs for all stakeholders in the mining value chain with capital and asset financing being

outstanding requirements," Prosper said.

He pointed out that the northern mining club follows a similar vehicles launched in Dodoma for the central zone by Minerals Minister, Dotto Biteko in June this year and another one established earlier this year in Kahama district of Shinyanga region.

The third NMB Mining Club came into being in July in Mwanza where the bank reiterated its position to support miners prosper so that they contribute to national economic development. "These clubs are a network of the bank's customers in the mining sector and other stakeholders in the value chain," Prosper added. He named other mining clubs as having been established in Chunya district of Mbeya region and

Morogoro region.

NMB's Senior Manager Business Banking, Christopher Mgani said the bank has the requisite fiscal muscle and technical know-how to support the mining industry through provision of credit in cash and material plus training. Mgani said the bank has a distinct lending package for acquisition of both new and used mining equipment.

"A customer going for used assets is required to contribute 30 percent of the procurement cost and 20 percent when the equipment is new," he said. During the club's launch in Dodoma, the lender announced that it will increase lending to the mining sector to over 200bn/- by 2025. Currently, loans amounting to 63bn/- have been extended to

mining borrowers by May this year.

Miners, buyers, sellers and suppliers who attended the inauguration of the mining club in Arusha commended NMB's leadership for the unequivocal support but said its financing would make a lot of business sense if the current interest rates on loans were lowered.

"Enlightenment lessons before extending loans for better credit management are important to small scale miners," said one of the artisanal miners who attended the launch, Rachel Njau. She conceded that many artisanal miners don't understand and have no financial literacy to manage loans hence fail to service them.

EMPOWERMENT

Koica official appeals to women to improve business, leadership skills

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

WOMEN should keep nurturing their leadership and business skills in order to improve their businesses, social, economic and financial performance and compete in the market.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week during the closing of a two week Korea International Cooperation Agency fellowship program online training on 'Nurturing and empowering rural women leaders in Tanzania,' KOICA Program Coordinator, Jackline Basil said women need to improve their skills on every level so that they gain competitiveness, confidence and freedom to choose their way in pursuing their economic and financial goals.

"This is the 5th online training and its main objective is to strengthen the capacity of rural women by disseminating modern farming technology's know how in its use and the advantages in agricultural activities," Basil said.

She further noted that through the programme, KOICA seeks to challenge social norms that continue to lock women and girls in a cycle of inequality and violence by

empower them to actively participate in social economic development.

"Gender equality and women and girls' empowerment is a top priority in Korea's development cooperation which is why after the completion of this training, the twenty two government officials who were trained, will play a significant role in spreading KOICA's good will," she said.

The Programme is an integral part of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II in Tanzania and will directly contribute to the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals while supporting the implementation of national development plans and strategies, she added.

Through Capacity Improvement and Advancement for Tomorrow (CIAT), which is KIOCA's cooperation program where policy-makers, public servants and experts from developing countries, technical training and knowledge sharing focusing on women's empowerment is the main focus.

"CIAT has established partnerships with a multitude of public organizations, research institutes, universities and others



A KOICA emblem.

in Korea to offer quality training programs and such efforts have resulted in a high level of satisfaction among participants," she explained.

Commenting on the training, Masesa Mgonela who is a Senior Community Development Officer who is also an Economic Empowerment Coordinator in Kigamboni municipality said lack of education, assets and access to financial services all combined limit women and girls' opportunities in participation in productive paid work.

"It's upon us all to create a more enabling environment for women to hold land titles and for small-holder farmers who include young

women to participate and be more productive in the agriculture sector," Mgonela to took part in the online training, said.

Mgonela's observation was backed by Dr Elizabeth Mshote who is acting Assistant Administrative Secretary for Economic and Productive Sector from Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner's Office who said that the online training's aim of empowering rural women leaders in the country, was timely.

"This training has empowered women to be in position of accessing finance, markets, modern farming methods to ensure that rural women are not left behind now that

we are a middle income country," Dr Mshote said.

An Agriculture Officer from Kinondoni municipality, Salehe Hija said that the primary objective of the fellowship program is to share important technical skills and knowledge as well as to build capacity for sustainable social economic development.

"Through this training we will be able to empower rural women in the country with modern skills that will help in their farming activities hence become financially stable," Hija said adding that the women will also contribute in the country's social-economic development.

COLLABORATION

Kenya and Malawi ink bilateral pacts to boost trade and investments

NAIROBI

Kenya and Malawi have inked eight new agreements designed to strengthen bilateral relations including trade and investments between the two nations.

The agreements were signed Thursday afternoon at State House, Nairobi, at the end of bilateral talks between Kenyan and Malawian delegations led by President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Southern Africa counterpart Lazarus Chakwera who is in the country for a three-day state visit.

The eight agreements cover broad areas of cooperation between Kenya and Malawi in politics, diplomacy, defence, fisheries and aquaculture as well as cooperative development. Others are technical cooperation in health and tourism.

President Kenyatta said the pacts would enable Malawi and Kenya to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) the new continent-wide free trade that took effect from January this year.

Kenya, a member of the East African Community's (EAC) customs union mainly exports tobacco products, fertiliser, soaps, chemicals, packaging materials and printed matter to Malawi, a member of Southern African Development Community (SADC).

"Through these multilateral platforms Kenya, Malawi and other African countries have an excellent opportunity to explore tangible approaches to build strong and resilient African economies, post Covid-19," President Kenyatta said.

The pacts come at a time Kenyan manufacturers have been scouting for cheaper channels of getting goods into Malawi in a campaign that has sought to significantly improve the volume of exports to the southern African countries.

Trade between the two nations was valued at Sh7 billion last year with Kenya holding the bigger share of Sh4.1 billion. Imports from Malawi stood at Sh2.98 billion during the same period. Kenyan industrialists said earlier they are seeking new trade linkages that will allow them to establish joint ventures with Malawians, beating official and unofficial barriers to trade.

Mauritius Africa's wealthiest country per capita

PORT LOUIS

On a wealth per capita basis, Mauritius is the wealthiest country in Africa, according to a new report by Mauritius-based AfrAsia Bank and wealth intelligence firm New World Wealth.

Mauritius had about 1.6 million inhabitants in 2020, compared to SA at 59.31 million. The average wealth per capita in Mauritius is US\$30 000, far more than South Africa, which was in second place with US\$11 000 per person.

If one does not analyse on a per capita basis, however, the "Big 5" wealth markets in Africa are South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco and Kenya, according to an earlier separate report by AfrAsia Bank and New World Wealth. Together these five countries account for over 50% of Africa's total wealth. "Wealth" is defined as the net assets of a person. It includes all their assets (property, cash, equities, business interests) less any liabilities, according to the latest report by AfrAsia Bank



Rwandan delegation at YouthConnekt Africa summit 2021 in Accra.

and New World Wealth.

The Mauritius average per capita wealth report expects wealth growth of 80% in Mauritius up to 2030. This will make it one of the five fastest-growing high-income markets in the world over this period, along with Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland and Malta.

Apart from a large number of high net-worth individuals (HNWIs: wealth of US\$1 million or more - about R14.44 million) moving to Mauritius over the past decade, the growing economy has enabled more locals to move into this wealth category. Mauritius is now home to around 4 400 HNWIs compared to 2 500 HNWIs a decade ago. The report expects that by 2030 Mauritius could have more than 7 800 HNWIs.

Possible reasons for Mauritius ranking top in Africa put forward in the report include ease of doing business. For example, Mauritius ranks first in Africa and 13th worldwide in the World Bank's 2020 Doing Business Report. The World Bank officially classified Mauritius as a high-income country in July 2020.

WORLD

Merkel's parting words to EU: There's a lot to worry about

LOS ANGELES

CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel said the European Union faces "a whole array of unsolved problems" at what was likely her final summit, striking a somber tone that contrasted with a celebratory send-off by the bloc's leaders.

"I leave the European Union in my role as chancellor in a situation where there is a lot to worry about," Merkel told reporters in Brussels on Friday following the two-day meeting.

The outgoing German leader cited a fight with Poland over its respect for the rule of law and the failure of EU leaders to reach a comprehensive approach on migration as issues that will make the EU "vulnerable" to the outside.

Hours before, former US president Barack Obama delivered a video tribute to Merkel,

with European Council President Charles Michel calling her "a monument." Future summits will be like "Rome without the Vatican or Paris without the Eiffel Tower," he said, according to an account from an official at the meeting.

The chancellor, the bloc's longest serving leader, logged her 107th European Council meeting since taking office in November 2005. With German Social Democrat Olaf Scholz aiming to wrap up coalition talks and succeed Merkel by early December, Merkel's two-day visit to the Belgian capital is probably her last to conduct official business.

Obama - whose appearance was the subject of intensive back room negotiation, according to an EU official - was also effusive.

"Thanks to you, the center has held through many storms," he said. The 44th US president



A journalist raises his hand to ask a question to German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a media conference at an EU summit in Brussels, on Thursday. AP

said he was "happy to become your friend."

A video presentation for the gathered leaders included clips of Merkel's first visit to the council in December 2005, greeted by UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and receiving a hand kiss from France's Jacques Chirac.

Usually reticent of such public praise, Merkel was eager to move on to matters at hand - a wide-ranging discussion on migration and protecting the bloc's external border with Belarus.

"Merkel was uncomfortable

with all the praise she received, she prefers to talk about the content rather than about herself," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said after the meeting.

Merkel ignored a final question on how she found a gift from the council - a replica of the egg-shaped building where the Council meets, which many observed resembles her trademark rhombus hand gesture. Instead, she stood and left.

"That was the last question," her spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said.

Agencies

Xi Jinping: Committed to advancing UN cause for better world

BEIJING

"It falls on each and every responsible statesman to answer the questions of our times and make a historical choice with confidence, courage and a sense of mission."

As the leader of a major country that is playing an ever more significant role in today's increasingly interconnected and profoundly changing world, Chinese President Xi Jinping, who made the call at the UN General Assembly in September, has already given his answer.

Committed to his flagship vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, Xi has, among other efforts, been leading China, the world's most populous and largest developing country, to continuously deepen and expand cooperation with the United Nations, the world's most universal, representative and authoritative international organization.

Upon the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, Xi is set to reaffirm Beijing's support for the UN cause, redouble China's efforts for international cooperation, and reinvigorate global action for a better world.

FUTURE-ORIENTED VISION
In the eyes of former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Xi is "a man of a future-oriented

vision."

During his tenure as the UN chief, Ban interacted with Xi on many occasions. One of the most unforgettable, he told Xinhua in a recent interview, was how Xi went to great lengths to promote the ratification of the hard-won Paris Agreement on climate change, a grave threat to humanity that had long been at the top of the UN agenda.

A major breakthrough came when Xi invited Ban and then U.S. President Barack Obama to visit China's eastern city of Hangzhou on Sept. 3, 2016, one day ahead of the opening of the G20 Hangzhou summit.

At a "very unexpected event," Ban recalled, Xi and Obama both presented him with the instrument of ratification of the Paris accord.

"That was historic," said Ban, explaining that such a joint move by China and the United States was "vital" as it galvanized other parties into accelerating the ratifying process. Two months after the Hangzhou event, the deal officially came into effect.

"Had (there) not been President Xi Jinping's initiative, we would not have the Paris climate change agreement even now. Then I really sighed with a deep relief," Ban told Xinhua. "The world was saved."

From then on, China has further intensified its painstaking transformation towards green



Chinese President Xi Jinping

development. Now Xi has announced that China aims to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, which means the developing country will complete the world's largest reduction in carbon emission intensity in the shortest time in global history.

"There is only one Earth in the universe and we mankind have only one homeland," Xi said at the UN Office at Geneva in 2017. "We should not only think about our own generation, but also take responsibility for future ones."

RESULTS-ORIENTED ACTIONS

"Action speaks louder than words," Xi told UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a phone conversation in May. "The Chinese always keep their words and do what they say."

When the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was

adopted by UN member states in 2015, Xi called it a "high-standard checklist" as its top goal demands ending all poverty.

"No single poor area or individual shall be left behind," Xi once pledged. Under his strong leadership, only five years later, China eliminated absolute poverty, achieving the goal 10 years ahead of schedule.

China's anti-poverty success has greatly contributed to global development, one of the three pillars of UN work. Guterres congratulated Xi on the achievement in person, saying "this extraordinary result is a reason of hope and inspiration to the entire community of nations."

Indeed, with Xi at the helm, China has become an ever stronger powerhouse for common development, providing more assistance and generating more opportunities for other countries.

Its contribution to global growth has remained the highest for 15 years running. China has provided 63 billion U.S. dollars of development assistance to 166 countries and international organizations. The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by Xi, has become the world's largest platform for international cooperation. In view of the current circumstances, particularly the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Xi, in his address to the UN General Assembly in

September, put forth a Global Development Initiative in a bid to steer global development towards a new stage of balanced, coordinated and inclusive growth.

"We need to foster global development partnerships that are more equal and balanced, forge greater synergy among multilateral development cooperation processes, and speed up the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," Xi said.

Addressing the Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference earlier this month, Xi reiterated China's dedication to common global development.

"We will contribute more to global development while pursuing our own development," he said. To beat global challenges and build a better future for humanity demands concerted international cooperation, which would not be possible without a genuine commitment to and effective practice of multilateralism.

In Xi's eyes, the United Nations, as a banner of multilateralism, is "the core institution for addressing international affairs through cooperation." Under his leadership, China has stepped up support for the world body to play a bigger role in promoting global peace and development. **Xinhua**

'Prioritise water, sanitation and hygiene to save millions'

KIGALI

PEOPLE-centred economic recovery and resilience will be at the heart of the second African Union/European Union Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting to be held on 26 October in Kigali.

WaterAid believes strengthening access to water, sanitation and hygiene is critical for sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and to build communities' resilience in the face of the climate and health crises both Europe and Africa are going through.

WaterAid calls on African and European leaders to seize the opportunity of the Ministerial meeting and the upcoming summit, planned for February 2022, to promote a transformative shift towards healthier, more sustainable, and equitable economies and societies.

To be prepared to address the next pandemic, but also all the major health threats that currently undermine Africa's development - including antimicrobial resistance, WaterAid believes that strengthening the provision of essential services like water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), especially in public places like healthcare facilities, schools and markets, is a best buy approach.

As recently demonstrated by WaterAid 'Mission critical' report, every US\$1 spent on ensuring WASH infrastructure is resilient to flooding could avoid at least US\$62 in flood restoration costs as well as preventing life-threatening contamination of water sources. Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is essential to help communities to withstand emergencies and adapt to the changing climate, while enabling them to meet their basic needs.

Olutayo Bankole-Bolawole, WaterAid East Africa Regional Director, said:

"We urge African and European Foreign Affairs Ministers to support investments in key services such as clean water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene, to strengthen resilience to climate and health threats and progress towards a sustainable economic recovery". **Agencies**

Egyptian writer warns of 'risks' of following Western media

CAIRO

THE Western media attempt to shape global perceptions while warping the truth, which is why people should be aware of the risks in following their reports, wrote Egyptian writer Azza Radwan Sedky in a recent article.

"The Western media is no better, if also no worse, than Hollywood, which, if it so chooses, manages to manipulate and mislead whether viewers like it or not," Sedky wrote in her article titled "Follow the western media - at your own risk." The piece was published earlier this month on Ahramonline, the English website of Egypt's state-run Al-Ahram newspaper.

Sedky (pictured) cited how Hollywood cowboy movies in the 1950s and 1960s have misled audiences regarding the native Indians, saying that Hollywood movies propagated "unfair and unjust" vision and misled the world to accept the depictions as authentic.

"The same thing is sometimes true of the Western media," wrote Sedky, calling Western media's prejudice against China, Russia, Iran, and Egypt as "recognizable bias."

"Stories in the Western media about these countries are constantly presented negatively, highlighting gloom and doom," she wrote, deeming the Western media "a propaganda tool."

The Western media also provide other media with descriptions which create negative stereotypes, with phrases like "China's tabloids say ..." and "Egypt's pro-government media argues ..." Sedky wrote. Such phrases leave readers with stereotypical negative impressions on Russia, China, Iran and Egypt while the Western media "alters and twists facts."

Last December, the BBC posted two versions of the same video, titled "How Everyday Life Has Changed in Wuhan," on YouTube, with one in Chinese and the other in English.

"Both versions had the same content, but the footage in the English version had a greyish filter added to make it darker and more depressing. The intention was clear. The same thing goes for Egypt," the Egyptian columnist wrote. **Xinhua**

Pristina's actions against Russian diplomats not to affect their legal status - diplomat

MOSCOW

THE expulsion of two Russian diplomats from the unrecognized republic of Kosovo will not entail consequences for their legal status, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement posted on the ministry's website on Saturday.

"We proceed from the fact that this step of Pristina's administration will not entail any consequences for the legal status of the mentioned Russian diplomats," she said.

According to Zakharova, the expelled diplomats have no relation to any bodies of the self-proclaimed state, as they are accredited to the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Additionally, Russia urges the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the NATO-led international peacekeeping mission in Kosovo (known as the Kosovo Force, or KFOR) to provide secure conditions for the staff of the Russian Representative

Office in Pristina. Zakharova added that Russia expects corresponding written guarantees from the UN.

"We expect that the defiant behavior of Kosovan figures will receive a sound critical assessment from the settlement partners," she noted.

On Friday, Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani-Sadri declared

personae non grata two Russian diplomats from the liaison office in Pristina of the Russian embassy to Serbia. According to Osmani, the activities of these diplomats allegedly "adversely impacted national security and the constitutional order" in the self-proclaimed entity. **Agencies**



COVID-19 cases recorded in eastern Europe hit 20 million

LONDON

THE number of coronavirus infections recorded so far in eastern Europe surpassed 20 million yesterday, according to a Reuters tally, as the region grapples with its worst outbreak since the pandemic started and inoculation efforts lag.

Countries in the region have the lowest vaccination rates in Europe, with less than half of the population having received a single dose.

Hungary tops the region's vaccination rates with 62

percent of its population having gotten at least one shot, whereas Ukraine has given just 19 percent of its residents a single dose, according to Our World in Data.

New infections in the region have steadily risen and now average over 83,700 new cases per day, the highest level since November last year, Reuters data through Friday showed. Although it has just 4 percent of the world's population, eastern Europe accounts for roughly 20 percent of all new cases reported globally.

According to a Reuters analysis, three of the top five countries reporting the most deaths in the world are in eastern Europe - Russia, Ukraine and Romania.

More social gathering indoors after the lifting of restrictions just as winter sets in is driving a rise in COVID-19 infections in many countries across Europe, the World Health Organization's emergency director Mike Ryan said on Thursday.

As the wave of infections intensifies, many people in east-

ern Europe are torn between defiance and regret over not getting vaccinated.

Hundreds have protested in Sofia and other cities against mandatory certificates that came into force on Thursday, limiting access to many indoor public spaces to those who have been vaccinated.

A European Commission poll, the Eurobarometer, has shown that at least one person in three in most countries in the European Union's east does not trust the healthcare system, compared to a bloc

average of 18 percent.

More than 40 percent of all new cases reported in eastern Europe were in Russia, with 120 people testing positive every five minutes, according to a Reuters analysis.

The country's healthcare system is operating under great strain, Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said on Wednesday. The nation on Friday reported record COVID fatalities for the fourth straight day.

So far, Russia has vaccinated

about 36 percent of its population with one vaccine shot.

Moscow, the country's most populous city and capital, will next week shutdown all businesses except essential stores such as supermarkets and pharmacies to stem the spread of the disease.

Slovakia reported 3,480 new COVID-19 cases on Oct 19, its highest daily tally since March, health ministry data showed Wednesday.

The country has one of the lower vaccination rates

in the EU, with just over half the adult population fully inoculated in the country of 5.5 million.

This has contributed to a faster rise in infections than in some neighboring countries.

Ukraine registered a record daily high of new coronavirus infections and related deaths for the second consecutive day on Friday. It also extended a state of emergency that allows authorities to impose curbs until year-end to rein in infections. **Agencies**

Washington's 'diplomacy by deception' only sabotages world peace

BEIJING

IN the U.S. Senate's confirmation hearing on Wednesday, Nicholas Burns, the nominee for the post of U.S. ambassador to China, appeared as a China hardliner by throwing dirt on the country.

His testimony, to some extent, was seen as posturing in the face of pressure from Republican senators. Given the politics of deception prevailing in Washington, it is comprehensible why an experienced career diplomat has to smear his future host country to get an official appointment.

Obviously, that political tradition has steered U.S. foreign policies into a wrong direction – the “diplomacy of deception.”

SABOTEUR DISGUISED AS SAVIOR

Burns' testimony involved issues regarding China's Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Calling China “the greatest threat to the security of our country,” he urged to “maintain the American military position” in the Asia-Pacific, referring to the U.S. presence as an “effective deterrent to keep the peace.”

However, as the biggest arms exporter, military spender and regime changer of the world, the United States itself was widely regarded as the biggest threat to world peace, according to polls conducted by WIN/Gallup International and Pew Research Center.

In 2003, then U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who died of COVID-19 complications earlier this week, lied to the world that Iraq possessed weapons of mass de-

struction, and paved the way for the Iraq War.

Actually, intelligence officials repeatedly cautioned the war was based on conjecture, since a British inquiry disclosed that one report's description of Iraqi chemical weapons was excerpted from “The Rock,” an action movie directed by Michael Bay.

To justify its rising belligerence and imperialism, Washington has woven numerous embarrassing narratives.

In mid-June, for example, the United States financed anti-Cuba forces to incite demonstrations by spreading the rumor that the spike of COVID-19 infections had led to a medical collapse in Cuba, whereas the United States is actually the worst-affected by the pandemic in terms of cases and deaths.

Should the current U.S. administration continue to accumulate more lies and atrocities, “it will not be able to regain the world's respect for American leadership, nor will it win the American public's support for its foreign policy,” wrote Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink, a U.S. anti-war group, and Nicholas Davis, a researcher with the group, in an article.

CHINA'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE

China has committed itself to be a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of the international order and a provider of public goods, making Washington's accusations sound ridiculous.

Since 1949, China has upheld “a national defense policy that is de-



Iraqi protesters take part in a demonstration against the presence of U.S. troops in the country in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, Jan. 24, 2020. Xinhua

fensive in nature.” “Never seeking hegemony, expansion, or spheres of influence” is the distinctive feature of China's national defense, said a white paper released by the Chinese government.

While building its defense strength for national security, China is also championing global peace through multilateral mechanisms. Over the past 30 years, some 40,000 Chinese peacekeepers have been dispatched to conflict-affected countries and areas in 25 UN operations.

Echoing the zeitgeist that all nations, no matter big or small, enjoy equal rights, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative has set an example that a big nation like China can cooperate with “nations across Southeast Asia, South America, Afri-

ca, and treat them as equal partners, because the process is win-win,” said Richard A. Black, the Schiller Institute's representative at the UN.

The Maritime Silk Road, one of the two arms of the initiative that connected continents and brought development opportunities, is extremely important for world peace, Black told Xinhua in August.

At the Cambridge Forum in 2018, when asked about his views on China's investment projects overseas, former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis said that China is “far more humanistic than the United States ever was,” as the Asian country, which is “non-interventionist in a way that Europeans, the West, have never managed to fathom,” has no “military ambitions.”

HARD TIMES DEMAND COOPERATION

Given the haunting common challenges facing humankind, such as climate change, sustainable development and recovery from a once-in-a-century pandemic, Washington's ambiguous stance towards the U.S.-China relationship is worrisome.

The approach to deal with the different issues with China separately, or “compartmentalization,” only blew the lid off of Washington's arrogance and insincerity. Never can practical cooperation take place in parallel with competition or confrontation.

For the two largest economies, their cooperation will lead to benefits in both countries and beyond, while their confrontation will cause suffering worldwide.

In response to Burns' remarks, Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, on Thursday urged him to “be keenly aware of the overall trend of world development and people's aspiration, learn the real situation of China objectively, (and) view China and China-U.S. ties in a rational manner.”

“We hope he will speak and act in a more constructive manner, and play a constructive part in promoting China-U.S. relations and the friendship between the two peoples,” Wang said.

Meanwhile, Wang reiterated that “we oppose defining China-U.S. ties as competitive. Even when there is competition between the two sides in such pragmatic areas as economy and trade, it is healthy competition with each other for excellence.”

Xinhua

Agencies

Putin invites Israeli prime minister to visit St. Petersburg

TEL AVIV

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin called Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Saturday to invite him to visit St. Petersburg, Bennett's office said, adding that the prime minister accepted the invitation and said he would be pleased to make another visit to Russia.

“Russian President Vladimir Putin called Prime Minister Naftali Bennett today, on October 23, 2021. The Russian president invited the prime minister and his wife to visit St. Petersburg. The Prime minister accepted the invitation and said he would be delighted to pay another visit [to Russia],” the office said in a statement.

On Friday in Sochi, the Russian president and Bennett held their first talks after the latter took office as Israel's prime minister on June 13. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the meeting, which lasted for over five and a half hours, was “constructive and open.” After the talks, Bennett stayed in Russia until Saturday evening, although he had been originally scheduled to fly back to Israel on Friday.

The prime minister's office said that in Saturday's phone call, “Putin inquired about Bennett's weekend in Sochi and thanked him for yesterday's warm and comprehensive meeting.”

“The prime minister thanked the president for his hospitality and for the warm and fruitful meeting, which will help forge ties between the countries,” Bennett's office added.

2021 World Conference on VR Industry concludes in Nanchang

THE online summit of the 2021 World Conference on VR Industry (WCVRI) held under the theme of “VR Adorns the World: Integrated Development & Innovative Application” came to a close on Oct. 20 in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi province. As the permanent host city of the WCVRI, Nanchang has held the event for four consecutive years.

Over 5,000 experts, scholars and entrepreneurs from home and abroad and over 1,000 companies participated in the event and its parallel exhibition, during which a total of 114 projects worth over 70.4 billion yuan (\$11 billion) were signed.

In 2016, Jiangxi province started to intensify efforts to boost the development of its VR industry. Thanks to its endeavors over the past five years, the province has attracted and incubated nearly 400 VR companies.

Last year, the combined revenues of Jiangxi's VR and related industries jumped to 29.8 billion yuan from 4.2 billion yuan in 2018; and during the first eight months of this year, the figure reached 47.6 billion yuan.

At the Xiaolan VR Industry Base in Nanchang Xiaolan Economic and Technological Development Zone, a production line of VR headset provider Pimax is running in high gear; the VR/AR base of China Unicom, a major telecom operator in China, has operated for one year; and the intelligent connected vehicles industrial innovation base of Huawei is under smooth construction.

These projects were all introduced to the city by Tellhow Creative Technology Group, a company based in Nanchang that is dedicated to the development of VR industry.



A visitor plays VR games at the 2021 World VR Industry Exhibition in Nanchang city, east China's Jiangxi province, Oct. 19, 2021. File photo

When the VR industry began to gather pace in Jiangxi in 2016, Tellhow transformed its business and stepped into the VR industry. The company and the Nanchang Xiaolan Economic and Technological Development Zone have invested about eight billion yuan in the construction of the Xiaolan VR Industry Base.

“We have always aimed to establish a chain-based VR enterprise cluster and an ecosystem for the industry,” said Ai Qiang, an executive at Tellhow, adding that the company, together with the Nanchang Xiaolan Economic and Technological Development Zone, has made a lot of efforts to attract large and leading companies along the industrial chain, including encouraging the participation of the industry base's resident companies, so as to form an enterprise cluster.

In 2019, Pimax was attracted to the Xiaolan VR Industry Base and built Jiangxi's first VR headset production line. The arrival of Pimax resulted in the gathering of many of the upstream and downstream firms of the industrial chain at the industrial base, including VR equipment component suppliers, assembly service providers, original equipment manufacturers, and content developers, which became an important link for the construction of a VR ecosystem at the industry base.

It is because the Xiaolan VR Industry Base has

formed a relatively complete VR industrial chain and ecosystem that China Unicom decided to develop its VR business here, pointed out Zhao Hui, manager of the company's VR and AR base.

About 43 companies in VR hardware product production, content development and other related fields have been attracted to the Xiaolan VR Industry Base. Ai noted that a VR industry ecosystem is taking shape at a faster pace at the industry base and generating increasing cluster effects.

Motivated by the goal of establishing an industrial chain that covers VR hardware, software and professional services, Jiangxi has strived to attract and cultivate large and famous enterprises, build a VR industry ecosystem, and create a highland of VR industry clusters.

People's Daily

Restoration of PRC's lawful seat in UN opens new chapter in global governance, says UN assistant secretary-general

UNITED NATIONS

FIFTY years ago, the People's Republic of China (PRC) restored its lawful seat at the United Nations. “This historical event, in keeping with the times, marked the beginning of a new era in global governance,” UN Assistant Secretary-General Xu Haoliang told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Having been UN assistant secretary-general since 2013 and also serving as assistant administrator and director of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Xu highly appreciated China's contribution to global development over the past 50 years.

In the past over 70 years since the founding of the PRC, around 800 million people have been lifted out of poverty in the country, Xu said, adding that “China has been lifting more than 10 million people each year out of poverty over the last eight years.”

He called this “a major milestone” in human progress.

“As the only major economy in the world to achieve positive growth in 2020, China made great achievements in fighting COVID-19 and organized active resumption of work and production. This is of great importance for stabilizing the world economy and enhancing its confidence,” he said.

China plays an “exceptionally important role” in



UN Assistant Secretary-General Xu Haoliang

global affairs, such as the Paris climate pact and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to Xu.

He described the establishment of the China International Development Cooperation Agency in April 2018 as “another wonderful event that China has accomplished in the development sphere.”

From a recipient country to an important partner in global governance, China has achieved a “great leap,” said the assistant secretary-general.

The UNDP became the first international organization to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the Chinese government in September 2016.

Xu suggested that the initiative should be more closely integrated with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

“Building a community with a shared future for mankind,” which is in line with the common goal of the international community, embodies China's position and wisdom and expresses the good wishes and values of humanity, he said.

“China is still developing, but it is already the world's second largest economy and a member of the G20. Every move it makes impacts the world,” said Xu.

“There is no doubt that China's impact on global governance will be far-reaching in the next 50 years,” he stressed. Xinhua

Afghanistan hurtling towards collapse, Sweden and Pakistan say

DUBAI

AFGHANISTAN will shortly collapse into chaos unless the international community acts rapidly, Swedish and Pakistani ministers warned on Saturday.

Afghanistan plunged into crisis after the Taliban movement drove out the Western-backed government in August triggering the abrupt end of billions of dollars in assistance.

“The country is on the brink of collapse and that collapse is coming faster than we thought,” Swedish

development minister Per Olsson Fridh told Reuters in Dubai.

He said economic freefall could provide an environment for terrorist groups to thrive, but that Sweden would not channel money through the Taliban, instead boosting its humanitarian contributions through Afghan civil society groups.

Many countries and multilateral institutions have halted development assistance

but increased humanitarian aid since August, reluctant to legitimize the new Taliban rulers.

Pakistani Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry later told Reuters that direct engagement with the Taliban was the only way to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe, and called for billions of dollars of Afghan assets frozen overseas to be released.

“Are we going to push Af-

ghanistan into chaos or are we going to try and stabilize the country?” he said in Dubai.

Engagement would also encourage the protection of human rights and the establishment of an inclusive, constitutional government, he said.

Pakistan has deep ties with the Taliban and was often accused of supporting the group as it battled the US-backed government in

Kabul for 20 years - charges denied by Islamabad.

Sweden's Fridh said conditions were not right for European countries to reopen embassies in Kabul. Instead, more diplomatic activity would take place in Qatar, an important interlocutor between the West and the Taliban.

Fridh met Qatari officials in the capital Doha this week.

But Chaudhry said it was

time the United States and other major powers set out a framework for formal recognition of Afghanistan's new rulers and for the removal of United Nations sanctions on Taliban members, including some members of the new government.

This, together with direct economic assistance, was the only way to avert instability, he said, adding: “The watch on this bomb is already clicking.”



Engagement would also encourage the protection of human rights and the establishment of an inclusive, constitutional government



Chief Promotions Managing Director, Amon Mkoga (R), shows one of the medals to be handed over to this year's Mazingira Marathon winners at a press conference held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Sitting (L) is Kinglion Motorcycle Retailers' Marketing Manager, Siyo Derrick, whose firm is the race's main sponsor. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Dar to host Mazingira Marathon next month

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM firm, Chief Promotions, has organized the inaugural marathon, known as 'Mazingira Marathon', which will take place at the famous Green grounds at Oysterbay in the city on November 14.

Chief Promotions' Managing Director, Amon Mkoga, stated that Vice President, Phillip Mpango, will be the race's official guest.

Mkoga disclosed the race gears towards support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to care for environment and safe motherhood.

The organizer revealed the races motto is Safe Maternal Environment.

According to the official, lack of basic reproductive health care can lead to an increase in maternal and child mortality rates, so this is a life-saving step.

Mkoga disclosed: "Chief Promotions will distribute maternity support equipment and health facilities in Unguja South, Tanga, Tabora and Dar es Salaam to ensure hygiene and a safe environment during childbirth."

"Those measures are life-saving for both mother and baby."

The marathon's registration fee is 30,000/- for 21km, 25,000/- for 5km, whereas group registration for jogging groups and the rest will be 20,000/-.

Chief Promotions' boss pointed out all participants will receive T-shirts, medals and bibs running numbers.

The race is sponsored by Kinglion motorcycle retailers, Metal, Ink, Guta, and Serengeti Breweries, METL via MO Extra, and Afya Water brands, Securities Printers, TBL, Grano Coffee, Turkish Restaurant, and Golden Tulip Hotel.



Agricom firm's CEO, Alex Duffar (L), and the firm's Sales and Marketing Manager, Peter Temu, showcase a harvesting machine the firm sells at a discount of 4m/- at this year's Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) games, which are taking place at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro. The company has financially supported this season's SHIMIWI games. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Mpango lauds company for sponsoring 2021 SHIMIWI Games

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

VICE President, Philip Mpango, has appreciated the Agricom firm for sponsoring this year's Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) games, which got underway in Morogoro on October 20 and will culminate on November 2.

The games have brought together 1732 participants from 11 regions who are battling it out in various events, which include tug-of-war for both men and women, draft, cycling, and cards.

Ministry of Finance squad became a champion in tug-of-war event for men after beating Ministry of Minerals side in two rounds of the game, the results impressed Mpango.

The Vice President asked the Ministry of Finance squad to put more effort into

preparation compared to other regional teams, which had embarked on better preparations two weeks before the games.

Mpango said Agricom firm has turned out to be one of the good sport's stakeholders that have put their weight behind SHIMIWI games this season.

He further challenged regional authorities that have failed to field sides in this year's showpiece because of financial constraints, to seek assistance so they can enter teams in the next games.

Mpango disclosed the government, with the backing of such sponsors as Agricom firm, is committed to supporting such kinds of games.

The Vice President noted: "SHIMIWI games coordinators, and concerned ministries, should make sure regions, which

do not take part in the games, have to mention their reasons in writing and copies should be presented to Prime Minister's Office to make sure such kind of negligence hardly happens again."

Mpango agreed on the inclusion of Zanzibar in the next games after the SHIMIWI games' official, Alex Temba, had requested so.

Temba revealed the request targets to strengthen the union and ensure public servants from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar duly take part in the events.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Martin Shigela, thanked the government for officially permitting his region to host the games, which had not been held since 2015.

Shigela pointed out Morogoro's chance to play host to the events will stimulate

other economic activities and education.

"I thank Vice President for allowing my region to be the host of this year's SHIMIWI games, I moreover express regards for 20bn/- that government has allocated for Morogoro for completion of classrooms in the 2021/22 academic year," he added.

Vicent Mwita Marwa, the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the tug-of-war tournament, who featured for the Ministry of Finance team, congratulated his ministry for offering the squad enough time for preparation.

Marwa stated the situation has helped the ministry's squad to end in one of the top five spots in the event since the games resumed.

He disclosed: "I agree with Vice President's directive that there should be early preparations for the tournaments with a

view to perform well."

According to Marwa, teams should not simply take part, they should strive to win trophies.

He expressed hope SHIMIWI games will be the best sports events when it comes to fostering good relations among officials in the public and private sectors and promoting healthy living.

Sales and Marketing Manager at Agricom, Peter Temu, said it has aimed at empowering sports talents, particularly youngsters whose economic activities are based on agriculture.

"Agricom supplies agricultural equipment like harvesting machines, as well as offering technical support from cultivation to harvesting stage, we moreover sell agro equipment with a discount during SHIMIWI games," he added.

Why Congolese post-independence rhumba is not part of classical music

By Correspondent John Kimbute

ANNIVERSARIES come and go daily, and each not only brings to mind the person whose life is being marked but those around him as well, and in many ways anniversaries are thematic.

They are moments of reflection on where we are with the theme in question, for instance, the constant revisiting and contemplation of legends of Congolese post-independence music, with Franco or Luambo Luanzo Makiadi, at the head of the group.

Some well-placed local experts say that was African classical music, comparing the music with Western European legends like Beethoven, Mozart, or other immortals.

What this expression of esteem in post-independence central African music is suggesting is that in the final analysis music is comparable worldwide, in which case this genre of music can be put alongside classical music, and seen to be an alter ego.

For one thing, this sentiment appears to be too generous to the legendary post-independence music and thus gives it far-fetched company, of other innovators or geniuses of past centuries, who have epigones in recent decades, but not those



The late Luambo Luanzo Makiadi.

with whom Franco, Nicholas Kassanda alias 'Dr. Nico', Tabu Ley, alias 'Rochereau' can be put alongside. They are different phenomena.

Some African legends of the post-independence period, including those from the Congo and nearby countries like Cameroon, have spent years in Europe and their music was contemporary to other variants of African music for instance in the Caribbean or the United States.

If one puts up comparisons due to one or several great hits, it is easy to draw parallels with some of those musicians, but the local experts seem to have another consideration, namely longevity.

It is a matter of how Franco marked a whole generation, and this is privileged to make it stand alongside those who marked generations elsewhere in the world.

There are legendary singers in other countries who were also steeped in the popular music genre, though locally they would be put

alongside an eastern music genre like taarab rather than the Caribbean-leaning 'styles' like rhumba, calypso, twist, short-lived 'pachanga,' and more recent 'soukous' variants, etc.

All these are popular (pop) music variants and can't be put alongside classical music, whose alter ego at the local level is choir singing, and thus it is confined to religious music.

At the wider level, it is enshrined in martial music, where there are some notable numbers (Kuwasha Mwenge for instance) but not orchestras.

This affinity between central African pop music - of which local pop music is an extension, along with the direct influence of Caribbean music - and classical music or rather mental impressions that what they were doing is a continuation of the classical tradition could be seen in how music groups were named.

For two or three decades after independence music groups

were named as 'orchestras,' whether directly or by implication, as it cut across singers of a wide variety of styles or tonality, but there was another name, equally well spread, named a 'jazz' band.

This was closer to the facts as they indeed played jazz, largely.

So the name jazz bands were fair and right despite that jazz in the US sense of the term was very specific in its mode and style, while in our situation it tended to be likened with pop music generally, for instance, twist (Cuban Marimba Band) or rhumba (NUTA Jazz Band).

Due to the French tradition in neighbouring Congo, it doesn't appear that the 'jazz' part settled there intensely, while they relished the 'orchestra' part, despite that strictly speaking they were 'rhumba bands' largely, not jazz bands and never was any of them an orchestra.

Only orchestras give classical music written music of some sort of rituals, for instance in the manner in which European classical music was a secular branch of religious music, etc.

Going through the chronicle, classical music is tied up with baroque music, said to be a period or style of Western classical music from approximately 1600 to 1750.

It is an era that followed the Renaissance

music era, and was followed in turn by the Classical era, 'with the style gallantly marking the transition between Baroque and Classical eras.'

That isn't too easy for one removed from the tradition to grasp, but essentially music, like art, was a sphere where the 'rising bourgeoisie' (later forming a club called Freemasons, striking an independent attitude to the church) sought to perform.

The idea was to raise enthusiastic sentiments among crowds - without hurting the unforgiving religious and monarchical order.

This sort of careful music going to the hearts of the population listened to by church and state officials for any clear element of religious discontent or pointing at political disquiet is what brought about those stages of music -renaissance, baroque and classical stages.

It is on the one hand a movement of style but there is an aspect of freeing up expression somewhat, with classical's concluding part, where freedom is now more or less enshrined.

Africa did not have a long period of freedom struggle to develop subtle high-class patterns of that sort; just a few anthems were raised by the new countries and ordinary love songs.



Dar es Salaam's St Marie Academy's Form Four students entertain guests with Bongo Flava songs during the school's 19th nursery graduation ceremony held at the school's premises at Mbezi Kimara Kwa Msuguri in the city over the weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MWENDAPOLE

Lacazette making case at Arsenal for extended stay beyond existing deal

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THERE remains considerable uncertainty around Alexandre Lacazette's future, but this could yet be one of those rare contract standoffs that actually works in everybody's favour.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta dangled an unexpected carrot on the eve of Friday's game, hinting that the 30-year-old could yet be offered an extension to his existing agreement which expires at the end of the season.

ESPN reported on Sept. 17 that there was no offer on the table from the club, and that is still the case today, but on this evidence, Lacazette is not about to join the long list of players to spend the impasse sitting on his hands.

He set the tone for Friday's 3-1 win over Aston Villa four days earlier. The Frenchman reinvigorated an ailing team performance against Palace on Monday with a vibrant 23-minute cameo that climaxed with a stoppage-time equaliser to salvage a draw.

Lacazette was rewarded with a place in the starting XI here -- his first Premier League start of the season, having featured for just 72 minutes before tonight -- with Arteta's prematch news conference words ringing in his ears, chiefly that "anything is possible" regarding the prospect of a new contract.

Whether Lacazette is motivated by proving himself worthy of extending his stay in north London or showcasing his talents to potential suitors in the January transfer window is unclear. But if Arteta can harness the determination he showed here, Lacazette can prove himself a real asset in the coming weeks and months regardless of what the future holds.

"He was terrific," said Arteta of Lacazette. "The way he finished the last game, I already made the decision [to start him]. He worked really hard, he hasn't played many minutes."

Arteta altered his system to accommodate Lacazette, moving away from the 4-3-3 shape that left Arsenal regularly exposed against Palace to something approximating 4-4-2 in possession but more clearly 4-2-3-1 without.

Lacazette dropped in to help stifle Villa's transition, a counter-attack that can be deadly, as shown when winning this fixture last season 3-0 with fans absent due to COVID-19.

Arsenal benefitted from a full house at the Emirates, responding to a dynamic opening 45 minutes in which Villa were overwhelmed and lucky to end the half only 2-0 behind.

But for VAR, the lead would have been even smaller. Thomas Partey opened the scoring with a 23rd-minute header -- his first goal for the club from his 49th attempt -- before Lacazette went down in the box under a challenge from Matt Targett.

Referee Craig Pawson was encouraged to review his original decision and opted to award Arsenal a spot-kick, tangible reward for another example of Lacazette's sharpness of thought to react quickest to a loose ball.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang missed the penalty but converted the rebound to the chagrin of former Arsenal goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, whose boundless willingness to speak at length about the Gunners since joining Villa seemingly led to a little payback from the home fans. The Emirates supporters gleefully chanted "you're just a s--- Aaron Ramsdale" at someone they were widely disappointed to lose when he departed in summer 2020 for £20 million.

It was in fact a miserable night for Martinez, who could have done better for Partey's goal, was unfortunate with Aubameyang's penalty and was left without a chance as Emile Smith Rowe's 56th-minute shot took a deflection off Tyrone Mings to squeeze inside his near post.

Substitute Jacob Ramsey scored a brilliant 82nd-minute consolation, curling home a right-foot shot from the edge of the box, but it brought merely a modicum of respectability to the score that Villa's performance did not deserve.

Arsenal started with similar purpose against Palace but couldn't sustain it. Here, they did just that in what ranks as the best performance of the season to date -- Nuno Tavares in particular made the most of his first Premier League start -- and perhaps the most striking example of the attacking football Arteta ideally wants to implement.

"We attacked them really aggressively, we won every duel," said the Spaniard. "We were creative, a threat. I'm proud of the team, they played really well."

"This is how we have to play. This is when we are good, when we play with real desire, real commitment and can have clear ideas of how to attack them."

England manager Gareth Southgate and his assistant Steve Holland were in the stands to witness Smith Rowe enhance his case for inclusion in next month's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Albania and San Marino.

Southgate claimed Smith Rowe, who was the subject of two bids from Villa in the summer, was close to making October's internationals, and only the ferocity of competition in his area of the pitch for England can prevent him earning a call-up if he continues like this.

In battle over biennial World Cups, FIFA isn't the villain you think it is

By Henry Bushnell

LET'S begin with the obvious. FIFA, as full of s--- as ever, with customary disregard for women's soccer, has launched a ruthless campaign to increase the frequency of World Cups. Its origins, supposedly, are a Saudi Arabian proposal, which led to a "feasibility study," which has been dreadfully opaque. It's clear, though, that no matter the feasibility, FIFA has decided that biennial World Cups would be desirable.

So it enlisted soccer legends to shill for a plan woefully short on detail. They met resistance every step of the way, from players and FIFPro, the global players' union; from managers and massive clubs; from many in the women's game, who feel their World Cups would be overshadowed; and most of all, from the European soccer governing body, UEFA.

UEFA, in a statement last week, blasted the plans yet again, saying they would "damage all forms of football, devalue the [World Cup] itself, disadvantage fans financially and stunt the development of women's and youth football around the world." It cited player health. It said that "any perceived attraction is shallow." More than a dozen European nations have reportedly considered splitting with FIFA, or boycotting the World Cup, if FIFA tries to force the changes through.

Fans and Western media have largely sided with the Europeans, framing this intensifying fight as good vs. evil, as nobility vs. FIFA greed. And they have a point. The chief motive here is money. FIFA rakes in billions from the men's World Cup. Playing it twice as often might devalue it long-term, but would boost FIFA's bottom line immediately.

This fight, though, is not good vs. evil. It's a battle for control. It's a global organization that represents the interests of global soccer vs. a European organization that represents the interests of European soccer. And the Europeans are winning. They're tightening their grip on power. The biennial World Cup is FIFA's desperate attempt to wrest some back.

*FIFA vs. UEFA, greed vs. more greed

FIFA and UEFA are driven by a singular force. Each wants to organize games and tournaments between the world's most popular soccer players. They want to sell sponsorships and broadcast rights to those games, and distribute profits among their members, who use the handouts to buy or develop more popular soccer players, whom FIFA or UEFA will eventually monetize too.

And for a while now, UEFA has done this more often and more profitably than FIFA has. The global governing body reported \$5.7 billion in revenue from



FIFA World Cup Trophy.

2015-2018. The European governing body, over that same period, made roughly \$14.3 billion.

UEFA is winning because its premier competition, the Champions League, runs annually, four times as frequently as FIFA's. And because, although the entire world supplies the Champions League, only European clubs and associations benefit from it. All the best players from Asia, Africa and the Americas play for a handful of elite Western European teams. So the biggest companies from Asia, Africa and the Americas want to sponsor those teams, their games, and the tournaments they contest.

So the money flows, and the Europeans consolidate their power. Argentina, Senegal and South Korea develop players. European leagues, European clubs and European soccer federations (via UEFA) profit off those players. They turn profits into infrastructure that ensures future profits for themselves. Owners -- American billionaires, Russian oligarchs, Arab sheiks -- pocket cash or goodwill along the way.

The pattern, which reinforces itself, is backwards at best, colonialist at worst, and the organization best positioned to disrupt it is ... FIFA.

What FIFA posits, essentially, is that players developed by Argentina, Senegal and South Korea -- or by Guatemala, Tanzania and Oman -- should play more often in competitions organized by a governing body that represents those countries. And FIFA, for all its corruption, sleaziness and incompetence, still does that. It shares its revenue with all 211 member associations. Yes, it pays president Gianni Infantino and other privileged executives millions of dollars, and constantly undermines its own credibility. But it does funnel revenue from World Cups to Sri Lanka, and Uganda, and Dominica, funding soccer in countries where the resources and comforts of Western European life do not

exist.

Many of those countries crave a biennial World Cup because if FIFA's revenue soars, theirs will too. FIFA's solidarity payments are their main source of income, their youth players' main source of opportunity. One-hundred sixty-six of them supported the "feasibility study." If all or most of them were to vote in favor of the biennial plan at a special congress or the regularly scheduled FIFA Congress on March 31, the plan would become reality.

European media have raved FIFA's democratic structure, rightly pointing out that it gives no say to players. They've whined that it gives as much say to a country that wins World Cups as it does to one that will never sniff a prestigious tournament. But the latter isn't inferior by

choice. Many developing countries adore soccer. They simply struggle to build professional leagues or competitive national teams because countless decks have been stacked against them. Historical forces have diverted resources elsewhere. And now, a European-centric soccer system has left them behind.

What UEFA posits is that the powerful men who rule that system should remain powerful. That the system produces entertaining soccer as is. That fans enjoy it, and players tolerate it, and money keeps rolling in. That the status quo is fine, and preferable to FIFA's flawed plan.

And in some ways, UEFA is right. Much of the pushback is legitimate. FIFA's initial focus on the men's game and neglect for the women's game

has, in some eyes, left the biennial concept doomed from the start.

But UEFA's mission here isn't altruistic. It isn't a soccer savior fighting a corrupt villain. It's a four-letter acronym representing an establishment and fighting on behalf of its own members' interests. You know, just like FIFA so often is.

"Why the biennial World Cup battle will end in compromise

FIFA's problem is that it can't make this argument, because the argument frames players as products rather than humans, and feeds suspicions that the fuel behind the plan is financial. Instead, FIFA has relied on empty logic and pleas about "the future of football," because without more regular World Cups, apparently, according to Infantino, "football is risking to lose its appeal" among Gen Z. It also attempted to attach the biennial World Cup proposal to a rejiggering of the international match calendar, which is necessary and rational but mostly unrelated.

The arguments were easy to rebut. And European powerbrokers have, relentlessly. Even the International Olympic Committee joined the resistance last weekend. This week, with the narrative largely controlled by European media, FIFA's resolve began wavering. Rather than push for a vote in December, Infantino announced Wednesday that FIFA would hold a virtual "global summit" on Dec. 20 and "try to reach a consensus."

A consensus, of course, will never form around a biennial

World Cup. CONMEBOL, the South American confederation, has also opposed the plan. And while it could technically be voted into bylaw without any European or South American support, the Europeans and South Americans could just as easily jump ship, arrange their own lucrative tournament, and detonate the World Cup's appeal.

All of which is why Infantino's words at a 45-minute news conference Wednesday hinted at eventual compromise. "I'm here to unite," he said, after acknowledging vehement criticism. "I'm not here to divide."

The path to common ground could be rocky. Collisions along the way could be explosive. They often are when two powerful, self-interested bodies clash. The result could be a global nations league, or a second, diluted quadrennial competition. UEFA's power, though -- which in some ways outweighs FIFA's -- should prevent a true biennial World Cup from materializing.

But that isn't cause for celebration. It isn't a win for the everyman over the powerful elite. In fact, if you squint, you could see it as the opposite. You could see FIFA, despite its sinful past and seedy present, as a voice of the voiceless, fighting to reclaim the world's game on behalf of the world.

"They all must be listened to," Infantino said Wednesday of his 211 member associations. "And my role is exactly to listen to everyone, to listen to every side, to give a voice to those who are never heard."



FIFA president Gianni Infantino speaks during last Wednesday's FIFA Council meeting. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Geita Gold FC parts ways with head coach

SPORT

In battle over biennial World Cups, FIFA isn't the villain you think it is

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Geita Gold FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEITA GOLD FC



Twiga Stars' head coach, Bakari Shime.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS season's NBC Premier League debutant, Geita Gold FC, has turned out to be the league's first club to part ways with its head coach, offloading Burundian Etienne Ndayiragije just four games at the helm of the team.

A statement issued by the club's Information and Communication Department yesterday said the two parties reached a mutual agreement to terminate the contract claiming that the coach had failed to meet agreed-on targets.

The statement signed by the department's head further disclosed that for now, the team will be under the tutelage of assistant coach, Fred Felix Minziro, until the procedures

to get head coach's successor are complete.

Minziro is the one who led the team to NBC Premier League promotion but he was relegated to the post of assistant coach.

"The club would like to thank coach Ndayiragije for the time he spent with us and for his great contributions until this far as such, we wish him success in his new football responsibilities outside our club," reads part of the statement.

Ndayiragije that had coached the senior national football team has therefore become the first domestic flight tactician to be sacked in the unfolding season and before the start of the campaign, he was among the list of coaches forecasted to excel at the club.

His last match in charge at Geita Gold FC was a 1-1 draw with Mbeya

City FC which took place at Nyanumbu Stadium in Geita last Saturday whereby the hosts came from one goal down to make it level courtesy of George Mpole's 57th-minute goal.

The experienced offensive midfielder went into the score sheet, equalized Mbeya City FC footballer Juma Luizio's 45th-minute strike.

Before this match, the Geita outfit had also recorded a 1-1 draw with Mtibwa Sugar at the same venue.

The side reeled from two back-to-back away defeats to Yanga (1-0) and Namungo FC (2-0).

It was Geita Gold FC's fourth match of the campaign in which they remain win-less and have just collected two points earned from two draws hence they have started the season on a backpedal.

Soon after the Mbeya City FC duel, some of the supporters were seen

booing Ndayiragije as he marched off the pitch to the changing rooms.

It was a gesture that meant the supporters had run out of his trust following consistent poor results.

Geita Gold FC's next league game will fall on November 2, as the outfit comes up against Azam at the latter's venue Azam Complex Dar es Salaam.

Visitors will be chest out ready to fight for their first three points of the season at an unpredictable territory.

At the same time, Azam will be eyeing to maintain their unbeaten home record after defeating Namungo FC 1-0 in their first home match of the season.

Geita Gold FC is making its maiden appearance in the top flight league after they were promoted last season together with their counterparts Mbeya Kwanza FC which is having a fairly good ride so far into the contest.

Coach Shime apologizes for Twiga Stars' early exit

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA senior national women's football team 'Twiga Stars' head coach Bakari Shime has apologized to the country after the team was knocked out of 2022 Africa Women Cup of Nations (AWCON) qualifiers.

The coach, who has guided Twiga Stars to success in various assignments promised the country that the team will do well in its next assignments.

The country's envoys suffered a 3-2 reverse leg defeat to Namibia at Dobsonville Stadium in South Africa after another 2-1 loss they faced in the first leg match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

On aggregate, Namibia cruised to the next round with a 5-3 win thereby making the journey of Twiga Stars end prematurely at a time when Tanzanians wanted to see them excel in the showdown.

Speaking after the game, Shime was quick to apologize to Tanzanians whom he said had hopes that his side was going to stamp good results in the return match.

"The results we have recorded in the reverse match are not what we anticipated as such, let me take this opportunity to apologize to all Tanzanians who wanted to see their team going forward."

"This year, our trip to earn a ticket for the AWCON competition has ended here but I have to say that we have learned many things which will help us to do much better in the future," said Shime.

He continued: "In football when you fall, the best option is to stand up and move on. We thrive on our part to create a strong competitive team to do us proud but these women need a helping hand too to uplift their morale."

Twiga Stars' assistant coach Edna Lema took it to her Instagram page where she also encouraged her players not to look down but aim high.

Edna stated: "Nothing stays forever. Good and bad times come and go. You have fought according to your abilities but it was not our moment. We wanted it but God is the one who plans everything."

"We need to be thankful for what we have achieved and we need to look ahead to do well in other upcoming competitions," she wrote.

Namibia's playmaker, Zenatha Coleman, scored a hat-trick in their 3-2 win in South Africa and she also netted a brace when they silenced Twiga Stars 2-1 in the city hence all the five goals have been fired by her.

She had a fantastic performance in the two-legged battle no wonder she played her professional football with Spain's Sevilla Club's women's side as she succeeded to carry the weight of the match on her shoulders.

Simbu shines in Rock City Marathon

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN athlete, Alphonse Simbu, beat the rest of the pack to win this year's men's 21km race of Rock City Marathon held yesterday in Mwanza.

The national athletics side's runner clocked 01:06:19, followed by Kenyan runner Benard Musau who clocked 01:07:06 to settle for the second spot.

Another Tanzanian runner, Shingade Giniki, ended third in the men's race after clocking 01:07:35.

The 21km race was held at Rock City Mall parking grounds located in the city coloured by the presence of Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary Masanja.

There was moreover the participation of young children, who battled it out in the 2.5km race, known as 'Unilever Rock City Junior Challenge', as well as people with albinism who participated in the 5km race, dubbed 'Magare Rock City Fun Run.'

In the women's race, the 21km event was won by Kenyan, Isgani Chameo, who clocked a time of 01:17:31 followed by Tanzanians, Neema Msuhadi, and Tunu Andrew, who clocked 01:23:06 and 01:25:17 to take second and third spots respectively.

Winners in both genders in the 12th edition of the race which annually takes place in Mwanza scooped 2m/-, second-placed winners took home 1,300,000/- and third-placed winners took home 700,000/-.



Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary Masanja (2nd R), presents a medal to the first winner of this year's 21km of Rock City Marathon, Alphonse Simbu, after the event held in Mwanza last weekend. Simbu posted 01:06:19 in the race. Looking on are Ilemela District Commissioner, Hassan Masala (R), and Athletics Tanzania's Chairman, Silas Isangi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CAPITAL PLUS COMPANY

Commenting on his victory, Simbu said he was more committed to training for international competitions and he has a culture of preparing well for every race he participates in.

The experienced marathoner noted: "I always prepare well for every race I participate in, whether it local or international because I believe that to do well in international competitions, I must start doing well in local races."

"I further thank the organizers of this race for the good preparations and I urge the stakeholders to continue supporting them so

that they can keep on improving the race," Simbu pointed out.

The annual competition was organized by Capital Plus Company and it was sponsored by several partners including Tiper, KCB Bank, Magare Company, Unilever Company.

Other stakeholders include Bugando Hospital, CF Hospital, Garda World, Uhai Water, Serengeti breweries, NSSF, Tanzania Ports Authority, Rock City Mall, Pepsi, and SAUT University too backed the event.

In addition to the 21km race, the race included a 10km race, known as the KCB Bank Rock City

Corporate Challenge, a 5km race, known as the 'Magare Rock City Fun Run', as well as a 2.5km race for children, known as the 'Unilever Rock City Junior Challenge'.

Speaking after handing over the prizes to the winners and participants of the race, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary, said in addition to promoting tourism the race is an important tool to prepare athletes in the country to be in

a position to do well in international championships and restore national dignity.

"The government promises to continue to support this race so that it can continue to promote us locally and abroad," Mary stated.

She promised to sponsor the winners' trip so that they can visit Saane National Park to see the tourist attractions in the park as a step to support the race's agenda, namely to promote tourism through sports.

Ilemela District Commissioner, Hassan Masala, congratulated the race organizers and called on the participants who failed to do well in the race not to give up, maintaining the runners have to prepare for the next competition so that they can do well.

The coordinator of the race, Kasara Naftal, said the race was a great success while appreciating the cooperation they received from the government, Athletics Tanzania (AT), Mwanza Amateur Athletics Association (MWAAA), Mwanza Regional Police Force as well as all the sponsors of the race.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I CAN SPEAK FREQUENT EMOJIS

