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TANZANIA

MONDAY 1 MARCH, 2021

National Pg 3
Dar hosts forest products conference



National Pg 4
WMA to install electric metres



National Pg 6
Govt re-opens Mponde tea factory



National Pg 7
Firm launches tree planting campaign



Govt lifts Lake Zone ban on pork, pig sale

Muleba district not yet cleared, ministry underlines

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has lifted a ban on the sale and consumption of pork in six districts in Lake Victoria Zone that were hit by African Swine Fever (ASF) one month ago. Prof Hezron Nonga, the Director of Veterinary Services, told this paper in an interview yesterday that ASF has disappeared in the districts but Muleba district in Kagera region has not been declared safe, and thus the ban is still in place.

The other districts that were declared to be affected late last month are Mbogwe and Geita in Geita Region, Sengerema and Missungwi in Mwanza Region, Kyerwa in Kagera Region and Kahama in Shinyanga Region.

"All the six districts are now free of the disease and the ban on trade in pork and pigs has been lifted except Muleba," the director said.

“Before lifting the ban, we held a meeting of stakeholders including pig farmers and traders and agreed that no pork will be sold for consumption without being inspected by our health officials,” he said.

By the time of imposition of the ban last month, the minister, Mashimba Ndaki said in Dodoma that the rapidly spreading influenza had already killed 1,500 pigs in affected districts. The ban focused on trading in and transporting pigs.

The minister said that 909 deaths were recorded in Kahama, while 56 were registered in Geita. Mbogwe district had 388 swine deaths up to that moment, and Sengerema chalked up 147 deaths.

This tally was about 10.1 percent of 14,814 domesticated pigs by current estimates in the four districts, with their total worth put at 375m/-.

Kahama municipality which was the most affected lifted the ban at the weekend with an appeal to traders to boost activities in the sub-sector that was dormant for one month.

Municipal veterinary officer amian

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East African Court of Justice Registrar Yufnalis Okubo (R) pictured in Arusha city at the weekend swearing in Tanzania's High Court Judge Yohana Masara as a Judge with the regional bloc's court. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

Nkasi pushes for harvests to stop croc attacks wave

By Guardian Correspondent, Nkasi

OFFICIALS in Nkasi District, Rukwa region, have written to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism asking for permission to harvest crocodiles in Lake Tanganyika following a spike in incidents of the reptiles attacking humans.

District Commissioner Said Mtanda (pictured) said here yesterday that the rise in crocodile attacks, including some fatal cases, was evidence that their numbers are too high to maintain themselves within the lake ecosystem.

"A reduction is the best way forward. There are also large numbers of hippos but crocodiles pose a bigger threat to



lives of fishermen and villagers along the lake shore," he said.

The DC had visited a health centre in Namanyere township to see Thomas Kasagama (23), a resident of Kabwe and a recent croc attack victim.

"Every now and then there is news of someone being severely injured or killed. We

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Fishermen embrace value addition drive

By Polycarp Machira, Kigoma

FISHERIES stakeholders in Kigoma region have welcomed a new initiative to improve the sustainability of fishing in Lake Tanganyika, expecting that it will boost their economies.

The region is earmarked to benefit from the euro 3m/- project in value chain addition to fresh water sprat, perch and dry sardine fished in Lake Tanganyika, making Tanzania among 10 countries picked for

“It is my hope that implementing the project will solve the problems and challenges we face,” he said, airing the view that the focus is to explore global markets as they demand quality products.

a project named 'Fish 4ACP,' grouping countries in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific zone, in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The five-year project is managed by the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) and aims at giving fishermen skills to increase production and reduce post fish harvest losses before the catch reaches the market.

Speaking to reporters on a

study visit, the stakeholders were of the view that if well managed; fishing activities in the lake can vastly contribute to the region's economic uplift. Frank Kibiti, a regional official in charge of fish quality control and marketing, noted that there are great investment opportunities in value chain addition, which can increase revenues.

He said the Fish4ACP project

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Road accident leaves 4 dead

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

FOUR people including a college principal died at the weekend after their car sank into a swollen river in Ludewa district, Njombe region.

District Medical Officer Dr Stanley Mlay told this paper yesterday that the accident occurred on Saturday night when the four who were in an SUV tried to cross the swollen Lupali river.

He named the departed as Steven Mtega (39) who was the principal of the privately-owned Lugarawa Health Training Institute, Marko Mpete—an electrician, Merk Mwalongo (35)—a trader and Rukia Mfaume (28)—an accountant.

"Unfortunately the water level at the river was high due to the ongoing rains by the time the driver tried to cross," he said.

"I'm told they were out on

a weekend. They decided to drive from Lugarawa to Mundindi but they didn't make it across the river." Dr Mlay said it was Mtega who was behind the steering wheel, elaborating that the vehicle was swept by water, ending his own life and that of the three passengers.

Regional Police Commander Hamisi Issa confirmed the incident, stating that police officers were still looking into what happened to come up with a detailed report.

A brochure of the UK Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) says most drowning incidents occur because victims are uneducated or misinformed on how vehicle fail to navigate the water and sink, nor are many drivers aware of proper techniques for getting out.

RoSPA says that in a situa-

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FAQs

1. How does the mask work?
The mask is made of a fabric which has been impregnated with antimicrobial properties, effectively killing off the virus when it comes into contact with it.

2. What is an antimicrobial?
An antimicrobial product kills or slows the spread of microorganisms. Microorganisms include bacteria, viruses, protozoans, and fungi.

3. Has the mask been clinically tested?
The mask's efficacy has been proven through numerous studies for both from gram positive, negative, and antibiotic resistant bacteria. During a European Commission backed R&D project a small-scale clinical trial of 37 patients with ages ranging from 23 - 86 was executed showcasing clear and significant reduction in bacterial contamination across the test group in contrast to the control group. It has proven to eliminate up to 99.34% of SARS-COV2 virus in just 30 minutes by the ATCCR Laboratory.

4. How long can I use the mask for?
The mask can be washed up to 100 times in a standard washing machine, after which the antimicrobial properties become less effective.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks in Zanzibar at the weekend when launching the 'Speak with President Mwinyi Application', which is meant as a platform through which members of the public will air their grievances to him and get feedback from the Zanzibar government. Photo: State House

Fishermen now embrace value addition drive

FROM PAGE 1

will help explore such opportunities, urging the private sector to take up the chances. "Upon full implementation of the project we expect improved fishing activities and increased revenues," he said.

Ahmed Soso, the chairman of the Tanganyika Fish Exporters Association (TAFEFA), said that many traders wish to export sardine to markets outside the country including AGOA exports to the United States or other trade arrangements with Canada, Australia and EU, so they need to be empowered.

He pointed out that in the past the fish used to contain a lot of sand but things are slowly changing, expressing the hope that if new drying techniques are in place, it will help improve the quality of fish and sardines.

The regional fishermen group's chairman, Francis John, said the project was long overdue as fishing stakeholders need modern techniques.

Fishermen are still using old fishing equipment, traditional preservation ways and processing that do not add value to the fishing products, he stated.

"It is my hope that implementing the project will solve the problems and challenges we face," he said, airing the view that the focus is to explore global markets as they demand quality products.

A trader at the Kibirizi landing site on the shore, Pascalia Daniel said the government should help put in place new measures to improve the value addition chain, as existing facilities are not enough and do not meet expected standards.

Briefing journalists on the project, FAO's Fish4ACP officer Hashim Muumin said the project started last October and in the first year will involve value chain analysis and upgrading plans. In the second to fifth years it will see an upgrading of value chains based on recommendations.

Fish4ACP is being conducted in partnership with TARIFI, contributing a value chain analysis targeted by the project, to improve the sustainability of fisheries in the lake.

"The aim of the project is to help solve challenges facing fishermen with the focus being better access to local and international markets," he said.

Fish4ACP is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) aimed at making fisheries and aquaculture value chains in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific more sustainable.

It is implemented by FAO and partners with funding from the European Union (EU) and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Fish4ACP aims to tackle underlying challenges to sustainable fisheries, including poor social and environmental sustainability surrounding such activities, officials noted.

Nkasi pushes for harvests to stop croc attacks wave

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can't sit down and wait for more of such bad news. We have written to the ministry and once we get the go ahead, the harvesting work will start immediately," he said.

Meanwhile, the DC appealed to residents of villages along the lake to be cautious while undertaking regular activities such as fishing, swimming and washing clothes at the shores of the lake.

But Lake Tanganyika is not the only water body where the reptiles have rapidly multiplied to the point of being a regular threat to human life as similar stories of attacks are heard from Lake Victoria, Ruvuma River and other areas close to large water bodies.

Human-wildlife conflict relate to wild animals leaving their natural habitat and entering villages or attacking people on lake and river shores, which has increased in recent years after a sustained anti-poaching effort.

The effect on human life has been high, with the ministry hesitating to take any action. In 2019, the minister, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla announced a plan to issue permits for harvesting 10 per cent of crocodiles owing to rising attacks on humans.

Yet no such permit is being held by Nkasi district authorities and no crocodiles were harvested in the past year, officials noted.

Villagers have usually taken measures when attacks occur, like killing the animals, which at one time the minister deplored as cowardly, of harming or destroying a state asset.

The former minister said to resolve the croc pest problem, excess animals would be sold in public auction in a plan that would involve hippos, but no study has been carried out to see how this would affect meat trade, or the danger of contracting diseases.

Govt lifts Lake Zone ban on pork, pig sale

FROM PAGE 1

Justin said that the ban has been lifted but the business will not continue as usual as before the ASF scare.

"Before lifting the ban, we held a meeting of stakeholders including pig farmers and traders and agreed that no pork will be sold for consumption without being inspected by our health officials," he said.

He emphasised that municipal officials will be on the lookout to ensure that all pork is inspected, where unauthorized meat will be impounded and

destroyed as required by the law.

Lifting of the ban means that pork lovers, traders and pig-gery owners can now go back to normal - though facing mi-

nor restrictions to forestall another outbreak.

African swine fever causes severe illness and high death rates in pigs, with pigs of all ages affected. Signs of illness

include high fever, decreased appetite and weakness. The skin may be reddened, blotchy or have blackened lesions, especially on the ears, tail and lower legs, officials noted.

4 dead as car sinks into river

FROM PAGE 1

tion where a vehicle is on the verge of sinking, its occupants must stay calm and get out of the vehicle as quickly as possible, pointing out that "hyperventilating wastes precious oxygen and shortens the amount of time needed when making an escape."

An escape should be attempted in the small amount of time (around 30 seconds to two minutes) during which a vehicle often floats, after which the weight of the engine pulls the vehicle under, the write up underlines.

"The sooner you escape the better: cars are not airtight, and will not form an air bubble for survival under water," it says.

"When sunk, pressure on the doors and windows exerted by the outside water makes them very difficult, even impossible, to open," it added.



A Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technician repairs a pipe distributing water from the Changanyikeni reservoir to Kibululu and Goba suburbs in Kinondoni District, as found at the weekend. Photo courtesy of Dawasa

4 charged with economic sabotage in Dar court

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR people have appeared before Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam charged with several counts related to economic sabotage, money laundering commissioning loss of 5bn/- to the Engineering and Construction Company (MECCO).

Those who appeared in court were Chrispin Mwombeki, Deus Mpapi, Joseph Nyamwero and Hadija Seif. The counts were read before senior resident magistrate Rashid Chaungu.

The prosecution was led by

State Attorneys Faraji Ngukah and Yusuph Aboud.

Ngukah claimed that between November 2011 and December 2017 in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland, the suspects all together led a criminal gang and committed several crimes in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland.

He said the suspects transferred funds from the MECCO's account to Legram Ltd, CIV-MARK LTDA and a private account of Mary Odemary Nguma so as to obtain the money fraudulently.

"Between November 2011

and December 2017 in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland, the suspects, Mwombeki and Mpapi transferred a total of 3,454,669,175/- from the MECCO bank account to several accounts claiming to implement a road project which is not true," he said.

The suspects are also allegedly to embezzle the amount of money by engaging in various transactions while being aware that the funds have been obtained illegally.

The prosecution further claimed that in May 2016 and November 2017 in Zanzibar

and Tanzania mainland, the three suspects (Mwombeki, Nyamwero and Seif) obtained 779,490,000/- from the MECCO account claiming were for the implementation of a road project which is not true.

It was also claimed that on October 10, 2014 in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland, Mwombeki and Mpapi obtained 20m/- from MECCO, through two different cheques in the name of LEGRAM LTD claiming that they were meant to fund the road project the fact they knew it was not true.

"Between November 2011 and

Decemehr 2017 in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland, Mwombeki and Nyamwero took and transferred several construction equipment including grader, generator and others from MECCO to LEGRAND LTD worth 870.2m/- claiming that they were meant to support the company's road project which is also not true," the prosecution said.

In another count, it was claimed that on October 10, 2017 in Dar es Salaam region, the suspects forged special power of attorney so as to show that MECCO had appointed Nyamwero and Kamwero to supervise

the construction of a 5-km road project in Bukoba municipality.

It was also claimed that in November, 2011 and December 2017 in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland, all suspects caused loss of a total of 5,383,918,553/- following several illegal transactions which they implemented.

All the suspects pleaded not guilty.

The prosecution said that investigation of the case is yet to be completed. The magistrate adjourned the case to March 12, and all the suspects have been remanded as the money laundering case is not bailable.



Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), addresses workers of Lushoto District's Mponde Tea Estate at the weekend - with production at the estate's factory lying suspended. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Zanzibar announces new COVID-19 screening tests

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Ministry of Health in Zanzibar has announced new COVID-19 testing cost of \$80 (184,000/-) for all travellers.

A statement by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children showed that the amount was previously paid by travellers from European countries. Travellers from East Africa and Tanzanians were paying between 45,000/- and 30,000/- respectively.

The new COVID-19 testing cost become applicable yesterday, according to the ministry statement.

It said that travellers will be required to go for testing three days before their travelling date. COVID-19 testing will be conducted at selected hospitals namely, Migombani, Lumumba, Global Unguja and the Mfikiwa health centre in Pemba.

Speaking to this paper in separate interviews, some Zanzibar residents said the amount is too high for locals compared to their monthly earnings.

"The new COVID-19 testing cost is almost half our salaries; the government should consider lowering the cost for us to afford," said Khamis Juma Khamis, a resident of Unguja.

He said the new costs should be left for foreigners because even in other countries, the cost for locals are kept low.

Director of Preventive Services (DPS) in the Ministry of Health, Zanzibar, Dr Fadhil Muhammed linked the changes in COVID-19 testing with increased prices of testing kits.

Dr Muhammed said that travellers who are tested positive for the disease will not pay for the second test.

In January, the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dorothy Gwajima in Tanzania mainland the cost had been increased to 230,000/- from 40,000/- due to the rise of new COVID-19 variant across the world and technological changes in testing.

"Tanzania is one of the countries that has taken strong measures to control Covid-19 infections and in particular due to the increase in the number of new cases reported daily in the world and the emergence of new strains of the virus in some countries," explained Dr Gwajima.



The new COVID-19 testing cost is almost half our salaries; the government should consider lowering the cost for us to afford

Stakeholders support strategies for honey value chain development

By Getrude Mbago

STAKEHOLDERS in the forestry and beekeeping sector have expressed their determination to invest heavily and accelerate the use of the sector's products so as to ensure that they become an important source of economic growth in the country.

They were speaking during the closure of the three-day international scientific conference on forest and honeybee products value chains for development of sustainable livelihoods and industrial economy, held in Dar es Salaam last week.

Reports show that Tanzania is endowed with between 33.7 and 48.1 million hectares of forest and woodlands which 55 per cent of the total land area of Tanzania.

Dr Sima Bakengesa, chairman of the conference's organising committee said in order to achieve this, the stakeholders have agreed to put more effort to support value chain development in forest and honey products.

He said the stakeholders agreed that much effort will be directed to the promotion of factories establishment, research, value addition and marketing.

He said the country's development of sustainable value chains for forest-based products is critical to ensure social, economic and environmental benefits.

"Forest and honeybee resources in many countries in the world are the main sources of goods and services to the surrounding communities. The benefits provided by forest ecosystems include goods such as timber, food, fuel and bio products; and ecological functions such as carbon storage, nutrient cycling, water and air purification, and maintenance of wildlife habitat," he noted.

According to him, during the meeting, the stakeholders also agreed

together to invest heavily in research, modern factories, value addition, tree planting and a number of works so as to bring transformation of the sectors.

Dr Bakengesa further said if communities could see the potential available in the forest reserves and invest efforts to conserve them, then they could reap big and thus stimulate development.

In his remarks, Director of Beekeeping and Forest Department in the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Ezekiel Mwakalukwa said the government is going to invest heavily to implement its strategies aimed to transform the forest and honey-bee sectors. Ilayo said the institution in collaboration with various stakeholders is well prepared to increase production of value added forest and honey-bee products.

He said TFS will continue to intensify efforts and plant more trees but also fight against deforestation as the county is currently witnessing environmental burdens due to excessive tree cutting.

"We can't allow deforestation to continue. Impacts of climate change are hitting our country with its impacts that includes loss of forest cover yielding to soil and water source degradation, disruption in rainfall patterns and severe droughts...This should be fought with all our efforts," he said.

Prof Silayo added: "If our forests are well protected, will bring a number of positive impacts while also benefiting the current and future generations, so every person has a role to ensure that there is no forest cutting, burning and harvesting without having permission from the government."

Dr Revocatus Mushumbusi, acting director general of the Tanzania Forests Research Institute (TAFORI) said the conference has been productive as it brought together scientists, decision-makers, development partners, diplomatic community, innovators, business community and practitioners from Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan and Finland.

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

In a speech to launch the National Beekeeping Research Master Plan and the Na-

tional Forest Research Master Plan in Dar es Salaam, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan said Tanzania is currently producing way below its capacity and the new strategies seek to change things for the better.

The speech read on her behalf by Tourism and Natural Resources Minister Dr Damas Ndumbaru noted for instance that although Tanzania has a potential to produce over 100,000 tonnes per year, the country manages only 30,000 tonnes.

The vice president commended the ministry for coming up with the strategies calling on key institu-

tions, stakeholders and experts to supervise and support its implementation so as to bring the expected outcomes.

Samia said that despite the potential of forest and beekeeping sectors, rich biodiversity in natural forests, there are a number of constraints that still hinder growth of the sector which include increased destruction of forests fuelled by human activities as low research and development to drive innovations needed to support value chains development among others.



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (For Short listing of Companies/ Service Providers)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an UN Migration Agency established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

In the framework of humanitarian activities IOM now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Companies/Service Providers for the supply and services in different 16 Categories.

- Furniture and Fixture.
- Generator and Generator accessories.
- IT equipment and IT Accessories.
- Office Stationery, office supplies,
- Food and beverages.
- Solar Water Pumps, Solar System, Plumbing Material.
- Construction Material.
- Construction and rehabilitation companies.
- Electrical and Electronics equipment and accessories.
- Security enhancement
- Electric Electronic tools and equipment's
- Household companies
- Medicines and medical Supplies.
- Transportation Companies.
- Renting Vehicles Companies.
- NFIs [Non Food Items].

The Expression of Interest shall contain information on the following:

- Range of relevant consulting services offered.
- Qualification and experience of relevant professionals and technical personnel currently maintained
- Track record and experience of the firm in similar assignment including list of major clients served and
- Other relevant information.

The Expression of Interest shall be submitted in original and duplicate copy and should be received either by hand by IOM with the following below address on or before **22nd of March 2021**

Procurement unit
IOM Dar Es Salam Office
Box 9270, Slipway road,
Msasani Peninsula

Procurement Unit
IOM Kasulu Sub Office
Box 303, Kasulu Teachers Collage Road-Junction to Bongwe high school Road.

Finance unit
IOM Moshi Office
Box 6697, TRITA building-near NCCF,
Moshi.

IOM ARUSHA
East African Community Headquarters
Box 1096
Africa Mashariki Road
AICC Building/ Kilimanjaro Wing
Room no 638
Arusha, Tanzania

Based on the above information, IOM shall draw up the shortlist of Companies/Service Providers Only Short-listed Companies/Service Providers will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

Interested vendor may obtain further information from IOM at the above office address on from 1 of March to 20 of 2021 between 9:30-12:30.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest, and to annul the selection process and reject all Expression at any time, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Companies/Service Providers.

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

ITB No. GNTZ-2021-ZAO-2502

1. Background

Good Neighbors Tanzania, Zanzibar Area Office (GNTZ_ZAO) has been working with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) of Zanzibar since 2016 implementing various education projects. We are currently implementing a four years new project "Enhancing the Quality of Secondary Schools Education through a holistic Approach in Zanzibar" funded by KOICA. GNTZ-ZAO invites qualified suppliers to make firm offer to supply and delivery of two motor vehicles

2. Interested eligible bidders are encouraged to request for tender documents by writing to gntzzanzibar@goodneighbors.or.tz A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of written application to the email address given and upon payment of non-refundable fee US \$ 650. Tenderers should be registered in Tanzania mainland or Zanzibar with experience in supplying and delivering Korean motor vehicles in Tanzania mainland or Zanzibar

3. Confidential bids clearly marked with tender reference must be delivered by email or to the below address. Bidding shall be conducted through ONE sealed envelope and send to the physical address below or through email to gntzzanzibar@goodneighbors.or.tz not later than 12th March, 2021 at 04:00pm EAT

Managing Director
Zanzibar Area Office
Good Neighbors Tanzania
P.O. Box 4060 Kinazini, Zanzibar

4. Bids received after stipulated date and time shall not be accepted under any circumstance, also bids submitted to any other email address other than gntzzanzibar@goodneighbors.or.tz shall be rejected.

5. The bid shall be opened on 16th March, 2021 at 10:00am EAT at Kinazini, ZSTC Building, Good Neighbors Zanzibar Area Office. All bidders or their authorized representatives may attend the bid opening. Kindly confirm by email by 15th March, 2021 whether your company shall be represented at the opening

6. All clarifications in respect to this bid should be addressed to gntzzanzibar@goodneighbors.or.tz



Weights and Measures Agency officer Chizila Mpepo (gesturing) briefs Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigahe (next to him, in tie) at the weekend on operations at the agency's centre at Misugusugu in Coast Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Waitara donates 340 bags of cement to eight Tarime primary schools to better pupils' learning conditions

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

DEPUTY Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Mwita Waitara has donated 340 bags of cement to eight primary schools in Tarime District, Mara Region.

The move is aimed to support resident's efforts towards improving pupils learning environment as well as to decongest classrooms.

Handing over the cement bags to the schools over the weekend, Waitara said that 40 cement bags will go to Mbogi secondary school in Mbogi ward. The deputy minister was accompanied by Tarime District Commissioner, Eng Mtemi Msafiri, Tarime-Rural District chairman Saimon Kres and the district executive director Apoo Tindwa.

"I am also going donate cement for

other projects such as dispensaries," said Waitara insisting the donations will be sustainable.

He added: "All these efforts supports the government endeavours towards improving learning environment and bringing social services closer to the people. The government would want each of the citizens to get all the necessary services within their wards."

According to him, decongesting the classrooms would also help in improving pupils' academic performance.

Tarime district chairman, Saimon Kres commended the deputy minister calling for stakeholders to continue supporting their efforts to improve the education sector.

Apoo Tindwa, the district executive director mentioned the benefitted schools as Mbogi secondary

school, Kimusi primary school, Kihero Nyarero, Nyamiri, Kiesaka and Iteremia primary schools.

Soon after assuming the Presidency, Dr John Magufuli introduced the popular fee-free education policy with his government covering the cost for all students from Standard One to Form Four.

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



I am also going donate cement for other projects such as dispensaries

Bring report on breaches of contract, NARCO told

By Guardian Reporter, Handeni

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries deputy minister, Pauline Gekul has given seven days to the National Ranching Company Limited (NARCO) to submit report on how it has implemented government directives which among others required the management to take actions against investors who have violated contract terms.

Gekul gave the order in Handeni District on Saturday during her tour to inspect operations of the Mzeri ranch which is under NARCO. She said the Livestock and Fisheries Minister Mashimba Ndeki had earlier directed the management to take actions against block owners by February 15, this year.

She said the minister had even wanted NARCO to re-possess all the undeveloped blocks within its ranches.

"The minister had already directed you to take actions against all those who have failed to develop the blocks; but nothing has been done so far. I want you to submit the report within seven days," said the Deputy Minister.

Gekul faulted the management over poor supervision of the blocks which has resulted in the government losing revenues. She said block owners must be ordered to present to NARCO their payment plans as well as stating on when they complete their payments.

She however challenged NARCO to improve production of best cat-

tle breeds to be distributed to livestock keepers for production of quality meat, milk and other dairy products. She said livestock keeping in NARCO ranches should be conducted in modern ways to ensure production of quality raw materials to be supplied to available factories.

Livestock is a key agricultural sub-sector in the country. About 36-per cent of farm households are engaged in livestock-keeping, one per cent as fully livestock farmers and 35per cent as crop-livestock mix farmers.

Despite Tanzania being among African countries that have large numbers of livestock, it is yet to tap the potential.

60 groups of women entrepreneurs in Kahama arraigned for allegedly failing to pay back 68bn/- in loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

OVER 60 groups of women entrepreneurs in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region have been arraigned for allegedly failing to repay loans amounting to 68.3bn/-.

The loans were provided by the district government with intentions of empowering citizens economically. The monies were sourced from the district's internal revenue collections.

The law requires district councils to use 10 percent of their internal revenues for issuance of loans to special groups including women, youth and people with disabilities (PWDs).

Kahama District Social Welfare Officer, Ashura Hoja said the money was given to the entrepreneurs' groups during the 2013/2014 financial year.

Hoja told journalists here yesterday that the 66 groups of entrepreneurs were taken to court to pressurize them to repay the money in accordance with the signed contracts.

She also briefed the media on the district plan to continue offering the loans to special groups in the 2020/2021 financial year.

She said they have been taking to court some of the groups due to failure to honour contract terms. She said the arraigned group members have since the 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 failed to repay the loans which were given to them at zero interest rate.

Community Development Officer, Franael Reuben said they have so far issued loans amounting to 961.7m/- to 110 groups of entrepreneurs in first and second quarter of the 2020/2021 financial year. She said they had earlier allocated 574.6m/- for the purpose. Elaborating, Reuben said that 533m/- was given to women groups while 40 youth groups received 396.5m/-. She said loans provided to people with disabilities amounted to 32.2m/-.

"I recommend the PWDs for leading in loan repayment. They do return the money on time compared to youth and women," she noted.

She however noted that loan repayment for the 2020/2021 financial year have now reached 206.6m/-. She called upon loan beneficiaries to ensure timely repayment of the loans for the money to be given to other borrowers.

Deputy Minister in President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Festo Dugange told the Parliament in February that issuance of loans to special groups by district councils increased to 42.06bn/- in the 2018/2019 from 26.1bn/- in the 2017/2018 financial year.

He said despite the many challenges, the government continues to improve issuance of the loans in each financial year.

WMA to install meters at customers' premises to measure energy used

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) will soon install modern machines to measure the accuracy of electric meters in order to determine energy consumed by clients.

This was said over the weekend by the WMA acting chief executive officer, Stella Kahwa, when she was briefing Industry and Trade deputy minister, Exaud Kigahe who toured the agency's Misugusugu centre in Kibaha, Coast Region.

The deputy minister's visit was aimed to inspect development of the centre which fuels cargo calibration and water meters.

Kahwa told the deputy minister that installation of the modern machines follows government directives to the agency which were meant to ensure that electricity users pay correct bills.

"We have successfully implemented all the government directives; we are now working to install the machines which we expect to start functioning by March 15th this year," said Kahwa.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister congratulated WMA for a job well done urging them to continue working professionally.

He said following the improvements at the centre, more than 70 tankers and cargo trucks are inspected per day. He said the improvements have largely contributed in reducing congestion as well as facilitating businesses.

On water meters, the deputy minister highlighted that the government have spent some 500m/- to procure the machines that will be used to measure the effectiveness of water meters.

"Accuracy of water meters will reduce customers' complaints as they will be paying actual bills," said Kigane adding people have been complaining on the poor performance of some water meters resulting in them paying too much money in their monthly bills.

"We thank the government for the huge investment which aims to see Tanzanians are served accurately," he said.

Kigane added that the total investment for improvement of the machines is nearly 9bn/- hence the need for WMA to work diligently to ensure returns of the huge investment.

He said completion of the first phase implementation of the Misugusugu center at Kibaha will enable the agency to start investing on other projects including the one that will be measuring the correctness of gas.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Prof Riziki Shemdoe said the Misugusugu centre is an important project which helps fuel tank calibration, water meters and electric meters.

He said the project was executed through the 'force account' method, the thing that resulted in low cost of implementation.



Request for Quotation

RFQ Title: **Consultancy Opportunity**

RFQ number: 2020-K02-02

Date of Solicitation: 1st March 2021

Closing Date: Friday 12th March 2021, 11:00am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

Submission Date and time: 12th March 2021

Questions and Clarifications Due by 8th March 2021

Estimated Delivery/ Performance Date: 30th June 2021.

Pact Inc. is an international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, DC. Pact serves communities challenged by poverty and marginalization because we envision a world where everyone owns their future. To do this, we build systemic solutions in partnership with local organizations, businesses, and government. Our goal is thriving, resilient communities where those we serve are heard, capable, and vibrant.

Pact is working in partnership with Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), and Railway Children of Africa (RCA) to implement a USAID Kizazi Kipya is a five-year project (July 2016 to December 2021) funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project aims to enable one million Tanzanian Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), adolescents, and young people affected by HIV/AIDS to utilize age-appropriate HIV/AIDS-related and other services for improved care, health, nutrition, education, protection, livelihoods, and psycho-social well-being.

The goal of the project is to improve the health and social wellbeing of OVC, young people and their families through strategic service delivery and support. Under Result area 3 Kizazi Kipya project strives to ensure high-quality services are available to HIV infected and vulnerable children and adolescents. To realize the outcome under this result area, the project designed the A/CLHIV service model to address the needs for HIV infected and deliver child-centered case management for these populations.

This consultancy is meant to support Kizazi Kipya Project to document the service delivery model for A/CLHIV including the approaches, services, means of delivering the services in the context of the communities affected by HIV, lessons learned, and good practices.

Consultancy Objective:

Under the guidance of Pact's HIV Integration Advisor supported by the STA as the Principal Investigator, the Consultant will provide a synthesis of best practices on delivering a comprehensive delivery model for A/CLHIV for the period 2020-2021. The Consultant is expected to document the services delivery model provided and the methods and/or approaches used to deliver the services and share best practices relevant to a wider scale or have the potential to become best practices. The aim of this is to capture and share practices and experiences to build collective knowledge and inform on the best practices in delivering services to A/CLHIV to realize better outcome.

The overall objective of the consultancy is to document the service delivery model provided including approaches, service as shown in the package table, means of delivering the services, lessons learned, and best practices from the implementation of the A/CLHIV Service Model

- Interested candidates should request for the full Terms of Reference through email to procurementTZ@pactworld.org before 8th March 2021.

Eligibility

To be considered for this award, Vendors must be currently legally operating in Tanzania and the quotation must show:

- The ability to meet or exceed the Requirements/Technical Specifications outlined in the Terms of Reference (TOR);
- Ability to deliver the items/services within the time frame specified in the TOR.

Interested, eligible candidate should deliver their proposal to:

The Tender Committee
Pact Tanzania
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es salaam, Tanzania
Or email procurementTZ@pactworld.org

All proposals must be enclosed in a plain sealed envelope. The following information is required in your proposal. The deadline is 11am EAT Friday 12th March 2021.

1	Quoted price in for each item or service specified in Tanzanian Shillings . This price should be inclusive of delivery, and taxes, if applicable
2	Validity period of offer (Offer should be valid for at least 45 days).
3	Credit Payment Term: Pact is preferable payment with 1-month credit, after delivery of goods.
4	Indicate of delivery duration in weeks to complete the task after PO issue.
5	Your quotation must be on official letter head with authorized signature and stamp.
6	Specifications of the required service as per the ToR is fully addressed.

Please note:

- Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
- The quote that complies with all the specifications/requirements and offers the lowest price, as well as all other evaluation criteria indicated in the TOR, shall be selected.
- Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
- Pact may reject any or all responses received.
- Issuance of request for quotes does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.
- Pact reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
- Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- Pact will be contacting all offerors to confirm contact person, address and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.



TANZANIA-ZAMBIA RAILWAY AUTHORITY Head Office

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) is a Statutory Institution owned by the two Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia on a 50/50 share holding basis. With the registered Head Office being in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, TAZARA has two Regional Administrative Centres – one in Mpika, Zambia and

the other in Dar es Salaam. Some senior management positions (listed below) have fallen vacant at the Head Office and at the Regional Office in Tanzania. Suitably qualified nationals of Tanzania and Zambia are encouraged to apply for the underlisted management positions.

1.0 CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (CME)

Reporting to : Managing Director
Salary Scale : TSG 14
Location : Head Office, Dar es Salaam
Number of Positions : One (1)
Job Purpose :

The CME is responsible for planning, controlling and coordinating all activities pertaining to the repair, maintenance and operation of locomotives, rolling stock and related mechanical equipment, in order to optimise their availability and reliability as well as enhancing their life span at minimum cost.

Key Responsibilities:

- Directs the design preparation and specifications for rolling stock and related mechanical equipment, including guidelines for performance standards desired in order to ensure conformity to mechanical engineering principles;
- Develops and implements cost effective maintenance and repair plans, and priorities in order to ensure availability of adequate, reliable and efficient rolling stock and related, mechanical equipment and machinery capable of handling TAZARA's present and projected volume of traffic;
- Approves comprehensive schedules for rolling stock operations based on traffic demands, mechanical conditions of locomotives, wagons and coaches etc, ensuring that schedules are not at cross purpose with maintenance plans;
- Recommends approval for purchase of spare parts and materials for maintenance and project work for rolling stock and other equipment and machinery in order to ensure continuity of operations;
- Authorises modifications and conversions of existing rolling stock and other related mechanical equipment, ensuring that such modifications or conversions are economical and conform to appropriate specifications and safety standards;
- Sets performance targets for major mechanical engineering works within TAZARA and continuously monitors actual performance against those targets initiating remedial actions where deviations are noticed in order to maintain acceptable levels of job performance; and
- Evaluates and reviews maintenance procedures, standards and programmes and provides guidance on technical problems, changes etc. to overcome shortfalls.

Core Skills and Competencies:

- Goal-oriented and able to work independently to achieve results, as well as able to collaborate with a diverse team of players;
- Able to write analytical and technical reports;
- Strong interpersonal, communication and leadership skills;
- Ability to manage and prioritize tasks and projects; and
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Form IV/VI Certificate of Tanzania or Grade 12 Certificate of Zambia;
- Bachelor's degree in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering, or its equivalent, from a reputable University;
- Ten (10) years relevant experience, four (4) of which must be at Senior level in the railway industry;
- Not less than 35 years of age;
- A Post Graduate Degree in Business Administration or any related field, will be an added advantage; and
- Full Member of the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) of Tanzania or the Engineering Institute of Zambia (EIZ).

2.0 MARKETING MANAGER (MM)

Reporting to : Managing Director
Salary Scale : TSG 14
Location : Head Office, Dar es Salaam
Number of Positions : One (1)
Job Purpose :

The MM formulates, directs and controls marketing systems in order to sustain operations of the Authority and ensures the Authority meets its profit goals and objectives.

Key Responsibilities:

- Formulates, reviews and controls short and long term marketing plans to meet the needs of customers and the Authority;
- Develops and implements suitable tariff structures in order to enhance the Authority's earnings;
- Reviews marketing policies in order to determine their effectiveness and as a way of responding to the changing marketing situations;
- Directs the development of policies for monitoring the performance of freight and passenger services of the Cost and Profit Centres;
- Motivates and promotes positive attitude to work among employees, particularly those under the marketing umbrella; and
- Prepares annual budgets and ensures that the department operates within the approved allocations.

Core Skills and Competencies:

- Strong interpersonal, communication and leadership skills;
- Ability to manage and prioritize tasks and projects;
- Good understanding of applicable tax, pension and other statutory obligations;
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills; and
- Must be a team player.

Qualifications and experience:

- Form IV/VI Certificate of Tanzania or Grade 12 Certificate of Zambia;
- A Degree in Marketing or Business Administration;
- A Post-Graduate Degree in Business Administration, MSc Economics or related fields, will be an added advantage;
- Ten (10) years of relevant experience at senior level;
- Registered member of an appropriate professional body; and
- Not less than 35 years of age.

3.0 HEAD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HIT)

Reporting to : Managing Director
Salary Scale : TSG 13
Location : Head Office, Dar es Salaam
Number of Positions : One (1)
Job Purpose :

The HIT develops, implements and reviews the Information Communication Technology (ICT) policies and procedures, to monitor their effectiveness in the organisation through the provision of reliable IT infrastructure and application systems that are responsive to the needs and demands of the Authority.

Key Responsibilities:

- Develops and implements the ICT strategic and operational plans aligned with the organisation's

strategic direction;

- Develops, implements and oversees the organization's ICT security structure, Risk Assessment, strategy, Disaster Recovery Plan, and business continuity plans in order to secure information and records;
- Ensures that all necessary ICT tools, processes and systems are in place to meet the requirements of the business and contribute to the achievement of the organisation's short, medium and long term goals;
- Manages all ICT related projects within the organisation, ensuring that they are delivered to required standards and on time in order to provide high quality ICT systems and services;
- Develops and manages the planning and budgeting for the ICT services to ensure that appropriate resources are made available for the provision of best ICT services that are in line with organizational growth;
- Supervises the ICT staff and conducts annual staff appraisals, ensuring that any training and development needs within the department are identified and implemented; and
- Participates in core strategic plans of the organisation.

Core Skills and Competencies:

- Sound understanding of computer systems, networks, security, telecommunications, databases and storage systems;
- Strong interpersonal, communication and leadership skills;
- Ability to manage and prioritize tasks and projects;
- Solid working knowledge of all relevant coding languages and security protocols;
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills; and
- Must be a team player.

Qualifications and experience:

- Form IV/VI Certificate of Tanzania or Grade 12 Certificate of Zambia;
- Degree in Computer Sciences/Information Management System or its equivalent;
- A post graduate qualification will be an added advantage;
- Eight years of relevant experience, five of which should be at Senior Management level;
- Not less than 35 years of age;
- Registered member of the Information Communication Technology Commission (ICTC) in Tanzania or Computer Society of Zambia (CSZ) in Zambia.

4.0 HEAD FINANCE (HF)

Reporting to : Regional General Manager
Salary Scale : TSG 13
Location : Regional Office (Tanzania), Dar es Salaam
Number of Positions : One (1)
Job Purpose :

The HF is responsible for managing and controlling accounting functions for the Regional Office with a view to monitoring and advising the Regional General Manager on the utilisation of finances and maximisation of Revenue/Income.

Key Responsibilities:

- Coordinates and controls the accounting functions in the Region ensuring that works being performed are in accordance with acceptable financial and management accounting practices, procedures, principals and policies of the Authority;
- Advises the Regional General Manager on the liquidity position, financial commitments/obligations and general management of funds;
- Coordinates and authorises all payments for the Cost and Profit Centre;
- Prepares and submits monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports, including Trading Accounts, Profit and Loss Accounts, Balance Sheets, Liquidity Statements, Bank Balances and Debtors/Creditors Reports;
- Prepares Internal Accounts and Cash Flow Statements;
- Prepares adhoc reports for the Regional General Manager reflecting the liquidity position;
- Liaises constantly with colleagues in other units and the Head Office and participates in inter unit reconciliation exercises;
- Sources for funds through contacts with the Head Office and Banks; and
- Confers and participates in all regional management meetings aimed at reviewing strategies and charting new courses of action.

Core Competencies:

- Proficiency in Pastel Accounting Package, Macro Payroll and Microsoft office applications;
- Strong interpersonal, communication and leadership skills;
- Ability to manage and prioritize tasks and projects;
- Good understanding of applicable tax, pension and other statutory obligations;
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Must be a team player.

Qualifications and experience:

- Form IV/VI Secondary School Certificate;
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting plus be a Qualified Chartered Accountant with a recognized global body e.g. CPA, ACCA, CIMA;
- Eight years, three of which should be at Senior Accountant/Auditor, as relevant experience;
- Not more than 45 years of age;
- Post Graduate Degree in Business Administration or related field, will be an added advantage; and
- Full member of the National Board of Accountant and Auditors (NBAA) in Tanzania.

Conditions of Service:

TAZARA conditions of service will apply. All the above appointments are on permanent and pensionable basis.

Mode of Application:

Only candidates who meet the specified requirements need apply to the address indicated below, enclosing their detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of educational certificates, names and addresses of three traceable referees. Closing date for receiving application letters is 19 March 2021.

Notes:

- Female applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Only short-listed candidates will be communicated to.
- Faxed or electronic applications will NOT be accepted.

The Human Resources Manager
Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA)
Head Office, Julius Nyerere Road
P.O. Box 2834
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



Stanley Kafu (C), Exim Bank's head of marketing and communications, presents a dummy cheque for 10 million/- to Asma Mwinyi (3rd-R) for the purchase of construction materials to be used in renovating toilets at Zanzibar's Kandwi Elementary, Primary and Secondary Schools. Looking on are representatives of the bank and the schools. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Exim Bank donates 10m/- to support construction of school toilets in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

EXIM Bank has donated 10m/- to the Asma Mwinyi Foundation (AMF) towards the purchase of construction materials to renovate toilets of Kandwi elementary, primary and secondary school located in Unguja, Zanzibar.

The donation is part of the bank's continued commitment to supporting education and health sectors in the country.

Stanley Kafu, the head of marketing and communications at Exim Bank presented the donation to Asma Mwinyi, the founder and CEO of the foundation in the handover ceremony that was held at the school grounds in Zanzibar yesterday.

"We are committed to serving the people, business and the general community. Exim Bank and AMF share a mission of supporting educational efforts and the growth of our students and schools in the country. Children spend most of their day in school and so the provision of a healthy sanitation environment is essential," he said.

"We are excited to play a role in elevating the education environment in Zanzibar and we see AMF as a good partner towards it. We have always been a big supporter of education in our community, and we look forward

to expanding that effort in Zanzibar." He added.

Being a non-profit charitable organization based in the country, AMF is strongly rooted in promoting programmes which enhance community development in both rural and urban settings, dealing specifically with girls and women real needs of education, health, social issues and other basic needs in their community.

Speaking during the event, the Founder and CEO of AMF Asma Mwinyi appreciated the bank's community minded spirit saying the donation will touch the lives of so many students and for many years to come.

"Our sponsors, volunteers and partners like Exim Bank are critical to our success. We are honored and humbled to receive this support. The same will be used to renovate toilets of Kandwi Elementary, Primary and Secondary School." She spoke.

The new toilet facility is expected to aid in serving approximately 700 children at the school, according to the schools' management.

"We hope that building this facility will keep the children in school during school hours and help them focus on their lessons." Explained by Mr. Kheir Juma Pandu and Juma Haji Ame

Government reopens Bumbuli's tea factory

By Correspondent George Sembony, Lushoto

THE government has announced the re-opening of the Mponde tea factory in Bumbuli, Lushoto District, Tanga Region which is a relief to over 4,000 farmers who highly depend on the factory to sell their crop.

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth and People with Disabilities, Jennister Mhagama said the factory which has been closed for almost seven years, will start operating this week.

The minister's announcement stimulated new hopes to thousands of tea farmers because its closure had negative impacts on their economic and social wellbeing.

Speaking in here, the minister said that the re-opening of the factory is in line with the ruling party's manifesto which has selected tea as one of the strategic crops.

"It has set to increase tea production from the current 37,000 tonnes to 60,000 in 2025 and productivity of the smallholder farmers to at least 1,000 to 1,500 kilos per hectare," she said

Mhagama said that the government has managed to come to a conclusion of a seven-year-old conflict that has left economic and social scars to the community.

"I commend the Bumbuli residents for maintaining their confidence with the ruling party despite the existence of the problem that has affected their economic wellbeing for many years now," she said.

She said: "I have come with a team of experts on various matters, including mechanical, electrical and water system engineers who would start their work on Monday."

She further directed preparations for the reopening including collection of firewood for firing the boiler that must be ready when the operations start.

She appealed to the tea farmers to continue improving their farms in readiness for the reopening of the factory and increase of the demand of leaves.

Mhagama said that the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has also expressed readiness for supporting tea farmers to improve production.

"We have directed engineers to start preparations for the setting of new production lines which would have new and modern machines that would cope with an expected increased production of tea leaves."

She further appealed to farmers to strengthen their Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMCOS) by doing away with unnecessary conflicts to make sure they produce enough tea leaves to feed the factory.

The Bumbuli Constituency Legislator, who has spent much of his time trying to solve the tea saga, January Makmba thanked President John Magufuli for his efforts to facilitate the reopening of the factory.

He said that they were relieved to see the fifth phase government making efforts to ensure that the factory recommences operations.

"A number of strange things have been unearthed including the use of the factory title deed for acquiring a loan which the factory was later forced to pay," he said.



I commend the Bumbuli residents for maintaining their confidence with the ruling party despite the existence of the problem that has affected their economic wellbeing for many years now

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Tigo Tanzania inaugurates tree-planting project to safeguard Mount Kilimanjaro

By Correspondent James Lanka, Hai

TIGO Tanzania has launched a tree planting initiative dubbed 'Tigo Green For Kili' project in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region aiming to plant 10,000 trees to conserve Mount Kilimanjaro.

Speaking during the launching event held at Mkwamakuu primary school in Hai, Tigo Tanzania northern director, Henry Kinabo said the telecommunications company is sponsoring the tree planting campaign with a focus on restoring what has been taken away to make Kilimanjaro safe, healthy and green.

The event was also graced by the Kilimanjaro regional Commissioner, Dr Anna Mghwira.

"We felt that there is a need to do more in the Kilimanjaro Region by planting trees," explained Kinabo whose company is sponsoring the Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2021 for a record sixth year.

He further explained that planting trees will help restore snow on Mount Kilimanjaro which has notably seen decreasing for the past several years due to global warming.

It is unfortunate that residents of the area have been cutting down trees for firewood, illegal logging and forest fires," he said.

Kinabo further explained that the telco is ambitious to help restore what has been taken away from the iconic mountain which several decades back had a massive glacier at the peak.

He said the project is implemented collaboratively with the charitable-based organization called Voice of Empowered Women Foundation (VOEWOF).

Director for VOEWOF, Asifiwe James Mallya applauded Tigo for coming up with a noble project to conserve Africa's top.

"We are looking forward to the afforestation of the whole Kilimanjaro region as we kicked off this project in collaboration with Tigo Tanzania, and the move is a major step towards reaching a target of making the region greener for future generations," she explained.

Dr Anna Mghwira applauded Tigo for coming up with a noble project to conserve Mount Kilimanjaro which is also famously known as the 'Roof of Africa'.

"Take this project as yours, and I urge all stakeholders to join forces and donate tree seedlings, so that the great Mount Kilimanjaro can continue to maintain its snow cap," she insisted.

During the event, the Iringa-based Dairy industries ASAS donated a total of 1,000 trees, while the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) promised to donate a total of 10,000 trees, a promise that was given in the vent by the Zonal Deputy Manager for TFS in Northern Zone Neema Mawanja.



Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Dr Anna Mghwira (3rd-L) and artist Lucas Mhuvile alias Joti just about to plant a tree during yesterday's launch in Hai District of the 'Tigo Green for Kili' tree planting project, whose thrust is on conserving the Mount Kilimanjaro ecosystem. The mobile phone service provider is committed to start off with 10,000 trees. Looking on (R) is Tigo Tanzania northern zone director Henry Kinabo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

President Magufuli's economic policies draw applause from AfDB president, stakeholders

By Guardian Reporter

THE Accountable Africa Investor Forum held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend has projected a strong economic recovery for Tanzania.

Various stakeholders at the forum commended President John Magufuli's robust economic policies.

The forum made it clear that Tanzania remains on foreign investor's radar, despite the economic slowdown that has affected many countries.

Addressing the forum, President of African Development Bank Akinwumi Adesina said: "Despite the economic slowdown due to Covid-19 pandemic, Tanzania remains one of the fastest-growing economies in the region. Tanzania achieved real GDP growth of 6.9 percent in 2019."

Adesina added that "while growth slowed down in Africa to minus 2.1 percent due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Tanzania still managed to record a growth of +2.1 percent.

The numbers reflect an economy which is "resilient with strong macro-economic fundamentals". AfDB forecasts strong economic recovery for Tanzania in 2021 and 2022.

"Let me warn you, President Magufuli is a doer, talking about projects, he is a man in a hurry, he is about finishing projects and moving on to the next one. Tanzania is a country led by a President who is driven by action," said Adesina.

Commenting on the forum and the economic forecasts for Tanzania, Salome Gasabile, the Director of Strategic Initiatives at Sextons Creek, an American business advisory firm for Universal Leaf said "these numbers tell a story of a thriving and dynamic economy" adding that "these factors are a clear reflection of President Magufuli's successful economic policies and push towards an accountable and responsible government".

Gasabile who previously served as a former aide on various US political campaigns including Mike Pence for Governor campaign and the Republican National Committee victory program is now using that experience to advise American companies in the area of government relations and business advisory.

She has been advising private sector entities in forming strategic partnerships and business alliances in the

US and abroad, including African and Latin American Countries.

She expressed her optimism about Tanzania's economic future and believes there's an opportunity to strengthen economic and business ties between the US and Tanzania.

"These policies have ushered in a remarkable new era for economic development and job creation in Tanzania. As the country moves forward, the dialogue between the public and private sectors on fostering an attractive business environment for future investors will be critical."

Gasabile noted that in the process of encouraging investment it is important to continue the dialogue on best ways to facilitate win-win exits for both investors and the government, if and when a business changes course at times.

This is an important element and somewhat insurance for investors eyeing to come in. "One example is a company like Universal Leaf which has achieved remarkable successes in agriculture and formed strong partnerships with Tanzania for over 50 years while contributing positively towards Tanzania's economy, but it is exiting the Tanzania market.

In that case more of a discussion on win-win approaches involving coordination amongst relevant government institutions, whether it be TIC or TRA is important to facilitate that exit taking into account investment incentives provided at the front end."

Minister of State in the President's Office Responsible for Investments, Prof Kitilla Mkumbo encouraged international investors to come to Tanzania because it is the best place to invest due to the stable political landscape, substantial domestic and regional market through EAC, and SADC, vast land and sufficient human capital.

He confirmed the government's commitment to strengthening economic and trade ties with foreign investors.

Attended in person and through online live broadcast the meeting brought together investors from the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and other parts of the world.

The forum focused on reviewing the booming opportunities in the industrialization, agriculture, infrastructure, and construction sectors in Tanzania.

AFRICAN LEADERS
MALARIA ALLIANCE



ALMA Dar es Salaam Office Manager Employment Announcement

Background:

The African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) is a coalition of African Union Heads of State and Government established to drive accountability and action for results against malaria, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and nutrition. ALMA's vision is aligned with both the African Union Agenda 2063 – "The Africa We Want" which sets the elimination of malaria as a key goal and the Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030. ALMA works to enhance accountability for results in the fight against malaria, focusing on the use of the scorecard accountability and action tracking mechanisms at continental, regional, national, sub-national and community levels. ALMA also works to sustain political and leadership commitment, and supports countries to track progress, identify bottlenecks and take action. ALMA also supports countries in the establishment of End Malaria Councils and Funds.

ALMA is seeking an Office Manager for ALMA's Dar es Salaam headquarters to oversee the smooth functioning of ALMA's headquarters. The office manager will supervise and manage a team of administrators, allocating roles, recruiting and training, and issuing assignments and projects as well as managing ALMA's communications from Headquarters. The office manager will also provide logistical support for the execution of ALMA events and activities.

Application Process:

Applicants should submit a resume or CV and a cover letter to info@alma2030.org no later than March 7th 2021 at 11:59pm EST. The subject of the email should include the applicant's name and the position "Name: Office Manager".

Required Qualifications:

We are seeking a candidate with superb project management and communications skills, a sharp eye for detail, and an aptitude for problem solving in a timely manner. The candidate should be based and eligible to work in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The candidate should have:

- At least 5 years experience managing an office, preferably in Tanzania
- Excellent written and verbal communications and diplomacy skills with professional proficiency in English. French desired but not necessary.
- Knowledge of the legal and regulatory landscape in Tanzania, with the goal of ensuring the office is in compliance with local laws.
- Experience with project management, managing and delivering the timely execution of workplans
- Experience with office accounting, quickbooks, and financial reconciliations preferred
- Experience working with global health development partners is preferred
- An understanding of the malaria partner landscape is preferred
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively on assignments
- Strong time management, organizational, and interpersonal skills
- Can-do attitude with the ability to follow direction
- The ability to travel (post-COVID)

Schedule A Terms of Reference Dar es Salaam Office Manager

Duties and Responsibilities

- Run the operations of ALMA Headquarters office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, including
 - Manage office finances, including managing payroll and supervising the office's administrative staff.
- Complete the office's operational requirements by scheduling and assigning tasks to staff and following up on work results.
- Manage ALMA's communications and engagements with external stakeholders, including dissemination of letters and other correspondence, as well as scheduling of meetings, and supporting logistical coordination of ALMA events.
- Ensure ALMA's Dar es Salaam Office is in compliance with latest local laws and in good relations with the Government of Tanzania.
- Oversee the timely dissemination of the ALMA quarterly reports, including the ALMA scorecard for accountability and action, country specific reports, and the summary report.
- Support further institutionalization of Tanzania's scorecards for malaria, RMNCAH, and nutrition by working with ALMA's technical team to support logistical coordination of workshops and other scorecard support with the Tanzania's Ministry of Health. This includes high level advocacy for the national scorecards and obtaining permissions from government when necessary.
- Perform any other ALMA functions as assigned by the Executive Secretary and the Chief Technical Advisor

Reporting: Consultant will report to ALMA's Executive Secretary

Reporting: The Office Manager will report to ALMA's Executive Secretary

Benefits: ALMA offers employees a competitive salary commensurate with experience.

The Guardian

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MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Wider African conventions needed on errant migrations

REPORTS have surfaced of another incident of catching illegal migrants and their local hosts facilitating their movements within the country and where relevant, to other countries. A court in Bagamoyo has sentenced a resident of the town to 20 years in prison and three years to a convicted associate of his in the dubious transactions relating to illegal migrants. The two were found guilty of hosting and facilitating movement of 83 undocumented foreigners, who as usual were mostly of Ethiopian origin, going south.

Ordinarily it would be a routine trafficking offence to have been hosting 16 of the migrants at a house and facilitating their movement, in this case from Bagamoyo bust stand to the city of Dar es Salaam. In like manner it could also be considered routine that each of the migrants is sentenced to two years in jail or pay 500,000/- in fines. In most cases they would not have such finances on them, despite that migrants travelling to Europe in even more risky and accident prone circumstances pile small fortunes to pay out.

In relation to law enforcement these are just new cases of illegal migration and local trafficking or abetting of such activities. There is however a more enlightening aspect to the matter at the diplomatic level, that this issue has already been raised and discussed between the two countries - Tanzania and Ethiopia - at the highest level.

An agreement was reached on sending a plane from that country to ferry home upwards of two thousand migrants languishing in the country's jails. The new convicts merely add to that number, and by that example, penal treatment of undocumented crossing of borders is confirmed.

Officials say that recent statistics

show that the Horn of Africa nation of Ethiopia leads the pack with its residents caught regularly in Tanzania while trying to cross to southern African countries. Many of them have used the route to reach South Africa despite the considerable likelihood of being arrested and face years in jail. Even though, efforts are being made to end this ordeal of aspiration to a better life in another country and ending up in jail in a country of transit, before being deported back to the country of origin.

Legalising cross border migration without need for documentation requires a high degree of integration at economic and social levels, and credible mechanisms for political consultation on any unsavory incidents. Tanzania is not part of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) which groups most north eastern African countries, and it has a mechanism for consultation at governmental level and not just diplomatic consultations as with the African Union and the East African Community. In that case the recent consultations between President John Magufuli and Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde need to be raised to a formal protocol on the issue. Migrants from nearby states in an integration environment can be treated as if they are from upcountry regions; but we don't arrive there until such protocols exist.

EAC, SADC and AU member states need a protocol on the free movement of labour. Migrants tend to be hard working and capable of accepting low pay compared to resident laborers, and this is true within the country as it is also true across borders. We are constantly looking for markets of our goods in nearby countries, and some look for openings. Integration is a systemic issue, relating not just to crop markets.

Inclusive green growth set to liberate farmers

AGRICULTURE is the foundation of life, as we know it. It is what led to our contemporary human societies. This means there is no culture without agriculture. Civilisation began when humans settled in one place and started growing crops.

We cannot live without a system that grows our food. We cannot flourish without healthy food.

In Tanzania, like elsewhere in Africa, agriculture is the engine that drives growth and empowers people with food self-sufficiency, maintains stewardship over the environment and builds a sense of community belonging.

Farmers constitute 85 per cent of the country's workforce and they are the foundation of its economy, and the key to triggering its broader growth.

Research shows that increasing agricultural productivity is the most effective way to reduce poverty afflicting the majority rural dwellers in this great East African nation.

In fact, agricultural stakeholders say the sector offers the country its best opportunity to turn a vicious cycle of poverty into a virtuous cycle of development. That is why leaders, policymakers and bilateral donors support the country's initiatives aimed at boosting agriculture and food security.

Tanzania is ready to borrow a leaf from Korea's economic growth model that uses natural resources in a sustainable man-

ner towards industrialisation with minimal environmental risks.

Korea embraced the Green Growth Initiative towards a vision of 'Low Carbon, Green Growth' as the core of the country's new vision on the 60th anniversary of the founding nation.

Minister of State in Vice President's Office, Union Matters and Environment, January Makamba said in Dar es Salaam recently that the government will promote sectors that have the most potential for job creation and capable of addressing resource efficiency and environment.

"As we move towards industrialisation within the next ten years, we'll also be in the forefront in bringing about Green Growth through resource efficiency policies and strategies," said the minister at the opening of the fourth Korean Green Growth Annual event in the city. The initiative is currently executed jointly by the Korean Green Growth Trust Fund and the World Bank. Both partners share a common goal to reduce poverty and promote shared economic prosperity in environmentally responsible and socially inclusive way.

Indeed there is a lot to learn from Korea as the East Asian nation has become a leading global force in promoting green growth as a new development paradigm.

We should also envisage having one industry's waste becoming another's raw material.

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Who the cap fit...



The herdsmen's crisis: What next?

By Adamu Lawal Toro

THE issue of Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria has dominated the media space in this country for the last five years, for obvious bad reasons. What started as herdsmen/farmers clash has since escalated to serious national security challenges in the form of banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling.

The failure of the federal and the state governments to take decisive action to settle what was once an ordinary dispute, between farmers and herders, has assumed political dimension, with the alleged 'quit notice' to herders to leave certain states, having been identified, by the social and, to some extent, the mainstream media, as being the main culprits in the upsurge of kidnapping and rising criminality in the South West, and to some extent, the South East parts of the country.

It is, however, gratifying to see Northern governors calling on the Nigerian Governors' Forum to urgently discuss the eviction holistically; and refrain from making political statements that will further inflame passions.

The Northern governors acknowledge that the current system of herding being practiced, through open-grazing, is no longer sustainable, in view of population explosion, urbanisation, and above all, climate change, which has, so far, rendered up to 75 per cent of the herdsmen's ancestral grazing lands barren.

Efforts made, in the last 10 years, to make governors in Northern states to see the dangers in abandoning a segment of the society, thereby forcing them to live bohemian lifestyles, without any efforts being made to improve their lots, went unheeded.

The Fulani herdsmen have



for long been abandoned to their fate, in spite of the recurring disasters, like the rinderpest outbreak in 1976, the major drought in the Sahel in 1983, where millions of cows were lost, without compensation or even palliatives, as is being given to other victims of disasters.

To worsen their plights, the herdsmen no longer enjoy even simple amenities, like vaccinations, watering-points or similar support services, in the over 400 grazing reserves, which in principle, are designated for grazing.

Efforts put in the past to assist the states, by the federal government, to resuscitate the grazing reserves through a World Bank project for provision of earth dams, veterinary clinics and pasture development were left to rot, after the expiration of the project.

Statistics has shown that in the last 10 years, herders are the biggest victims of banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling. In this period, over 10,000 herdsmen were killed, and over three million cows lost. Furthermore, thousands of pastoralists have been made destitute, as the result of climate changes and other disasters. To date, they are the only group that is yet to be assisted by the states and federal governments, despite their huge losses.

No wonder, therefore, pastoralist youths constitute a large proportion of the prison population in the North, either awaiting trial or of abandoned cases.

As part of the efforts of the federal government to revamp agriculture, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) disbursed over N350 billion to promote grains production, but less than N100 million was dis-

bursed for livestock improvement. Such outright and clear bias further pushes the pastoralist families to the fringe, making their children, who are unschooled and untutored in modern living, to gravitate towards crime, fueled by easy reach to drugs, arms and ammunition.

The pastoralist population, which is estimated to be more than 30 million, is the most resilient in surviving various hostile environments.

It is unbecoming when leaders do not 'walk their talks'. It would have been fantastic if Kano State Governor Umar Ganduje, implemented his promised plan of settling herdsmen in Falgore Forest as he announced recently. As at now there has been little progress in the implementation of this laudable idea.

The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN) has, in the last six years, been advocating to the governors, to map out strategies to deal with the crisis affecting pastoralists. But luckily, they have now started to see wisdom in doing so.

However, MACBAN is proud of the roles being played by the governors of Kebbi, Alhaji Atiku Bagudu and his Jigawa State counterpart, Alhaji Mohammed Badaru Abubakar who, together with their counterparts in the South West and South East, are working tirelessly to douse the unnecessary hostility that is threatening the very foundations of the nation's unity.

The failure of the federal government to have an inter-agency committee to synergise on how to deal with issues of banditry, cattle rustling, which has the potential of depriving a whole genera-

tion of pastoralists of their livelihood is, to say the least, very unfortunate.

Governments should remember that crime has since, very sadly, become a means of wealth accumulation, power acquisition and socio-economic empowerment among nomads and other ethnic communities, with the youths being the main culprits. We also see failure of the states and the security agencies, in monitoring our borders in demanding for full ECOWAS Transhumance Certificates, for the Seasonal Migrating Herdsmen, who come in with all sorts of arms to rustle cattle, without challenge.

If, however, there is any hope for resolving the crisis of this centuries old tradition of freely moving with livestock across borders, it is through plans, such as those of the Zamfara State Governor, Dr. Bello Mohammed Matawalle, who has developed a well-articulated plan, which he has since started implementing.

Similarly, the Kaduna State Governor, Malam Nasir el-Rufai, has put forward what could be termed a 'plan of the century' to address the crisis. But whether he will achieve it in the next two years, or not, we wait to see.

The problem with the herdsmen in Nigeria is their continued stigmatisation as criminals, by the social, and to some extent, the mainstream media; all towards achieving political goals, come 2023.

The guns will be blazing at least until 2030

By Hiwot Abebe

THE African Union intended to end conflicts by 2020, through a program known as "Silencing the Guns". Passed in 2013, the program is part of Agenda 2063, a 50 year plan to create sustainable peace, develop continental trade, and develop infrastructure.

The recent AU summit held virtually has extended the deadline for Silencing the Guns to 2030, giving the organization a decade to reach the ambitious plan of creating peace across Africa.

The pledge to end all armed conflict by leaders at the 50th anniversary of the AU in 2016 was followed by the adoption of the Lusaka Road Map that outlined practical steps to ending conflict. The roadmap found the root problems for armed conflict like undemocratic government practices, economic inequality, illicit financial flows and decided on the necessity of the African Standby Force to deploy to high risk areas.

Researches show that conflicts have risen throughout the continent since the roadmap was laid out. Civil wars in South Sudan, Cam-

eroon, and Libya as well as conflicts by non-state actors such as Boko Haram in Nigeria, separatist insurgencies in Mali and al-Shabaab in Somalia have been taking place. Domestic conflicts often cross borders and threaten the stability of regions.

Experts have identified several reasons as to why Silencing the Guns was not successful such as poor governance, poor implementation of the roadmap and a lack of coherence within the different organs of the AU.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, Commissioner of the African Union Com-

mission, currently on his second 4-year term admitted the organization is not close to fulfilling the goal by 2020.

"The year 2020 was initially scheduled as a cut-off year to silence the guns on the Continent, the year from which democratic peace would function as a powerful lever for justice and socio-economic development. Looking at the state of affairs, I note that we have moved only half way," he told the Foreign Ministers during a virtual sitting of the African Union Executive Council.

Thinking beyond election: Laying democratic foundations

By Mengesha Amare

FOR various reasons, the upcoming general election will be like no others. The selection of a political and longtime human rights activist as the chairperson of the National Election Board of Ethiopia and the revision of draconian laws as well as the measures taken to make then Board impartial and independent have upped everyone's optimism and sentiment not just only for better poll but for democratic transformation.

And, emboldened by the reforms and commitment of the Board to conduct a credible election as much as possible, Ethiopians from corner to corner are eagerly waiting for the date for dropping cards to speak about whom they prefer.

Yes, ballot boxes speak. Systems serenely change. These all need a clear avenue. That is a dependable election. Every time and everywhere when elections are thought, what comes in everyone's mind is assuming power through ballot box. Unfortunately, in the context of developing countries, accusing one another has long become the norm particularly among contesting parties.

It is natural to find fault out of competitors. It would be well acceptable if accompanied with convincing justifications and credible information. However, purposely working towards blackmailing contenders is not a normal approach.

Making all the past ugly history, especially in relation to elections, Ethiopians are now committed enough to entirely reshuffle the election system they have been through for over 27 years as all have started thinking beyond election-having their great nation-Ethiopia-in mind. Since elections are the essence of democracy, they allow people to select their political leaders and then to hold them accountable. This culture is believed to be well nurtured more than ever before.

This hard fact has been well attested by a number of scholars and members of different political parties.

"The big picture has to come to the front line-building a democratic nation. Elections which are accompanied with intimidations, fraud, treachery, are not elections instead they can be regarded as gambling spots," said Kotebe Metropolitan University Law and History Instructor Almwaw Kiflie (Ph.D).

"Those who think about the turn, and declare it to do activities in that sentiment are not in a position to serve the public and serve their country instead they are running towards office which leads the country and its people all nowhere," he said.

As learnt from Dr. Almwaw, the major aim of the 6th election is making Ethiopia and Ethiopians victorious over everything being winners via developing multi-national unity and fraternity.



"All citizens of the country are expected to exert utmost effort to make the upcoming election free and fair, which can potentially push Ethiopia to the summit of prosperity it deserves. The ruling as well as contesting parties has to be ready than ever to fix a democratic culture and not to conduct a fictitious election to which the country had accustomed before," underlined Dr. Almwaw.

In is undeniable fact that unless they are forced to be under the close supervision of others, people need to be able to freely cast their ballots. If we are looking for a real, credible and true election that vividly reflects what Ethiopia demands, voters should be able to reach polling stations and cast their votes regardless of who they are or where they live.

"Elections have been trifling so far that could never fit the greatness of Ethiopians as the leaders were little ones themselves. They merely talked about democratic elections for the sake of securing foreign support, but the reality on the ground had never had a wee

drop of truth and credibility," said Assistant Prof. Abebaw Ayalew from Addis Ababa University.

"The country is not expected to conduct nominal elections as the previous system did, instead it should give priority to the big picture, Ethiopia and most definitely the election has to be made tailored to Ethiopia and Ethiopians," he added.

It is crystal clear that when regimes commit electoral fraud, the long aspired free, fair, credible elections might be made an illusion.

For elections to fulfill their critical function, they must be open and just. If some citizens are prevented from voting or the results are not counted properly, an election can't be called free fair and credible as just holding an election is not sufficient.

To be clear with what is free and what is fair with regard to an election, a free election is one in which all citizens are able to vote for the candidate of their choice, and a fair election is one in which all votes have equal power and are counted accurately.

Unquestionably, there are standards that governments need to meet before, during, and after an election to ensure that it is free and fair.

Of the many standards that need to be lit well, meeting the will of the people as every aged person has the ability to vote, and each vote has equal power and counts. That is why it is said from the outset ballot boxes speak!

It is inevitable that the government can place some restrictions on who can register to vote based on age, residency, or citizenship status. However, for an election to be free and fair, the government should not prevent eligible voters from registering or make it more difficult for some groups of people to register than others.

If electorates are unable to vote in person, for instance, because of a disability, health condition, or a lack of transportation, alternative method of voting systems must be devised via employing a variety of means as the voices of these segments of the society matter the most.

According to Dr. Almwaw, since we have passed through the sick politics, injured politics through which clashes at the time of elections has been taken as a culture, people feel afraid to vote for their candidate of choice or even prevent people from voting at all as a result of violence, or the threat of violence. This fashion has to be dramatically altered and dried for good.

"We have to think beyond politics, beyond elections, beyond tribe or clan as Ethiopia is greater than what we have at hand. It is our soul and flesh, too. Hence, elections must be made free, fair and electorates should be freely cast votes without any intimidation and duress. This time we can make an election the election," Dr. Almwaw uttered.

He said if all parties be it the ruling or other contesting ones are committed enough to have a democratic nation circumventing hatred politics, tribalism and fanaticism, making a credible and well accepted election will be quite easy and on our own palm.

We all have to bring about a dynamic political thinking despite the presence of a number of people think about politics in structurally different ways.

Mourning over the past and citing irrelevant narratives never help come up with difference instead of prolonging the duration of incurring financial, moral and labor cost. We invoke past friendly meetings of the mind in order to chastise those who just can't seem to get along today. Its reverence for the power of the socio-economic sphere to find a happy medium is not only rooted in a wholly incorrect interpretation of our political history, but is also incredibly privileged and unjust.

Mainly, the integrity of our electoral process is strongly believed to be a necessary ingredient for a healthy democracy through which a fair, free, credible, democratic and peaceful election can be secured.



Jumuiko la Mallasili Tanzania
Tanzania Natural Resource Forum

INVITATION TO TENDER - READVERTISED TENDER No. TNRF/BMZ/ 1/01/2021

1. Background

The Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) is a network organization registered in 2006 as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), with the aim of promoting the improvement of natural resource governance to achieve more sustainable rural livelihoods and better conservation outcomes. TNRF works for improved natural resources governance by helping to bridge the gap between:

- People's local natural resource management needs and practices, and
- National natural resource management priorities, policies, laws and programs

TNRF has received funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Tanzania Country Office to implement some of activities within Climate change adaptation support for community managed areas (CBNRM) project aiming at supporting Protection of key ecosystems, increased resilience and adaptation for sustainable use by local communities. Human-wildlife conflict is one of the negative impacts of climate change that not only threatens community livelihoods but also human deaths and injuries and the respective wildlife species through retaliatory attacks. Livestock are often killed or injured by wildlife species especially lions, leopards, hyenas by getting into livestock enclosures (bomas) which are usually poorly made and easily accessed by predators. Hence, constructing predator proof bomas is one secure way of reducing conflicts. TNRF therefore intends to apply part of its budgetary allocation to fund eligible payments under the contract of the project to supply materials for constructing predator proof bomas in Enduimet, Ikona, Makao and Lake

Natron WMAs to reduce human-wildlife conflicts caused by wildlife predators on livestock to communities and thus improve community livelihoods. TNRF thus intends to identify and enlist reputable and registered contractors and suppliers for:

- Lot 1;** Supply materials of for constructing 40 predator proof bomas in Enduimet WMA (20), and Lake Natron (20)
- Lot 2;** Supply materials of for constructing 40 predator proof bomas in Ikona (20) and Makao WMAs (20)

Interested suppliers/firms may purchase tendering documents from TNRF offices, Corridor Area, Arusha or via email: info@tnrf.org upon presentation of a request letter duly stating the company name and original bank slip/scanned for Tzs 100,000 (One hundred Tanzanian shillings only) for each of this service being a non-refundable fee deposited with our bank accounts details below:

Accounts Name: Tanzania Natural Resource Forum
Account No: 002 – 4002411.
Bank Name: Absa Bank (T) Ltd, Arusha Branch

All tenders in one original and one copy, properly filled and enclosed in plain sealed envelopes (Not indicating bidder's name) stating clearly TENDER FOR GOODS,SERVICE AND WORKS should be addressed to:

Procurement Tender Committee
Tanzania Natural Resource Forum
P.O BOX 15605,
Tel: +255747158888
ARUSHA-Tanzania
TENDER No. TNRF/PRM/1/01/2021

Deposited at the reception of Tanzania Natural Resources Forum offices, Plot # 10, Corridor Area, Njiro, Arusha.
Tender close on 4th March, 2021 at 1730hours



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations
Dr. Bashiru Ally Kakurwa for your appointment
of Ambassador and Chief Secretary.

His Excellency President
Dr. John Pombe Magufuli has made an appointment
February 26, 2021

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Supporting health and livelihoods - smallholder poultry

By Fikrejesus Amahazion

DURING the past several months, a number of important development-related activities have been conducted across Eritrea. These include, for instance, projects related to roads, dams, construction, and sanitation, among others. One particular development-related initiative that has continued to plug along in recent times, albeit remaining relatively less discussed, has been poultry distribution. Specifically, throughout different regions of the country, the Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with local administrators and community leaders, has been distributing chicks to individuals and households.

To date, as a part of the ongoing poultry distribution initiative, tens of thousands of chicks have been distributed to thousands of individuals and households. The overall goal of the current initiative is to distribute a total of about one million chicks to approximately 35-40,000 individuals and households in all parts of the country. (Since independence, approximately 50 million chicks have been distributed to around five million households.)

Importantly, the distribution of chicks is just one small part of a broader system of different agriculture, health, finance, and social support packages that can also include cash transfers, donations of materials, equipment or tools, and other resources, and enrolment in educational workshops, seminars, or technical training programs. Of note, those individuals and households who receive chicks are often able to access technical information and general support in order to strengthen their management skills and improve housing, breeding, feeding and raising practices. Collectively, all of these can help lead to significant increases in productivity and promote positive long-term outcomes. Moreover, access to and support with vaccinations for chicks is also made available, thus helping to prevent diseases and reduce the mortality of chickens.

As I have previously noted on several occasions, I always find reports and updates about these types of development-related projects and initiatives in our country to not only be informative and enlightening, but also extremely positive and highly encouraging. Contrary to the hasty conclusions of some who, possibly guided by misplaced assumptions or poor general understanding, dismiss such development initiatives as insignificant and inconsequential, the poultry distribution program is actually quite substantive and it certainly matters. In particular, it can positively impact the livelihoods of locals and helps to promote development.

The poultry distribution initiative supports an array of positive socio-economic, health, and gender-related outcomes for individuals and households. All of these, you may recall, form a substantive part of the



UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (The UN SDGs, which are a global set of goals for all countries - low-, middle-, and high-income - to meet by 2030, cover a wide range of development-related matters, such as education, health, gender equality, poverty, and the environment.)

For instance, as with other small livestock, chickens have comparatively low time, investment, care, and management costs or necessities and require relatively few inputs. Ultimately, they can provide a supplementary (or increased) source of income for rural households and low-income individuals with only limited resources, such as land and capital. (Chickens are also advantageous in that they tend to generate quick and frequent returns for owners, while the size of

any potential economic loss in the event of predation, theft or disease among the animals is less than with other livestock.) As a result, the poultry distribution initiative taking place across the country can help in addressing SDG 1, which aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.

In addition, the nationwide initiative aims to reach women and poor or vulnerable individuals or families. In the process, not only are these groups provided opportunities for increased incomes, they are also able to exercise greater agency, have expanded decision-making capacity, and be more socio-economically empowered. Overall, then, the poultry distribution scheme is also a means to help address SDG 5, which focuses on advancing gender equality and supporting

women with equal rights to economic resources, as well as SDG 10, which focuses on reducing inequality within countries.

It is worth noting here that by focusing on rural populations, the poultry distribution scheme serves as an embodiment of the key principle "leave no one behind". Generally, discussions of development or developing countries tend to overwhelmingly focus on national capitals or urban areas, while attention is frequently restricted to large, flashy infrastructure projects. At the same time, rural areas and populations get overlooked, despite the fact that they are an integral

part of our societies, and possess great potential to significantly contribute to national economies. By extending support and assistance to these populations, the poultry distribution scheme is helping to ensure that more people have an opportunity to realize their potential.

Furthermore, the poultry distribution program, along with the increased incomes that it helps to generate for the beneficiaries, can also play a positive role in promoting wellness and improving overall health.

Specifically, this can be realized through improving nutrition, diversifying limited or restricted diets, and increasing intake. (Although the recommended intake of calories per day depends on several factors, such as sex, physical activity, etc., calories are essential for health and survival. Meanwhile, chicken and eggs, which become integrated in regular diets through the poultry distribution scheme, are highly nutritious and excellent sources of quality protein. Proteins are "the building blocks of life" and important for growth, repair, and development, while eggs also provide essential fatty acids, choline, vitamins A and B12, selenium, and other critical nutrients.) In reference to the SDGs that may be applicable in considering these various food- and nutrition-related outcomes are SDG 2, which aims to eradicate hunger and achieve food security, as well as SDG 3, which focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

As a final point, the poultry distribution initiative, which is a tremendous source of support in normal times, has assumed even greater significance at the moment due to the array of difficulties that have arisen through the global COVID-19 pandemic. With the crisis leading to unprecedented health, economic, and social challenges for individuals, households, and communities, the continued activities of the poultry distribution scheme are especially vital.

Save indigenous languages from extinction

By Special Correspondent

EVERY year, International Mother Language Day is observed throughout the world on February 21. It is a day instituted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity, multilingualism and to highlight greater awareness of the importance of mother language education. The institution of the day was also to bring to the fore strategies nations can adopt to save their various indigenous languages and tap their immense benefits to the fullest.

In Ghana, the celebration of the International Mother Language Day has not been given the due attention it deserves apparently due to lack of government commitment coupled with poor attitude of Ghanaians towards their own mother languages. Even though Article 39 clause 3 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana enjoins the State to "foster the development of Ghanaian languages and pride in Ghanaian culture", one wonders if the State is really performing her responsibility as far as this constitutional requirement is concerned. There is little or no commitment on the part of government to come out with comprehensive policies and programmes to promote our indigenous languages, culminating in the extinction of some indigenous languages.

Language is a gift from nature used for communication, identity, social integration and preservation of culture and it is said to be on the path of extinction when its speakers stop using it or passing it on from one generation to another. However, many Ghanaians feel shy to speak their own mother languages.

One interesting characteristic of language is that it is a living organism. This means that language grows and dies. Available statistics indicates that 50% of about 7000 languages in the world are likely to be endangered within the next few generations and about 96 percent of these languages are spoken by just 4% of the world's population. Again, a study conducted by Summer Institute of Linguistics in 2017 revealed that Ghana has about 81 living languages of which 73 are indigenous and eight non-indigenous. Out of this, 13 are institutional, 46 are developing 15 are vigorous and 7 are in trouble. This worrying statistics paints a gloomy picture on the future of our languages and if the trend is not checked, it will lead to the extinction of more indigenous languages in the near future.

One sure way of saving languages from extinction is to speak it and reduce it to writing. However, many people appear to feel shy to speak their own mother language. Bureau of Ghana Languages, the only government department mandated to write and publish books exclusively in the Ghanaian Languages as a way of promoting our indigenous languages is unable to deliver effectively



because of understaffing, insufficient funds and logistics. Since its establishment in 1951, Bureau of Ghana Languages has been operating in the eleven Ghanaian languages so far studied in our educational institutions, namely, Akwapem Twi, Asante Twi, Dagaare, Dagbani, Dangme, Ewe, Ga, Gonja, Kasem, Mfantse and Nzema. However, the once buoyant Department engaged in the development and promotion of Ghanaian Languages, is now a pale shadow of its former self.

The theme for this year's International Mother Language Day, "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society," would not have come at a better time. The theme recognises that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion and the Sustainable Development Goals' focus on leaving no one behind. UNESCO believes education, based on the first language or mother tongue, must begin from the early years as early childhood care

and education is the foundation of learning. While the mother language serves as pre-existing knowledge upon which inferences can be made to facilitate transfer to a second language, some schools still implement the policy "Don't speak vernacular" or "Speak English only". Meanwhile the perception that a child's fluency in English Language is an indication of his or her intelligence is unfortunately misplaced. In view of this, the government should take the necessary steps to protect language diversity and promote our indigenous languages for sustainable development.

As we celebrate this year's International Mother Language Day, let us be proud of our indigenous languages and take the necessary steps to revitalise them as it is essential to guarantee the continuity and transmission of culture and heritage.

Even though the new curriculum recognizes the study

of Ghanaian languages from primary through to SHS 1, policy makers need to take another look at the language policy and enhance it for comprehensive and quality education. Bureau of Ghana Languages should be adequately equipped to deliver on its mandate by way of writing more Ghanaian languages books for use by schools and reducing more indigenous languages to writing.

The call goes to the government and other stakeholders to promote our indigenous languages for sustainable development. Let us give prominence to our mother languages as we have given to some foreign languages like English, French etc. The Ministry of Education, Ghana Education Service, policymakers, traditional authorities and other stakeholders should rise up to the challenge and save our mother languages from extinction.

Artificial insemination in hens to see quicker egg fertilisation

By George Munene

A new artificial method of inseminating chicken is underway which is promising quicker and guaranteed egg fertilisation at a time when age old practice of relying on the cock is proving hard due to social incompatibility, shyness and distance constraints between the cock and hen.

Traditionally, farmers have relied on egg fertilisation by the cock a process that has always proven expensive and inconvenient as the chances of finding a cock and a hen at the same time is usually hard.

Again the ratio of cocks to hens is staggering with statistics showing that for every one cock on an average African poultry farmer setting there are 10 hens.

But scientists now aware of the inconveniences buffeting smallholder farmers have come up with a new technology that allow the farmers to harvest semen from the cock and transfer it to hens.

The artificial insemination in chicken is a project by the Department of Animal Science at Egerton University. "We are looking at the prospects of tapping into the huge amount of semen that a cock produces that can then be distributed to many hens therefore saving on cost and stemming wastage," said Churchill Arogo, an assistant researcher at the university.

Farmers first require a one week training to harvest semen from the cock and depositing it in the hen.

The process involves holding the cock upright and tightly by the legs then stroking it from front to back with a hand. The process which should be done at least for two weeks is to ensure that the cock gets used to the process of releasing semen.

Once the ejaculation happens, farmers collect the semen in clean tubes and dilute it to increase the volumes.

The amount of semen produced varies depending on cock and time they need to replenish their supply but on average cocks produce between 0.1 to 0.40 cubic centimetres.

"Semen collection can be done between two to four days without harming the bird. However, one needs to be very careful on the kind of



tube they are using which needs to be very clean as bacteria and other disease causing organisms could damage the sperm or the fertilised eggs," said Arogo.

Semen can be used in controlled

conditions such as being refrigerated to avoid losing fertilising capacity but without these conditions, it should be used for one to two hours before being rendered useless. A pipette is then inserted on

the hens using a special technique which farmers are trained on.

According to experts, it is recommended to do the insemination frequently at the beginning, but once the eggs have been fertilised

doing it on weekly basis is enough to maintain a satisfactory level.

With this method, fertile eggs can be obtained between 48 to 96 hours after insemination or even upto three weeks later.

Students abducted from Nigerian school two weeks ago now freed

LAGOS

STUDENTS, teachers and relatives abducted two weeks ago from a school in northern Nigeria have been freed.

The students, teachers and family members were abducted Feb. 17 by gunmen from the Government Science College Kagara.

Niger State Gov. Abubakar Sani Bello said he received 24 students, six staff and eight relatives on Saturday after they were released early in the morning.

This number released differed from the 42 people that the governor had originally said were kidnapped by the attackers, indi-

cating some may still be missing. The discrepancy was not explained.

One of the students has been hospitalized for excessive exhaustion, he said, adding that the released will be medically checked and monitored for a few days before being reunited with family.

Sani Bello said that joint efforts of security, traditional leaders and stakeholders helped secure the release.

Their release was announced a day after police said gunmen had abducted 317 girls from a boarding school elsewhere in northern Nigeria, in Zamfara state. One resident said the gunmen also attacked a nearby

military camp and checkpoint, preventing soldiers from interfering with the mass abduction.

Several large groups of armed men operate in Zamfara state, described by the government as bandits, and are known to kidnap for money and to push for the release of their members from jail.

Masauda Umar, 20, managed to escape from the school when the men arrived Friday.

She told The Associated Press the bandits came to their sleeping quarters and after knocking on the main door, they hit the people who answered it and made every-

one gather.

"I was coming out from the door and I met somebody but ran back and hid under my bed," she said.

"I'm scared of going back to school because of what happened really got me scared but I will go back if the government tackles insecurity."

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said Friday the government's primary objective is to get all the school hostages returned safe, alive and unharmed.

"We will not succumb to blackmail by bandits and criminals who target innocent school students in the expectation of huge

ransom payments," he said. "Let bandits, kidnapers and terrorists not entertain any illusions that they are more powerful than the government."

Nigeria has seen several such attacks and kidnappings over the years, notably the mass abduction in April 2014 by jihadist group Boko Haram of 276 girls from the secondary school in Chibok in Borno state. More than a hundred of the girls are still missing.

In December, 344 students were abducted from the Government Science Secondary School Kankara in Katsina State. They were eventually released.

SADC calls for solidarity as Southern Africa faces record levels of food insecurity due to COVID-19

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Committee Chair, António Pacheco Dias Lima has called on member states to find ways to share success stories, opportunities and progresses as the region battles COVID-19 and record high levels of food insecurity.

51.3 million people in both urban and rural areas of southern Africa are food insecure.

Dias Lima was speaking from Maputo in Mozambique during the SADC - Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Programme (RVAA) Annual Organisational Meeting convened virtually under the chairship of Mozambique. It is the first time the meeting has been convened virtually due to the global COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and associated public health concerns.

The conference aimed to provide National and regional Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs), and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) an opportunity to reflect on the work they have done and collaboratively find solutions to challenges and advance good practices among Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) practitioners in the region.

NVACs traditionally conduct annual, once-off face to face (F2F) assessments that inform projections six months ahead. Due to COVID 19 challenges countries adjusted their assessment approaches to mostly remote monitoring in lieu of field assessments.

Mobile data collection and use of very high-resolution satellite imagery for "hotspot mapping" were some of the innovative techniques NVACs adopted to ascertain food insecurity.

"The wealth of data that the RVAA has generated over the years forms a good basis for some of the discussions and engagements in the food systems conversations such as the UN Food systems summit" said Andrew Odero - WFP's Head of Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping for Southern Africa and Indian Ocean States speaking during the virtual meeting.

Odero urged participants to find ways of strengthening the use and uptake of RVAA products and knowledge assets to support decision-making and influencing policy in the midst of multiple challenges such as climate change induced impacts of recurrent drought, floods and increased cyclonic activities and increasing extreme poverty driven by COVID-19. Last December the



Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) dissemination forum issued an updated Synthesis Report which integrates COVID-19 into all sectoral analyses.

The report projects a rise from 41million (2019/20) to 51.3 million food insecure people in both urban and rural areas of Southern Africa. The highest number ever recorded by the SADC RVAA Programme. This figure is likely to rise

with the extended impacts of COVID-19.

NVAC data is important to governments and partners - humanitarian and development actions to prevent, prepare for and respond to food insecurity crises.

The meeting emphasised on the development of plans that include a quality assurance mechanism to ensure the quality of VAA data so that it becomes credible and is able to influence policy

and programmes in the countries.

SADC member states were urged to incorporate VACs into government structures.

Delegates from the 16 SADC countries including National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs), the Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) and International Cooperating Partners (ICPs) all joined the virtual meeting.

Gemstone industry calls for supply and value chains to operate responsibly and sustainably

By Guardian Reporter

ASIAN based e-commerce direct selling company-QNET has vowed to continue maintaining its quality status calling on other companies that operate in the gem stone industry to take extra precaution to ensure that their supply and value chains all operate responsibly and sustainably.

In a virtual press-conference held recently, the company's chief executive officer Malou Caluza noted that the jewelry industry has faced criticism for the dangerous nature of mining the precious gemstones, so

companies have to ensure that they observe ethics in their daily operations.

She said that now, more than ever, consumers are demanding for more transparency in supply chains and ethical sourcing of raw materials.

"QNET is dedicated towards this cause as we want to make a positive impact in the lives of our people, the communities in which we operate, and the environment," she said.

She said sustainable mining wants anyone in the mining industry to be conscious of the supply chain to ensure that the precious gems are not

fueling child labour or funding terror groups, or any other unethical practice for that matter.

Caluza said QNET, with its recent release of the Timeless Tanzanite collection is partnering with suppliers who are certified members of The Responsible Jewelry Council (RJC) to reduce the presence of unlawful mining practices and to improve supply chain accountability.

The RJC is a not-for-profit global leader, focused on setting standards for ethical sustainability in the jewelry and luxury watch industries, and uses periodic third-party auditing to assess

vendors' supply chains.

"Working with suppliers who are responsible, fair, and ethical is important to QNET as it is an integral part of our business core values. We strive to deliver more than high quality products-we want our customers to be able to buy with confidence knowing that each piece is produced in fair working conditions using sustainable materials."

Caluza noted that Tanzanite is an exceptionally rare gemstone and is found in only one place in the world, the hills of Merelani in northern Tanzania, a region renowned for Mount

Kilimanjaro, the highest single free-standing mountain in the world.

Since its discovery in 1967 by the Maasai tribe, the gemstone has not only strengthened the Tanzanian economy, and created jobs for local people; but also helped fund various community projects, bettering the lives of the people in the region surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Tanzanite is a truly unique African gemstone. When our customers buy these elegant pieces of jewelry they not only get to own a piece of exceptional rarity and beauty set with only lawfully mined authentic stones,

but they are also helping to support the livelihood of thousands in the local mining community who have relied on the industry for many years," added Caluza. QNET is an international e-commerce based direct selling company headquartered in Hong Kong. It is one of Asia's leading e-commerce based direct selling companies offering a wide range of health, wellness and lifestyle products that enable people to lead better lives. QNET's business model pivoted upon technology and e-commerce has helped empower millions of entrepreneurs in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Vaccine imperialism behind death and suffering, delay in recovery

By Anis Chowdhury and Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Vaccine developers' refusal to share publicly funded vaccine research findings is stalling broader, affordable vaccinations which would more rapidly contain COVID-19 contagion. The pandemic had infected at least 109 million people worldwide, causing over 2.4 million deaths as of mid-February.

Avoidable delays in preventive vaccination are imposing terrible burdens on the world economy and human welfare, with economic disruption demanding more relief and recovery measures. They have cost US\$28 trillion in lost output globally, with developed countries contracting by 7% in 2020.

Avoidable vaccination delays

National capacities to cope with the pandemic have been largely determined by means and power. Thus, access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, personal protective equipment and other pandemic supplies has been severely lacking in most African and other poor countries.

At current vaccination rates, it would take "not one or two years, but six years" to reach 75% global coverage, currently considered the minimum to achieve 'herd immunity' against COVID-19.

Patent protections, vaccine production constraints and the rich country scramble will deprive more than 85 poor countries of public access to vaccines before 2023. As of 5 February, not a single dose had been administered in 130 countries with 2.5 billion people.

Of the more than 131 million doses available by 8 February, the US, China, the EU and the UK had 78%, while Africa had 0.2%. Meanwhile, the African Union has only ordered less than half of what it needs to reach herd immunity, i.e., just 670 million doses. Meanwhile, besides Brazil, other Latin American countries only have 150 million doses for less than a quarter of their population.

Supply shortfalls

By the end of 2021, total global capacity of the 13 leading COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers would still be well short of the needs of the world's almost 7.7 billion people. Even if they all produce at maximum capacity, a fifth of the world's population would not have access until 2022.

Rich countries continue to oppose the South African-Indian proposal to temporarily suspend relevant provisions of the 1994 World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to effectively block rapid scaling up of generic vaccine production.

The resulting "catastrophic moral failure" is thus mainly due to vaccine suppliers' profit maximisation, also limiting supplies and access. Meanwhile, rich countries' grossly excessive vaccine purchases can vaccinate their residents several times over.

The US will soon have enough to vaccinate its population twice over, while Canada and Australia have booked enough to protect residents several times over. Exceptionally, New Zealand - which has also ordered several times its population's needs - plans to freely share vaccines with its Pacific island neighbours.

Manufactured scarcity and prices

Global needs now greatly exceed available supply. Middle-income countries have joined the scramble, making onerous direct deals with vaccine suppliers, typically on worse terms than if they had bargained collectively. Unsurprisingly, vaccine prices vary considerably, by more than 12-fold, from US\$6 to US\$74 per dose.

As countries have not published contract details, acceding to vaccine suppliers' terms, lack of transparency has enabled abuses. And when forced to comply with Freedom of Information Act requests, documents are heavily redacted before release.

Such limited transparency enables 'vaccine imperialism' as big power 'vaccine nationalism' impairs others'



access. Thus, following its spat with AstraZeneca, the European Commission (EC) banned vaccine exports to most countries outside the EU.

Double standards rule

In fact, cross-border enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs) is relatively recent. Big Pharma successfully lobbied their governments for TRIPS inclusion in the 1994 WTO founding documents. This greatly strengthened and extended IPRs transnationally.

Now, as these non-transparent deals are disputed, European politicians are threatening 'patent grabs'. EU President Charles Michel has warned of "urgent measures" demanding compulsory licensing, provided for by the European Treaty.

This would require vaccine developers to facilitate generic production, which the developing country-backed TRIPS temporary waiver proposal seeks for all countries. Nevertheless, the EU, other rich countries and their allies still oppose the request to enable rapid scaling-up of affordable vaccine supplies.

Publicly financed vaccine development

To accelerate vaccine development, expenses and risks have been mainly borne by governments, rather than by developers or private finance. The six top candidate vaccine developers have already received over US\$12 billion of public money, sometimes with little to show for it.

Of the more successful, Moderna received US\$955 million for research and development plus a premarket purchase commitment of US\$1.53 billion. In Europe, Pfizer/BioNTech got €375 million from the German government and another €100 million for debt refinancing from the European Investment Bank.

Yet, despite massive public financing, vaccine developers retain the IP monopoly right

to profit. Thus, the prospect of huge gains from 2021 vaccine sales revenue of almost US\$40 billion is delaying progress against COVID-19.

Greed kills, unless...

AstraZeneca promised Oxford University not to profit off any COVID-19 vaccines "for the duration of the pandemic". However, its contracts allow it to declare the pandemic over as early as mid-2021. It could then charge higher prices for vaccines developed with public money for the university.

The AstraZeneca vaccine was 'trialed' on the South African population. Yet, it is paying 2.4 times more than the EU - US\$5.25 compared to US\$2.16. This makes a mockery of "benefit-sharing" and priority "post-trial access" promises. Meanwhile, turning 'ability to pay' on its head, Uganda is paying 20% more than South Africa!

Having the greatest vaccine manufacturing capacity in the world by far, the Serum Institute of India has several contracts to produce the Astra-Zeneca vaccine for different countries. In India, it will sell 90% to the government and 10% to the private sector at a higher price.

Waiver can end pandemic

Vaccines produced generically at greater scale will be far more affordable, enabling more rapid containment of the contagion, infections, deaths and disruptions. Until herd immunity is achieved nationally and globally, priority in allocation should be on the basis of urgent need, rather than ability to pay or political muscle.

The best way forward now is the TRIPS waiver proposal, still blocked by rich country governments at the WTO. It would enable all countries to affordably make or buy 'generic' vaccines. This would most effectively expedite containing the pandemic with the least loss of lives and livelihoods.

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2021

MONDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	RADIO ONE DOCTOR
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05 HRS	DAKIKA 45
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	AFRO TIZII
23.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS	AFRO TIZII
01:00 -05:00HRS	MUZIKI MCHGANGANYIKO)

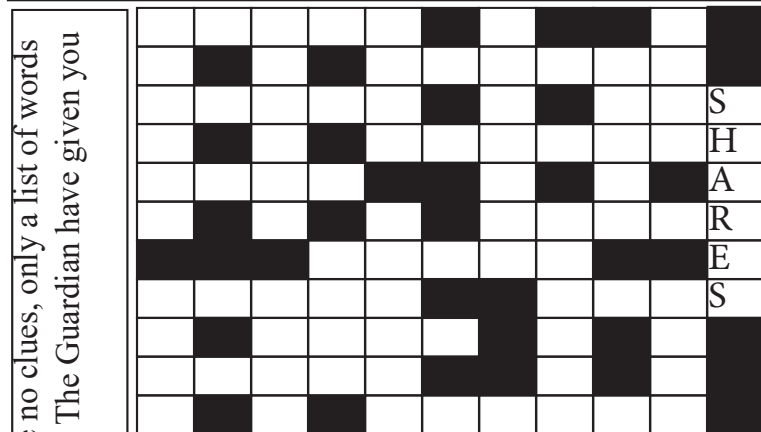
FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI//THE LISTENERS PRIDE

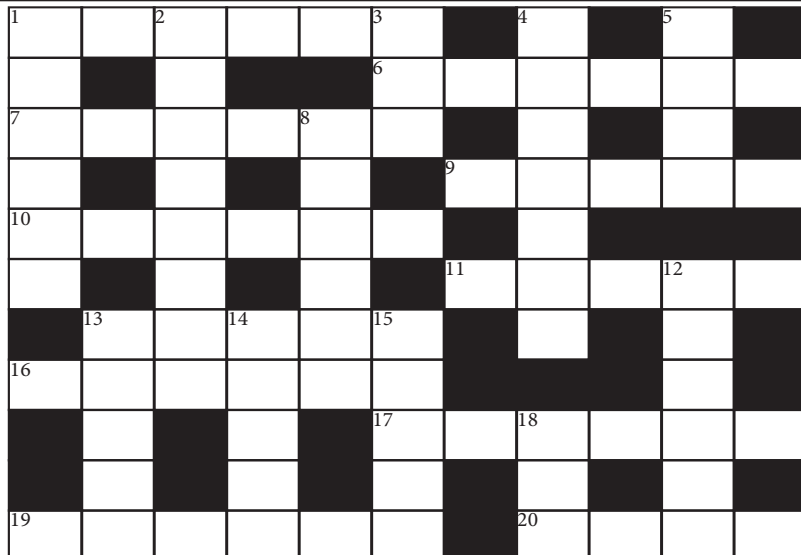
JUMATATU	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-20:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
20:00-21:00HRS	HALI HALISI
21:00-22:00HRS	SPORTS
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA (marudio)
00:00-04:00 HRS	LETE RAHA (marudio)
04:00-05:00 HRS	SPOTI (marudio)

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 160 00--



- 3 Letters: ASS,
 4. Letters: YULE, MASS, OMEN, WASH, PASS, SPAN, REEF, HEED, TRAP,
 5 Letters: MONEY, SKILL, DAILY, MAYOR, HAMAS, WATER, SHADE
 6 Letters: MOSCOW, NOISES, UGANDA, SHARES, ASMARA, CAREER, REMAIN
 7 Letters: SANGOMA, ENGLISH,

WORD-FIT	CROSSWORD
R E A D Y S C O P E	F A R M E R R A
E T L A A	R A L E A S E
S H A R A S A M E	I S L A N D P K
T E A Y A H P	D L O I L E R
S N A K E I R A Q	A N Y O N E A M
M A S T E R E A S T	Y C M E D D L E A
G T A R K I	C L A N E S
T A N A P A I P	P L A N T A T I O N S
I C F R O S T	O E R I E A A
M A S H E R H A Y	L A G T A C E T A G
E O W L N	O N E Y T S U E



- CLUES: Across
 1. Tanzania's Capital
 6. Nation created in 1948
 7. Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Christ
 9. turn away
 10. Second largest city in Tanzania
 11. step in a process
 13. mischievous person
 16. skilful
 17. large round citrus fruit
 19. sell goods by going from place to place
 20. utter words
- Down:
 1. images seen while you sleep
 2. a place far away
 3. the mixture of gases surrounding the earth
 4. personal, secret
 5. beloved
 8. consisting protein that is produced by a living organism
 12. an off break bowled with an apparent leg-break action
 13. a surface which is higher on one side than the other
 14. keep away from someone
 15. demonstrate by evidence
 18. a donkey

SOLUTIONS

Prizes galore with NMB's 550m/- deposit campaign

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc on Friday raised the local promotion drives bar with a special deposit mobilization campaign worth over half a billion shillings in prizes to be won by both its current and new customers in the next 90 days.

Through a campaign dubbed, 'Bonge la Mpano,' customers will a total of 550m/- in cash and materials with a grand prize being a brand new sport utility vehicle called Toyota Fortuner. Every week, 10 lucky winners will take home 500,000/- each that will be deposited directly into their accounts with the top prize being a LIFAN three-wheeler.

"Over four million NMB customers will stand a chance to win different prizes with the grand prize being a zero-kilometre Toyota Fortuner worth 169m/-," said NMB Bank's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi.

Mponzi said during the launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam that the promotion is a pivotal aspect of consolidating the business. The multifaceted drive is also part of NMB's strategic activities in 2021 that include retaining current customers, enticing new ones and luring the unbanked population into the formal financial system.

He said the country's most profitable bank is also using the campaign to cement its position in the market as the safest financial solutions provider and champion in banking services delivery.

"This promotion is also aimed at thanking our clients for enabling the lender to post the highest profit ever in the history of the local industry," Mponzi added saying the rewards are partly to compensate loyal clients.

The NMB CRB further noted that the promotion will also enable customers develop a habit of saving, which is not a common financial aspect in the country where incomes of many clients are often at subsistence level.

"Throughout the campaign duration, our customers depositing a minimum of 100,000/- will be eligible to win a prize ranging from cash to LIFAN three-wheelers, pick-up trucks and the Toyota Fortuner grand prize," Mponzi noted.

By staging the promotion which ends in May, NMB officials took into account the fact that the first months of the year are always financially difficult for many people mostly due to overspending during the end of the year festivals. On the grand prize raffle, Mponzi said participants will only be account holders with deposit balances of not less than 10m/- that is maintained for 30 days in one's NMB account.

Speaking at the same event, NMB's Dar es Salaam Zone Manager, Donatus Richard said the 'Bonge la Mpango,' promotion is not only an empowerment opportunity but also allows depositors to get capital through cash prizes especially for ordinary people and micro entrepreneurs.



Abdulmajid Nsekela

Nsekela urges customers to go digital using new SimBanking application

By Guardian Reporter

THE public has been urged to make use of a new digital platform dubbed 'SimBanking' application launched yesterday by CRDB Bank Plc.

CRDB Group Managing Director and CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela said the en-

hanced 'SimBanking' mobile banking application provide customers with state-of-the-art banking services designed to help manage their finances.

Nsekela said the new application offers a wide range of banking services such as digital account opening, loan application, bill payments, and insur-

ance payments. With all basic banking services available on the platform, it reinforces CRDB's new tag line of 'Benki ni SimBanking.'

"At CRDB Bank, customer centricity and convenience lie at the heart of all our initiatives. By downloading the enhanced application, anyone can open a bank account wherever they are, cost-free. We believe the new application will contribute much to the country's financial inclusion efforts and supporting a cashless society agenda," he noted.

Nsekela hinted that the new software has been designed using the best practices and latest technology to offer customers a simple, safe, and secure banking experience. "We are continuously reviewing our offerings to best respond to the changing needs of our customers. It is about leveraging world-class technology to deliver the future of banking today," the CRDB chief added.

With seamless integration between the bank's systems and core insurance application systems of insurance companies, customers using the SimBanking App, can now also buy motor insurance policies. "We are also finalizing integration with Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) system to enable customers to receive digital stickers via the application instantly after making payment," noted Nsekela ahead of government's introduction of digital motor insurance stickers in April to replace the current stickers.

Speaking during the launch, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Dr Faustine Ndungulile showered praises on CRDB Bank for designing and introducing innovative products and services that speed up the implementation of gov-

ernment-driven national economic and development programs.

"Today marks yet another milestone in our financial inclusion efforts. I am always encouraged when we launch a new financial product or service because we are deepening our country's financial system. This event is a momentous occasion not only for CRDB Bank but also for our country," Dr Ndungulile said.

He urged Tanzanians, especially those in rural areas, to use the enhanced CRDB SimBanking App to open bank accounts and start enjoying banking services while challenging the bank to start financial literacy programs to educate people on the importance of having bank accounts.

"Because now we have an easy and convenient way to open an account that doesn't need to visit a branch, I believe the enhanced SimBanking App will help us include many people in the formal financial system," he added.

Digital transformation continues to constitute a significant part of the CRDB Bank's ongoing five-year (2018 - 2022) strategy, with the bulk of its transformational budget allocated to digital initiatives. This has stood the Bank in good stead for quickly adapting to the changing consumer needs.

The new SimBanking App is just the latest installment in the ongoing rollout of the bank's digital strategy, focused on giving customers a choice of innovative banking solutions. Customers can download the application on App Store or Google Play. SimBanking was first introduced in 2011 giving CRDB Bank customers the ability to access banking services at their proximity through their feature mobile phones.

Kunenge convinced herbal drugs safe in the treatment of COVID-19

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM residents have been assured that traditional herbal medicines are safe to treat various ailments including the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Dar es Salaam regional commissioner, Abubakar Kunenge said on Friday when he paid a visit at Tanzania Industrial Research and Development (Tirdo) premises to inspect several herbal medicines including Covidol which is believed to cure respiratory diseases including Covid-19.

"We use our own herbs with high level of expertise to make these medicines which go through a stringent laboratory tests before being released to consumers. So, I can confidently say that these herbal medicines are good, effective and safe," Kunenge said.

His remarks second come a few weeks after President John Magufuli urged Tanzanians to use local medicines in the fight against the deadly virus as the Western world scrambles for vaccines to protect their ailing populations.

President Magufuli on several oc-

casions counseled the public to use herbal steaming to curb the Covid-19 adding that not every imported medicines are good for Tanzanians. "There are local medicines called Covidol, Bugiji and they are working because they have been approved by Chief Government Chemist," Magufuli said in Dodoma recently.

During his visit at Tirdo, RC Kunenge applauded institution for its commitment in improving the industrial sector through robust research and invention of traditional medicines. "I thank you for your contribution in

development of the industrial sector in our country and region is the country's commercial capital," Kunenge added.

Briefing the RC, Covidol developer Professor Hamisi Malebo said the herbal medicine has proved to be effective after going through a number of trials with positive results in treating Covid-19. Tirdo is now producing more than 50,000 bottles of Covidol per day. "My message to Tanzanians is that we have medicine that works, protect and cure the virus and other disease," Prof Malebo assured.

Don't rush for battery cage systems, poultry farmers stand warned

By Francis Kajubi

THE World Animal Protection (WAP) has warned poultry farmers in East Africa and the continent in a whole on the influx of battery cage systems if sustainability of the African poultry production is to be realised.

WAP said in the statement released over the weekend that battery cage systems been phased out in developed countries through enactment of policies and legislation. The animal protection body therefore suggest that the African farm animal production system evolves with the rest of the world if it is to remain competitive.

WAP call upon African poultry industry not to rush into adopting systems that have been banned in other parts of the world especially if they are targeting to supply the global brands that are setting up operations in the continent.

Dr Victor Yamo, Farming Campaigns Manager at World Animal Protection said that a review of farm animal welfare policies of the major global food companies has shown that 87 percent of the companies acknowledge Farm Animal Welfare as being relevant to doing business, with 69 percent of them publishing farm animal welfare policies.

"These policies cover 8 critical farm animal welfare areas including the elimination of close confinement such as battery cage systems. The review further showed that 78 percent of the companies had policies for elimination of close confinement with 84 percent applying same policies to all geographical locations in which they operate" said Yamo.

According to Yamo, the cage system has several perceived advantages, it also has serious negative impact on the bird's wellbeing. It does not provide adequate physical and psychological space to enable birds exhibit their natural behavior such as dust bathing, perching, foraging and nesting.

Hens also suffer from bone weakness due to the high levels of calcium depleted from their bodies to form high numbers of eggshells, and the restriction of the bird's movement within the cage further exacerbates this problem.

"This leads to a higher incidence of weak bones and fractures among the caged birds. Lack of nesting oppor-

tunities for the bird also results in severe frustration when laying eggs. This leads to increased stress weakening the bird's immune system, leading to outbreak of diseases" he affirmed.

He asserted that the negative impact of the cage system on the birds has led to consumers demanding that the laying birds' wellbeing, especially freedom to move around, flap their wings and exhibit their natural behaviours be provided for by the production systems.

Global and local surveys have shown that consumers are increasingly getting concerned on the poor welfare of cage production systems and are beginning to demand that poultry value chain players resort to humane production systems with governments being asked to enact relevant farm animal welfare policies and legislation to protect laying birds.



This leads to a higher incidence of weak bones and fractures among the caged birds. Lack of nesting opportunities for the bird also results in severe frustration when laying eggs. This leads to increased stress weakening the bird's immune system, leading to outbreak of diseases" he affirmed.

"If you keenly monitor policies and legislations that are being enacted in the developed world, battery cage systems have no future. The African poultry industry needs to be careful not to be edged out of international poultry business. We must evolve with the rest of the world and should not allow dumping of production systems that have been rejected and banned elsewhere;

Egg producers should protect their markets and livelihoods by ensuring they align to international standards and legislation. That way, laying hens will continue to enjoy their fundamental freedoms while the consumer will be assured of quality poultry products that meet international standards." He concluded.

French low-carbon power firm finds partner for work in Kenya

HARARE

LOW-CARBON electricity company Électricité De France (EDF), and Distributed Power Africa (DPA), a company of the pan-African group Econet Global Limited, have entered into a joint venture to develop and deploy renewable energy solutions for commercial and industrial customers in Kenya.

Last week EDF acquired a 50 percent stake in Econet Energy Kenya, a subsidiary in Kenya of DPA.

According to a statement released to the media, this equity investment marks the first achievement of an industrial partnership between EDF and the Econet Group, in order to seize the opportunities of the solar self-consumption market in Africa.

Econet Energy Kenya is deploying an innovative solar self-consumption offer on roofs for Kenyan industrial and commercial players. The company explains that the offer combines the supply, installation and maintenance of photovoltaic equipment with a financing solution.

"It allows customers to benefit from an autonomous low-carbon electricity production and thus reduce their environmental footprint," it adds.

Econet Energy Kenya has already secured ten projects with leading Kenyan companies and already implemented its solutions in the health sector. Beyond those projects, Econet Energy Kenya intends to target the banking sector, clinics, touristic resorts, small industries and datacentres.

The DPA and partners believe the solar self-consumption market in Africa is growing, particularly in Kenya, which they claim is the third market on the continent after South Africa and Nigeria.

"Econet Energy Kenya will con-



tinue to benefit from DPA's commercial dynamism and leading position in the solar self-consumption market in Africa, whereas EDF will bring its technical expertise from design to the latest energy monitoring services.

This is a first step before considering extending the cooperation to other promising countries already identified in Africa. DPA is present in Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe with a portfolio of 39 MW of

projects signed and under deployment," reads an excerpt from the media statement. With its footprint in 15 African countries, including Kenya with off-grid solar systems, EDF is opening new markets to DPA in the perspective of joint development.

Norman Moyo, DPA CEO said: "Energy is the next biggest infrastructure op-

portunity in the journey to transform the continent's fortune. DPA & EDF both bring a deep understanding of the energy sector in Africa and globally. Our partnership will accelerate the rollout of energy in East Africa and significantly impact the continent's economies".

Valerie Levkov, EDF's Senior Vice President Af-

rica, Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean Division, stated: "This is a new and innovative line of business for EDF in Kenya - and we are happy to engage in it with the DPA Group. Our joint-venture aims to offer technical excellence and a quality customer relationship."

This new business line adds to the off-grid so-

lutions we are already deploying in Kenya and extends the use of solar energy to commercial and industrial players. It is part of our global low-carbon response to the energy challenges across Africa while contributing to our strategic target of tripling our business at the international level by 2030."

Investors weigh new stock leadership as broader market wobbles in the US

NEW YORK

A SHAKEUP in stocks accelerated by the past week's surge in Treasury yields has investors weighing how far a recent leadership rotation in the U.S. equity market can run, and its implications for the broader S&P 500 index.

Moves this week further spurred a shift that has seen months-long outperformance for energy, financial and other shares expected to benefit from an economic recovery, while a climb in Treasury yields weighed on the technology stocks that have led markets higher for years.

The two-track market left the benchmark S&P 500 down for the week, and sparked questions about whether it could sustain gains going forward if the tech and growth stocks that account for the biggest weights in the index struggle.

So far this year, the S&P 500, which gives more influence to stocks with larger market values, is up 1.5 percent, while a version of the index that weights stocks equally is up 5 percent.

"That just tells us the gains are less narrow, more companies are participating, and I think that's healthy," said James Ragan, director of wealth management research at D.A. Davidson.

The focus on market leadership comes as investors are weighing whether the S&P 500 is due for a significant pullback after a 70 percent run since March, with the rise in long-dormant yields the latest sign of trouble for equities as it means bonds are more serious investment competition. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note this week jumped to a one-year peak of 1.6 percent before pulling back.

Economic improvement will be in focus in the coming weeks, including the monthly U.S. jobs report due this Friday, as will the country's ability to ensure widespread coronavirus vaccinations, especially as new variants emerge.

Tech and momentum stocks helped drive returns in 2020 "when everyone was locked down and all they had was their computer," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Cresset Capital Management. "Now it seems with the vaccines, the stimulus and the prospect of reopening that we are looking out toward a recovery phase."

The shift in the market this week is building on one that was fueled in early November, when Pfizer's breakthrough COVID-19 vaccine news generated broad bets on an economic rebound in 2021.

Among the moves since that point: the S&P 500 financial and energy sectors are up 29 percent and 65 percent, respectively, against a nearly 9 percent rise for the benchmark index and 7 percent rise for the tech sector. The Russell 1000 value index has gained 16.5 percent against a 4.3 percent climb for its growth counterpart, while the small cap Russell 2000 is up 34 percent.

"You definitely are seeing the reopening trade that has pretty much come alive here," said Gary Bradshaw, portfolio manager of Hodges Capital Management.

Despite the gains, there remains "plenty of room for the reflation trade to run from a valuation perspective," Lori Calvasina, head of U.S. equity strategy at RBC Capital Markets, said in a report this week. RBC is "overweight" the financials, materials and energy sectors.

Rising rates tend to be favorable for more cyclical sectors, David Lefkowitz, head of Americas equities at UBS Global Wealth Management, said in a note, with financials, energy, industrials and materials showing the strongest positive correlations among sectors with 10-year Treasury yields.

Still, how long the market's reopening trade lasts remains to be seen. Investors may be reluctant to stray from tech and growth stocks, especially with many of the companies expected to put up strong profits for years.

Any setbacks with the economy or with efforts to quell the coronavirus could revive the stay-at-home stocks that thrived for most of 2020.

And with a GameStop-fueled retail-trading frenzy taking hold this year, banks and other stocks in the reopening trade may fail to draw the same attention from amateur investors as stocks such as Tesla, said Rick Meckler, partner at Cherry Lane Investments.

"There isn't the pizzazz to those stocks," Meckler said. "There rarely is a potential for stocks to make the kind of moves that big tech growth stocks have made."

New Orange digital centre launched in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

French telecommunications firm Orange has partnered with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the Ethiopian government to launch the Addis Ababa Orange Digital Centre, an ecosystem dedicated to digital skills and innovation.

The telco and German development corporation joined Ethiopia's Ministry of Innovation and Technology, the Ethiopian Investment Commission and the Industrial Parks Development Corporation to roll out the resource.

In a statement released to the media, the stakeholders confirmed that following launches in Tunisia and Senegal, Ethiopia will be home to the third Orange Digital Centre in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region.

"Occupying a space of 500m², it is the first centre in East Africa that will operate as a strategic network, allowing experiences and expertise to be shared between countries and offering a simple and in-

clusive approach to strengthen the employability of young people, to encourage innovative entrepreneurship and to promote the local digital ecosystem," reads an excerpt from the statement.

The purpose of Orange Digital Centres is to bring together several strategic programmes under the same roof: a coding school, a "Fab-Lab Solidaire", a startup accelerator "Orange Fab" and Orange Ventures Africa, the Group's investment fund.

All of the programmes provided are free-of charge, open to all and include digital training for young people, 90 percent of which are practical training, start-up acceleration, guidance for project bearers and investment.

Orange and GIZ are working together in a development partnership of the developPPP de programme, which GIZ implements on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project is supported by BMZ's Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation, which also operates under the brand In-



vest for jobs.

"The know-how of Orange in training and supporting young people in the field of digital skills and innovation will be complemented by GIZ's extensive experience and local expertise in addressing the challenges inherent in the employability and entrepreneurship of young Ethiopians.

Together with the Ethio-

pian partners, the GIZ and Orange hope to achieve their shared vision of greater youth employability - including more women and girls in ICT jobs - while supporting the country's sustainable growth and digital transformation," according to the statement.

Dr. Abraham Belay, Minister of Innovation & Technology, said: "Building the 'Digital and Innovation Ecosystem' is

a multi-stakeholders agenda that requires holistic policy envisioning, vibrant enabling system and innovative and efficient collaboration among stakeholders like this "Responsible" move of Orange and parties involved: I must acknowledge and encourage, indeed it is an initiative worth investing on."

Alioune Ndiaye, CEO of Orange Middle East & Africa,

added: "With the support of GIZ, Orange supports East Africa's digital ecosystem by providing young Ethiopians with all its technological know-how to create more job opportunities. This program will be complemented by two ODC Clubs that will be deployed swiftly in different regions to reach out to even more young people.

I would like to remind you that we are planning to launch other Orange Digital Centres by the end of the year in Africa and the Middle-East."

Stephan Auer, German Ambassador in Ethiopia, said: "The Orange Digital Centre contributes to Ethiopia's digital transformation while creating local employment prospects for young people. It shows Germany's and the EU's commitment to promote inclusive and human-centred digitisation worldwide."

Orange is present in 18 countries in Africa and the Middle East and has 128 million customers as of 31 December 2020.

Boeing CEO asked to testify in crash litigation

RELATIVES of victims of a Boeing Co 737 MAX crash in Ethiopia that occurred five months after an Indonesian Lion Air disaster are stepping up pressure on the American planemaker and the federal government, according to a court filing and a letter to U.S. lawmakers.

Families have called for testimony from Boeing Chief Executive Dave Calhoun, his predecessor and

other current and former employees as part of their legal case in Chicago, court documents show.

Separately, the families urged lawmakers in letter to demand that the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration turn over internal emails and documents spanning the Lion Air crash and one month after the Ethiopian crash. Together, 346 people died.

The letter was sent to members of the House and Senate transportation committees on the weekend, including committee head Representative Peter DeFazio and aviation subcommittee chair Representative Rick Larsen.

A Congressional official said: "I can confirm that this week Chairs DeFazio and Larsen re-upped their request to DOT (Depart-

ment of Transportation) for FAA records that have gone unfulfilled to date."

A Senate report in December detailed lapses in aviation safety oversight and failed leadership in the FAA. It found that FAA leaders obstructed that report as well as a DOT watchdog review of the regulator's oversight, the results of which were released on Wednesday.

"There is serious unfinished business," the families said in the letter, reviewed by Reuters.

Boeing has mostly settled civil litigation stemming from the Lion Air crash, but still faces over 100 lawsuits in Chicago federal court related to the second crash.

The plaintiffs' lawyers are focusing on what Boeing knew about the causes of the first crash and why

the plane continued to fly. They want to schedule depositions of Calhoun and Muilenburg between May 3 and June 18.

Those victims' families also want to know what FAA management, which in November lifted a 20-month safety ban of the MAX, understood about the first crash.

Boeing's board faces a separate investor law-

suit in Delaware Chancery Court, where a complaint unsealed this month alleged breach of fiduciary duties and gross negligence by failing "to monitor the safety of Boeing's 737 MAX airplanes."

Last month, Boeing reached a \$2.5 billion settlement with the Justice Department over the 737 MAX crashes, including a \$243.6 million fine.

How idle car factories super-charged a push for US chip subsidies

WASHINGTON

WHEN President Joe Biden on Wednesday stood at a lectern holding a microchip and pledged to support \$37 billion in federal subsidies for American semiconductor manufacturing, it marked a political breakthrough that happened much more quickly than industry insiders had expected.

For years, chip industry executives and U.S. government officials have been concerned about the slow drift of costly chip factories to Taiwan and Korea. While major American companies such as Qualcomm Inc and Nvidia Corp dominate their fields, they depend on factories abroad to build the chips they design.

As tensions with China heated up last year, U.S. lawmakers authorized manufacturing subsidies as part of an annual military spending bill due to concerns that depending on foreign factories for advanced chips posed national security risks. Yet funding for the subsidies was not guaranteed.

Then came the auto-chip crunch. Ford Motor Co said a lack of chips could slash a fifth of its first-quarter production and General Motors Co cut output across North America.

"It brings home very clearly the message that the semi-

conductor is really a critical component in a lot of the end products we take for granted," said Mike Rosa, head of strategic and technical marketing for a group within semiconductor manufacturing toolmaker Applied Materials Inc that sells tools to automotive chip factories.

Within weeks, automakers joined chip companies calling for chip factory subsidies, and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and President Biden both pledged to fight for funding.

Industry backers now aim to be part of a package of legislation to counter China that Schumer hopes to bring to the Senate floor this spring. Still, all agree it will do little to solve the immediate auto-chip problem.

Headlines about idled car plants resonated with the public that had shrugged off abstract warnings in the past, said Jim Lewis, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Lawmakers, already worried that a promised infrastructure bill will not materialize this year, decided to push for quick solution.

"Nobody wants to be seen as soft on China. No one wants to tell the Ford workers in their district, 'Sorry, can't help,'" Lewis said. "It was one

of those moments where everything aligned."

The package includes matching funds for state and local chip-plant subsidies, a provision likely to heat up competition among states including Texas and Arizona to host big new chip plants that can cost as much as \$20 billion.

The subsidies could benefit a factory in Arizona proposed by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co and one in Texas eyed by Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, even though those factories would be geared toward high-end chips for smartphones and laptops, rather than simpler auto chips. And those factories would not come on line until 2023 or 2024, according to plans disclosed by the companies, the world's two largest chip manufacturers.

In the longer term, a raft of U.S. companies are also poised to benefit. Any chipmakers that build factories will source many tools from American companies such as Applied, Lam Research Corp and KLA Corp.

Intel Corp, Micron Technology Inc and GlobalFoundries - which already have U.S. factory networks - will also likely benefit.

"The recent chip shortage



U.S. President Joe Biden holds a semiconductor chip as he speaks prior to signing an executive order aimed at addressing a global semiconductor chip shortage at the White House. File Photo.

in the automotive industry has highlighted the need to strengthen the microelectronics supply chain in the U.S.," said Thomas Sonderman, chief executive of SkyWater Technology, a Minnesota-based chipmaker that makes automotive and defense chips. "We believe that SkyWater is uniquely positioned due to our differentiat-

ed business model and status as a U.S.- owned and U.S.- operated pure play semiconductor contract manufacturer."

Even with subsidies, the U.S. companies still must compete with low-cost Asian vendors over the long run, and the immediate auto chip troubles will probably persist.

Surya Iyer, a vice president at Minnesota-based Polar

Semiconductor, which makes chips for automakers, said his factory is booked beyond capacity and has started to speed some orders up while slowing others down, to meet automakers' needs as best it can.

"We are expecting this level of demand to continue at least for the next 12 months, maybe even longer," he said.

Texas power crisis 'could' cripple small marketers

HOUSTON

RETAIL power marketers in Texas are appealing multi-million dollar bills from last week's blackout that they say could cripple them and unravel Texas' nearly two-decade-old experiment as the most deregulated U.S. electricity market.

Wholesale prices, which last year averaged \$26 a megawatt hour, soared to \$9,000 per MWh for days as grid operators tried to quench a severe shortage that left up to 4.3 million residents shivering in the dark last week. The state's total bill for electricity over seven days rose by \$45 billion from the prior week, lawmakers said at the end of last week.

"The state will likely experience the largest number of failures of retailers ever seen," said Patrick Woodson, chief executive of Green Energy Exchange. "Competition will all but cease to exist." His firm will survive, he said, despite service charges hitting nearly \$19 million, up from \$37,000.

Some consumers also face enormous bills. During the freeze, some 40,000 consumers who had monthly plans pegged to wholesale prices got bills of up to \$9,500 as generators froze and prices soared. State officials have said they will help consumers. The state has about 6.4 million residential electric accounts.

Texas in 2002 deregulated its power system, splitting generation from transmission lines and from retail sales. It spawned 100s of marketers offering fixed, variable and indexed rate plans and fuel choices. Fallout from the outage will accelerate consolidation, experts said.

The industry split initially led to modest fees to marketers and generators for maintaining the state's grid. But those fees were tied to wholesale price of electricity and jumped last week along with the cost of power. That saddled retail marketers with tens of millions of dollars in bills for services that ordinarily cost a few thousands.

The enormous jump in fees resulted from the grid operator failing to lower wholesale priced when supplies became adequate, said Brandon Young, chief executive of Young Energy LLC, which has about 32,000 customers providers said.

"Our ancillary services costs alone for that one week are greater than our entire energy costs for all of 2020," said Young.

The head of grid operator Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has said it left the wholesale price at \$9,000 per MWh to financially motivate power generators to remain on the grid. ERCOT CEO Bill Magness said late Thursday he and other officials hope to address the fees.

ERCOT has not relaxed its order requiring companies to pay fees within 72 hours to avoid have their customers reassigned to big utilities.

Natural gas utilities and power generators buying the fuel for their gas-fired power plants will likely have to borrow money to cover the cost of the gas when prices skyrocketed.

Atmos Energy Corp and One Gas Inc spent over \$2 billion each to buy gas as prices hit a record high of nearly \$24 per million British thermal units (mmbtu), from \$2.30 per mmbtu. The borrowing costs would wind up in consumer bills, analysts said.

Nearly a quarter of the 100 Texas power companies receiving the high power and services bills could end up transferring all their customers to rivals.

GameStop shares still register 151pc on weekly gain



People enter a GameStop store during "Black Friday" sales in Carle Place, New York. File Photo.

GAMESTOP Corp closed 6 percent lower on Friday as an early rally fizzled but the stock finished the week 151 percent higher in a renewed surge that left analysts puzzled.

The video game retailer's shares closed at \$101.74 after retreating from a session high of \$142.90. The weekly rocket ride higher came despite a broader market selloff that sent the benchmark S&P 500 .SPX down 2.5 percent over the

same time.

Analysts have struggled to find a clear explanation, and some were skeptical the rally would have legs.

"You might be able to make some quick trading money and it could be a lot of money, but in the end, it's the greater fool theory," said Eric Diton, president and managing director at The Wealth Alliance in New York. The theory refers to buying stocks that are over-valued, an-

ticipating a "greater fool" will buy them later at a higher price.

Analysts mostly ruled out a short squeeze like the one that fueled GameStop's rally in January, when individual investors using Robinhood and other apps punished hedge funds that had bet against the stock, forcing them to unwind short positions. Many GameStop buyers took their cues from online investment forums on Reddit and

elsewhere.

Short interest accounted for 28.4 percent of the float on Thursday, compared with a peak of 142 percent in early January, according to S3 Partners.

Options market activity in GameStop, which has returned to the top of the list in a social media-driven retail trading frenzy, suggested investors were betting on higher prices, higher volatility, or both.

Refinitiv data showed retail investors have been buying deep out-of-the-money call options, which have contract prices to buy far higher than the current stock price. Many of those option contracts were set to expire on Friday, meaning handsome gains for those who bet on a further rise in GameStop's stock price.

Call options, profitable for holders if GameStop shares hit \$200 and \$800 this week, have been particularly heavily traded, the data showed. GameStop's stock traded this week as high as \$184.54 on Thursday, far below the \$483 intraday high it hit in January.

"The actors are looking to take advantage of everything they can to maximize their impact and the timing is important," said David Trainer, chief executive officer of investment research firm New Constructs. "The options expiration will contribute to their strategy on how to push the stock as much as they can and maximize their profits."

ots on major social media websites have been hyping GameStop and other "meme stocks," although the extent to which they influenced prices was unclear, according to analysis by Massachusetts-based cyber security company PiiQ Media. [nLN2KW2TW]

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Friday suspended trading in 15 companies because of "questionable trading and social media activity." GameStop was not among them.

The 15 companies were in addition to six stocks it recently suspended due to suspicious social media activity.

Robinhood said it has received inquiries from regulators about temporary trading curbs it imposed during a wild rally in shorted stocks earlier this year.

Other Reddit favorites were also lower on Friday, with cinema operator AMC Entertainment down 3.4 percent, headphone maker Koss off 22.4 percent and marijuana company Sundial Growers down 2.9 percent.

WORLD

Mexico's president 'expected to ask Biden to share US vaccines'

WASHINGTON/MEXICO CITY

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is expected to ask President Joe Biden to consider sharing part of the US coronavirus vaccine supply with its poorer southern neighbor when the two leaders hold a virtual summit on Monday, US and Mexican officials said.

Biden is open to discussing the matter as part of a broader regional effort to cooperate in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic but will maintain as his "number one priority" the need to first vaccinate as many Americans as possible, a White House official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Lopez Obrador has been one of the most vocal leaders in the developing world pressing the richest countries to improve poorer nations' access to the vaccines. He has called the current distribution system "totally unfair."

"We fully expect that to come up," the White House official said when asked whether Lopez Obrador was likely to raise a request for shared vaccines when the leaders hold their first virtual meeting since Biden's Jan 20 inauguration.

A Mexican official said Lopez Obrador would ask for a loan of the US vaccine

supplies, to be paid back when vaccines that Mexico has contracts for are delivered later in the year.

Lopez Obrador's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. According to Mexican media outlet Proceso, Lopez Obrador raised the issue with Biden in a January call shortly after his swearing-in.

The agenda for the summit, to be held virtually due to COVID-19 concerns, is also expected to include migration, the thorniest bilateral issue, together with law enforcement cooperation and economic development plans for southern Mexico and Central America, the US official said.

Mexico had a testy relationship with Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, though Lopez Obrador, an often abrasive leftist, forged a mutually beneficial partnership with the Republican president as they worked to stem migration from impoverished Central America.

Biden has been undoing what his White House has called "draconian" Trump-era immigration policies that closed off routes to asylum in the United States, while trying to curb an increasing flow of new undocumented arrivals until the system for legal migration is overhauled.



US President Joe Biden (L) and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

Seeking to turn the page on Trump, the White House official said Biden was determined to move away from the former president's "governing by tweet" and re-establish more traditional contacts.

The official made clear that while Biden is focused on "getting jabs in the arms" of Americans, the United States recognizes the need to forge a strategy to assist its neighbors since national borders cannot seal it off from the pandemic.

"Once we actually get the pandemic under control, the economic recovery is one where we're going to have to eventually open our borders," the US official said. "But we cannot open our borders if Canada and Mexico have not similarly addressed the pandemic. So collaboration with Mexico is a top priority."

While Biden has increased funding for international efforts to combat COVID-19, he could face political fallout if he moves too fast to ship vaccines to other countries when the

United States is ramping up but still struggling to meet domestic needs.

Mexico's inoculation program has been delayed by slow shipments, despite agreements with international drugmakers meant to purchase doses for the country's 126 million people.

With Pfizer Inc deliveries running behind schedule, Mexico has scrambled to fill the gap, landing initial deliveries of Russia's Sputnik V and China's Sinovac.

The government has given a first shot to just over 1.8 million people, or 1.4 percent of the population. Mexico has had more than 185,000 COVID-19 deaths and more than 2 million coronavirus infections.

Another source of US-Mexican tension was a now-dropped US drug investigation into former Mexican defense minister Salvador Cienfuegos. The US arrest of Cienfuegos in October ruffled feathers in Mexico, which retaliated with restrictions on US drug enforcement operations.

Agencies

Xi stresses high-quality development of social security

BEIJING

XI JINPING, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed improving the social security system that covers the entire population and promoting high-quality and sustainable development of social security.

Xi made the remarks while presiding over a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on Friday.

He urged efforts to intensify redistribution, strengthen mutual assistance, and have more people benefit from the social security system that will meet the multi-level and diversified demands of the people.

Improvements should also

be made to have a sustainable multi-level social security system which shall cover the country's entire population, coordinate the needs from urban and rural areas and be fair and unified, so as to further promote the sustainable and high-quality development of the country's social security undertakings, Xi said.

Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee heard a report from an expert in the field and discussed related matters.

Xi reviewed China's progress on establishing social security system since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, emphasizing the leadership of the CPC and the institutional advantages of China's



socialist society as well as the principles of putting the people first and pursuing common prosperity.

He urged summing up the experiences of previous successes and optimizing the country's social security system. Although China has basically established a fully-functional social security system that covers the largest population in the world, the country still needs to attach

great importance to and make practical improvements on the weak links of the system, as the principal contradiction in Chinese society has evolved and urbanization, population aging and employment diversification are speeding up, Xi said.

Social security is the most imminent and realistic issue the people care about, Xi said, making specific requirements on improving social security work during the 2021-2025 period.

In the new development stage, China should have a strategic vision and meet people's expectations for a high-quality life, and increase risk awareness to make proper judgments in advance on new

development trends such as population aging and changes in labor force structures, Xi noted.

Stressing that reforms in the sphere of social security should be advanced in a more systematic, coordinated, and efficient manner, Xi urged efforts to accelerate the building of a multi-level and multi-pillar endowment insurance system to meet people's diverse demands.

While integrating social assistance in rural areas into the rural vitalization strategy, the country needs to improve elderly care services and social welfare for the physically challenged and orphans, Xi noted.

Xinhua

Diplomat dismisses rumours that Russia will soon withdraw from Council of Europe

PARIS

TWENTY-FIVE years after joining the Council of Europe Russia is set to actively cultivate cooperation with the organization and its member-states, and the rumors on its imminent withdrawal are unfounded, Russia's Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe Ivan Soltanovsky told TASS yesterday.

"The media regularly circulate rumors without any real basis that Russia will soon withdraw from the Council of Europe. Such escalation of the situation does not benefit the common cause," Soltanovsky

(pictured) stated.

The diplomat noted that although the coronavirus situation has seriously limited the possibilities for physical contacts, this did not hinder plans on arranging a trip of Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejcinovic Buric to Russia in October 2020.

In December, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Hendrik Daems paid a brief visit to Moscow and is planning on returning to Russia in the near future. In February, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe Christos Giakoumopoulos vis-



ited Moscow.

"Despite the pandemic, contrary to the wishes of Russophobes, we keep working in full, defending Russian national interests, despite the noticeable increased pressure on our country, including on European international platforms. The key to success is confidence in one's own righteousness, calmness and an over-the-horizon

vision of prospects," he stated.

Over the past 25 years of its membership in the Council of Europe Russia has made a real contribution to the organization's work and is ready to expand cooperation to address new pan-European challenges, especially in the fight against COVID-19 and vaccination, Soltanovsky told.

"Of course, we consider fight against the coronavirus pandemic in the world as a priority issue. We are ready to cooperate with the CoE in the field of vaccination and stand for ensuring equal access for everyone to certified vaccines on the European continent," Sol-

tanovsky said.

The diplomat sees a great potential of cooperation in the fields of artificial intelligence, ecology, biotechnology, in which "a great deal of expertise has been accumulated."

"In general, the number of pan-European challenges and threats is on the rise, new technologies do not only make life easier for the population, but also go hand in hand with inevitable human rights violations, attempts to manipulate and impose restrictions by developers, providers and Internet giants. Finding worthy solutions is possible only through joint efforts," he stressed.

Agencies

At least seven dead on bloodiest day of Myanmar protests against coup

MYANMAR police fired on protesters yesterday in the bloodiest day of weeks of demonstrations against a military coup and at least seven people were killed and several wounded, political and medical sources and media said.

Myanmar has been in chaos since the army seized power and detained elected government leader Aung San Suu Kyi and much of her party leadership on Feb. 1, alleging fraud in a November election her party won in a landslide.

The coup, which brought a halt to tentative steps towards democracy after nearly 50 years of military rule, has drawn hundreds of thousands onto the streets and the condemnation of Western countries.

"Myanmar is like a battlefield," the Buddhist-majority nation's first Catholic cardinal, Charles Maung Bo, said on Twitter.

Police were out in force early and opened fire in different parts of the biggest city of Yangon after stun grenades, tear gas and shots in the air failed to break up crowds. Soldiers also reinforced police.

Several wounded people were hauled away by fellow protesters, leaving bloody smears on pavements, media images showed. One man died after being brought to a hospital with a bullet in the chest, said a doctor who asked not to be identified.

A woman died of a suspected heart attack after police swooped to break up a Yangon teachers' protest with stun grenades, her daughter and a colleague said.

Police also opened fire in Dawei in the south, killing three and wounding several, politician Kyaw Min Htike told Reuters from the town.

The Myanmar Now media outlet reported two people had been killed in a protest in the second city of Mandalay.

Police and the spokesman for the ruling military council did not respond to phone calls seeking comment.

Police broke up protests in other towns, including Lashio in the northeast and Myeik in the deep south, residents and media said.

'NEVER KNEEL'

Junta leader General Min Aung Hlaing said last week authorities were using minimal force to deal with the protests. Nevertheless, at least 10 protesters have now died in the turmoil. The army said a policeman has been killed.

The crackdown would appear to indicate determination by the military to impose its authority in the face of widespread defiance, not just on the streets but more broadly in the civil service, municipal administration, the judiciary, the education and health sectors and the media.

"The Myanmar security forces' clear escalation in use of lethal force in multiple towns and cities ... is outrageous and unacceptable," Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of New York-based Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

Hundreds of protesters refused to leave the streets by early afternoon in Yangon. Many set up barricades while others chanted slogans and sang protest songs.

"If they attack us, we'll defend. We'll never kneel down to the military boots," said Nyan Win Shein from one Yangon protest.

Early in the day, police swooped to disperse a teachers' protest with stun grenades, sending the crowd fleeing. One teacher, Tin New Yee, died of a suspected heart attack, her daughter and a fellow teacher said.

Agencies

43 million doses of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine administered worldwide

FORTY-THREE million shots of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese company Sinopharm have been administered worldwide, with 34 million in China and the country's yearly production capacity could reach 4 billion by the end of 2022, China Central Television (CCTV) reported Saturday.

China has issued emergency approval for clinical trials for 16 COVID-19 vaccines candidates with six in Phase III, according to the National Medical Products Administration.

Eighteen production lines for COVID-19 vaccines have been established. The nation's annual COVID-19 vaccines production capacity is expected to reach 2 billion doses by the end of 2021 and 4 billion by the end of 2022, Feng Duoqia, president of the China Vaccine Industry Association told CCTV.

Four billion would cover 40 percent of world demand, Feng previously told the Global Times.

The Global Times also learned from another Beijing-based producer Sinovac Biotech on Wednesday that the company's second production line is now making more than one million doses a day.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, China has provided vaccines to 53 developing countries and is exporting vaccines to 22 countries. Eight foreign leaders have been vaccinated with a Chinese vaccine.

China has also approved 22 drugs for COVID-19 and its indications for clinical trials; Twenty-four million coronavirus test kits of 54 different types are being produced each day, according to CCTV.

Global Times

China-Europe Railway Express brings more foreign products to inland China

FREIGHT trains along the China-Europe route continued to deliver a wide variety of goods and products from countries along the Belt and Road to their final destination in China during the Spring Festival, providing consumers with more choices during the country's most important traditional festival, Chinanews.com reported on Feb.17.

In recent days, the freight trains have transported foreign commodities, including pure milk, chocolate, and cold-chain foods all the way to Zhengzhou, capital city of central China's Henan province.

Transporting these foreign products to China's market amid a worldwide pandemic is a difficult task. "We

must strengthen epidemic control measures throughout the whole procedure, while keeping the products fresh," stated Li Ming, deputy stationmaster of Putian Station on the Zhengzhou section operated by China Railway Zhengzhou Bureau Group Co., Ltd.

He added that the station had intensified measures in epidemic prevention and control. Those who enter freight operation areas, including clients, stevedores and drivers must have their body temperatures checked beforehand, wear facial masks, and leave immediately when they finish.

The China-Europe Railway Express has played a more important role



A freight train leaves Zhengzhou, central China's Henan province, for Katowice, Poland. (File photo)

since the onset of the pandemic last year, which saw a total of 12,406 trips made between China and Europe, a figure exceeding 10,000 for the first time.

Last year, Zhengzhou - which serves as a central transport hub in the country - saw 1,126 trips along its section of the China-Europe Railway Express, a year-on-year increase

of 13 percent. The total cargo value amounted to roughly \$4.3 billion, up by 27 percent, while the overall cargo weight grew by 31 percent to reach 721,100 tons.

According to Li, when combined with the land ports, the trains have brought a diverse variety of foreign imports to inland regions of China, while enabling products made in Henan Province, such as home appliances, daily necessities and local specialties, to seep into foreign markets, thus bringing China and Eurasia more closer together.

As a China-Europe rail freight assembly center in central China, Zhengzhou is shaping up to become a bridge between central China and

Europe.

"Since the beginning of 2020, our company has transported more than 46,000 tons of goods via the China-Europe Railway Express, up by 60 percent year-on-year. More than 8,000 tons were medical supplies such as masks and protective suits," said Kong Weidong, general manager of the Zhengzhou branch of T.H.I. Group (Shanghai) Ltd., a freight and logistics enterprise.

He added that the signing of the China-EU Comprehensive Agreement on Investment will bring even more opportunities for bilateral trade, as well as even more choices for Chinese consumers.

People's Daily

Huawei shows support for UN's Sustainable Development Goals

SHANGHAI

HUAWEI has shown its support for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and building a green, innovative and inclusive world as the tech company believes technology can work as an engine for human progress.

This was the view of Huawei senior vice president and board member Catherine Chen, in her keynote speech at the recent Connected for Shared Prosperity Forum in Shanghai.

Chen (pictured) said technology could be an engine for human progress, and called on individuals and businesses to "think big and act small", while reiterating her support of the SDGs and building a green, innovative and inclusive world.

Chen said it was essential that people reach agreement around technology, which held significant potential for achieving development goals.

"Large social changes tend to happen in lockstep with breakthroughs in science and technology. But today, technological advancements are hyped and politicised - as has sometimes been the case with 5G."

Chen pointed out that 5G was in fact a standardised technology defined by its high bandwidth, low latency, and broad connectivity, which could transform traditional industries and benefit all.

"Every day, consumers are benefiting from 5G experiences, while industrial use in seaports, mines, and the transportation sector is increasing operational efficiency. Is this a bad thing? I don't think so."

Chen said that while there was always the danger that a new technology could be abused, rules could be established to manage technological risks.

"Many people are already hard at work creating governance rules for cyber security, privacy protection, and trusted AI that will keep us safe. For the rest of us, it's time to be confident and open to technological development."

Chen said technology was most effective when it created value for all, and that consensus could be built gradually so that technological advancement could continue.

"By focusing on the limited common understanding we have right now and what resources are actually available, we can drive progress step by step," she said. "Huawei has always supported technological advancement. We believe digital tech benefits humanity, and can help the UN achieve its SDGs."

Chen described how Huawei was already deploying digital solutions to empower people and meet UN development goals - especially the goals of innovation, reduced inequality and quality education.

In South Africa, for instance, Huawei, non-profit organization Click Foundation and network provider rain teamed up to connect more than 100 urban and rural primary schools to the Internet. The goal is to boost reading comprehension skills and close the digital gap through technology.

In Kenya, Huawei partnered to build DigiTrucks, mobile, solar-powered classrooms that bring digital skills to remote, underserved communities. Equipped with 20 laptops, 20 VR headsets, and built in Wi-Fi, each DigiTruck is a temporary digital school that provides free classes, resources, and materials.

Chen also described how Huawei Smart PV solution being used in more than 60 countries was already helping to achieve SDGs, and had reduced carbon emissions by 148 million tons.

"This is the equivalent of planting more than 200 million trees. In Ethiopia alone, we have helped our customers deploy more than 400 solar power stations, reducing carbon emissions by 2 850 tons. In China, we have also helped build the world's largest solar stations, dedicated to agriculture and fishing in Ningxia and Shandong provinces."

Huawei and UNESCO have also partnered to launch the Open Schools programme to help schools in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Ghana improve their digital skills through online education.

"In all these examples every single connection, every gram of emissions reduced, every watt of electricity saved, could not have been achieved without small advances in tech," said Chen. "This is the value that tech brings to the world."

Agencies

Turkey expects Putin's participation in concrete-pouring ceremony at Akkuyu NPP's Unit 3

ANKARA

THE Presidents of Russia and Turkey, Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, are expected to attend online the concrete-pouring ceremony for Unit 3 of the first Turkish nuclear power plant Akkuyu on March 10, Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez said on Saturday.

"Our president and Putin will be laying the foundation of reactor unit 3 at the Akkuyu NPP on March 10. They are expected to be participating in the ceremony online," he said in a televised interview with 24 TV channel.

Akkuyu NPP is the first nuclear power plant to be built in Turkey. The project is being implemented by Akkuyu Nuclear (part of Rosatom) based on the intergovernmental agreement signed by Russia and Turkey in May 2010.

It is planned that after completion of construction the NPP with the installed capacity of 4,800 MW will generate around 35 bln kWh per year.

Agencies



Is China's poverty alleviation standard too low to deserve a victory?

BEIJING

DESPITE China securing a comprehensive victory in its fight against poverty, some Western critics have continued to cast apprehensions on the poverty eradication efforts and reliability of the data.

In their obsession with questioning China's achievements, these detractors have overlooked the holistic approach and strict evaluation strategy adopted by Chinese authorities to ensure the quality of the poverty relief work.

China set its poverty line at a per capita annual income of 2,300 yuan at 2010 constant values, or 2.3 U.S. dollars in terms of purchasing power parity per person a day. This standard is higher than the World Bank's benchmark of 1.9 U.S. dollars per person per day.

By 2020, a person making less than 4,000 yuan a year could be listed as impoverished. These figures are enough to bust the baseless apprehensions of the naysayers.

Besides the numerical target, China ensured the impoverished people have "two assurances" (adequate food, adequate clothing) and "three guarantees" (access to compulsory education, basic medical services, and safe housing).

All of these factors are important to the poor population but somewhat not "on the radar" of the Western critics. In addition, China has conducted the strictest assessment to ensure that the standard of poverty relief work is not compromised.

What's worth noting is improvements in transportation, electricity and housing for the poor did not reflect in the income numbers, either.

Since late 2012, China has built or upgraded 1.1 million km of rural roads, provided a reliable supply of



Combo photo taken on July 15, 2020 shows villagers' smiles in Shenshan Village of Jinggangshan, east China's Jiangxi Province. The village was lifted out of poverty in 2017.

power to rural areas, and expanded fiber-optic internet access and 4G network coverage to more than 98 percent of its poor villages.

During the same period, some 25.68 million impoverished people from 7.9 million households have seen their dilapidated houses renovated, and more than 9.6 million people have been relocated from impoverished areas.

China's achievement in poverty alleviation is not just limited to improvements in material conditions but also includes efforts in raising public spirit.

The country has boosted the enthusiasm, ambition and creativity of the poor by providing them access to education and helped build aspirations.

Thanks to training programs and work experience opportunities, poor people have been able to improve their skills.

The unremitting progress has not only instilled confidence among these people but also developed a stronger awareness of escaping poverty through self-reliance.

The spiritual gains of these rural poor, as expected, have also been ignored by

some skeptics.

These efforts in amalgamation with government measures and policies to prevent people from falling back into poverty bring extreme poverty in China to an end, once and for all. The country's poverty alleviation is a success, but far from a full stop.

China remains the biggest developing country globally. It still needs to consolidate and expand poverty alleviation achievements.

In pursuit of this goal, major supportive policies and assistance for the poor will remain stable. China bashers, blinded by skepticism, have been obsessed with making unfounded accusations instead of spying things comprehensively.

Selective amnesia of the West is neither fair nor helpful as it will only hinder China's poverty eradication experience from benefiting more people around the world.

Xinhua

COVID-19, climate, tax feature at first post-Trump G7 talks

LONDON

THE new administration of US President Joe Biden joins international talks on the global economy this week with other rich nations expecting a decisive break from the "America First" nationalism of Donald Trump.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will join Friday's online meeting with her Group of Seven (G7) peers at which they are likely to renew promises to pursue huge stimulus programmes to aid the economic recovery from COVID-19.

The meeting, the first G7 encounter since Biden took office, will also seek to breathe new life into long-running efforts to solve the problem of how to tax giant digital firms, many of them American such as Amazon and Google.

That is seen as test case of Washington's renewed engagement after Trump effectively blocked any deal.

Britain, which is chairing the meeting, has said the talks will provide to chance to find "global solutions" to the hammer blow dealt to the world's economy by the pandemic. A G7 source said officials would discuss "how best to shape and respond to the phases of the global recovery from COVID-19" including support for workers and businesses in the near term while ensuring fiscal sustainability in the long term.

Other aides said there would be a discussion on coordinating fiscal stimulus among the G7 countries, which aside from the United States and Britain in-



Flags of the Group of Seven (G7) nations and the European Union flag fly over the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu hotel, the location for the G7 summit, in La Malbaie, Quebec. (File photo)

clude Japan, France, Germany, Italy and Canada. They will also be joined by the heads of their national central banks and the European Central Bank.

Biden has proposed a further US\$1.9 trillion in spending and tax cuts on top of Trump's US\$4 trillion. British finance minister Rishi Sunak is expected to say in March that he will borrow yet more money - after racking up the biggest ever peacetime deficit - while promising to fix the public finances after the crisis.

The G7 source said the meeting would also discuss support for vulnerable countries to aid the global recovery.

Britain was likely to issue a statement after the meeting, the source said.

DIGITAL TAX

The meeting comes as much of the global economy continues to reel from the impact of lockdowns although vaccination programmes are raising the prospect of recovery later this year.

The different pace of the rollouts is likely to mean some regions lag behind, with the euro zone at particular risk of a slow recovery. Britain wants to make climate change and biodiversity loss a top priority of its G7 presidency ahead of the COP26 conference it is due to host in November.

There could also be some signs of progress on how to sort the rules for taxing cross-border commerce.

Nearly 140 countries are negotiating the first update in a generation to the rules for taxing cross-border commerce, to account for the emergence of big digital companies like Google, Apple and Facebook. Biden is seen as more open to a deal and some involved in the talks believe an agreement is within grasp this year.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is due to host the first in-person summit of G7 leaders in nearly two years in June in a seaside village in Cornwall, southwestern England, to discuss rebuilding from the pandemic and climate change.

Agencies

Biden says Saudi prince's alleged link to Khashoggi death 'outrageous'

By Bloomberg

PRESIDENT Joe Biden called it "outrageous" that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed off on the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, and cast ahead to an announcement about the kingdom next week.

Biden said in an interview with Univision News that he told Saudi King Salman this week that "the rules are changing" in the kingdom's relationship with the US and promised "significant changes" on Monday.

The prince has denied involvement in the killing and the kingdom rejected what it called a "false" US narrative. No sanctions have been announced against him.

The Biden administration on Friday released a partially redacted report the Trump administration withheld from the public revealing that the US intelligence committee believed the crown prince was responsible for Khashoggi's October 2018 murder inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

"We assess that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey, to capture or kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi," the report concluded.

"It is outrageous what happened," Biden said. Saudi stocks fell on Sunday, the first day of trading in Riyadh after the release of the report.

Kingdom 'Rejects' Finding

The report builds on classified intel-



Jamal Khashoggi

ligence from the CIA and other agencies. The kingdom dismissed it outright.

"The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia completely rejects the negative, false and unacceptable assessment in the report pertaining to the Kingdom's leadership, and notes that the report contained inaccurate information and conclusions," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The prince has said he accepts symbolic responsibility for the killing as the country's de facto ruler. Saudi officials have said the murder was carried out by rogue agents who've since been prosecuted. Relevant authorities took "all possible measures within our legal system" to ensure those agents were properly investigated and that justice was served, the statement said.

The decision to release the report, compiled by the Office of the Director of

National Intelligence, reflects the Biden administration's determination to recalibrate relations with Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, over its human rights record.

Although the four-page declassified version didn't disclose any direct evidence or the US intelligence methods that were used in reaching its conclusion, it said the team that killed Khashoggi included seven members of the crown prince's "elite personal protective detail" who wouldn't have taken part without his approval.

"The Crown Prince viewed Khashoggi as a threat to the Kingdom and broadly supported using violent measures if necessary to silence him," the report said. The report said it had "high confidence" about the 21 people who were involved in the killing on the prince's behalf.

At least for now, there is no indication that the US plans to sanction the crown prince. That's in keeping with a broader assessment that he's destined to be the kingdom's ruler for years to come and punishing him now would risk alienating a country that, for all its flaws, remains a crucial ally.

Saudi Arabia dominates the Gulf Arab region geographically, is its economic powerhouse, and has for decades been a political heavyweight in regional affairs. It's also one of the biggest customers for American arms.

Biden will have to navigate the relationship with Saudi Arabia carefully, however, as he seeks to re-engage Iran and persuade it to resume compliance with the nuclear

accord. Signaling that being tougher on Saudi Arabia won't mean he's soft on Iran, the administration ordered airstrikes overnight on Iranian-backed militias in Syria that it blames for rocket attacks on US forces in neighboring Iraq.

"There will be an announcement on Monday as to what we are going to be doing with Saudi Arabia generally," Biden told reporters as he departed the White House on Saturday for his home in Delaware.

Economic Powerhouse

After the report was released, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced sanctions against 76 Saudi individuals under what he called a new "Khashoggi Ban" policy. Under that authority, the US says it will single out anyone who, acting for a foreign government, engages in "counter-dissident activities" beyond that country's borders.

State Department spokesman Ned Price had told reporters Thursday that the US was looking at other ways to punish the perpetrators of Khashoggi's killing. Among the options may be cutting back arms sales to Saudi Arabia, he said without elaborating.

The decision to release the report reflects a return, under Biden, to routine diplomatic channels and traditional US pressure over human rights, even on allies.

Trump put Saudi Arabia at the center of his Middle East strategy, making it his first foreign visit. He later abandoned the 2015 nuclear deal with a common enemy, Iran, and reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

Agencies

Taekwondo federation now gets timely boost

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

THE Tanzania Taekwondo Federation (TTF) recently received assorted training sport gears donated by Korea Taekwondo Promotion, which will play a big role to uplift the standard of sport in Tanzania.

Speaking at the hand over event held at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dar es Salaam, Korean Ambassador to Tanzania, Cho Tae-ick, said he believes that the donated gears will help much to promote Taekwondo in the country.

He stated: "Taekwondo is an Olympic sport, as such, it needs to be promoted in the country so that one day, Tanzania should be able to win medals from this sport."

"For us, we will continue to provide support to TTF to enable them to operate without difficulties and we want to urge all those who participate in this sport to exercise hard," he said.

Moreover, the ambassador said that doing exercises is good for a human body as they help to fight various diseases including Covid-19.

He stated people, in this case, should engage themselves in sports to improve mental and physical fitness.

Ramoudh Ali, TTF president, in his remarks after receiving the training gears, expressed his happiness for the good gesture shown by Korea Taekwondo Promotion Federation in donating the items.

He stated: "These sport gears have come at the right time and I can assure you that they will be distributed evenly to reach the intended clubs found both in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar."

He added: "At TTF, we do our works in a transparent manner and I can assure you that these equipments will be well distributed and protected."

"We thrive to enhance Taekwondo in the country," he said.

He then requested the ambassador to bring a Taekwondo master to Tanzania so that he can train the domestic athletes and help them learn new skills of the sport.

He also requested the government to help them with a place where in partnership with stakeholders, they can build a Taekwondo sport complex to host all major events concerning the sport.

Among the donated gears include 190 Doboks, 30 sets of Hogus, 100 Double Target Pads, Head-gears and Jerseys.



Musician Nyoshi El Saadat

Why Tanzania now approximates- or dwarfs-DRC in popular music ratings

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL

ENEZA

THERE is an expression that one should not judge a book by its cover, but by another approach, it is quite true that a lot is learned about a book merely by looking at its cover, where a reasonably good impression can be made on its contents, as a summary.

What that expression is saying is that one ought to hold his or her breath, take time to go through, not necessarily read all of it, before actually forming a 'judgment' - which actually wishes to say a solid opinion - on that book.

That opinion is solid not because someone shall live with it, but rather because it will be transmitted to others, as it takes place in a public discussion.

What that formulation all the same admits is that a solid impression - not a reliable opinion though - can be formed by looking at the cover of a book.

In like manner, if one hears a datum in entertainment pages that the most viewed pop song in Africa in the course of 2020 was a Tanzanian hip hop number, viewed by some 41.1m viewers around the continent, this is a premise to make some hasty conclusions, even if the wisdom from that expression suggests that this

is hasty and perhaps unwarranted.

But there was an accompanying datum, that the next two best songs were from Ghana and Nigeria, not DRC, South Africa.

These countries can be mentioned with relative ease because their music numbers quite often trend in our local entertainment places, not discounting numbers from Uganda, Kenya and DRC among other areas.

The point is that the position that DRC music occupied in the country and seemingly in nearby countries as well has been on a steep decline for two decades, and arguably more so in the past decade.

Hardly is the current crop of young men and women with an inkling of music likely to be familiar with the retinue of what is being heard from Paris or Kinshasa in Congolese music, whereas in the past it was top news.

The major turning point came around 2000 when East Africa Television was introduced as a new product or service centre in IPP Media Group, and as it was in its early days, it did not seek to rush with a stream of interactive programmes; such innovations come around after a station has a wide audience.

The focus of its broadcasting at that time was US hip hop num-

bers, and as it was TV rather than audio cassettes as was the case earlier, local youths started learning the rhythms of how that music is conducted, and soon 'Bongo flavor' began to stand on its feet.

From that time to the present is a long period of innovation, etc.

Back to the book cover, to figure out if any judgment on the state of music in the eastern and central Africa region can be asserted merely by this achievement, if by this gesture of impact of one acclaimed song anything can be known about the state of music popularity in an around the region.

The answer is a qualified yes, in the sense that actually knowing that situation requires painstaking research or survey of music popularity in various cities, looking at numbers aired by local FM radio stations and showing musicians who have a good following across the spectrum. But if one is viewed by 41.1m people, what does it say?

That means that there is indeed reason to be somewhat calm and not actually assert that Tanzanian hip hop music is the best in the region or sub-region, but the capacity to hit number 1 in the continent for at least one song is an indication that local hip hop stars have a good following elsewhere.

For one thing, despite that it is

one artiste whose song reached astronomical heights of being viewed across the region or continent for that matter, neither himself nor his viewers would actually say the number was a work of genius or claim it was totally different from the quality of day to day production, by the artiste or others.

What is being suggested is that the hip hop number that struck number one viewing in Africa would at the local level have been just one good number like any other, whether it is within that music group or a range of similar groups.

There is something that in statistics is called a 'mode,' that is an image or rather tendency of how something looks like or behaves, where the data tends to converge on that image.

In that context any of the good local numbers can fetch upwards of ten million viewers across the region, to wit.

Definitely that isn't an achievement which all countries in the region could claim, and this must be the case for a single rather normal song to be the most viewed in Africa.

That is the picture that one gets from looking at this statistic that a local hip hop song topped the charts in Africa. And it is likely to be reliable.



This season's Kili Half Marathon's women category's winner, Tanzanian Failuna Matanga, completes the event, which took place in Moshi yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



This season's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon's women category's champion, Tanzanian Jackline Juma, jubilates once she touched the finishing line in the race, which took place in Moshi yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



Some of athletes, who competed in this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, put their virtuosity to show in the 42km event, held in Moshi yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Al Ahly now eyeing Simba winger

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

EGYPT'S Al Ahly are reportedly chasing Simba SC's Mozambican midfielder, Luis Miquissone, after his exploits against the former in CAF Champions League's group stage fixture, which took place in Dar es Salaam last month.

Pitso Mosimane suffered his second loss as Al Ahly's head coach following a narrow 1-0 defeat in Tanzania against Simba SC.

In front of 30 000 intimidating Simba SC fans, the midfielder scored a fantastic goal from outside the box.

The only goal of the game came

on the 31st minute when Luis Miquissone found the back of the net with a powerful finish which found the top left corner.

Pitso Mosimane knows Miquissone very well, having coached him during his time at South African football giants Mamelodi Sundowns.

The midfielder had joined Sundowns back in January 2018, but was loaned out almost immediately to the likes of Chippa United, Royal Eagles FC, and Mozambique's UD Songo, before joining Simba permanently in January 2020.

Reports emerged in Tanzania

linking Miquissone with moves to Al Ahly, Mamelodi Sundowns, DR Congo's TP Mazembe and Sudanese giants Al Hilal.

And Simba have already put a price tag on him, with the squad's information officer, Haji Manara, stating whoever wants to acquire Miquissone need to pay €1 million.

"You know a lot of people are asking about Luis, he's a very special player with a lot of potential on the pitch," Manara explained.

He added: "Now we know and have seen what he can do after his exploits during the CAF Champions League, then those interested in his services must plan to land

his services, they don't have to say they want him without action, they must plan because he is a player who will cost them millions."

"I want to make it very clear that Luis is currently under contract with Simba and his final offer cannot be less than one million euros, that is the last offer that Simba will accept for the player to leave."

He disclosed: "The current world spends more on Euros so his offer cannot be less than that."

Other clubs linked to the star player include the likes of Democratic Republic of Congo's TP Mazembe and Sudanese giant Al Hilal.

Pique now warns rivals: Barca back in title race

BARCELONA

GERARD Pique has warned Barcelona's La Liga title rivals that the Catalan side are right back in the race after an impressive 2-0 away at Sevilla FC on Saturday.

Goals from Ousmane Dembele and Lionel Messi temporarily moved Barca up to second in the standings, two points behind leaders Atletico Madrid, who have two games in hand and travel to Villarreal on Sunday.

Real Madrid, who face Atletico next weekend, are third, one point behind Barca ahead of Monday's fixture against Real Sociedad.

It's been quite a turnaround for Barca, who were 12 points off the pace and sat seventh in the table after losing to Cadiz in December. Koeman's side are unbeaten in 15 league games since then and Pique says they are brimming with confidence after earning a first win against a top-four side this season.

"The league is on, of course it is," Pique told reporters as Barca chase a third title in four years after missing out on top spot last season to Madrid.

"Teams have come back from worse situations in the past and the team, despite those two games recently [against Paris Saint-Germain and Cadiz] have done well in 2021. We can be confident.

"Sevilla, at their ground, haven't had a shot on goal against us or even created a clear chance. It's not the ideal situation, sure, but I have faith in the team."

Pique was one of three Barca players to set alarm bells ringing in the win at the Sanchez Pizjuan when he

was taken off in the second half with a knock. He said his change had been pre-arranged with coach Ronald Koeman but Barca will have to wait and see how serious knocks are to Pedri and Ronald Araujo.

Pedri injured his calf muscle and will undergo tests on Sunday, while Araujo was taken off as a precaution, shortly after replacing Pique, after appearing to re-injure his ankle in his first appearance following a three-week layoff.

A formation change helped Barca get the better of Sevilla, with Koeman switching to a back three and using Sergino Dest and Jordi Alba as wing backs.

"Above all, we changed the shape because we wanted to try and press Sevilla high, but also playing with three centre-backs and wing backs made it easier to stop Sevilla playing," the Barca coach told a news conference.

"It was a risky system. Without the ball, we pressed, we tried to play one vs. one. We wanted to take advantage of Dembele's pace and the first goal was an example of that. How we played without the ball was the key and, overall, it was a really complete performance."

Barca meet Sevilla again on Wednesday at Camp Nou in the second leg of their Copa del Rey semi-final. They trail 2-0 from the first leg.

"Of course we believe we can turn it around, but it will be a very different game," Koeman said. "The first thing is to show ambition. If we produce a complete performance, we have a chance."

(Agencies)

Miami ready for big-name signings, says Beckham

MIAMI

DAVID Beckham says Inter Miami are ready to make big-name signings as they prepare for their second season in Major League Soccer under new coach Phil Neville.

Speaking Saturday at an event to launch Miami's new jersey, Inter co-owner Beckham said the club saw home-grown talent as the cornerstone of the franchise's long-term success.

However he acknowledged that Inter remained in the hunt for big-name players, citing the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, who have both previously indicated interest in playing in MLS.

"I have said from day one that our academy system is a massive part of this club and if we can bring players through here that have lived and breathed Inter Miami then that is the goal," Beckham told AFP.

"But we also know that being in Miami, our fans want to see the big stars.

"We already have players like Gonzalo Higuain and Blaise Matuidi who add to the glitz and glamour but also going forward we want to have the opportunity to bring some great names

in."

Asked about Messi and Ronaldo, Beckham refused to rule out a move for either player.

"The player has to be right for the team, still have ambition and want to win," Beckham said.

"So whatever player we talk to, we have to make sure that is a priority.

"Of course, we always want to bring in great players. Miami is a great pull for anyone and those kinds of players (Messi and Ronaldo) are the kind we aspire to bring here."

Beckham said Miami's recruitment policy took inspiration from his former Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson.

"Sir Alex Ferguson was the master at choosing the right player, he didn't always bring the best player in the world, he brought the right player for the club and that is one of the things that I have taken into this place," he said.

Miami boss Neville has already added former Stoke City defender Ryan Shawcross to his squad as well as Brazilian midfielder Gregore while talks with West Bromwich Albion full-back Kieran Gibbs continue. **AFP**

Champions 'cease operations' as money problems dog Chinese football

BEIJING

CHINESE Super League champions Jiangsu FC have "ceased operations", the club said on Sunday, underlining the financial problems roiling football in the country.

Jiangsu, who won the domestic title for the first time just three months ago, are owned by the conglomerate Suning -- which also owns Italian giants Inter Milan.

The demise of Jiangsu, until recently known as Jiangsu Suning, could be followed in the coming days by the closure of fellow CSL side Tianjin Teda.

Chinese football has in recent years gained a reputation for lavish spending on foreign players and coaches, as the country pushed to become a world leader in the sport.

Jiangsu brought in ex-England coach Fabio Capello and signed Brazilians Alex Teixeira and Ramires for 50 million euros and 28 million euros respectively.

In the summer of 2019 they came close to capturing Real Madrid superstar Gareth Bale.

AFP

Granada keep upsetting odds in Europa League



Granada have played more matches this season than anyone else in Europe. (Agencies)

BY SID LOWE, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

DIEGO Martinez's daughter was asleep when her dad made history at the home of Diego Maradona. She would have to wait until the morning to be told what he and his players had done, how it went, the whole heroic story: how every time they fell, they got up again and how by the end of it they were still standing somehow. Not just standing: advancing. How in their first ever season in Europe, Granada eliminated Napoli to reach the last 16 of the Europa League, where they will play Norwegian side Molde.

"A brutal exercise in survival," Martinez called it. No one in Europe has played more games than Granada this season and in Italy bodies broke down before their eyes. The first man fell in the warm-up, Darwin Machis unable to start the game. The second fell soon after, Maxime Gonalons unable to go on. Then the third, Carlos Neva departing in tears. Twice they were momentarily down to ten. And then came the fourth man down, German Sanchez making way after 55 minutes.

It wasn't just that. The men who came on weren't supposed to play: Roberto Soldado, Jesus Vallejo and Yangel Herrera weren't really fit. They had decided not to risk Herrera when Gonalons made way; when German did, they had no real choice. Vallejo hadn't even been training with his teammates in the build-up to the game but joined them during it. And Luis Milla and Luis Suarez -- both vital, both injured -- were not included in the squad.

Oh, and they had trailed after just three minutes.

"It was like something out of Hitchcock film," Martinez told Spanish radio afterwards. "Pull back the shower curtain and ..."

But Angel Montoro scored the header that made history, levelling the score and leaving Napoli needing four goals, and then Granada had resisted. It wasn't always pretty -- Gennaro Gattuso complained that "if an Italian team behaved like they did, they next day it would be front page all over Europe" -- and goalkeeper Rui Silva had to rescue his team too, but despite facing 22 shots they conceded just one more goal, going through 3-2 on aggregate.

"In terms of bad luck, I don't think I've ever seen a game where four players have had to go off," Montoro said. It was a defeat but Granada had won the tie and, asked how it tasted, he replied: "delicious."

Writing in the city's newspaper Ideal, Rafael Lamelas witnessed a "heavenly Granada, resisting endless adversity to reach Eden ... the anguish seemed infinite, but at last the referee brought the battle to a close and liberated Granada's spent heroes. If you don't believe that, watch the last-16 draw [Friday]. This team has earned an eternal ovation, valiantly defying Jupiter, Maradona and whoever else stands before them."

Back at the team hotel, tension easing now, Martinez could laugh: "It's

better this way."

It is also what they do; what he does, and what all of them do. Nothing's easy, and nor should it be. Granada have never won anything in 89 years. They were in the second division two years ago, in Spain's semi-professional, regionalised segunda division b with its (then) 80 teams 11 years ago, and in the 360-team tercera division as recently as 2006. Now look at them.

When Martinez took over at Granada in 2018, they were in the second division and he was only 37. A Galician who had graduated in sports science at Granada University, he had been working towards this, and more, for almost two decades, getting his first job in tercera division at 25. He had been C-team, B-team and youth-team coach as well as Unai Emery's assistant at Sevilla FC -- it is easy to imagine the next step on his career path being a return to the Sanchez Pizjuan -- and took Osasuna to within a point of the playoffs for promotion to the first division.

He joined a club that was restructuring after relegation and crisis. They had gone down at the end of a season in which they'd been through too many players and too many managers, a team -- if that was the word, and it wasn't really -- without an identity or anything that could really be defined as a collective purpose. The club was too big, they admit: too many of the resources had been focused on areas outside of football.

Martinez was part of a culture shift and in his first season with Granada he brought them up to the first division. In his first season in the top flight, he led them to within a late Yuri Berchiche goal from the Copa del Rey final. He also took them to European football for the first time in their history.

And that's where it got really difficult. Their budget is a tenth the size of Real Madrid's. Coronavirus left them without fans and income. There were concerns they might not be able to deal with three competitions: they had just seen Espanyol play Europa League football and get relegated. They hadn't expected to qualify for European football, and they might not be ready. In fact, they hadn't qualified for European football, not yet. They would have to get through three preliminary rounds still.

"It came sooner than we imagined;

we had to 'run,'" admits Antonio Fernandez Monterrubio, the director general. "Only a couple of players had European experience. European football made us change the original idea and seek to deepen the squad." But what if they did not make it? That, Monterrubio admits, "was a real risk, financially."

They sought variety, offering Martinez different options, without being assured of getting through. They might have ended up with a squad that was too big, difficult to manage. As it turns out, at times the squad has appeared maybe even too small, despite making three of the summer's outstanding signings: Suarez, Milla and Jorge Molina. Against Malmo, Granada got through.

The difficulties didn't end there, not least because they got through. Because they got through in the Copa del Rey too. There have been injuries -- more than 20 of them now -- and a COVID outbreak that saw them briefly field an illegible lineup against Real Sociedad, their pleas to postpone the game rejected by the league. "A lot of our players are not used to playing two games a week," Soldado admitted just before Christmas. There have also been more games than anyone else in Europe:

- Twenty-four in the league.
- Five in the cup, finally knocked out when Barcelona scored two in the last two minutes to take it into extra-time. And even then they fought back to equalise again.
- Eight in the Europa League.
- And three European qualifiers, including trips to Albania and Georgia.

On Thursday night, at the place where Maradona was legend, they guaranteed there will be at least two more in Europe alone, the journey continuing. "You saw the spirit this team has; it never surrenders and always believes," Antonio Puertas said. "We suffered but we always compete," Molina added.

He and Soldado, 38 and 35 respectively, are a brilliant example of that. Watching them at Segunda B Navalcarnero recently was the perfect illustration. Two players with long careers, who have played at better clubs than this -- in theory -- and made more

money than they do now, facing a tiny team in a small ground on an astro-turf pitch, playing as if it was Madrid or Barcelona, battling for every ball, crashing into every challenge.

Martinez says that after that game Molina's back was "screwed"; three days later he was playing again. He also says that one day Soldado was clocked at 33.7km, joking that the measurement must be wrong. Enthusiasm goes a long way.

"I don't think I have ever enjoyed football as much as I do now," Soldado says. "And I think more of the team now than I ever did before. We're a humble club but a team with the ambition to be big, despite being small. I've been at clubs where I have won games because of the talent there is; here I win games because of the commitment there is, and you can't buy that."

But you can build it. "Granada have soul," Martinez says, and that more than anything else is what he wants, what he has sought to nurture. Methodical, adaptable and charismatic, the youngest coach in the first division, he has built a tactically rich team -- "chameleonic," as they say at the club. Above all, he has built an environment in which his players perform, where the demands are intense but where there's a collective enthusiasm, a joy in playing, which players insist is genuinely different. One that is paying off spectacularly.

"He's close to the squad, that's the thing that most stands out. We understand him perfectly," Soldado says of Martinez. "And one of the best things about him is that he listens: he likes us to tell him how we feel about things, which makes him better. He makes us all better players. He has a great career ahead of him."

"He's the perfect coach for this club, he has the perfect team for what he wants. I could be here all night talking about him," Montoro said after knocking out Napoli, but it was already late and they were empty now. Another job done, it was time for them to sleep too.

In an interview with Ideal not long ago, Martinez admitted that he sometimes feels like he tells his daughter: "I'm your father. Diego Martinez, Granada manager, but also your father." Her dad, the man who's making history even if this time she wasn't awake to see it.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Granada keep upsetting odds in Europa League

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Dar pugilists selected for Olympic team

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

BOXERS Alex Isendi and Michael Changarawe have been given the opportunity to represent Tanzania at the Tokyo Olympic Games, slated to be held from July 23 to August 8 2021.

The boxers are awaiting the position of the Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) to determine whether they will participate in the Olympic Games without featuring in the qualifiers or otherwise.

Isendi and Changarawe are among the 16 national team boxers who are participating in the open camp in Dar es Salaam to prepare for the Olympics.

The OBFT secretary general, Lukeo Wililo, stated it is likely that the Olympics' qualifying tournament, set for May in France, will be canceled due to the COVID-19 challenge.

The OBFT boss noted: "The potential for boxers, who do not meet the standards, is to participate in their ranks, with Tanzania's Isendi and Changarawe being among the 50 best boxers in the world in their weight divisions."

"Therefore, if the Olympics' qualifiers in Paris are canceled, then the two will be in the list of boxers who will compete in this year's Olympics in their weight divisions," he disclosed.

However, the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has also mentioned the boxers should be given a big chance to go to the competition to find standards, if the qualifiers will be held.

"TOC will only pay for two boxers in the qualifying tournament, which in any case are Isendi and Changarawe who are the only ones in the country who did well in the African tournament in Dakar, Senegal," TOC Secretary General, Filbert Bayi, noted.

He said in judo the procedure will be the same when it comes to looking for standards.

So far athletes Failuna Abdi and Alphonse Simbu have qualified to represent the country at the Olympic Games, which will start on July 23 in Japan.

Other athletes still continue to practice for the Olympic qualifiers.



Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman (R) trades blows with JKT Club's Boniface Mlingwa in one of this year's National Boxing Championship's fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packers venue in Dar es Salaam recently. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Kili Marathon 2021 takes Moshi by storm as locals dominate



This year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon's men's category winner, Tanzanian Augustino Sulle, jubilates after completing the 42km race, which took place in Moshi yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Guardian Reporter

THOUSANDS of local and foreign runners yesterday flocked Moshi town in Kilimanjaro to take part in this year's Kilimanjaro Marathon that saw local runners steal the show in all major races.

Augustino Sulle, aged 23, won the men's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's 42km race (full marathon) after he clocked at 02:18:04 to finish first in the prestigious event that was braced with a clear vision of iced Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro. The rest of nine winners were Tanzanians as well.

"I trained hard and prepared well to make sure that this time I make my country proud after years of Kenyans' dominance in the full marathon," Sulle, who recently triumphed in Toronto Marathon in Canada, recording 2:07:45, noted.

He beat several other top professional athletes who took part in the country's premier marathon that will next year be celebrating two decades since its inception in 2003.

Michael Sanga and Charles Sule, who clocked 2:19:21 and 02:20:54, ended second and third respectively.

In the women's 42km event, Tanzanian Jackline Sakilu, aged 33, won the title with a timing of 02:45:44. Other winners from second to ninth were Tanzanians except the 10th position which went to Kremer Dominic of Netherlands.

"I feel happy to win the major title this time, I lastly won the half marathon in 2014, it's a milestone for me," Jackline noted.

"The race was good and I'm happy with its organization for the security of runners from the start, during the race (in all routes) and to the finish line," she stated.

She noted: "It actually gave me a good platform to support my preparations for 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games."

The race's sponsors are Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (42km event), Tigo Tanzania (21km) and energetic drink, Grand Malt that sponsors 5km Fun Run for people of all ages.

Others are water table sponsors-Unilever Tanzania, Simba Cement, TPC Sugar, Kilimanjaro International Leather Company Limited, Kibo Palace Hotel and official suppliers include Garda World Security, Keys Hotel and CMC Automobile.

In men's 21km event, Ugandan Abel Chebet won the title after clocking 01:03:17, followed by Tanzanians Gabriel Geay, Emmanuel Giniki and Calvin Sarakikya, who ended second, third and fourth.

The trio posted 01:03:18, 01:03:31 and 01:04:12, respectively. The rest of the winners were Tanzanians.

The women's 21km race was an all-Tanzanian affair as Failuna Matanga won at 01:16:17, followed by Angelina Tsere (01:17:43) and Anastazia Dolomongo (01:18:12).

Hundreds of runners also took part in the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run which was led by the Deputy Minister for Information, Culture and Sports, Abdallah Ulega.

Speaking before the prize giving at Ushirika College ground, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's brand manager, Irene Mutiganzi, said that it has been a privilege for her brand, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager sponsoring the event in two race categories, the main race and the 5-km race through Grand Malt. She hailed up the winners, participants, organisers and coordinators for the beautiful race ever.

"The massive winning of the Tan-

zanian runners shows that they have prepared well for the event, I congratulate all the winners," she said.

She was also impressed by a magnitude number of participants from more than 55 countries, making the race as the among the greatest, not only in Tanzania, but African continent.

She said that her brands made a huge effort to promote the race and through their so-called "Twenzetu" campaign, they boarded a train from Dar es Salaam to Moshi specifically to create awareness through advertisements.

Angelina Pasha, who is the Head of Tigo Pesa Unit, also congratulated the participants for running in the foothills and down of Africa's highest mountain, adding that Tigo has since 2015 been sponsoring the race and will continue to do that.

And in support of environmental conservation, she said that her firm created an awareness to plant trees in Hai district through the so-called Tigo Green for Kili-One Step One Tree.

Delivering his speech to the participants who were treated to several entertainment, Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Abdallah Ulega, thanked all the sponsors, participants, including the organisers, Kilimanjaro Marathon Company and coordinators, Executive Solutions for making the race possible.

He said that the government has been giving Kilimanjaro Marathon a big priority because of its importance to promote athletes and tourism through sports tourism as foreign runners take part and view Mount Kilimanjaro that yesterday came out in full glory with no cloud.

He said the race has also been boasting Kilimanjaro region's economy as hotels, food vendors and transportation sector do business before, during and after colourful climax.

The winners in all races pocketed millions of cash prizes from race sponsors and went home with medals. Kenyans dominated last year's event in full marathon events in both men and women disciplines.

The event is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Ngorongoro Titans cruise to 2021 TCA T20 Super League semi-finals

By Guardian Reporter

NGORONGORO Titans have inched closer to clinching this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Reliance T20 Super League, making it to the tournament's final by commanding six-wicket victory over Kilimanjaro Aces in the semi-final, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The tie, termed as Qualifier, brought together the show-down's squads which took the top two positions once the round robin stage climaxed.

Kilimanjaro Aces had led the rest of pack in the group stage, thanks to having notched victory in three outings they had taken part in.

Second-placed Ngorongoro Titans had two taken part in three fixtures, notching victory in one clash, one loss and the remaining game was adjudged to be no result.

In the yesterday match, Kilimanjaro Aces cricketers started to bat, scoring 87 runs for seven wickets in 20 overs, with Nassor Zahoro and Ally Mpeka putting good knocks.

Opener Arshaan Jasani posted 14 runs in a relatively short spell, his stint at the crease was brought to an end by Ngorongoro Titans' Arsalan Premji that had run the former out.

They had faced blow given two top order performers,



Ngorongoro Titans' all-rounder, Nasibu Kelvin, helped his side sail through to this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Reliance T20 Super League final, clobbering Kilimanjaro Aces by six wickets in the showpiece's last four clash, played in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACES CRICKET CLUB

opener Baraka Robert and skipper Kassim Nassoro, succumbed to early exits that effectively weakened their efforts to end with an imposing score.

Both Robert and Nassoro were Ngorongoro Titans' medium pacer Goodluck Andrew's victims, as he saw to it the former are kept in check. Zahoro and Mpeka later showcased their batting prowess and consequently helped their club somewhat regain confidence, posting 20 runs and 23 runs not out respectively.

In Mpeka's innings, he had a six, Nassor cracked a four. With the side's three key performers, Moham-

med Yunus, Athuman Siwa and Mohammad Ali, succumbing to quick dismissal, the team's efforts to notch an imposing score ultimately hit snag.

Ngorongoro Titans' Andrew and Aahil Jasani finished with two wickets apiece. The bowlers gave away 12 runs in their four-over spells.

With a modest target of 88 runs in their sight Ngorongoro Titans smoothly got down to successful chase for four wickets in 18.1 overs.

Openers Nasibu Kelvin Mapunda and Abhik Patwa saw to it their club get off to an impressive start, notch-

ing 20 runs and 14 runs respectively.

Premji, deployed at number three, helped the squad amass more runs, posting 19 runs.

Seif Athuman's early exit did little to weaken Ngorongoro Titans' resolve, given Aahil Jasani and the experienced Ashish Kamania later won the clash for the squad.

Jasani recorded four runs not out and Kamania scored 10 runs not out.

Mohammed Yunus ended with two wickets in four overs in what was the clash's eventual losers' unsuccessful attempt to keep Ngorongoro Titans in check. Despite crashing out of the semi-final, Kilimanjaro Aces were presented with an on opportunity to play in the second semi-final with an outfit that was to post victory in a knockout clash, termed as an Eliminator.

The Eliminator, bringing together outfits which ended third and fourth in the group stage, was slated for tReliance Insurance are main sponsors for the tournament, which is organized by the national cricket governing body in a bid to boost cricket promotion at the domestic level.

The show-down's co-sponsors are Sayona Drinks Ltd, Unity Computers, Sterling, Pepsi, Harab Motors and G Security.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

