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Govt says Dart to be duplicated upcountry

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to modernise commuter bus services by rolling out Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in major regional capitals, namely Mwanza, Arusha, Tanga, Mbeya and Dodoma.

Ummy Mwalimu, the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) portfolio holder, unveiled the plan yesterday in the capital, addressing reporters on successes and challenges of local governments during the 60 years of

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The Guardian Ltd (TGL) print manager Balasubramanian Venkadachalam (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday taking Hossein Alvand Bahineh (4th-R), Interim Ambassador of Iran to Tanzania, through the basics of newspaper production. The envoy was on a familiarisation tour of TGL, publishers of The Guardian and Nipashe dailies. Others include TGL director Joyce Luhanga (to the envoy's left), commercial director Ajay Goyal (2nd-R), and human resources manager Emmanuel Matondo (L, foreground). Photo: Selemani Mpochni

Iran touts technology, seeks closer media ties

By Getrude Mbago

THE Iranian government has promised to continue strengthening its relations with Tanzania in various aspects including trade, investments, agriculture and mining.

Ambassador Hossein Alvandi, acting head of mission of the Iranian embassy in Dar es Salaam made this affirmation yesterday in remarks to media executives during a diplomatic visit to IPP Ltd and its media outlets.

"We see this as a big potential to continue forging our bilateral relations. Tanzania was among the first countries to establish relations with us after the Islamic Revolution, so we recognize its value and count Tanzania

as our true friend and we are keen to increase our level of cooperation with this country," he declared.

Over 150m doses of vaccines have been imported. Iran has also produced 20m doses locally for vaccinating its people

On the media, the envoy said Iran has vast media outlets which include 88 newspapers, 11 news agencies and more than 100 television stations, underlining that the media are a vital tool "in promoting peace and development of any nation."

"Living in a world which is much dependent on information, the media play an essential role to feed the public with accurate information that constructs a society and not disrupt it," he explained. As the world now mostly relies on the internet to get information, the media should invest in such platforms and continue informing the public accurately and truthfully, he further stated.

He commended IPP Media outlets for professionalism in being accurate in delivering the news, emphasizing that Iran respects human rights despite having various challenges.

"We have invested in women and children and we see women are very active there doing a lot to bring development to

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UNCDF imparts to districts, cities skills in bond issuance

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A NEW initiative has been brought up by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) where it is working with Treasury and PO-RALG to train municipal and district councils to tackle the problem of limited funding as local authorities face challenges in addressing critical urban infrastructure and services.

Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella (pictured) yesterday opened a UNCDF organized technical workshop and symposium on the issuance of municipal bonds, after the Ministry of Finance and Planning as well as the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) accepted the offer of assistance in building skills towards this fiscal initiative.

UNCDF seeks to jump start the use of untapped alternative financing to help local governments meet objectives as

articulated in the third phase of the country's five years development plan.

The workshop was geared to build the capacity of various teams at the national and local level for the bond issuance initiative, which has often been floated by experts and failed to take off.

RC Mongella pointed out that cities, municipalities and water authorities that are financially strong are encouraged to pursue municipal revenue bonds as a source of finance for income generating development projects.

"This will provide a relief to the central government and focus the use of development grants more towards social services," he stated

He commended UNCDF and its national municipal bond task force partners for supporting government efforts regarding the Financial Sector Development Master Plan 2020/21 - 2029/2030, where municipal bonds are among key financing options for national development.

Peter Malika, head of UNCDF in Tanzania and global manager for the UNCDF local finance initiative facility outlined the use of municipal revenue bonds as a local financing instrument and the incorporation of green climate resilient elements including the water infrastructure.

The mechanism is a game changer in the

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Govt projects 3,800 villages power connection late 2022

By Francis Kajubi

ALL the remaining 3,800 villages will be connected to electricity supply under the ongoing Rural Energy Agency (REA-III) Phase II project by the end of next year the government has reaffirmed.

REA director general Hassan Seif told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the project initiated in 2007 through the Rural Energy Act No 8 of 2005 has so far seen over 60 percent of villages having access to electricity.

So far 750,000 households had been connected to electricity by end of June this year, up from 716,847 connected by June last year, he said, underlining that the government is well prepared to pursue the



exercise, covering all areas and households, to stimulate individual incomes and development generally.

The implementation of the REA project has seen the country increasing access to power to 69.6 percent of villages in June 2020, up from two percent when the project started in 2007. So, all the remaining villages are covered with the ongoing phase, he stated.

In the intervening period, electronic device manufacturing industries in the country have increased from four to 39, thus providing employment opportunities to youth and women, he said.

The agency had up to June last year installed 13,700 transformers, connected

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Umy Nderiananga (3rd-R, in pink headscarf), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities), and Finland's Ambassador to Tanzania, Jacqueline Mahon (4th-L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday officiating at the launch of this year's edition of the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' campaign. The thrust of the initiative is on protesting violence against persons with disabilities running under the catchphrase: 'My Choice is My Right'. Second left is Anna Kulaya, National Coordinator of the Tanzania Chapter of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), a pan-African women's rights network dedicated to promoting and strengthening strategies that link law and development with a view to boosting women's participation in and influence at the community, national, region and international levels. Story on Page 7. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

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government financing mix towards development initiatives, he asserted, explaining the UNCDF realistic approach towards local government budgeting.

"We recognize the mismatch between national budgets, rapid urbanization and increased demand

for critical services such as water, transport, waste management, health and education, putting more pressure to cities, municipalities and emerging secondary cities 'ability to serve the people,' he stated.

The three days event attracted over 85 public servants from ministries, government agencies and the private sector, especially

the Treasury, PO-RALG, capital markets, the central bank and water authorities.

Capital market actors like brokers and dealers, commercial banks and audit firms were also involved, he said.

There was a training session for the first batch of officials of city authorities like Dodoma, Dar es

Salaam, Arusha, Mbeya, Mwanza and Tanga to sharpen capacities to engage in the bond issuance process.

Others were capital market actors and those selected to constitute a strategic national municipal bonds task force, holding their first meeting with envisages fast-tracking of implementation of the plan, the manager added.



Kenyan East African Cooperation and Regional Development minister Adan Mohamed (L) has a quick word with Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) and Ugandan Internal Affairs minister Kahinda Otaiire during the 41st meeting of the East African Community's Council of Ministers held in Arusha on Monday. Mohamed is the council's current chairman. Photo courtesy of EAC

'Tourism sector remains stable amid Covid-19'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE country's tourism industry remained stable amid the outbreak of Covid-19, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Mary Masanja has said.

Masanja said this yesterday here when addressing reporters in Dodoma on her ministry's 60 years after Tanganyika independence while outlining several challenges facing the ministry during the period. She said that the government has strengthened the sector by effectively overseeing the implementation of strategies to promote various tourist attractions.

Masanja said the attractions include wildlife sanctuaries, waterfalls, mountains, natural

forests, culture, beaches and archeology.

She said the tourism industry is of great importance in the economic growth and development of the general public in various countries including Tanzania.

In addition, she said the increase in the number of tourists and revenue is one of the proud achievements due to the government's efforts to develop and strengthen the promotion of tourist attractions in the country.

"The number of tourists entering the country from various countries in the world has increased from 9,847 in 1960 to 1,527,230 tourists in 2019.

"There was also an increase in tourist revenue for example in 1995 revenue was US \$ 259.44 million where it continued to increase

to US\$ 2.6 billion in 2019 prior to Covid-19," she said.

She also said that due to the government's efforts in tackling Covid-19 the number of tourists has started to increase from 620,867 tourists in 2020 to 716,169 in October this year.

Masanja also said that Tanzania is endowed with wildlife reserves, forests and bees, a heritage that contributes significantly to environmental conservation, human well-being, and economic growth.

She further said that the analysis is based on the conservation of ecosystems that meet environmental, social and cultural requirements, nationally, regionally and internationally.

In addition, she said Natural Resources areas provide water

services for various uses wildlife habitats and other species, pollination, soil conservation, carbon dioxide thus reducing the impact of climate change.

"Natural resources, heritage, and tourism are among the economic sectors in the country that make a significant contribution to GDP and promote the well-being of the people through employment, food, medicine, and building materials," she said.

According to her, the sector provides raw materials for the leather processing industry, cosmetic processing, and wildlife processing and builds international unity so this sector, if managed properly, will make a significant contribution to the country's economic growth especially in the coming years.

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independence.

Commuter services provided by the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport (DART) have brought positive results for commuters, reducing travel time for longer destinations from three hours to around 45 minutes.

DART has brought great benefits to commuters in the city of Dar es Salaam, uplifting economic wellbeing of DART users by prompt arrival to work destinations, she stated, highlighting the problem of congestion of passengers in the buses, "but on the whole DART has brought positive changes in the city's commuter services."

"In our study we found out that passengers using DART rose from 76,000 per day when the services began in May 2016 to over 200,000 by 2018," the minister noted.

"In rapid urban transport services Tanzania is doing well compared to many countries," she said, citing Egypt, South Africa and Nigeria, highlighting that Dar es Salaam has a comparably big number of commuters per day.

The Dart project has contributed to building the city's outlook, receiving awards from various countries as well as visitors who came to study this mass transportation experience, she stated, noting further that local experts had now come up with a robust collection of transport sector municipal incomes, from 127.7m/- in 2008/2009 to 11.2bn/- by August this year.

DART was an improvement from the old UDA as DART reflects increased commuters needs, meanwhile as private commuter services continue, she said, alluding to the formation of a national transportation authority supervising modern commuter services in urban areas. This will follow enactment of a new law to improve commuter services in urban areas, she stated.

"We want through this law to apply

the bus rapid transit system in Dar es Salaam in other cities," she affirmed, specifying that the ministry was still studying "the entire process on how to establish that authority," before putting a bill to the legislature for endorsement.

The minister was stern in her remarks on teachers and medical staff wishing for transfers, saying it will be more difficult for civil servants to be transferred from rural to urban areas. Those wishing to relocate from cities to villages will be promptly facilitated, she declared.

"It is true that relocation of a public servant is a legal right, but due to the current situation it will be difficult to transfer civil servants from rural stations to cities until the government makes arrangements for staff in all areas," the minister explained.

Data currently shows that those who want to relocate from village to town were 80 percent of all transfer requests. "We cannot continue to allow this to go on, the situation is not good," she emphasised, noting also that a contractual arrangement is being worked out to motivate employees to locate in rural settings.

The government has invested much effort to improve the environment in rural areas, where it has ended building rooms to house teachers and now focuses on self-contained units with a bedroom and sitting room, kitchen and toilet facilities.

Teachers should not take up other assignments like chairing village governments once they arrive in their areas of work, the minister intoned.



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35,253.43 kilometers of low voltage lines, another 38,296.56 kilometers of medium voltage lines thus connecting 716, 847 consumers at a budget of 2.66trn/-, he elaborated.

Several small energy access projects have been implemented to support the main REA projects, like the generation of power from stand-alone solar PV (photovoltaic) systems and from biomass (plants, wood and waste). About 21 such projects were implemented, with 13 being mini-hydro projects, seven welding solar energy and a biomass system in Mafia Island.

"At least 725 biomass production facilities have been supplied to 134 villages, wards and streets reaching 29,000 consumers. The outcome is improved social services in health, education and business in rural areas," he explained.

With such improvements, 7,735 education institutions have been connected to electricity, along with 19,667 entities doing business, 3,400 water pumping machines and 4,002

health facilities in rural habitats.

Styden Rwebangila, the Energy ministry assistant commissioner for electricity development, said that in line with promoting clean energy through the project, a 50MW of geothermal project has been approved, while investors are expected to develop geothermal, wind and solar power projects of 145MW total capacity.

The REA project started with first connecting village centers by supplying key infrastructures, followed by connecting households. The demand is higher than what was planned for some regions where a big number of people show interest in being connected, he said.

The ministry is going on with sensitizing campaigns in villages where power supply has reached as some residents don't show interest in being connected, he stated.

The Rural Energy Master Plan being finalised will enable 75 percent access to electricity by 2025 and 100 percent access by 2030, the commissioner added.

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the society. The world should do much more to promote the rights of women and children," he said.

On Covid-19, the envoy said Iran like any other country across the globe has been affected much by the pandemic and has taken several measures to protect its people, noting that so far 65 percent of Iranians have been vaccinated twice for Covid-19 and 85 percent have received a single dose.

"Over 150m doses of vaccines have been imported. Iran has also produced 20m doses locally for vaccinating its people," he stated.

Joyce Luhanga, director of The Guardian Limited commended the envoy for visiting the newspaper group, promising to continue forging relations with the embassy.

"We are happy to host you here," she affirmed, pointing at media group effort to feed the people Tanzania and others across the world with accurate information that brings positive impacts in society.

Considering that information is power, the company will continue investing in a variety of outlets to ensure that the public is informed through various print and online platforms, the director added



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Coordination, Labour, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), pictured in Mbeya city on Monday presenting a laptop to Commission for Mediation and Arbitration director Shanes Nungu to help boost efficiency in the Workers Compensation Fund offices there. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

JK calls on the UDSM community to get vaccinated against Covid-19

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

UNIVERSITY of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) Chancellor, Dr. Jakaya Kikwete has instructed all the principals of the university's colleges to encourage their staff and students to get vaccinated against COVID-19 vaccine.

Speaking yesterday during the thirteenth graduation ceremony of the Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE), Dr. Kikwete said that as the world struggles for the fourth wave of COVID-19, it was important for all Tanzanians to get vaccinated against the disease.

At the graduation, a total of 1,707 students graduated in masters, postgraduate and undergraduate degrees whereas 1,014 were males, equivalent to 59.4 percent and 693 females (40.6 percent) of all graduates.

"We have had the first, second, third and now the fourth wave of coronavirus and all the expertise from world scientists is directing us for immunization, not only to merely washing our hands with soap and water, wearing masks and using hand sanitizers but also to get vaccinated," he said and added that the pandemic will not be eradicated unless all get vaccinated.

He said all major infectious diseases in the world including pandemics get eliminated by vaccination that is when all every one comes up for vaccination.

Dr Kikwete appealed to the University management including professors, senior lecturers and lecturers should lead by example, they should be at the front line to

get the COVID-19 vaccine, so that other could follow suit.

He also warned people not to ignore the COVID-19 vaccine as the disease is a persistent one, it started with the first, second, third and now the fourth wave.

For his part, MUCE Principal Prof Esther Dungumaro, said she had received the order from the Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Dr. Jakaya Kikwete to make sure they persuade all staff, students and the community around them to get vaccinated.

She said that Mkwawa Health Centre is among few centres in Iringa region that provides immunization against coronavirus infections, so they are going to tirelessly encourage local executive officers around the college to work together to persuade staff, students and communities to get vaccinated.

In another development, Iringa Urban Member of Parliament Jesca Msambatawangu told MUCE 2021 graduates that there was no way that all of them could be hired due to constrained job vacancies.

She said that graduates should use the knowledge gained to solve various challenges they face in society.

Dr Msambatawangu said that MUCE produces many science and mathematics teachers every year, while many secondary schools in the country are in short of science and mathematics teachers.

She urged them to use the opportunity to start tuition classes in those subjects and others to improve academic performance in those schools.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Majaliwa to grace 3rd local content forum

THE Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to grace the third local content conference to be held in Dar es Salaam on 13th and 14th December, 2021, the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has said.

Addressing a press conference here, NEEC's Executive Secretary, Bengi Issa, said at least 500 participants are likely to attend the conference aimed at encouraging Tanzanian individuals and companies to participate in strategic development projects in the country.

The conference with the theme "Enable Tanzanians Participation"

draw delegates from government ministries and institutions, private sector institutions, research and educational institutions, civil society organizations, small, medium and large enterprises, investors, development partners, ambassadors, financial institutions and non-governmental organizations.

She said while officiating the opening of the conference, the prime minister will address the public, highlighting opportunities for local participation and challenges that

might hinder them.

At the event, participants who have tremendously contributed in moving the local content further will be recognized.

The executive secretary noted that the aim of the conference is to help increase awareness among stakeholders on successes and opportunities available in the strategic projects in the country.

Another aim is to help come up with common cooperation strategies on knowledge exchange on success and challenges in implementing

local content.

The meeting, she said will also provide opportunity for stakeholders to share recommendations with the government, contractors and private sector on what need to be done to enable Tanzanians participate fully in development projects.

"The conference will also provide opportunity for private sector to meet with different institutions and contractors working on strategic projects," she said adding that it will also be a platform to identify various institutions working on local

content.

Talking about the already realized achievements in local participation, she said at least 50,000 youths have been employed on local content participation.

However, Bengi cited some challenges in local participation in strategic development such as mindset and lack of innovation among youths engaged in the projects. She noted that while 65 percent of those engaged in local content are youths, they are not proactive enough to learn new skills

and technology needed in the field.

The NEEC boss, however added that many locals are increasingly participating in development, stating that a total of 1200 local companies have got contracts in big projects in the country.

But she pointed out that they face some obstacles as far as service provision is concerned as most of them do not have locally available raw material, which in one way or the other help boosting national economy.

She said only those in the building and construction sectors have materials available locally but those dealing with machinery must import them from outside the country.



New CEO Creditinfo Tanzania Limited
Press Release
London, UK.
30th November 2021

Edwin Urasa appointed new CEO of Creditinfo Tanzania Limited



The Board of Directors of Creditinfo Tanzania Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Edwin Urasa as new CEO and Executive Director of Creditinfo Tanzania effective 01st November 2021. He is replacing Mr. Van Reynders whose tenure ended in April 2021.

Edwin brings 10 years of progressive experience from the local banking industry having spent significant time around credit and risk management, recently before joining he was responsible for the Retail and Micro-SME segment at NBC Bank as Head of Retail Credit.

"I am especially excited to join Creditinfo Tanzania, which has been in operation for the last 9 years and has over the years continued to grow rapidly enabling small to large organizations effectively manage risk and support the government and banking community, in enabling responsible lending in Tanzania. I am looking forward to expanding the companies' product portfolio and services through application of best practices while collaborating with global colleagues in the over 30 markets Creditinfo is present in".

"We are very excited to have Edwin Urasa join us as the new Creditinfo Tanzania CEO. With his vast knowledge and experience in the Tanzanian banking and credit industry, we have no doubt that he will lead Creditinfo Tanzania to greater heights and move the company's journey forward in pushing our innovative solutions to the Tanzania market as well as pushing one of our core pillars – financial literacy, to the public at large", says Paul Randall, CEO of Creditinfo Group.

Edwin holds a Bachelor's degree in commerce (Hons), Majoring in Finance from the University of Dar es Salaam, an MBA from Edinburgh Business School at Heriot-Watt University-UK and has also several certifications namely, a Mortgage advisor (CeMAP)-UK, Modules in Commercial Credit from Moody's Analytics-USA, and Risk Management from City University -UK.

On behalf of the Board, and the Creditinfo Team I wish to thank Van Reynders, the outgoing country manager, for the gains the company has made under his leadership. I also wish to take this opportunity to assure Edwin that as he embarks on his new role, he will always be assured of our maximum support.

Israel Kamuzora
Board Chairman,
Creditinfo Tanzania Limited

About Creditinfo

Established in 1997 and headquartered in London, UK, Creditinfo is a provider of credit information and risk management solutions worldwide. As one of the fastest growing companies in its field, Creditinfo facilitates access to finance, through intelligent information, software and analytics solutions. With more than 30 credit bureaus running today, Creditinfo has the largest global presence in the field of credit risk management, with a significantly greater footprint than competitors. For decades it has provided business information, risk management and credit bureau solutions to some of the largest, lenders, governments and central banks globally – all with the aim of increasing financial inclusion and generating economic growth by allowing credit access for SMEs and individuals.

For more information, please visit www.creditinfo.co.tz

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INVITATION FOR BIDS TO PROVIDE SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF BUHINGU WARD FARMERS' FEDERATION TO SUSTAIN FARMERS OPERATIONS AND ENHANCE CONSERVATION SMART AGRICULTURE

1.0 Background

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Pathfinder International (PI) in Tanzania are jointly implementing an integrated Program known as Tuungane which addresses Population, Health and Environment (PHE). Agriculture which forms the main livelihood activity on the terrestrial environment has been blamed for the increasing siltation of Lake Tanganyika through unsustainable farming practices. To reduce the soil sediments that have adverse effect to the lake fisheries productivity, Tuungane program aims at supporting smallholder farmers in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME) in improving their agricultural practices through adoption of conservation agriculture/Climate Smart Agriculture.

For more than 5 years, Tuungane program has been conducting trainings on Conservation Smart Agriculture. Some of the outcomes of the trainings include an average improvement in maize yields by 35% and reduction of the number of farmers farming close to Lake Tanganyika, rivers by 40%, and hence reducing the quantities of sediments directly entering the water bodies. Because farmers are getting more crop yields per unit area than it was before they received the trainings, some of their farms have been left to fallow for 2 to 4 years. This measure has allowed the fallowed farmland to undergo natural regeneration which reverses climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity.

To make farmers organized, Tuungane program facilitated the formation of 4 farmers' groups in Buhingu ward which joined together into a ward level federation (Jumuia ya Wakulima Kata ya Buhingu - JUWAKABU). The program aims at strengthening the capacity of the federation in 5 strategic aspects (developing a strategy for sustainable financial resources mobilization; networking with Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs), technical and business services providers; mandating the adoption of Conservation Smart Agriculture for all its members; organizing its members for collective selling of crops to major buyers; and forming more groups of farmers and strengthening their capacities to operate).

During the first phase, members of the farmers' federation were trained in the following:

- i) Development of a participatory constitution detailing groups' functions, good governance, group's dos & don'ts with due penalties, conflicts and conflicts' resolutions, and continuous capacity building.
- ii) Community based financial services through COCOBA, SACCOS, etc.

- iii) Business/commercial farming, forecasting, planning, budgeting, keeping farm records, calculating profit and loss.
- iv) Agricultural marketing and market access.
- v) Appropriate use of agricultural inputs.
- vi) Contract farming and business agreements.

Tuungane program is therefore seeking to engage a consultant with skills and experience to strengthen capacity of the farmers' federation so that it can be able to sustain farmers operations and enhance Conservation Smart Agriculture in Buhingu ward.

2. Consultancy Services

The following is the list of needed consultancy services:

- i) Build capacity of the farmers' federation to develop a strategy for sustainable financial resources mobilization.
- ii) Strengthen capacity of the federation to network with Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs), technical and business services providers.
- iii) Strengthen capacity of the federation to mandate the adoption of Conservation Smart Agriculture for all its members.
- iv) Strengthen capacity of the federation to organize its members for collective selling of crops to major buyers.
- v) Build capacity of the federation to form more groups of farmers and strengthen their capacities to operate.

3.0 Eligibility Criteria

Eligible consultants should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Minimum of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, B.A. in Community Development, or equivalent.
- Have an experience of at least 3 years in training farmers' groups and associations and provision of agricultural extension services (attach list of completed similar assignments and CV of key personnel).

4.0 Application procedures

Interested organizations or individuals with technical skills and appropriate experiences on the above-mentioned assignment are warmly welcome to submit their electronic Technical Proposals which include a well Itemized Financial Budget and activity time schedule on or before **15th December 2021** by email to: hshilinde@tnc.org. Also attach legal business documents as per Government requirements (License, registration, and TIN/VAT number). Please, note that all application received after the deadline will not be honored.



Coca-Cola Tanzania brand manager Kabula Nshimo (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend speaking during the unveiling of the firm's philosophy and the Real Magic brand platform in the country. She said the brand would take consumers on an exciting countrywide journey. Right is the firm's franchise senior manager, Hellen Masumba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Livestock minister declines to inaugurate donkey meat plant

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Masimba Ndaki declined to officially inaugurate the Fanghua donkey meat processing plant for export located at Ibadakuli in Shinyanga Municipality.

This was during his inspection visit at the factory to see whether the owners thereof had abided by the government conditions given

last August.

Ndaki said since the conditions given had not been met, he couldn't inaugurate the factory until such time the conditions are met.

"When we opened the factory's construction, the government gave a condition to owners to establish a donkey ranch, provide donkey keepers production contracts and to import the animals from China for cross breeding, and that they should never buy them from the people, the practice that would

endanger their populations," said the Minister.

He added: "Since there hasn't been any implementation of the conditions, I will not inaugurate the factory until such time the conditions are met."

He also called on local investors to abide by the country's laws and other procedures, it should not be seen that they are being subjected to some humiliation from the government, adding "the government does not want to

eradicate the

For his part, the donkey plant manager Jiaozhili Ing said they have done many renovations to the factory and that is why they called in the government to inaugurate it.

He said as for now they have already established a 33-acre donkey ranch in Kishapu District and have started keeping for donkey production and so far there is a total of 20 animals, and promised to deal with the other conditions given.

Kili govt closes down liquor factory in Rombo District

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

THE Government in Kilimanjaro Region has suspended the production of 'Babana' liquor produced by TANBASI Investment in Rombo district for not meeting quality levels demanded by Tanzania Bureau of standards (TBS). This was revealed here yesterday by Kilimanjaro regional Commissioner, Stephen Kagaigai, soon after receiving report from TBS experts that showed results from the liquor sample taken for examination showing it was unfit for human consumption as it contained high level of aseptic acid.

The RC said the liquor is among the informal alcoholic drinks that greatly contribute to loss of the national labour force in Rombo area, increase of criminal activities and marriages conflicts.

"When I came to this region I was told by religious leaders that Rombo District has numerous liquor making factories producing poor quality alcoholic drinks that affect the health of users including death.

"So I made a special visit to these factories and personally took away sample for laboratory examination, and whose results are that the banana liquor is not fit for human consumption," he said.

For his part, TBS Northern Zone Manager Happy Kanyeka said from the sample submitted the TANBASI factory showed that the liquor does not meet the required quality standard for human consumption.

"The liquor will from hence not be sold until after TBS makes an in-depth examination, we shall also look into the entire production process and will take more samples, and the factory will only be opened after TBS gets satisfied with the liquor's quality standard," she said.

"We shall also visit all other factories producing similarly type of liquor in Kilimanjaro region and neighbouring regions to determine whether they also meet the required quality standards," added TBS Manager Happy.

Some of Rombo District residents, speaking to this paper said by phone, including Deogratius Tarimo, said the step taken to take liquor samples for examination will help in bringing changes to the liquor production in the District.

"As for now many of our youth are engaged in drinking sprees resulting in criminal activity including murder, marriages' conflicts and we are asking the government to close down all liquor factories in Rombo District," he said.

Union, Z'bar livestock sectors chart development strategies

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

LIVESTOCK sectors of the Union and Zanzibar Governments, through their Permanent Secretaries have met to chart strategies to develop the sectors for livestock keepers of both sides and seven resolutions have been endorsed.

The resolutions were reached on Monday this week in Chakechake District, Pemba at a meeting that brought together Permanent Secretaries - Amosy Zephania, Acting Permanent Secretary from Tanzania Ministry of Livestock and fisheries and his Zanzibar counterpart, Ms Maryam Juma Sadallah.

Officially opening the meeting, Amosy Zephania thanked the Zanzibar Livestock sector for the good preparation of the meeting that was preceded by a one-day meeting of the sectors' experts.

Zephania further said by continuing collaboration through meetings and the implementation of the endorsed resolutions, the livestock sectors will make great strides to economically benefit the people of both sides of the Union.

He stressed that it would be better for experts from the livestock sectors of the two governments to continue working together closely through exchange of experience and reducing, or completely eliminating all challenges facing Tanzania livestock keepers.

For her part, Zanzibar ministry of Livestock and Fisheries permanent secretary, Maryam Juma Sadallah, welcoming her Mainland counterpart, thanked Tanzania's Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries by continuing collaborating with them including further meetings as had been agreed.

She also praised the team of livestock sectors experts from both sides of the Union for implementing the resolutions of the sitting of June 4 2021 at TVA hall in Dar es Salaam.

She also called on the experts to work together in their work plans so it becomes easy to assist each other, and cited the example of the infrastructure construction projects earmarked for Zanzibar from USD 60 million funding by Hungary.

For his part, Hakim Vuai Shein, the Sponsoring Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural resources and Livestock from Pemba praised the team of experts for implementing various solutions, saying it was the expectation of many that challenges facing the sectors are addressed.

Among the resolutions include the existence of special agreement in research and training intuitions, production of livestock especially hybrid cows whereby the Zanzibar government will provide 1,000 doses for Zanzibar livestock keepers, and assessing the value chain on livestock and their products.



Staff with law firm Clyde & Co. Tanzania take part in an environmental cleanliness drive along Dar es Salaam's Ocean Road/Baraka Obama beach at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TMDA to begin testing cigarettes

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices (TMDA) will soon start testing cigarettes in its specialized laboratory in Dodoma in an effort to reduce its effects to human health risks.

TMDA eastern zone senior legal officer, Donesta Simon said this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at the meeting between executives from the Temeke district commissioner's office and executive directors. The forum provided a platform for TMDA to provide directives

"We will conduct post market surveillance to measure acceptable standards in the manufacture of cigarettes, there will be laboratory specifically for testing cigarettes to ensure we reduce harm and protect public health," Donesta said.

She noted that since April 30, this year when the authority was given mandate from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, it has started with notification of traders and manufacturers of tobacco products.

"Our inspection is aimed at controlling

the importation and registration of tobacco products. We will check if the smoking areas are set aside. It should be noted that the authorities do not allow the use of smokeless tobacco including snuff and shisha, so we require manufacturers to submit information so that they can be identified," she said.

She stressed that the law directs tobacco products not to be used, including snuff. Authorities continue to remind that the use of smokeless tobacco (snuff) and the sale of it to children is a criminal offense under the Act.

TMDA eastern zone manager Adonis Bitegeko said the regulatory action plan from July 01, 2021 to January 01, 2022 wants all manufacturers, distributors and importers of tobacco products to be registered and recognized by the authorities.

He said through the government notice (GN 360) announcement of tobacco products control, TMDA is responsible for ensuring that tobacco products available in the market for use are identified.

"We expect the inspectors will monitor the safety and quality of the products in their areas to ensure that products sold or

delivered to health facilities are safe and registered with the authorities to minimize the effects of the products, to protect public health," he said.

Temeke District Administrative Secretary Bupe Mwakibete on behalf of her district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo directed the district officials to work with TMDA in educating traders and consumers of tobacco products, including shisha, to adhere to the rules set by the use of these products.

"You (appointed inspectors) should make sure you professionally carry out your assigned role, the goal is to ensure that no unwanted medicines, medical devices and tobacco products to protect the public from possible harm from the use of these products," said the DC.

Temeke district medical officer Gwamaka Mwalulambo said: "Municipality is the administrator of health services in our districts; we have been assigned by TMDA to see how we will carry out our activities effectively."

In every quarter of the year we inspect and remove all banned medicines and medical devices from the market."

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), at least eight million people lost lives due to tobacco-related deaths each year, of which 1.2 million deaths are due to passive smoking.

Mwanza drug firm due to manufacture sanitary pads, register seven medicines

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

MWANZA-BASED Prince Pharmaceuticals Company Limited plans to produce sanitary pads and register seven medicines next year, making a total number of medicines produced by the company to be 35.

Firm's quality assistant manager, Fred Kilamya revealed this when briefing the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Geoffrey Mwambe on the company's performance who visited the company recently.

Kilamya noted that currently company is producing 28 medicines for human use and one type of glucose and have been registered by Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA).

He mentioned the medicines as ointment, cream, dry powder, topical preparations, syrup and suspension, noting that company is also planning to produce oral solids in the year 2024.

"We expect to increase number of products we produce from the current 28 to over 45 by the 2025 and this is only possible after we start production of oral solids," he said.

He stated that presence of the company has brought notable success to Mwanza region and the entire nation as it has helped to offer practical training to different university students in the country.

He suggested for all raw and packaging materials with permits from TMDA to be handled by the authority at the time of importation as it is responsible for management of medicine industries unlike now when importers have to go to many institutions in the process.

"We thank the government for having policy to support industrialization," he said, urging government institutions to give first priority to products made in the country at the time of procurement.

He said that owing to that move company has succeeded to get 10 tendering for supply of medicines from medical stores department (MSD) that have helped to increase employment opportunities and raise national revenue.

"We appeal to government to waive Value Added Tax (VAT) to all raw materials available in the country used to manufacture medicines when manufacturers buy them, he said.

Environmentalists call for adoption of WLABs management concept to deal with pollution

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

ENVIRONMENTAL stakeholders have called upon the Government to adopt Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) concept of Waste Lead-Acid Batteries (WLABs) management as stipulated in the Bamako Convention.

Tanzania is one of the twenty four African countries that have to date ratified the Bamako Convention came into force in 1998 that prohibits the importation of any hazardous (including radioactive) waste into Africa.

Speaking during a stakeholders' workshop on ERP on Waste Lead-Acid Batteries (WLABs) management organised by the Pure Earth organisation in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Gideon Chilambo the Managing Director Electrical and Waste Management, Sales and Services of computers noted that the improper disposal of waste lead acid batteries poses huge health and environmental risks to the country.

Chilambo noted that telecommunication companies in the country are the biggest producers of waste lead acid batteries especially used at the telecommunications masts / towers.

"Waste lead acid batteries are imported in the country, but we do not have the capacity to manage their waste. As a country, we do not have the capacity to dispose of these kinds of wastes and the paperwork to return them to respective manufactures in Europe and other Asia countries is cumbersome. Worse still, the budget needed to export this kind of waste is so big," he said.

He noted that his company that is situated in Kisarawe Industrial park in Pwani Region presently has 80 tonnes of waste lithium batteries at its yard adding that exporting one tonne of such waste requires around 500 Euros (13.3m/-) per tonne.

"The worst part is that these waste lithium batteries are highly flammable if exposed to high temperatures. This not only puts the risks to those engaged in the waste management process but also puts the lives of the general public at

stake," he added.

Chilambo urged the government to put in place laws that ensure that importers of electronic devices including waste lead acid batteries are held responsible for waste management when usage time for such devices lapses.

"The government needs to intensify security at the entry points that include airports and ports to ensure proper documentation of all electronic devices that enter the Tanzanian market and ensure that importers play their due diligence in waste management of such devices," he added.

He noted that the ERP concept if adopted by Tanzania would help secure the country from the long run effects of environmental pollution.

National Environment Management Council (NEMC) Enforcement Manager Jamal Baruti noted that the Environmental Management (Control and Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste) regulations gazette 388 on May 14, 2021 this year addresses the issue of electrical and electronic waste.

"The regulation ensures that management and disposal of electronic devices from individual to company level is already in place. We will closely work with all the relevant authorities including the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) and Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to ensure compliance of the regulation," he added.

Dr. Daniel Sabai, Senior Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam said the ERP concept ensures that producers of marketed products are responsible for any adverse impacts related to the environment, population of the workers' health and safety for the users of the products. "For hazardous materials, producers and suppliers must set up safe environmentally sound collection schemes, ensure safe recycling and pay a financial penalty for failing to comply," he said.

He noted that importers should be responsible for ensuring that electrolyte is not dumped into the environment.



Baraka Ladislaus (3rd-R), NMB Bank Plc's Lake Victoria zone manager, pictured in Mwanza city on Tuesday presenting Derrick Kazindaki (in cap) a motorcycle for winning the seventh weekly draw of Phase Two of the bank's ongoing 'Bonge la mpanzo' deposit mobilisation campaign. The initiative is meant to make the public appreciate the importance of having savings. The bank has set aside over 200m/- in prizes for the purpose. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

National Museum to renovate 50 archeological sites, says DG

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Museum of Tanzania is set to renovate 50 archeological sites in the country including those located in Dar es Salaam as part of executing its five-year (2021-2026) strategy.

NMT director general, Dr Noel Lwoga said this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at one-day workshop that involved stakeholders in antiquities.

The forum was meant to set various plans and strategies for the conservation and development of the Dar es Salaam archeological sites, in collaboration with NMT stakeholders, to come up with the

best way to resolve conflicts that arise in the archeological sites in Dar es Salaam and come up with common understanding on the importance of preserving, developing, promoting tourism in Dar es Salaam, as well as highlighting the opportunities available within archeological sites.

It was also meant to provide a platform for stakeholders to come up with a Task Force for the Management, promoting and development of Archeological Tourism in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Luoga said NMT will prepare and implement 50 Specific Heritage Management Plans including Dar es Salaam, promoting and establishing 25 museums and registrations, as

well as developing and conducting 240 community awareness programs and cultural tourism.

He added: "We will also encourage conservation stakeholders and 50 Local Governments to participate in conservation, sustainable use of archeology, organizing 50 concerts for the expansion of archeological tourism products including Dar es Salaam and attracting visitors to extend their stay in the country."

He added that the National Museum also plans to establish and manage national, regional and international partnerships in the fields of conservation, research, exhibitions and programs.

"We will also identify projects in

the archeology field including those for Dar es Salaam, seek resources and encourage stakeholders to invest in such projects," he said.

According to him, the National Museum plans to continue to encourage various people to visit archeological sites by developing a marketing plan through publishing of leaflets, write oral articles and organize programs through the media.

He said the main purpose of the broadcasting drive is to attract tourists to visit places of archaeological interest, provide education to the community and encourage citizens to invest in those areas.



Energy minister January Makamba (R) has an audience in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Mitsubishi (Tanzania) general manager Kenji Nishizaki (3rd-R) in Dar es Salaam, the focus being on investments in the country's energy sector yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR'S First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman and US Agency for International Development (USAID) /Tanzania Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri has presented US\$1,052,564.82 in grants from the US government to 14 youth organisations.

Implemented in the Iringa, Mbeya, and Zanzibar regions, USAID Advancing Youth supports rural youth; aged 15-35, to engage in agribusiness and other rural value chains and increase their economic opportunities while promoting leadership and healthy lifestyles.

Zanzibar 1st VP, USAID hand over grants to Isles youth organisations

USAID Mission Director, Kate Somvongsiri, noted: "The US government is committed to supporting Tanzania's youth and both the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the Government of Tanzania to achieve Vision 2020 and Vision 2025, which aim to uplift Tanzanian lives."

Zanzibar's First Vice President and USAID Mission Director met 45 Advancing Youth beneficiaries who demonstrated how they

process their products including yogurt, fruit jams, honey, foods, and moringa powder.

The beneficiaries of the grant include Cube Zanzibar, Aatif Aquaponics Limited, Empowerment of Marginalized Communities (E-MAC Tanzania), the Pemba Island Relief Organization (PIRO), Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC), Zanzibar Youth Care Organization (ZYCO), Entrepreneurship, Management,

and Development (IMED) Foundation and the Launchpad Limited.

Others are University of Iringa, Centre for Entrepreneurship, and Innovation (CEI) and its Kiota Innovation Hub, CV People Tanzania, Pamoja Youth Initiative (PYI), Seedspace, Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO) and Zanzibar Technology and Business Incubator (ZBTI).

Police: GBV a crime much like any others

By Guardian Reporter

THE Assistant Commissioner of Police in Manyara Region ACP Yahaya Athuman has warned the public that gender-based violence (GBV) is a crime like any other offense and called on the public to keep exposing those who commit the illegal incidents for further legal measures.

The ACP said this yesterday in Manyara during the commemoration of 16 days of activism against GBV that kicked off on 25 November and will run until 10 December, human rights day which is commemorated by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) with faith partner in the regions of Manyara, Lindi, Pwani and Kigoma. This year NCA and faith actors have joined resources with national stakeholders and government through the MKUKI initiative in hosting the national event in Manyara.

"GBV is an obstacle to social welfare and economic development, so no one should remain mum on this, everyone has responsibility to support the fight against," he said.

ACP Athuman said that more awareness programmes are needed to educate the society on the negatives of GBV.

NCA country director Paulina Parhiala said that there are many impacts of violence to the individual, but also to the community.

She noted that violence can lead to emotional trauma, physical and even death. Violence against women and children go universally

underreported and such violence undermines individuals' confidence; create physical disability, stigma and shame.

According to Parhiala, the victims of violence are often led to believe that it is their fault, so concerted efforts are needed to fight the vice.

"There are also numerous impacts, violence tears apart love and unity in community, breaks the trust and dismantles families and communities, there are also significant financial costs and economic impacts," she added.

In Tanzania, there are many reasons to continue speaking about gender-based violence. It continues to be a reality in the lives of women, girls, boys and men and particularly in the lives of people with disabilities.

"Today, we are calling for social transformation, this means process of change in our relationships, norms, values and hierarchies. Transformation requires that individuals alter what they think is socially acceptable behavior," she stressed.

Regina Mollel, community development officer from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children called on religious leaders to educate the community on the impacts of GBV.

This year's theme is "Orange the World: End violence against women now! The campaign is to build awareness to lead to accountability and to address the continuing impunity to gender-based violence.

Climate stakeholders introduce Swedish-based review platform

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

CLIMATE stakeholders have introduced the Swedish-based, "We don't have time" one of the largest social media climate review platform in the world.

In an interview in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Country coordinator Baraka Lengua said the main objective of "we don't have time" is to bring everybody together and talk about the rooming danger of climate change as well as find solutions to the climate change problem...hence we say "together we are the solution to the climate crisis"

He explained that one of the continents mostly affected by climate change is Africa. And this is unfortunate because Africa contributes just 3% of the global greenhouse gas emissions. For a long time the continent has not spoken with one voice as Africans, and as global citizens. Instead, it has always been left in the hands of political leaders play politics with the future of the children and future generations.

"When we bring people together, we believe we are that voice needed, we believe we can push our leaders to amplify that voice that can bring more solutions...because with all their time they hand in their disposal they have done too little, but it's time to push them to take action now," he said.

He further explained that by expanding to Tanzania, means brining more voices together, make people understand the danger of climate change, understand that what people are seeing today is not by accident but a result of years of inaction despite the warnings by environmentalists for years.

Like other countries, Tanzania has been paying the price of climate change too, irregular weather patterns, extreme weather conditions and many more have been a burden on the citizens of Tanzania.

"I believe coming here will be a major step in pushing the world leaders to understand that we really can't wait any longer as Africans, the right decisions should have been taken years ago," he said.

Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi, the African representative of "We don't have

time" from Kenya said the largest social platform was established by the CEO Ingmar Rentzog in 2016 in Stockholm Sweden and it has offices in Washington and Kenya.

"When you join the "we don't have time" platform, you will realize that thousands of organizations and world leaders are there, any idea that you write and post, someone is reading it, and they are ready to come in and support your idea," he said.

At we don't have time; our review is based on three pillars climate love, climate idea and climate warning. Climate love is aimed at recognizing individuals, governments and institutions that are doing something good to the environment. Climate idea is meant to identify various sustainable ideas and proposing them to governments and institutions with the aim of enabling or collecting ideas from the global citizens thus enabling everyone to be part of the solution to climate change. Climate warning is at identifying individuals, organizations, governments or institutions whose actions or inactions are causing more harm to the earth and asking them to correct their "environmental crimes"

The idea behind the name "We don't have time" was to warn the world that time was running out, that continued environmental pollution was now a disaster that was already affecting a greater part of the global population and thus the time to act was now.



I believe coming here will be a major step in pushing the world leaders to understand that we really can't wait any longer as Africans, the right decisions should have been taken years ago

SUA researcher scoops best prestigious award

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A senior researcher at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Prof Joseph Hella, has emerged among four agro-researchers who have been awarded 2021 Umma Lele prize for best research on gender award.

Others are Haki Pamuk and Michael Keenan from the Wageningen University and Stanley Karanja from the Alliance of Bioversity International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

Led by Prof Hella, the four emerged winners of the reputable prize after having successfully conducted a vibrant research titled 'Gender Roles and Climate - Smart Agricultural Practices: Evidence from Rural Tanzania'

The Umma Lele prize for best contributed paper on gender was established in 2009 by Dr. Umma Lele to encourage research on the changing roles of gender over the course of agricultural development and to support work that addresses ways to improve women's participation and involvement in agriculture, as well as ensuring that they receive their share of the returns.

"The prize is normally awarded for the best contributed paper that makes the greatest contribution to expanding the frontiers of research on gender and agriculture development," said Prof Hella.

Dwelling over the research, he said the paper studies the relationship between gender roles and the uptake to climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices by the smallholder farmers.

"To shed light on the issues, we

used an extensive baseline study collected at household level among 33 rural villages of Iringa District," he expressed.

He detailed, the research established that despite being a small contributor to climate change on a globe scale, Tanzania has already suffers its effects, whereby over 70 percent of natural disasters are estimated to be linked to climate change.

"In semi- arid of Iringa District changes in rainfall and temperature patterns as well as quantity of crop pests and diseases have already been noted," he unveiled.

According to him, the paper has fatherly unearthed that, farmer's resilience is not influenced by their gender alone, but by gender roles which dictate what is expected and acceptable for each sex and create gender- specific obstacles and needs.

"Although female - headed households generally have lower endowments than male- headed ones, they do not adopt significantly less CSA practices that the latter group," he informed.



In semi- arid of Iringa District changes in rainfall and temperature patterns as well as quantity of crop pests and diseases have already been noted



Muheza district commissioner Halima Bulembo inspects militia parade at a passing out ceremony held yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

PEOPLE living with HIV have been advised to get vaccinated against Covid-19 on claims that they in great danger once they contract the disease because of their low body immunity.

The advice was given here yesterday by Anathory, the Director of Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS), a Non-Governmental Organisation dealing on health issues during the commemoration of World HIV/ Aids day, adding that people living with HIV are in more great danger including death if they contract Covid-19.

He said THPS is implementing various projects on Tuberculosis (TB), Family Planning, under the sponsorship of US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

People living with HIV urged to get COVID-19 vaccination

(PEPFAR) and the US Agency for International development (USAID).

He further said some of the projects are sponsored by the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and the world fund against HIV/ Aids, TB and Malaria (Global Fund).

He added that the World AIDS Day commemoration to be held at the national level in Mbeya, THPS will provide education to the people on the importance of Covid-19 vaccination.

Anathory said his institution, in collaboration with the government has so far identified 86,000 people

living with HIV and has mobilised them to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

"We are also mobilising other people in general to get their health statuses examined against HIV, and those who will be found to have been infected will be incorporated in the use of antiretrovirals (ARVs).

He said in implementing its activities, THPS is working together with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the office of the President (regional Administration and Local Government).

A representative from the Prisons Department, George Anathory said THPS has been assisting them in educating the public on TB and inmates.

He said from the education provided, many inmates have been sensitized to have their health statuses examined and those found to have been infected they get incorporated in the use of ARVs.

For his part, the representative from Mbeya Region Police FFU Limwata Mganga said in addition to receiving education, THPS has also helped experts on HIV/Aids at their dispensary.



COURTING DISASTER: Correspondent Jumanne Juma captured this self-explanatory scene at Msongola in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam, at the weekend.

KCU members decry multiple coffee prices

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

KAGERA Cooperative Union (KCU) has decry over multiple coffee charges, a situation which affects the progress of majority of farmers.

The cooperative has cited that one crop can have up to 38 charges, a situation that thwarts their development. KCU is a voluntary association of 125 primary societies, representing over 60,000 coffee farmers.

Members of the KCU board made the statement during the three-day training tour in Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Dar es Salaam regions.

KCU vice chairperson, Respicus John said that farmers face a lot of

charges including those from the Tanzania Coffee Board warehouses, clearing and forwarding and other areas.

He said being a new board, they have to learn how others do on the business, and more importantly, how can those charges be lowered, so as to enable farmers to benefit from the farming.

"In Tanga we met with the TCB export manager and here in Dar es Salaam, we are meeting with the Tanzania Coffee Board to learn the whole process of exporting the crop outside of the country and come to realize there are a lot of charges and levies which hurt farmers," he said.

"To have issued a radiation certificate to certify the product is excluded from radioactivity, it

costs 0.2 pc of the total loading per invoice, which grabs away 300,000/- to 600,000/- and leaves farmers in agony", said Respicus.

He appealed to the government to find best ways to lower the charges and levies from the grassroots level.

Anath Abdallah, board member said the charges taken by the government weaken the farmers, because the other levies are paid in District Councils and many other areas.

Another member Dr Bandihai Tefurukwa suggested the formation of a coffee policy so as to promote the crop efficiently.

Diana Fatukubonya, TCB-Dar es Salaam branch export manager commended the KCU team for visiting the board to learn and see

how they can increase coffee.

"We had a harmonious dialogue and we have agreed to have another session next year to discuss heavily on the issue of the charges," she said.

In promoting coffee in the country, KCU has also focused on increasing production. It has issued disease resistant seedlings to 354,894 farmers, which is equivalent to 46 percent of the demand, and the exercise was still ongoing.

The cooperative is also scheduled to visit the neighbouring-Uganda, a country which is said to be doing a commendable job to raise coffee farmers' standards and attract coffee traders.

In the 2020/2021 coffee season, KCU collected 20,000 tonnes of both Robusta and Arabica.

Expert calls on journalists to invest in GBV reporting

By **Grude Mbago**

MEDIA practitioners have been urged to invest heavily in unearthing and reporting on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in communities so as to help reduce the challenge in the country.

Speaking during a virtual stakeholder's conference last week, Internews senior trainer Alakok Mayombo said the media has a potential role to play in increasing awareness of GBV and helping society to change.

She said that the meeting, which was organised collaboratively with Internews Tanzania and the Transformative and Integrative Build Out for All (TIBA), aimed to recall and discuss the role of media in fighting GBV in the country.

She said the meeting was part of the commemoration of the 16 days of activism against gender based violence.

According to her, the media has a role to continue educating the public on the types of violence, their impacts so as to enable the public to take immediate measures when someone faces the challenge.

Malcela Lungu, director of the country's Transformative and Integrative Build Out for All (TIBA) hinted on the note that there are several violence acts which are yet to be unearthed and reported and that the media still has a big role to do so.

She stressed that the role of journalists is to be the instrument of change by writing or reporting on GBV issues helps people and authorities to make informed decisions about what is going on in their societies.

"We see that journalists have a very important role in raising awareness, so by using much of their efforts to unearth acts of harm will increase awareness to the public and thus enable them to act whenever they come across any kind of harm. The move will also facilitate authorities

to take tough decisions on the acts," she said.

She noted that there are several people in under-served communities who are starving of violence but they do not know what to do and where to go due to lack of accurate information and education.

She, however said that in order to accelerate the fight against violence, last year the organization implemented a project dubbed "Kijiwe Cha Kahawa" which aimed to increase male participation in the GBV war.

She said that the programme involved visiting various coffee hubs where usually men meet to, among others have cups of drinks, discuss and share views on various issues including violence and gender equality.

"Use of coffee hubs is the first approach being used in Tanzania and I am sure that it will transform men's perception about gender and will also produce male champions who will be in forefront campaigning for gender equality and fight against violence," she noted.

She said the programme reached 2,852 males and created 55 male champions who are still educating others on GBV issues as well as women empowerment. It also reached 2,750 women and girls.

Lungu further said that discrimination and violence was not only confined to women but children as well thus needed intensive efforts to fight it as it had adversely impacts to the community and the country as whole.

Musa Juma, a senior journalist from Arusha said the media has a big role to play in changing perception towards GBV in the country.

"We should all together, everyone in his/her position in newsrooms stand up, unearth and report violence acts, but also educate the public about GBV, and this is where we can help the nation overcome this challenge," he said.



Muheza traffic police commander Richard Muwe (L) makes a briefing yesterday on road traffic regulations to residents of the district who have just joined motorbike taxi business after getting district council loans with which they have bought motorcycles. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Ummy urges PwDs to actively take part in next year's census

By **Romana Mallya**

PEOPLE with disabilities have been urged to actively take part in the forthcoming Population and Housing Census (PHC) to enable the government come up with better plan on their demands.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth Employment and Persons with Disability, Ummy Nderiananga made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking during the national conference on gender-based violence against people with disabilities, especially women and girls.

She also urged PwDs to be confident that it can and will capitalize on opportunities including education so that one day it can produce the country's president.

She said: "President Samia Suluhu Hassan loves the group that's why she has given 8bn/- for the construction and renovation of four existing colleges for the disabled."

"We will build a new state-of-the-art college in Kasuru District in Kigoma Region and Mbozi District in Songwe Region.

Ummy said the presence of these colleges connecting with various projects will help provide education

and the group is doing well.

She suggested the need for collective efforts in combating violence against the group, "this would help build a cohesive society that respects equality and human rights."

During the conference the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Tanzania launched a US\$6,154,748 (14.2bn/-) programme, dubbed "Chaguo Langu Haki Yangu, My Choice My Rights" aimed to accelerate the fight against violence.

The programme also focuses in adolescent girls including people with disabilities by protecting and

maintaining their sexual rights.

Funded by the embassy of Finland, the three and a half year programme will focus on empowering young women and adolescent girls, including those living with disabilities, to uphold their right to live free from violence FGM and child marriage. It is being implemented by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF).

Jacqueline Mahon, UNFPA Representative in Tanzania said the project is a three-and-a-half year period to reach out to women and youth and all people with disabilities so that they can take action in their lives and enjoy their rights.



Magharibi Suzan Kunambi (R), district commissioner for Magharibi 'A' in Zanzibar, has a word yesterday with fishermen based at Mtoni. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By **Guardian Correspondent, Chemba**

WORLD Vision Tanzania continues providing expertise in the farming sector to residents in various rural areas in Dodoma region to ensure they engage themselves in profitable farming.

World Vision project manager, in collaboration with agriculture officers from the Agriculture ministry have provided the education to farmers of Sanzawa Ward in Chemba District, Dodoma Region.

Addressing reporters yesterday, Sanzawa Ward agriculture officer Salau Sumayi said they have been training on the better ways of seed planting and by providing them with quality seeds for cash crops.

World Vision provides expertise on profitable farming to villagers

"World Vision is assisting us a lot to elevate farmers in rural areas, in the past they used to farm large areas with little yield because they were not applying modern farming practices," said Sumayi and added that after such education they were now producing high crops yields of cash crops from the same farm areas.

He explained that many farmers have now become farming experts in their own right and now assist other farmers to practice modern

farming methods. For his part, World vision Project coordinator Joseph Kilimba said his institution was currently implementing various projects in Dodoma region to economically empower farmers.

He said among these projects include the one on Mother and Child, but also to assist in providing expert education to enable them farm profitably.

However, he said since they began implementing the project,

many farmers were now farming profitably.

He said they have also been providing farmers with quality seeds and on how to plant them for better crop yields.

Amina, a food crop farmer from Sanzawa Ward thanked world Vision for the assistance provided to them enabling them harvest more crops from their farms.

She said in Sanzawa Ward, famine was now past history as the residents have now adequate food stocks.

Using indigenous seeds to fight climate change

By **Guardian Correspondent, Karatu**

KARATU district commissioner (DC) Abbas Kayanda has urged smallholder farmers to use indigenous seeds as they are resilient to climate change.

DC Kayanda made the call over the weekend here when opening a three-day exhibition on indigenous seeds.

"Conservation agriculture is a kind of farming that protects the environment, so let us use this exhibition, as a learning area to know more especially for the use of native seeds," he said.

He, however said the state of food security in the district is stable as in the last season; they were able to produce 97,558.9 tonnes with the demand being 82,423.8 tonnes for the whole district, thus having surplus of more than 15,000 tonnes.

Chairman of small-scale farmer group networks in Arusha, (MVIWAARUSHA) John Safari, said the exhibition aims to build community awareness on farmers' seed system, ecological agricultural production and sustainable food system.

"To create a forum for farmers to express their views and suggestions, on issues affecting smallholder farmers in rural areas as well as build and strengthen relationships, between farmers and stakeholders who provide agricultural services and technology," he said.

He said through the sustainable agriculture project, which is being implemented for five years in Karatu District, through the principles of agricultural ecology production and promoting a sustainable food system for smallholder farmers, they have been able to bring together 700 people at the exhibition.

He said MVIWAARUSHA, IPD and RECODA, the organizers of the exhibition, are collaborating with other stakeholders including policymakers to sensitize the community about farmers' seed management and to encourage

policymakers and the central government to recognize indigenous seeds.

"We call on the government, the private sector, and other agricultural stakeholders to review the Seed Act of 2003, to identify and support the farmer-managed seed system in the legal system," he said, adding:

"There is a need to establish a unit to manage and support ecological agriculture and assist farmers in helping to conserve, improve, promote indigenous seeds and their access through community banks," he said.

He said in collaboration with other agricultural stakeholders, they are requesting continuous ecological training for agricultural professionals, extension officers and smallholder farmers, to strengthen research, disseminate research results in a language that is open to farmers.

Special Seats MP, Neema Lugangira, said indigenous seeds were in danger of extinct and it is important for the government in collaboration with stakeholders to have enough indigenous seed banks, to make it easier for farmers to access the seeds.

He said due to climate change, native seeds have become more resilient to the changes, so more education should be provided to the public on the importance of the seeds.

Assistant Director of Crop Promotion Agricultural Inputs and Cooperatives, Beatus Malema thanked the organizers, for bringing together farmers from various regions in the country and that it will increase awareness on the use of natural seeds.

"Let me make this clear, there has been a perception that the government despises indigenous seeds, it is not true, the government appreciates stakeholders efforts to support agriculture development, valuing native seeds is good and we will continue to maintain this," he added.

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City streets lacking resonance with 60 years of independence

ONE reason why streets are named after individuals, and at times other objects of renown, is that their memory should remain in the minds of the population, across generations. This is one area where the country needs to improve as we mark 60 years of independence, that the country's history, by simply memorising or recalling the names of key leaders, is on the verge of being wiped out clean. The only names from the 60 years of independence that we see are those of former presidents and in one or two cases, former prime ministers; the rest are cast into oblivion, remembered only by their families, tribes.

This gap in the country's collective memory is so massive that the matter needs to be put on the table in the Prime Minister's Office for a proper decision and a programme to carry out changes. It can't be left to city authorities, and especially local level leaders, to sort out as the same inhibitions that prevented the names of leaders, cultural icons to be seen remembered via street names will prevail. New streets in Sinza area for instance are named after a plethora of animals - any that one can think of, and even with repetitions - and an occasional musician whom the city elders had a reason to honour. Scarcely anyone else is remembered.

It is hard to say in what manner this habit developed among city authorities, but there are contributing factors which altogether point in the same

direction. At first there was a certain level of generosity for those who had played a role in municipal affairs (for instance wards at the Muhimbili National Hospital names after some major donors to its construction, reportedly). Streets were also named after community leaders and historical figures, especially in Old Town, namely Kisutu and Gerezani areas or say the breadth of Kariakoo and a portion of Magomeni. This spirit dried out later, just a few leaders being added.

There are landmark areas where people named the neighbourhood after respected elders, without the naming passing by a councillors' decision, like the patch of Sinza named after Ramadhani Ongala (Dr Remmy to the fans), Warioba area at Masaki, Musuguri patch at Kimara highway spot close towards Mbezi, etc.

What riles many is failing to see names of those who formed the independence cabinet especially, and some of those who came later, now consigned to oblivion as veterans of that period die out. It's getting late in rectifying this anomaly, and the PMO, PO-RALG and others need to sort this out soon.

One way to sort this out is that acknowledged national leaders have good mention in city streets while local leaders are given pride of place in outlying areas, etc. The list is long but if well administered young people would start thinking of who is who in the country's history, not Swala Street, Pofu Street, Ng'ombe Street and such like at present.

Combating AIDS has come a long way, since early '80s

WORLD AIDS Day, designated for December 1 each year since 1988, is an international memorial day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic. For years it was the major day of mourning on the international level after remembrance days of the two world wars, the atom bombs over Japan, the Jewish Holocaust and the Vietnam War, among others. Now there is the COVID-19 pandemic which has sent past mournful epochs into history, as the world buries hundreds, often thousands, each passing day.

World AIDS Day is one among a series of health related memorials, as health is a major aspect of human preoccupations, in like manner as peace and war, which together form the bulk of international memorial days. Both AIDS and COVID-19 are caused by viruses but of completely different morphologies in their manner of infection and attack on the body.

COVID-19 tends to be rapid and debilitating, but it can also mild and passing for a health or vaccinated individual. AIDS has eluded a vaccine, it is infected more elaborately than breathing close to an infected person, and once in, it is persistent and hard to treat.

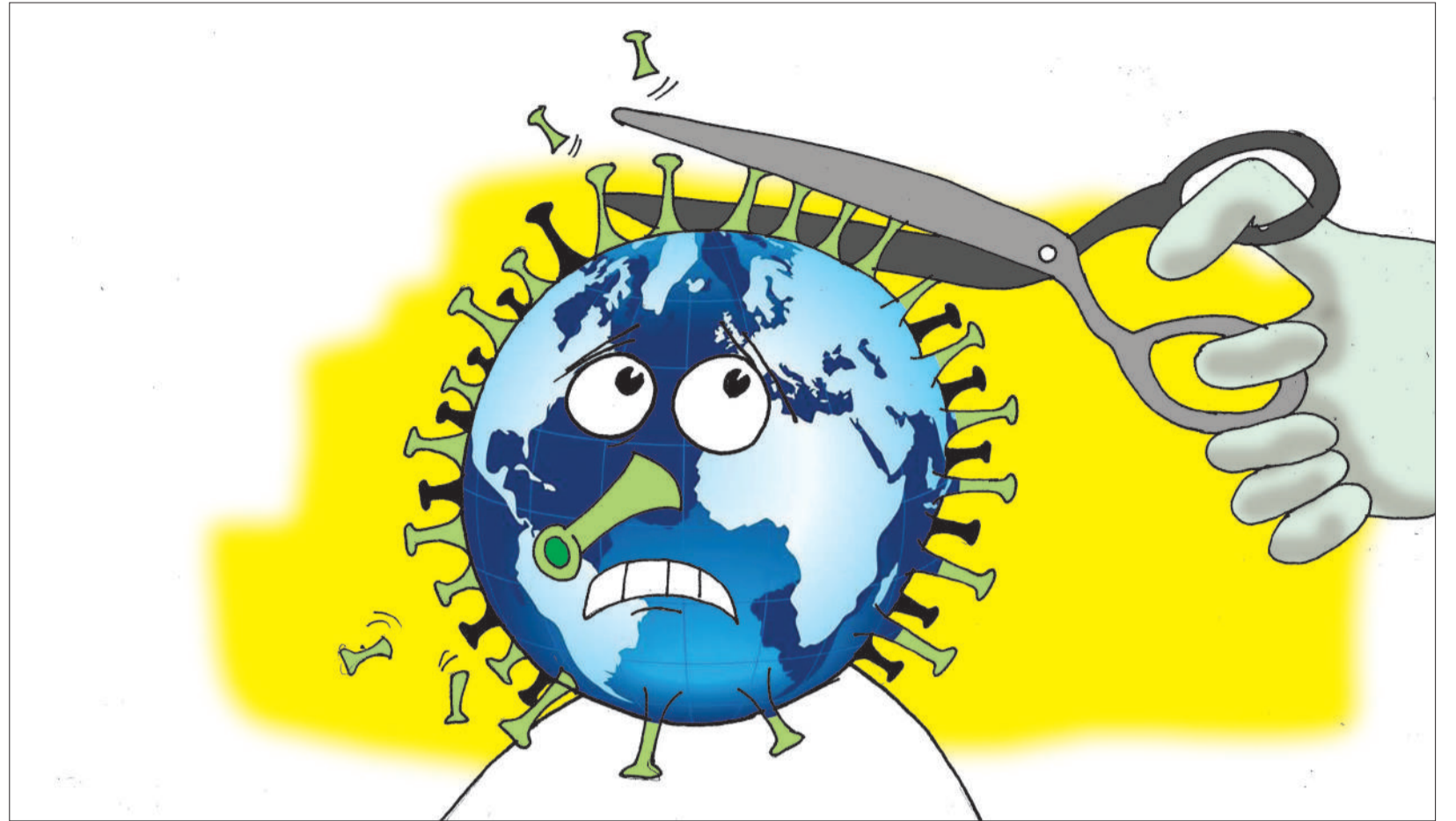
What was perhaps most debilitating about AIDS was the manner in which being infected occasioned a moment of judgment for all and sundry, reinforcing habits of bad mouthing and believing we know nearly everything about a person even when we don't. Intolerance rose to a high level

during this period, but social mechanisms being what they are, AIDS did not change human behaviour entirely, especially in relation to what political philosophy calls the right of 'the pursuit of happiness.'

Drugs to stabilise an infected person's condition took years to develop as the virus was retroviral, namely reworking itself when it meets a combating drug, neutralizing its effect and soon the victim relapses into suffering or dies. It has more or less become impossible to find a vaccine, as it is also the case with malaria, despite often captivating trials. AIDS is a disease the public has learnt to live with, despite that in large measure it has been neutralized in its most vicious effects. It has also had the somber quality of abandoning judgment and adopting compassion to victims, a new social attitude

Each year has seen a theme for the commemoration of the day, where in 2014 it was 'Close the Gap,' in terms of the number of those who know their health status or are on retrovirals, In 2015 it was

'On the Fast Track to End AIDS,' while in 2016 it was 'Hands up for #HIVprevention,' emphasizing the use of condoms, awareness among the young, etc. In 2017 the theme was 'My Health, My Right' while in 2018 the theme was remodeled as 'Know your Status.' In 2019 emphasis was put on community work, that 'Communities Make the Difference,' and last year the theme shifted to 'Global Solidarity Shared Responsibility,' seemingly aware of the new pandemic challenges.



With dialogue our wounds are healed

By Sonnie Ekwowusi

I have always been somewhat fascinated by the healing power of dialogue. A dialogue is a discussion or communication between two or more persons. Dialogue is a precondition for positive change in society. In contrast to dialogue, a discussion in which each party is unresponsive to what the others are saying is called a monologue, or, better still, a dialogue of the deaf. For words to have meaning they require response and rebuttal. From the perspective of therapy experience, silence kills, dialogue heals.

What we cannot deny is that the Nigerian people are always willing to take advantage of any opportunity to discuss how they want to live together as a people in one country. Call that opportunity whatever you like; the fact remains that it is an opening for the people to express their views about the goings on in the country. If democracy still means "government of the people by the people and for the people" then the Nigerian people must always have the final say in matters affecting their interests.

Since the representatives of the people exercise power on behalf of the people, they cannot impose their will on the people; rather they should also listen to the people to ascertain the best way of serving them. Therefore the will of the people in all cases ought to prevail. How should the leaders ensure that this happens? One of the ways is through dialogue. We can overcome hate through dialogue. We can overcome violence through dialogue. We can overcome nepotism and discrimination through dialogue.

Last Friday a delegation of respected Igbo leaders led by the First Republic parliamentarian and Minister Chief Mbazulike Amaechi had a fruitful dialogue with President Muhammadu Buhari at the State House to explore an amicable political solution to Nnamdi Kanu issues in order to nip in the bud IPOB violent secessionist threats as well as reconcile Kanu and all his estranged followers and sympathizers to the path of peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. Suffice it say that the August delegation included former Anambra State Governor Chief Chukwuemeka Ezeife, Methodist Church Bishop Sunday Onuora, former Aka-Ikenga President Chief Goddy Uwazurike. Present in the parley were some Igbo Ministers and some members of the President's cabinet excluding the Federal Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Abubakar Malami SAN. Speaking ex-tempore



We can overcome hate through dialogue. We can overcome violence through dialogue. We can overcome nepotism and discrimination through dialogue.

and with remarkable scholarship even at the age of 93, Amaechi first spoke about the difficult times in Nigeria: the "painful and pathetic" insecurity in the South East, about the possibility of releasing Kanu to him with the assurance that he (Amaechi) will get him to renounce his violent secessionist threats. Thereafter he paused and said to the President, "I don't want to leave this planet without peace returning to my country. I believe in one big, united Nigeria, a force in Africa. Mr. President, I want you to be remembered as a person who saw Nigeria burning, and you quenched the fire."

Evidently moved by Amaechi's presence of mind, age, and perhaps his charm, President Buhari put aside the prepared speech he was clutching in his right hand and was about to read to his guests. He cleared his voice, and, responded, inter alia, "You've made an extremely difficult demand on me as a leader of this country. The implication of your request is very serious. In the last six years, since I became President nobody would say I have confronted or interfered in the work of the Judiciary. God has spared you, and given you a clear head, at this age, with sharp memory. A lot of people half your age are confused already. But the demand you made is heavy. I will consider it."

The first thing I find impressive about the parley with the President is the recognition of Buhari, Amaechi and probably others present that we are all members of the same human family though tongue, political affiliation and political posts may differ. The understanding that this world is like a stage in which everyone of us acts his or her part and thereafter

leaves the stage for other actors. Perceiving nonagenarian Amaechi as one who has acted his own part and now about to leave the stage for other actors, President Buhari waxed philosophically and told Amaechi, "God had spared you, and given you a clear head at this age with very sharp memory." The second impressive thing, for me, is the closing words of the President, "I will consider it".

This is dialogue or the beginning of a dialogue even if later Mr. President, as some suspect, fails to keep his promise. This is the first time President Buhari is officially dialoguing on IPOB and Nnamdi Kanu issues. While the President is wont to dialogue with murderous Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, bandits, Miyetti Allah, he has refused to dialogue with/on Kanu and his followers. Instead of initiating dialogue with IPOB as he did with other murderous criminals operating in the country, Mr. President went ahead to proscribe IPOB.

And subsequently the military was dispatched to kill pro-Biafra peaceful demonstrators. Without holding a brief for IPOB, I find the killing of those IPOB peaceful demonstrators (just like the October 20 massacre of unarmed young demonstrators at the Lekki Toll Gate, Lagos) very barbaric and inexcusable. How can fully-armed soldiers be dispatched to kill defenceless civilians embarking on a peaceful rally? Look, what is sauce for the goose is equally sauce for the gander. If the federal government had extended the same hand of dialogue to IPOB as it did to the aforesaid criminal elements in the country, the IPOB mayhem and bloodshed probably would have been averted a long time ago. And

it is not that IPOB does not have a listening ear. Of course they do. The successful Anambra Governorship Election has shown that IPOB can listen to the voice of reason at the right time. Amid the sounds of boycott and disruption of Anambra Election spearheaded by IPOB, some ex-Anambra public office holders, traditional rulers and church leaders forged a common front and talked IPOB and other groups out of election boycott and disruption. Since then Anambra comparatively has remained peaceful. Those who had predicted that Anambra would be ignited with fire during and after the election are somewhat surprised that the state is back to reckoning as a peaceful state.

President Buhari has said that he does not want to leave office a failure. In other words, Buhari is conscious of his place in history. He wants history to judge him well. Grandpa Amaechi alluded to this when he told Buhari, "Mr. President, I want you to be remembered as a person who saw Nigeria burning, and you quenched the fire". Every man, every woman is answerable to his or her conscience. He or she may escape the judgment of a human tribunal but he or she cannot escape the pernicious and penetrating judgment of his or her conscience. Even though, externally, Mr. President may appear unperturbed on how the public assesses his performance, but deep down the recesses of his conscience it pains him that he is leaving behind a bruised, disorganized, disoriented and divided country. This is why Mr. President must initiate more dialogues especially the much-vaunted dialogue on restructuring of Nigeria. Silence kills, dialogue heals.

How to beat the pandemic? Collaborate fairly and do it now!

By WHO Director-General's Special Envoys for

COVID

Almost two years in, and the COVID inferno still burns. Several countries are witnessing a fifth wave of high transmission. Others are recording their highest daily case numbers since the pandemic began. Low- and middle-income countries - where vaccination rates are often very low - are seeing substantial numbers of deaths.

The trends are seen both in nations with adequate doses of vaccine, as well as in those with very tight supplies. Many of the latter are in Africa, where more than 97% of the population still haven't been immunized. These countries cannot get the vaccine they need because supply commitments from manufacturers are not coming through as planned. They can get vaccines to their people but simply do not have enough doses to meet the need

How did the world get here?

Insufficient preparation. Insufficient investment. Insufficient collaboration. Insufficient learning.

Outbreaks usually start without any warning. Preparedness and readiness within countries are essential for rapid responses. These responses must be supported by robust global collaboration that can function even amid inter-governmental tensions. Health systems must be able to detect emerging pathogens and offer rapid and robust responses wherever they are needed to prevent spread both within nations and across national borders.

Responses work best if built on collaboration, coordination and solidarity: all are essential when tackling global challenges. The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator shows what can be achieved if professionals from different nations are enabled and supported to act together to develop and share vaccines, treatments and diagnostics.

Now is the time to support the farsighted efforts of many member nations of the World Health Organization (WHO) as they work towards an international legally



binding agreement for preparing better responses to disease outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics. To consider the merits of a new agreement for pandemic preparedness and response, these nations have called for a Special Session of the World Health Assembly, starting on 29 November. The WHO Director-General has highlighted that the agreement should set out high-level principles to strengthen solidarity, equity, One Health and health for all.

So, what is preventing the authorities in low- and middle-income countries from achieving the target of 40% of their people fully -vaccinated by the end of 2021 - and 70% by the middle of 2022? High-income nations are forging ahead with offering booster doses to their people, and ensuring that they have plenty of vaccine stocks in reserve. They also offer donations to countries in need , but commitments are generally too haphazard to offer

consistent and predictable support for countries in need. Collaboration between nations is also inconsistent and not sustained. As the fires of the pandemic flare up, the quality and predictability of response are hampered by suspicion and competition.

Responses so far are suboptimal and millions of people are feeling so much distress and pain. In every country it is the poorest and most vulnerable people who bear the brunt of suffering related to COVID-19.

We see how vital it is to learn from what has happened in the last two years and, in the months and years to come, to implement actions that are evidence-based and equitable, when and where they are needed.

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outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics. To consider the merits of a new agreement for pandemic preparedness and response, these nations have called for a Special Session of the World Health Assembly, starting on 29 November. The WHO Director-General has highlighted that the agreement should set out high-level principles to strengthen solidarity, equity, One Health and health for all.

Such a step is vitally important. The pandemic is raging in many countries and needs concerted attention from decision-makers. NOW is the time to hit hard to prevent such an avoidable global tragedy occurring again. There is a growing chorus of support among countries and leaders that a legally-binding agreement is essential, and the sooner the better. We, the WHO Special Envoys for COVID-19, ask leaders to act together, spurred on by the suffering provoked by this pandemic, to prevent a sequel before political at-

ention lapses. This anticipated international agreement must be principled. It should be based on people having fair access to what they need for their health, for the viability of their economies and for them to realize their human rights.

And a universally-binding agreement that articulates a firmly agreed upon approach to equitable use and distribution of our resources is not only morally correct, it is also the right thing to do from a public health point of view.

As the WHO Special Envoys, we call on national leaders and the WHO to make the agreement happen and to do it effectively, rapidly and on a sound, durable financial footing. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to insulate the world from the next inferno of infectious disease and build forward with better mechanisms that protect all future generations.

Eradicate early marriages

Just how much gain is there in forcing your own child into a marriage that she's not prepared for apart from the fact that she is not ripe for matrimony?

Even if the female being forced into marriage was of age, in this day and era, arranged marriages should not exist. People have a right to choose who they would want to spend their lifetime with.

Forced marriages are many times than not a breeding ground for gender based violence and marriages of that have no happy ending.

It is not shocking that Police in Shiwang'andu have saved an 18-year-old grade II pupil from getting married to a 28-year-old teacher after she phoned the officers to report the matter.

The police have since arrested the victim's husband-to-be, her mother, her stepfather and grandmother.

The quartet was picked up on Saturday in Chibesakunda village of Chief Chibesakunda's chiefdom.

As unbelievable as it sounds for the poor young girl to have called cops on her own parents and her husband-to-be, matters of this nature have been the rise even when perpetrators have been punished with long jail sentences to send a warning message to others.

A lot of parents, especially in rural areas attribute these inhumane actions to traditions. The real truth, however, is that some parents marry off their children at an early age because of poverty and just greed sometimes. They see their poor young girls as a way of escaping hunger.

According to a World Vision report, Zambia has one of the highest child marriage rates in the world with 42 percent of women aged 20-24 years married by the age of 18.



Owing to the above facts, early child marriage has continued to affect development of our country directly or indirectly because most of these girls are pushed into marriages against their will after being withdrawn from school. Imagine a girl being forced to get marriage in Grade II. All the time she spent in school from primary stage, junior secondary and high school to end

up in an unhappy home. Research has also shown that early marriages also contribute to Health Risks: Child brides are more likely to suffer from depression and trauma due to abuse from their spouses or the way they are forced to grow up. Also, child marriage in Zambia is often correlated with pregnancy, which can lead to death for the mother or child because the

mother is not developmentally mature enough to carry a baby.

The risk of gender based violence is more likely to be experienced through domestic violence including physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Heavy punishment should continue being meted on those found wanting to deter potential perpetrators. Even though the vice of early marriages

continues, things could've been worse if the Government and cooperating partners had not already put in place measures to halt it.

The Government and its stakeholders should continue working hard to eradicate this vice and ensure that the problem is completely diminished by 2030 as declared in the recent past.

Agencies

CANBERRA, Australia

Struggle on for survival of greater Mekong's prized rosewood forests

The famed Rosewood forests of the Greater Mekong region in Southeast Asia produce dark, richly grained timbers zealously sought after worldwide by manufacturers of luxury furniture, flooring and musical instruments, among other products. But their high value has also made them a major commodity in transnational organized crime.

Now a strategic partnership of international and national government research organizations is leading an expert endeavour to ensure their survival.

"The Rosewood species are among the most valuable species in the world. They are worth tens of thousands of dollars per cubic metre, but because of illegal logging, they were almost wiped out in the Indochina landscapes," Riina Jalonen, a scientist working with the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, told IPS. The collaborative research-for-development initiative pursues research and innovative solutions to the major global challenges of land degradation, biodiversity loss and poverty around the world.

For the past three years, the Alliance has joined with national partners in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam as well as the University of Copenhagen and the Chinese Academy of Forestry to spearhead ways of conserving the genetic diversity of Rosewoods. The project, which is also working to support planting and restoration of Rosewood timbers and galvanize a strong reliable supply of seeds and seedlings, is led by the University of Oxford and funded by the Darwin Initiative in the United Kingdom

Chaloun Bountihiphnh at the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute in Vientiane, Lao PDR, has witnessed a turnaround in the fortune of the species since the project began in 2018. "The status of the Rosewood Dalbergia populations have improved and now cover more than 60 percent of their natural habitat, and a seed network has been established. And communities of the project have been strengthened in their awareness of the importance of Rosewoods and the additional income that they can get from seed collection," Bountihiphnh told IPS.

The Greater Mekong subregion, comprising the countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam and China, boasts immense biodiversity, including 20,000 plant species and 1,200 species of birds. The region's forests provide the natural habitats for wildlife, but also prevent soil erosion and landslides, create essential levels of atmospheric moisture and combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. And local communities, including many indigenous peoples, depend on the forests for shelter, sustenance, livelihoods and income.

But deforestation, driven by



Siamese Rosewood trees on a farmland in Lao PDR - Credit NAFRI, Laos

rapid population growth, expansion of infrastructure, agriculture and mining, as well as forest fires and illicit logging operations, has taken a



Collecting seed of Burmese Rosewood (Dalbergia oliveri) in Cambodia - Credit_IRD, Cambodia

heavy toll. Forest cover in the Greater Mekong declined by 5 percent, while in Cambodia alone it declined by 27 percent, from 1990-2015, reports the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The Rosewood conservation project has focussed on three specific species: Dalbergia cochinchinensis, also known as Siamese Rosewood, is in high demand by furniture makers. Dalbergia oliveri, or Burmese Rosewood with highly fragrant and with a pronounced grain, is popular for woodworking, and Dalbergia cultrata, also named Burma Blackwood, is a blackwood timber characterised by varied hues of burgundy.

The United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports that 8.3 million kilograms of illegally trafficked Rosewood was seized worldwide between 2005-2015. The top ten source countries included India, Thailand and Cambodia, and the main destination countries included China, Malaysia, Vietnam and the United States. This is also what makes regional collaboration so crucial for safeguarding the species.

"Illegal logging of primary forests has directly destroyed the mature trees and good quality mother trees which produce seeds for natural regeneration and silviculture," Bountihiphnh said.

The conservation project grew out of discussions with forestry experts in the Mekong countries, who highlighted the issues threatening the valuable timber forests. The

Alliance first conducted conservation assessments of the species to analyse and identify the specific threats and conservation needs.

Then, in partnership with Cambodia's Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Lao's National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute and the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, two main conservation approaches were implemented. The 'in situ' approach preserves the Rosewood trees in their natural environment, for example, in the form of a national park or community-managed forest. The second 'ex situ' strategy promulgates the species in a different designated location, such as a plantation or in a seed production area.

However, restoring and expanding forests requires a vast supply of seeds. And so, seed and seedling production are some of the most important activities carried out in forest-dwelling communities.

"We have been helping farmers to establish seed orchards, where trees are planted specifically for seed production. It is the farmers who are interested in producing seeds and selling them. Especially in Cambodia, they have quite an active network of seed producers and seed collectors, and the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development has really spearheaded this work to help more and more farmers to participate and benefit," Jalonen said.

Seed orchards make seed collection an easier, safer and less time-

consuming process than in the natural environment, and have led to substantial economic benefits for communities.

"People in rural areas are increasingly realizing the value of these species. The species provides two sellable products: timber and seed. Timber takes a very long time to produce, but seed is something that the farmers can collect after a few years and Rosewood seed is highly valuable, fetching around US\$200-250 per kilogram. It is something that the farmers can harvest every year for annual income," Jalonen explained.

The work being done by the Alliance and its national partners aims to benefit seven rural forest-based communities in the Greater Mekong region and reduce poverty in 175 households by boosting earnings from the marketing of seeds and seedlings by up to 20 percent.

"Big Rosewood trees are not widely available as before because of the illegal cutting and debarking of the Burmese Rosewood," Ou Veng, farmer and village leader of O Srao in Cambodia, said. "In the past, people were not interested to protect the forest. But now they worry about losing it because it's required for their livelihoods. So more and more people are involved in patrolling, tree planting and fire protection. The forest has regenerated significantly."

In Pursat, Cambodia, the expansion of a local farmer's nursery for the sale of Rosewood seed and seedlings increased local employment opportunities in the community threefold between 2018 and 2020.

In the village of Kampeng, also in Cambodia, Soeung Sitha, a farmer described how reforestation efforts had also acquired a heritage purpose. "Many of our community forest members have planted Siamese Rosewood in their home gardens and farms. They don't want the species to become extinct. They want the younger generation to use them as well," he said.

Ahead of the initiative coming to an end in December, Jalonen reflected on what is likely to be some of its important legacies.

"A model for farmer-led seed production for Rosewoods now exists. What has been really successful is the establishment of seed orchards by farmers," she said. "Seeds are providing incomes and job opportunities and, what is also important, is that it generates more opportunities for women because collecting the seeds of these trees from the forest is difficult. You actually have to climb the trees. So when the seed production is done on farms with smaller plants, it is much easier to collect."

And the new forest growth will be more robust. "By helping to improve the quality of seeds and seedlings in restoration areas and making sure they are genetically diverse, the planted forest will grow to be productive and also resilient. Under the rapidly changing environment, this capacity of the trees to adapt is more important than ever - and not only for the species themselves but also for the global efforts to mitigate climate change through forest conservation and restoration," Jalonen emphasised.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Thousands of Ruangwa villagers to benefit from four-year project

By Beatrice Philemon

A Four-year Conserving Forests through Sustainable Forest Based Enterprise Support in Tanzania (CoForEST) project is set to benefit thousands of Malolo villagers in Ruangwa District, Lindi Region.

Through the project villagers will soon start exploring 38 indigenous tree species from their Chilingong'o Forest Reserve that are suitable for charcoal making and timber harvesting.

CoForEST project officer, Peter Ibrahim said this recently when briefing journalists who visited the village to see the impact of the initiative and what has been achieved since people were trained on forest conservation, the main challenge they have and what they need from the government.

He said once the tree species will reach a harvestable size, the village will manage to earn a total of 80m/- per year from sustainable timber harvesting and more

than 40m/- from charcoal production.

So far, the village has been earmarked Chilingong'o forest reserve for Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) so that can benefit from what they conserve.

This has been possible through CoForEST project that is being implemented by Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and Tanzania Forest Management Community Network (MJUMITA) with funding from Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC).

Malolo village chairman, Wilbat Mwambe says, through the knowledge and skills gained from MJUMITA and TFCG, so far the village has been able to allocated a total of 1571 hectares of land for CBFM at Chilingong'o forest reserve.

He also stated that the village allotted 35 hectares of land for livestock keeping, 750 hectares for residential purpose and 200 hectares for agricultural activities including areas for water sources.

According to him, currently the village has four water sources—Chilungamo, Nazi, Mmawa and Mkundi. He said since TFCG and MJUMITA train villagers on forest management and the benefit it has for them, right now villagers are more active in conserving water sources and forest reserve they have within the village land something that was not the case.

Malolo village has a total of 2211.85 hectares of land, among those 1571 has been allocated for CBFM.

“Right now we are installing sign board inside the forest reserve and putting signs that show boundaries between the village and forest.

Before TFCG and MJUMITA intervention, villagers were heading into Chilingong'o forest reserve illegally for charcoal production, timber and agricultural activities and were not aware on how to conserve forest and the benefit it has for them.

“Right now we have started seeing people taking serious measures on conserving the forest and water sources after they know the importance of forests they have, no one is carrying out shifting agriculture,” he said.

Ruangwa District Commissioner, Hassan Ngoma lauded TFCG and MJUMITA for coming up with the project in Malolo village.

Right now the village will take full ownership of their village land forest reserve to earn cash and later on implement village development projects. He said that although the district has endowed with indigenous trees species that is suitable for sustainable charcoal production and timber harvesting, overgrazing is very high in Ruangwa District.

DC Ngoma cited the increasing number of cattle getting into the district as one of the challenges thwarting environmental conservation initiatives in the district.

“As more livestock keepers entering in our district, cutting trees for farming activities

and cattle grazing, Ruangwa, Liwale and Nachingwea district councils will become desert,” he said, calling on different stakeholders to get into forest conservation to save the district from becoming semi-desert.

Ruangwa District Executive Director, Nalasco Kilumile said the district has 90 villages, whereby 15 have conducted land use plans aimed at formalizing land rights and clarifying village borders.

According to him, the district has set-aside a total of 12m/- for 2021/2022 financial year to conduct land use plans in other two villages—Nalung'ombe and Nangulugai.

“As district we will continue to collaborate with different stakeholders to ensure all these villages have land use plans, this will also help villages to engage in CBFM within their village land and later on earn cash to implement the village development projects,” he said

Amref launches global campaign to boost vaccine justice in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

AMREF Health Africa has launched a global campaign to end COVID-19 vaccine injustice dubbed: “End vaccine injustice in Africa.”

The campaign is calling on world leaders to honour their commitments to low- and middle-income countries to leave no-one behind in the race to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, by mobilizing more vaccines for the continent.

Africa lags far behind the rest of the world in COVID-19 testing, vaccination and therapeutics. Nearly two years into the pandemic and over 10 months since the first COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered in wealthy countries, African countries still do not have access to adequate vaccines for their combined population of approximately 1.4 billion (17% of the global population), even as wealthier nations stockpile critical vaccine doses and begin administering booster shots to already vaccinated citizens.

According to Africa CDC, less than 7% of Africans have been fully vaccinated, compared to over 70% of the European Union's population. In addition, it is projected that by the end of 2021, wealthier nations will have accumulated about 1.2 billion surplus vaccine doses, despite global calls for equitable access and sharing of resources to end the acute stage of the pandemic.

“As of October 2021, only 5 out of 54 African countries were projected to hit the World Health Organisation (WHO) target of fully vaccinating 40% of their populations by the end of the year. This means that Africa is likely to be the last home of the COVID-19 pandemic if more urgent action is not taken to address the persistent vaccine inequity that has put us in such a vulnerable position,” said Dr. Githinji Gitahi, Group CEO, Amref Health Africa.

“Without access to affordable COVID-19 vaccines low-income countries would need to increase their health care spending by up to 60% to vaccinate 70% of their populations. This is nearly an impossible ask for countries whose economies and health systems have been battered by the pandemic - which is why we are advocating for greater global accountability through our Five Point Plan to End Vaccine Injustice in Africa,” added Dr. Gitahi.

The Five Point Plan calls on world leaders to end stockpiling of vaccines in wealthy nations and accelerate dose donations to low-

er-income countries in Africa and other regions to ensure truly equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines as well as limiting COVID-19 booster shots in line with the WHO's call for a moratorium that would see high-income countries refrain from administering booster doses and instead share vaccine supplies with African countries to enhance access for the world's most vulnerable populations.

It also calls on leaders to share more and faster to meet the WHO target of vaccinating at least 40% of each country's population by the end of the year, and 70% by mid-2022, share licenses, technology and know-how and waive Intellectual Property Rights for COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics globally to ensure that effective treatments are quickly available in all parts of Africa and around the world.

Leaders should also ensuring that never again will Africa find itself in a position where it is almost fully reliant on wealthier countries for lifesaving medical supplies and other resources, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health workers, research and development, and local manufacturing of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines.

The campaign comes against the backdrop of the recent discovery of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, first identified by scientists in South Africa and deemed a variant of concern by the WHO. In response the United States, European Union, United Kingdom and Canada, among others, have imposed travel bans on South Africa and several other countries in the region including Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe, prompting harsh criticism from stakeholders.

“The reaction we have seen is extremely frustrating but not surprising. The (Western) world locked vaccines from getting to Africa, and now they're locking Africa from accessing the world. For anyone to think that you can lock out a virus by stopping Africans from traveling is unacceptable. It is unscientific, it equates to racism, and it should stop. Let us vaccinate everyone so that we can protect everyone,” added Dr. Gitahi.

#EndVaccineInjusticeInAfrica complements Amref's efforts to create lasting health change in Africa, which is likely to bear the long-term social and economic burden of the pandemic without immediate interventions targeting vaccine availability, affordability and distribution.



Dr Githinji Gitahi, Group CEO of Amref Health Africa.

WHO stands with African nations, calls for borders to remain open

By Special Correspondent,

Brazzaville

AS a growing number of countries impose flight bans on southern African nations due to concerns over the new Omicron variant, World Health Organisation (WHO) urges countries to follow science and the International Health Regulations (2005).

Travel restrictions may play a role in slightly reducing the spread of COVID-19 but place a heavy burden on lives and livelihoods. If restrictions are implemented, they should not be unnecessarily invasive or intrusive, and should be scientifically based, according to the International Health Regulations which is a legally binding instrument of international law recognized by over 190 nations. This week, nations will be joining a special session of the World Health Assembly, organized by WHO to discuss how to collectively prepare and respond better to pandemics, building on their commitments to the International Health Regulations.

South Africa followed International Health Regulations and as soon as its national laboratory identified the Omicron variant informed WHO of this on the 24 November.

“The speed and transparency of the South African and Botswana governments in informing the world of the new variant is to be commended. WHO stands with African countries which had the courage to boldly share life-saving public health information, helping protect the world against the spread of COVID-19,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. “On the eve of a special session on pandemic pre-

paredness, I urge all countries to respect their legal obligations and implement scientifically based public health actions. It is critical that countries which are open with their data are supported as this is the only way to ensure we receive important data in a timely manner.”

While investigations continue into the Omicron variant, WHO recommends countries to take a risk-based and scientific approach and put in place measures which can limit its possible spread. Flight bans have been imposed on southern African countries, but so far only two have detected the new variant. Meanwhile countries in other regions have reported cases of Omicron.

“With the Omicron variant now detected in several regions of the world, putting in place travel bans that target Africa attacks global solidarity. COVID-19 constantly exploits our divisions. We will only get the better of the virus if we work together for solutions,” said Dr Moeti.

WHO is scaling up support to genomic sequencing in Africa. Sequencing laboratories should have access to adequate human resources and testing reagents to

work at full capacity. WHO is ready to support the additional human resource needs as well as mobilize funds and technical expertise to reinforce COVID-19 response activities including surveillance, treatment and infection prevention and community engagement in southern African countries. In addition, WHO is reaching out to all countries in the Region to ensure they receive necessary resources to detect and prepare for potential cases of Omicron.

WHO is urging countries to take key steps to enhance efforts to track the Omicron variant, including ensuring their PCR testing equipment can detect it, increasing their sampling and sequencing of COVID-19 test samples by at least double to 150 samples a week from the current average of 75, and review past sequencing samples for potential signs of Omicron.

In September 2020, WHO and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention launched network of 12 laboratories to reinforce genome sequencing of the virus. Genomic surveillance has advanced significantly since the start of 2021, with the continent recording a five-fold increase in the number of genomes sequenced.



Traders hail Temeke MC for installing waste bins

By Omari Kambika, Uol

TRADERS at Stereo Market in Temeke Municipal Council in Dar es Salaam have thanked the municipality for installing the waste collection kits, which reduces garbage accumulation in the area, thereby freeing them from risks of water-borne diseases.

In separate interviews, traders said that during the fruits season the garbage heaps could remain along the roads for many weeks without being collected for disposal.

One of the traders identified by only one name, Ramadhani said: “Since the coming of Temeke District Commissioner Jokate Mwegelo, I see a good improvement in the garbage collection as compared to the past.

“The regulations are here in this market that the municipality is the one responsible for collecting garbage from the ditches and from other areas of high level of garbage production, but we, as traders, especially those selling tomatoes and vegetables have our own way of sanitary disposal in which we contribute 200 each,” another trader, Mama Khadija said.

However, the Temeke Municipal Market Health Officer said that the area is safe because every day the trenches are cleaned up as well as the areas around the traders.

He said: “Market traders have their own way of garbage collection which we do not interfere it because they form the garbage collection units according to what they are trading in and of which each one of them have pay 200/-.

How to tackle the femicide epidemic

BRISTOL, UK

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the increase in domestic violence rates has led the United Nations to declare a 'shadow pandemic' of gender-based violence. In the most brutal cases, the violence has led to murder - or 'femicide', as the World Health Organisation calls the killing of women specifically because of their gender.

This is distinct from male homicide because of the power differentials that underline femicide; most cases are perpetrated by current or ex-partners and emerge from a context of abuse, control, violence, and intimidation.

'Femicide' as a label aims to draw specific attention to the gendered nature of the victimisation. Domestic violence is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. The threat of violence, and the presence of abuse, serve to grant the perpetrator power and control over their victim.

A study by WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine show that more than 35 per cent of all murders of women globally are reported to be committed by an intimate partner, as opposed to 5 per cent of male murders. 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day.

Domestic violence's correlation with times of crisis

Although we do not yet have the data on the increases of femicides,



After suffering in a violent and abusive relationship, Layla went to the police, accompanied by a friend. Meanwhile, Covid-19 has exacerbated gender-based violence. Fighting patriarchal power structures and gender inequalities is essential in putting an end to it. Credit: UN Women/Mohammed Bakir

many countries have evidence of a much higher demand for domestic violence support services since the pandemic broke out. In some countries, calls to helplines have increased five-fold as rates of reported intimate partner violence increased alongside the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Mexico, refuge services saw a 77-fold increase in demand. There has been much research that shows prevalence of domestic and sexual

violence increases during times of crisis.

There have also been specific aspects of the Covid-19 national lockdowns that have materially exacerbated isolation for victims. The closure of face-to-face health services, support services, and even local amenities has reduced opportunities for victims seeking help.

The closure of schools and youth services meant that children living with domestic

violence and abuse also faced being cut off from support and respite of the school day. Dubravka Šimonovi, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, also critiqued the 'gender-blind' lockdown measures which had resulted in an increased risk of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) for those confined at home with abusers.

The danger of a gender-neutral approach

Despite the framing of 'femicide' as a distinct outcome of gender-based violence, however, there is still a general lack of accountability for perpetrators. In 2018, the United Nations invested €50 million to focus particularly on femicide in Latin America, where 98 per cent of gender-related murders are unprosecuted.

Part of the problem lies in reticence to connect patriarchal power structures to the prevalence of femicide.

Instead of seeing an increase in gendered framing of DVA, we are instead witnessing an increasing trend towards gender neutrality.

This is occurring in a wider context of rolling back of women's rights more broadly, including increased abortion restrictions around the world, and increased reactionary responses to so-called 'gender ideology'. There has also been an alarming roll back in international cooperation around gender-based violence through the push back against the Istanbul Convention.

In July this year, Turkey withdrew from the convention despite the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) noting this would 'deepen the protection gap for women and girls during a time when gender-based violence against women is on the rise'.

Some countries like the United Kingdom have only signed, but not ratified, the Istanbul convention. In 2021, UK launched the Domestic Abuse Bill in parliament. This, however, frames DVA in gender-neutral terms. Indeed, domestic abuse murders in UK government procedures are still framed as 'domestic homicides'. In contexts such as this, the term 'homicide' is framed as a gender-neutral term which refers to the killing of a human being by another person.

For advocates of remaining with one umbrella term, a key advantage is that it focuses on the act of killing and applies to victims of all genders. This approach also reflects the fact that not all murders of women are related to gender-based violence; 42 per cent of global murders of women in 2019 were by perpetrators who were not partners or family members.

However, gender remains an important aspect of understanding violence, as males commit 90 per cent of murders worldwide. This has led some campaigners to call for the naming of 'male violence' as the key issue, regardless of the gender of the victims. Gender-neutrality under the guise of inclusivity serves to obscure the role that patriarchal systems and gender-inequality play in violence worldwide.

In considering the response to femicide, countries also need to take into account the living victims of femicide, namely the children that are left when their mothers are killed. In 2018, Italy became the first country in Europe to pass a law for orfani speciali, or special orphans.

The fund financially supports a range of issues; scholarships, legal aid, and funding for medical and psychological care. All too often children are left with sparse and over-subscribed services with a postcode lottery of support provided by charities and NGOs.

The UK Domestic Abuse Bill has designated children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, marking a distinct change from their previous peripheral recognition as witnesses and bystanders.

Femicide is preventable

Femicide as a term hones our attention to the gendered dynamics murder related to domestic violence against women. In reality, however, femicide is overlooked, undercounted, and under-prosecuted across the globe.

Although there has been some attention paid to the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence, the burden of this has fallen on the shoulders of already under-resourced NGO services.

It is essential to remember that femicide is actually a symptom of a much wider problem. It is patriarchal norms and gender inequality that are both the cause and consequence of gender-based violence in society.

To effect change, we need to address systematic gender-inequality, societal tolerance of violence against women, and properly fund resources and services to support victims to access help as well as perpetrators to be held accountable and have targeted interventions to effect change. Femicide is not an inevitable part of life. It is preventable.

Jade Levell is a Lecturer in Social & Public Policy at the University of Bristol. She is a specialist in gender-based violence and serious youth violence, as well as gender theory including studies of masculinities

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 171 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 LETTERS: ART, HUT, RIB
 4 LETTERS: COST, TING, LEAD, TASS, STAR, ROME, UNIT, (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: ASIDE, DOORS, TSARS, SKULL GRATE (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: ENDURE, ARREST, BEAGLE, SERENE ASSIGN (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: MEXICAN
 8 LETTERS: HARANGUE
 10 LETTERS: CALAMITIES

CLUES: Across
 1 able to operate independently
 5 a list of meals
 7 a tripod frame used to support an artist's canvas
 8 Chief city of Jordan
 10 the whole quantity
 11 an inlet
 13 group of musicians playing together
 15 an enzyme which breaks down RNA into smaller molecules
 17 afflicted
 19 the chief male character in a book
 20 the chemical element of atomic number 68

Down:
 1 an unspecified amount
 2 former monetary unit of India
 3 a thing that is borrowed
 4 an instrument for sewing
 6 community of Muslims
 7 festival of the Christian church celebrating the resurrection of Christ
 9 unusual
 12 ended, stopped
 14 person who donates something
 16 beard in Kiswahili
 17 exclamation expressing triumph
 18 a kind of rock in which metal is found

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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BUSINESS

SECURITY

Uber introduces rider selfies as safety feature in Nigeria - report

LAGOS

Uber says it has introduced rider selfies for new cash riders without a valid credit card on file as a new safety feature for Nigeria.

This is another way of showing that the ride-hailing prioritises driver safety. The technology works by prompting riders to share a selfie before requesting their first cash trip. The selfie has to be of one person, with no face coverings like sunglasses or masks, and not be a photo of a photo. This new verification method will work alongside another rider verification method which confirms a rider's identity by linking to their Facebook account. This all takes place within a few seconds.

"Safety is important to Uber—whether a person is in the backseat or behind the wheel. As part of this commitment, we are always investing in new ways to enhance safety on the Uber app." In the last few years, Uber has launched Real-time ID check, Share My Trip, Verify My Trip, Check Your Ride as well as 24/7 incident support," says Tope Akinwumi, Country Manager, Uber Nigeria.

Technology apps like Uber have improved safety by creating account-

ability and transparency where previously there was none. This is because technology makes it possible to focus on safety for driver-partners and riders before, during, and after every trip.

"We are committed to safety and are working to build a better experience for both riders and drivers. Which is why we're focused on your safety, from setting new standards to developing technology with the goal of reducing incidents," adds Akinwumi.

Uber is available in over 52 cities in Sub-Saharan Africa (Cape Town, Durban, Joburg, Pretoria, Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth), East London, Polokwane, Cape West Coast, Worcester, Emalahleni / Middelburg, Garden Route, Rustenburg, Potchefstroom, Mbombela (formerly Nelspruit), Newcastle, Mthatha, Thohoyandou, Upington, Margate, Richards Bay, Welkom, Phuthaditjhaba, Ermelo, Queenstown, Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Lagos, Abuja, Benin City, Port Harcourt, Ibadan, Abidjan, Kampala, Accra, Kumasi and Dar es Salaam). Overall, the Uber network is available in over 10 000 cities in over 65 countries.



Tope Akinwumi, Country Manager, Uber Nigeria.

COMPENSATION

Minister Mhagama says workers' payment better with WCF establishment

By Guardian Reporter

ESTABLISHMENT of Workers Compensation Fund has improved payment given to members who get injured while undertaking their duties thanks to amendment of laws and regulations.

Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office responsible for employment, youth and the disabled, Jenista Mhagama said yesterday in Mbeya after handing over 10 computer sets donated by WCF to Commission for Mediation and Arbitration that prior to the reforms, the maximum that members got was only 108,000/-. Mhagama said in 2008 the compensation law was reviewed which led to the formation of WCF in 2015 which also came along with new compensation rates but also more categories of payments.

"The WCF has continued to do better by paying those who get injured while on duty of dependants of those who die on time and handsomely," Mhagama said while also commending the WCF for supporting the CMA with the equipment.

She pointed out that as public institutions, the fund and commission need to work together in serving interests of the public and especially workers. "I thank Workers Compensation Fund for this donation to the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration which will greatly assist in its performance," she noted.

Mhagama also paid tribute to WCF's Director General, Dr John Mduma and CMA's Director General, Shanes Nungu for their collaboration that will translate into better performance for their institutions as per the government's



Jenista Mhagama (2nd-R), Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), presents one of 10 desktop computer sets to Director General of Commission for Mediation and Arbitration, Shanes Nungu, as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the PMO, Kaspar Muya (L), and Workers Compensation Fund director general, Dr John Mduma look on during a handover ceremony held in Mbeya city on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

plans. "It is very important that you continue to work together as institutions under the same umbrella ministry," she added while stressing that public institutions need to work in tandem in serving the public.

Briefing the minister on the donation, Dr Mduma said decision to support CMA was made following Mhagama's advice

that public institutions work together to address challenges facing each other. "By working together as institutions under your ministry, we easily attain set targets, we can't succeed by going alone," he said.

In a vote of thanks, Nungu paid tribute to Minister Mhagama and his WCF peer, Dr Mduma for providing better leadership

and support to his commission which has an uphill task to solve challenges facing workers in the country.

"These computers will help us speed up delivery of judgements for workers complaints which currently face delays due to lack of equipment," he said while commending WCF for regularly supporting his commission.

EMPOWERMENT

Tira challenged to introduce insurance scheme to cushion smallholder farmers

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

SSMALLHOLDER farmers in Tanzania have challenged the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (Tira) to come up with a national agriculture insurance scheme to cushion them against risks associated with the agricultural sector.

Through the national agriculture insurance scheme, an expert said, the farmers will pay a premium to an insurer to guarantee against losses of property, being crops or livestock.

Executive Director of Agricultural Non State Actors' Forum (ANSAF), Audax Rukonge said in Dar es Salaam on Monday that smallholder farmers face a range of shocks and challenges beyond their control that can have a drastic impact on their incomes and livelihoods.

Rukonge noted that surprisingly, insurance companies have largely overlooked the group hence exposing them to risks that also affect the country. "By bad luck we have car insurance, motorcycle insurance and housing insurance but there is no insurance scheme for the agriculture sector to date," he said.



Agricultural Non State Actors' Forum executive director, Audax Rukonge speaks at a past event in Dar es Salaam.

He ANSAF chief executive dared Tira to urgently come up with the scheme to address needs and challenges facing farmers and their entire value chain. He pointed out that such losses can be caused by natural disasters including extreme weather conditions in terms of droughts and floods, pests and diseases attacks against crops and livestock.

He noted that the agriculture

scheme will help restore confidence in farmers as they have a guarantee that they will be compensated in case anything happens during the farming season. "Sometimes when banks realize that farmers have insurance covers for their products, they can be in position to give loans without hesitation," he explained.

Rukonge added that without

access to formal insurance schemes, smallholder farmers are forced to resort to traditional risk management schemes, such as self-insurance and community funds. Globally, less than 20 percent of smallholder farmers have any form of a agriculture insurance cover while across Sub-Saharan Africa, the figure is less than three percent.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Kenya to phase out charcoal from major towns in 2028

NAIROBI

The government has announced plans to phase out the use of charcoal in Nairobi and other major towns in seven years even as taxes push gas out of reach of average consumers.

Energy PS Gordon Kihlangwa said the State would accelerate the

adoption of cleaner cooking fuels by 2028 despite a recent rise in the prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and kerosene on new tax measures.

This is as the Clean Energy Cooking Week 2021 kicked off yesterday to discuss policy issues and gaps hindering the uptake of clean

cooking fuels. "As a government, we have committed to undertake a gradual phase-out of the use of charcoal in urban areas by 2028," Mr Kihlangwa said in his speech read by renewable energy director Dan Marangu at the ministry.

The reintroduction of the 16 percent value-added tax on LPG

in July has seen prices skyrocket, forcing many low-income households back to charcoal and firewood. The latest data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows LPG prices have risen 24 percent between October last year and this year due to the new tax. A 13-kg gas cylinder retailed at

Sh2,513 last month, up from Sh2,019 in October last year.

The Treasury has indicated plans to revive the LPG subsidy in the financial year 2022/23 to increase the rollout of the product to poor households. "Over the next three fiscal years, the government will strengthen enforcement and

operationalisation of provisions of the Mining Act 2016, the Petroleum Act 2019 and other extractive policies for well-coordinated oil, gas and mining sub-sectors; (and) distribution of 300,000 – six-kg LPG cylinders to low-income households," the Treasury said in the draft 2022 Budget Policy Statement.

REWARD

Liwale communities expecting generous investment earnings from forest reserves

By Beatrice Philemon

COMMUNITIES in Liwale District of Lindi region will be soon begin to engage in Community Based Forest Management that will enable them to earn cash to invest in development projects.

Conserving Forests through Sustainable Forest based Enterprises Support in Tanzania (CoForEST) Project Officer, Peter Ibrahim said the three year which started in 2019, wants to empower communities to benefit from their natural forests.

Ibrahim said, so far a total of 33 indigenous tree species suitable for sustainable timber harvesting and more than 20 species suitable for charcoal production have been identified at Ndungutu and Nampengele village land forest reserves. Under the project, the villages are expecting to earn a total of 444m/- per annum.

"So far we have marketing officer who will link them to markets as well as train them how to find other markets so that they earn maximum benefits from their forest resources," he said, adding that so far the villages have carried out land use plans with a total of 6,839.8 hectares earmarked for sustainable charcoal and timber harvesting.



Liwale district commissioner Judith Nguri addresses to journalists who visited the area last week to learn about village forest land reserves. She is with Liwale forest officer Lillian Kato. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

Ibrahim further stated that during the implementation, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) will assist the communities get lucrative markets for their commodities. "All this has been possible through CoForEST project that is being implemented in seven districts with the funding from Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)," the Project Officer added.

Commenting on the project's benefits, Nambinda Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC)'s Secretary, Said Barabara said under the project, villagers were trained on forest management, financial management, how to develop bylaws for forest conservation, how to use global positioning system technology and how to conserve biodiversity within their village land forest reserve.

Barabara said through the knowledge and skills gained from

TFCG and MJUMITA, they are now able to develop sustainable harvesting plans for forest products. "Right now we have started to install sign boards inside the forest reserve for sustainable charcoal and timber harvesting," he said noting that signs have also been placed showing boundaries between the village and forest reserve.

He said to start with, money obtained from selling forestry products will be used to build a

dispensary for Nambinda village, village government office and classrooms. "Our village's major challenge is lack of a health facility which has forced people to walk 8.5 kms to get medical treatment at Mlembwe village," Barabara noted saying those who can afford a 'Bodaboda' taxi ride pay between 10,000/- and 30,000/- for the trip.

He called on the government to review Government Notice 417 (GN) to help them benefit from forests that they are conserving through Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) by reducing tax imposed on a bag of charcoal which currently stands at 12,500/- instead of 6,750/- per 100kgs bag. "We need at least the government to impose a 6-000/- tax on a bag of charcoal so that the village and charcoal producers can also benefit," he argued.

In remarks to journalists who visited the areas, Liwale District Commissioner, Judith Nguri paid tribute to TFCG and MJUMITA for introducing the project in her district saying the majority of Liwale residents have no knowledge of the importance of forest conservation.

"Through CoForEST project, the district will ensure that knowledge will be disseminated widely to communities so that they understand the importance of forest conservation and the benefit of land use planning," Nguri said.

She conceded that the project has already triggered an influx of villagers seeking support from, district authorities to conduct land use planning to prevent land dispute as well as conserve the environment.

COMPETITION

Ride-hailing application joins the local market to ease movement

By Guardian Reporter

GROWING demand by people in urban areas such as Dar es Salaam have convinced a new ride sharing application to be introduced in the local market. Dubbed, Linkee, the new application connects travellers and drivers directly.

Linkee's launch Team Leader, Regan Reuben said in Dar es Salaam on Monday that the new technology company's platform connects drivers with people who need to move around the commercial capital.

"At Linkee we are proud to be able to make a reliable tool available to everyone in Dar es Salaam, to help drivers generate an income today when the economic situation is complex," Reuben said while noting that people can access the comfort and safety that technology provides at fair prices on Linkee.

He said the platform's focus is also on entrepreneurs hence for the first six months, Linkee will have no service fee for all drivers starting Monday. Reuben further noted that drivers who connect with passengers through the platform will enjoy 100 percent of the fare of each trip.

"Our team has been preparing everything for months to offer a reliable, easy-to-use service, and above all, one that is designed from Tanzania for Tanzania," the Linkee Team Leader added. In order to access the service, customers are advised to download the Linkee App from and Android App Store while the iOS version will be available very soon.

In the near future, Linkee will incorporate more services into its platform, so that users can find a solution to their daily needs. Linkee will not ask for a minimum number of trips to be completed per day, nor a number of hours connected to its application and does not consider penalties for not accepting trips.

APPRECIATION

Namanga border staff say Covid-19 training beneficial for infection prevention

By Guardian Reporter

A training of trainers (ToT) programme targeting border posts staff on the coronavirus preparedness and response is proving to be very beneficial, according to testimony from the target group.

Some of the ToT participants told a delegation of German officials at Namanga border between Kenya and Tanzania last week that the training was of importance. "We benefitted and did a lot of capacity building. In addition to passing the knowledge to colleagues, we also trained other people," said a laboratory expert at Namanga, Frank Okwema.

Okwema said as a result, they have also organized meetings with sub-county teams and village health teams to train them on the subject. "Normally we handle travellers and receive cash for visas which exposes us to COVID-19. We were trained for instance on social distancing,

contamination and disposal of contaminated items," he said.

Okwema's observation was backed by an Immigration Officer at the same border, Peter Ndichu who noted that because border posts are high-risk areas in the spreading of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, the training was crucial as it involved two countries.

"So we use the knowledge from the training to guide colleagues and travellers on how they can protect themselves and protect others," Ndichu said adding that things have improved for the better in the handling of people and goods crossing the Tanzania and Kenya common border.

The East African Community secretariat with support from the German government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH engaged AMREF Flying Doctors to conduct the emergency intervention trainings.

A total of 375 staff were involved of which 327 were certified, at 12 One Stop Border Posts and four harbours in the region, covering all six partner states.

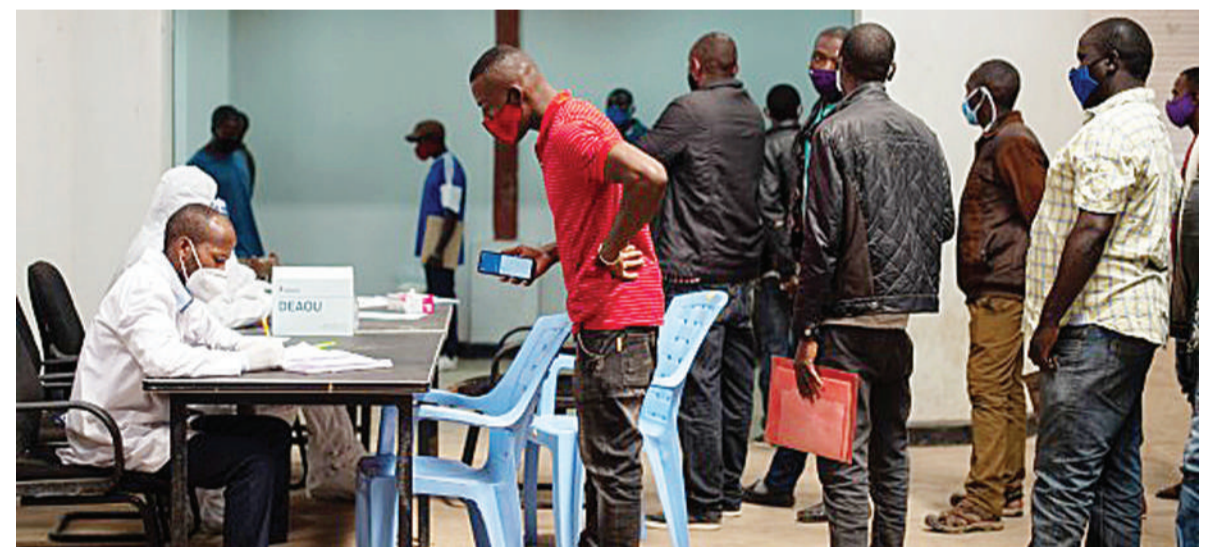
The visiting German delegation included: Claudia Imwolde-Kraemer from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; Jennifer Wörl and Dr Ralf Orlik from German Development Bank (KfW); and Johannes Sperfächer from the German Embassy in Tanzania.

The training also involved staff from port and animal health, customs, immigration, revenue officers, luggage handlers, clearing agents, standards officers, border security and the joint cross-border management committees. "The training was very good and well organized. It is perhaps a wake-up call that we need to include some of the modules in the training curriculum of for example immigration officers," Ndichu added.

The delegation visited the mobile laboratory, which is an initiative of the EAC secretariat and is being funded by Germany through the KfW and the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine. One of two

mobile laboratories was handed over to the Kenyan National Public Health Lab in May 2020.

The lab has since been operating at the border between Tanzania and Kenya, mainly for COVID-19 testing of truck



Testing of truck drivers for Covid-19 under way at Namanga border post.

RESISTANCE

Farmers fight duty-free sugar imports above Comesa quota

NAIROBI

Farmers have challenged in court a decision to allow the importation of duty-free sugar from Uganda above the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (Comesa) quota.

A group of farmers through the Kongaren Multipurpose Cooperative Society argues that it was wrong for Kenya and Uganda, being Comesa member states, to engage in separate bilateral trade agreements outside the bloc's treaty.

In a petition at the Mombasa High Court, the cooperative society says sometime in March 2019, the two countries entered into a special arrangement in which Kenya granted Uganda sugar-free access to its market of up to 90,000 metric

tonnes above the quota allocated by Comesa to it (Kenya) in 2016.

Through lawyer Gikandi Ngibuni, the petitioner argues that based on the arrangement, Uganda has been exporting sugar to Kenya on zero percent import duty despite the fact that it should incur 20 percent import tax.

"There is a real threat of huge quantities of sugar flooding the Kenyan market, which are to be cleared for home use in the country from Uganda on a zero customs and excise duty basis," states part of the petition.

The cooperative society further argues that flooding of Ugandan sugar means that the farmers' produce will be costlier in the market and not attract buyers. The petitioners have sued the Ministry of

Industrialisation Trade and Enterprise Development, Agriculture and Food Authority, Kenya Revenue Authority, Ministry of Finance and the Attorney-General.

The cooperative society wants a declaratory order issued that the decision allowing importation of duty-free sugar from Uganda above the Comesa quota is null and void. It also wants an order issued that preferential treatment accorded to Uganda where its sugar is granted free access to the Kenyan market amounts to discrimination, thus null and void.

According to the society, as a result of the special arrangement, Uganda has been exporting the commodity to Kenya on zero percent import duty which means that any sugar imports within or above

the Comesa quota is on zero tax. It further argues that Kenya has granted Uganda preferential treatment thus discriminating against other Comesa member states with equal capacity to export sugar into the country.

"Similarly, this arrangement is detrimental to other sugar industry stakeholders and businessmen in the country who have permits to import sugar from various member states of Comesa," argues the petitioner.

The society further says the decision according to Uganda preferential treatment was made without the involvement and participation of various stakeholders in the sugar industry who are affected by the decision.



Sugar arranged on the shelves of a Carrefour outlet.

CONCERN

Safaricom invites bids for Kenya Power's smart anti-theft system

NEW YORK

Global financial markets plunged into the red on Tuesday after warnings from the boss of Moderna over the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines against the Omicron variant compared to earlier strains of the virus spooked investors.

The UK's FTSE100 dropped more than 1 per cent in early trading, hitting its lowest level since the start of October as crude oil futures shed more than a dollar, the Australian currency hit a year low, and Nikkei gave up its gains.

The alarm bells sounded after Moderna chief executive Stéphane Bancel said existing vaccines will be much less effective at tackling Omicron and it could take months for pharmaceutical firms to manufacture new variant-

specific jabs at scale. His comments spurred fears vaccine resistance could lead to more sickness and hospitalisations, prolonging the pandemic. "There is no world, I think, where (the effectiveness) is the same level ... we had with Delta," Mr Bancel said.

"I think it's going to be a material drop. I just don't know how much because we need to wait for the data. But all the scientists I've talked to ... are like 'this is not going to be good.'" His definitiveness appeared to spook markets, with stocks in Asia retreating along with US and European index futures and crude oil. Suannah Streeter, senior investment and markets analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, said the roller coaster ride has resumed on the financial markets



Electronic billboards display stock transactions on Exchange Square, the building housing the bourse, in Hong Kong, China. The Hang Seng Index fell to the lowest level in 14 months amid growing concerns the Omicron variant of the coronavirus will derail global economic recovery.

following Monday's rally. "Investors are now strapping themselves in for a volatile ride anxious for any further news which could lift sentiment

or send it plunging again, such as the comments from Moderna's chief executive that current vaccines will struggle with Omicron because of the

high level of mutations on the spike protein," said Ms Streeter.

"It's not known just how less effective they may be, and the waiting game con-

tinues as scientists scramble to assess the new variant, but amid this state of uncertainty, nervousness is high, with the FTSE 100 falling 1 per cent in early trade."

European stocks fell more than 1 per cent on Tuesday with the pan-European STOXX 600 dropping 1.3 per cent by 8.15am London time to hit its lowest levels in nearly seven weeks. Germany's DAX, France's CAC 40 and UK's FTSE 100 fell between 1.1 per cent and 1.5 per cent in early trading. Oil stocks fell 1.6 per cent, tracking a drop in crude prices and bank stocks sank 1.6 per cent to their lowest in more than two months.

"Energy stocks and banks are among the biggest fallers as investors worry about the economic effect of Omicron, as it risks dampening down

demand and becoming a significant set-back for global economy. Brent crude fell 3 per cent to \$71 a barrel, pulling down energy stocks like BP and Shell by more than 1 per cent in early trade," said Ms Streeter. Meanwhile, travel stocks shed 1.1 per cent, with British airline easyJet trading nearly flat after reporting softer demand in the first quarter following the emergence of the Omicron variant.

However, the airline was bullish about a recovery in passenger levels, predicting 70 per cent of pre-Covid 2019 levels in the second quarter and a near total recovery by the summer.

Adam Vettese, analyst at multi-asset investment platform eToro, said while easyJet's full-year loss has come in ahead of con-

sensus, most of its key financial indicators are significantly lower than they were last year.

"The emergence of the Omicron coronavirus variant has dealt a hammer blow to the airline industry just as it was once again finding its feet after 18 long and painful months," said Mr Vettese. "While we're not sure yet if the latest variant is more deadly than the ones we've seen in the past, governments have rushed to close their borders again in a bid to act early and prevent it spreading."

The pandemic-sensitive sectors slumped last week when the Omicron variant was first detected in South Africa, pushing the benchmark STOXX 600 to its worst single-day performance in more than a year on Friday.

IMPRESSIVE

Twitter's CEO Parag Agrawal is youngest in S&P 500's group

NEW YORK

Twitter Inc.'s new Chief Executive Officer Parag Agrawal is now the youngest CEO in the S&P 500, but apparently just barely.

Agrawal, who is a relatively unknown executive was appointed Monday to succeed Twitter founder and CEO Jack Dorsey, is 37, the same age as Meta Platform Inc. CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Citing security concerns, Twitter wouldn't disclose Agrawal's date of birth but confirmed he was born later in 1984 than Zuckerberg's May 14 birthday. Dorsey, at 45, was already among the dozen youngest CEOs in the collection of the largest U.S. companies.

David Larcker, a professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, who studies CEO performance, commented: "I don't think the age thing is that big of a deal, especially for companies like this. It could be an advantage. The fact that Dorsey is stepping down from the board, so he's not going to be like a shadow CEO, he must have real confidence in him."

Berkshire Hathaway Inc. CEO Warren Buffett, is the oldest CEO in the S&P 500 at 91, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The average age of a CEO among the 500 largest companies was about 58 years, the data show. But the broader trend in CEO age still doesn't favour youth. Data on S&P 500 companies measured over the last two decades by executive recruiter Spencer Stuart shows a small but steady increase in the age of the CEO.

Agrawal joined Twitter in 2011.

Dorsey will stay on the board of the San Francisco-based company until his term expires in 2022, Twitter said Monday in a statement. Agrawal is also joining the board, where he will also be a statistical outlier. The average age of an S&P 500 director is 63, according to Spencer Stuart.

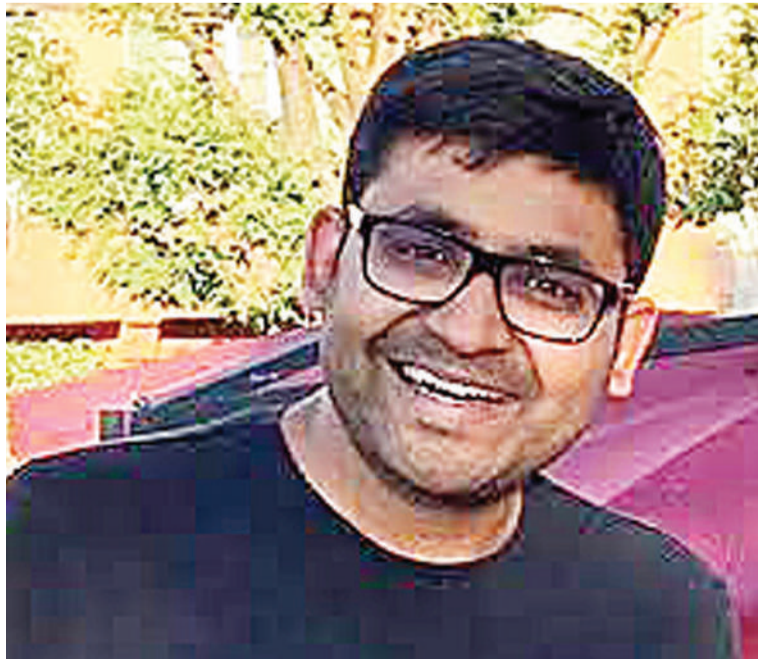
Agrawal, who has been with the company for 10 years - most recently as chief technology officer - has emerged from behind the scenes to take over one of Silicon Valley's highest-profile and politically volatile jobs. But who is he, and what can we expect for Twitter under his leadership?

A 37-year-old immigrant from India, Agrawal comes from outside the ranks of celebrity CEOs, which include the man he's replacing as well as Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Tesla's Elon Musk. But his lack of name recognition, coupled with a solid technical background, appears to be what some of Twitter's biggest backers were looking for in the company's next chapter.

Agrawal is a "safe" pick who should be looked upon as favourably by investors", wrote the CFRA Research analyst Angelo Zino, who noted that the Twitter shareholder Elliott Management had pressured Dorsey to step down. That means we can expect more of the same under him in terms of policy and company direction, experts say - including plans to continue Twitter's recent strategy to double its annual revenue by 2023 and focus on its long-term ambition to rebuild how social media companies operate.



MONDAY 29 Nov	WEDNESDAY 1 Dec	FRIDAY 3 Dec	SUNDAY 5 Dec
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:00 Habari
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Al Jazeera
8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	09:00 Watoto Wetu
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	11:35 Bongo Movie rpt:
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	15:30 Mwangaza
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt	11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	16:30 ITV Top 10
11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	18:00 Jiji Letu
12:30 Kipindi Maalum: LATRA rp	12:30 Kipindi Maalum: Siku ya Ukimwi - Live	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	18:15 Mapihi
12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	18:30 Matukio ya wiki
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	19:30 Igizo: Rebecca
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	20:00 Habari
13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
14:10 Soap: Love to Death	14:10 Soap: Love to Death	14:10 Soap: Love to Death	21:10 Mizengwe
14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	21:30 Mjue Zaidi
15:00 Meza Huru	15:00 Meza Huru	15:00 Meza Huru	22:15 Bongo Movie:
16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt
17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	02:05 Al Jazeera
18:10 Jiji Letu	18:10 Jiji Letu	18:10 Jiji Letu	
18:15 Aibu yako rpt	18:15 Aibu yako rpt	18:15 Aibu yako rpt	
18:15 DWTV: Kesho leo	18:15 DWTV: Kesho leo	18:15 DWTV: Kesho leo	
18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo	
19:00 Aifa ya Jamii	19:00 Aifa ya Jamii	19:00 Aifa ya Jamii	
19:30 Soap: Uzalo	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	
21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	
22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW	
22:15 Soap: Love to Death	22:15 Soap: Love to Death	22:15 Soap: Love to Death	
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	
23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	
02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	



Twitter Inc.'s new CEO, Parag Agrawal.

CAPITAL

Mon 29 Nov	Tues 30 Nov
06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt	16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00 Dw News Africa rpt	17:00 Dw News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Décor rpt	19:00 The Décor rpt
19:30 Shamba lulu	19:30 Shamba lulu
20:00 Series: Beats of Love	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
20:45 The Monday Agenda	20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto	22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera	00:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 03 Dec	Sat 04 Dec
06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Dw News Africa rpt	12:30 Dw News Africa rpt
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series: Beats of Love	16:00 Series: Beats of Love
16:30 Business edition rpt	16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape	17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight	19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu	19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Beats of Love	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30
Capital Prime News	Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Capchat rpt
23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Prince Charles denies claim he queried child's skin tone

BRIDGETOWN

PRINCE Charles's spokesman on Monday rejected a claim made in a book that the heir to the British throne had questioned what the skin tone of Prince Harry and Meghan's child would be.

In the book, *Brothers And Wives: Inside The Private Lives of William, Kate, Harry and Meghan*, author Christopher Andersen says Charles asked what the "complexion" of the child would be.

"This is fiction and not worth further comment," Charles's spokesman told re-

porters in Barbados, where Charles will take part in celebrations marking the island's move to a republic.

According to the Page Six celebrity news website, the book relates an alleged conversation between Charles and his wife Camilla. On the morning of Harry and Meghan's 2017 engagement, Charles said: "I wonder what the children will look like?"

Camilla was apparently "somewhat taken aback" and replied: "Well, absolutely gorgeous, I'm certain," Page Six said.



Britain's Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan hold their baby son Archie as they meet with Archbishop Desmond Tutu (unseen) at the Tutu Legacy Foundation in Cape Town on Sept 25, 2019. File photo

The book said Charles, lowering his voice, asked: "I mean, what do you think their children's complexion might be?"

The book, due for release on Tuesday, stops short of claiming that Charles is the unidentified "senior royal" who Meghan in a March interview with Oprah Winfrey accused of raising concerns here about how dark their son's skin might be.

Meghan, whose mother is Black and father is white, said her son

Archie had been denied the title of prince because there were concerns within the royal family "about how dark his skin might be".

After the Oprah interview, the Buckingham Palace said the issues raised, particularly of race, were concerning, taken very seriously and would be addressed by the family privately.

Andersen could not immediately be reached for comment.

Agencies

Xi: China to supply Africa with additional 1b COVID-19 jobs

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Monday announced that China would provide an additional 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Africa and pledged to jointly implement nine programs on China-Africa future cooperation.

"I am convinced that the concerted efforts of China and Africa will make this FOCAC Conference a full success, one that shall pool the mighty strength of the 2.7 billion Chinese and Africans and guide us toward a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future," Xi said while addressing the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) via video link.

The conference, scheduled for Nov. 29-30 in Senegal's capital of Dakar, is expected to evaluate the implementation of the outcomes of the 2018 FOCAC Beijing Summit and open up new prospects for China-Africa cooperation.

ANTI-PANDEMIC SOLIDARITY

To help the African Union (AU) achieve its goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the African population by 2022, President Xi announced that China would provide another one billion doses of vaccines to Africa, including 600 million doses as donation and 400 million doses to be provided through such means as joint production by Chinese companies and relevant African countries.

"In addition, China will undertake 10 medical and health projects for African countries, and send 1,500 medical personnel and public health experts to Africa," Xi added.

By Nov. 12, 2021, China had provided over 1.7 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to more than 110 countries and organizations, including 50 African countries and the AU Commission.

Also, Chinese firms are actively engaging in joint vaccine production in Africa with local firms, helping countries, in accordance with their wishes,

to realize localized vaccine production. To date they have started localized production in Egypt, and signed cooperative agreements with Morocco and Algeria.

Cavince Adhere, a Kenya-based international relations scholar, said the COVID-19 pandemic has served to highlight the strong partnership between China and Africa in the health sector.

"China now ranks as the top supplier of COVID-19 vaccines to Africa and a strong advocate for intellectual property liberalization to allow African countries to manufacture the commodities and further save their population and economies from the impacts of the global health crisis," Adhere added.

China and Africa have joined forces in confronting the grave challenge posed by COVID-19, further reinforcing their friendship, and the solidarity between the Chinese and African peoples has enabled them to overcome difficulties and obstacles and build a bright future, said Xu Bu, president of the China Institute of International Studies.

NEW PROSPECTS

"We need to open up new prospects for China-Africa cooperation, expand trade and investment, share experience on poverty reduction, strengthen cooperation on digital economy, and promote entrepreneurship by young Africans and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)," Xi said, calling for deepening practical cooperation between the two sides.

He said China would work closely with African countries to implement the nine programs, which are the medical and health program, the poverty reduction and agricultural development program, the trade promotion program, the investment promotion program, the digital innovation program, the green development program, the capacity building program, the cultural and people-to-people exchange program, and the peace and security program.

Xi said China would under-



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Xinhua

take 10 poverty reduction and agricultural projects for Africa, provide 10 billion U.S. dollars of trade finance to support African export, and build in China a pioneering zone for in-depth China-Africa trade and economic cooperation and a China-Africa industrial park for Belt and Road cooperation.

China would also encourage its businesses to invest no less than 10 billion U.S. dollars in Africa in the next three years, undertake 10 digital economy projects for Africa, undertake 10 green development, environmental protection and climate action projects for Africa, help build or upgrade 10 schools in Africa, and invite 10,000 high-level African professionals to seminars and workshops, Xi added.

China has been Africa's largest trading partner for the 12 years since 2009, and the proportion of Africa's trade with China in the continent's total external trade has continued to rise, exceeding 21 percent in 2020.

Buyile Matiwane, deputy-president of the South African Students Congress, said China is Africa's biggest source of foreign direct investment, and this kind of investment has been crucial in creating a platform to maximize the establishment of value chains and domestic markets, while improving the condi-

tions for economic and social development across the African continent.

"The roads, airports, railways, ports, hospitals and all kinds of infrastructure being built by China will stand us in good stead for the development of intercontinental markets," Buyile Matiwane added.

Xu Bu said China-Africa cooperation, after years of dedicated efforts, has shown strong resilience, with new growth points constantly emerging, and the "tree" of China-Africa cooperation would not be shaken by any force in the future.

COMMUNITY WITH SHARED FUTURE IN NEW ERA

At the FOCAC Beijing Summit held in September 2018, the two sides decided to build an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future and lead China-Africa relations and cooperation into a new era.

At the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC, Xi put forward four proposals to build a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, calling on both sides to fight COVID-19 with solidarity, deepen practical cooperation, promote green development, and uphold equity and justice.

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao said

WHO special session seeking 'pandemic treaty' amid Omicron concerns

GENEVA

A SPECIAL session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) kicked off here on Monday amid growing concerns over the latest Omicron coronavirus variant, where the participants aim to negotiate a new "pandemic treaty."

LEGALLY BINDING PANDEMIC TREATY

The WHA May session this year decided to set up a working group to consider the findings and recommendations of a number of panels and committees on global preparedness for and response to COVID-19 before starting their discussions on Monday on the potential new "legally binding agreement between nations."

"COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated fundamental weaknesses in the global architecture for pandemic preparedness and response," said World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the opening of the special session.

"The best way we can address them is with a legally binding agreement between nations, an accord forged from the recognition that we have no future but a common future," he said.

According to Tedros, the new "pandemic treaty" is expected to address COVID-19 as "a crisis of solidarity and sharing."

"The lack of sharing of PPE (personal protective equipment), tests, vaccines, technology, know-how, intellectual property and other tools hindered our collective ability to prevent infections and save lives," he said, noting the lack of a consistent and coherent global approach has resulted in "a splintered and disjointed response, breeding misunderstanding, misinformation and mistrust."

GET PREPARED FOR OMICRON

The WHA special session coincides with the emergence of the highly mutated Omicron virus variant, which was designated by the WHO as a "variant of concern" (VOC) just three days ago.

Though the WHO has said it is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible or causes more severe disease than the other known variants, including Delta, concerns over its impact on the efficacy of existing vaccines and treatments have been growing.

A number of countries have already introduced entry bans on travelers from South Africa, where Omicron was first confirmed on Nov. 9 and has been identified in multiple European countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Portugal, and Sweden.

Sweden's Public Health Agency on Monday confirmed its first case of the Omicron variant, found when a traveler who last week returned to Sweden from South Africa was tested.

Portugal's National Institute of Health Doctor Ricardo Jorge (INSA) on Monday confirmed 13 cases of the Omicron variant in Portugal among players and staff members of the football club Belenenses SAD.

The INSA said that the samples were collected and analyzed on Sunday, and that one of the players who tested positive had recently returned to the country from South Africa.

In Germany, the COVID-19 seven-day incidence rate climbed to a new all-time high of 452.4, up from 386.5 a week ago, the Robert Koch Institute for infectious diseases announced on Monday.

German virologist Christian Drosten told the broadcaster ZDF on Sunday that he was "quite concerned at the moment. I am surprised to see so many mutations in the virus."

In Cyprus, new anti-coronavirus measures relating to young school children came into force on Monday, with most COVID-19 clusters currently being found in schools.

In addition to banning direct arrival from the eight African countries most affected by the Omicron variant, all travelers coming from other destinations will also be tested for the coronavirus at airports, said Michalis Hadipantelas, Cyprus' health minister.

Polish Health Minister Adam Niedzielski said on Monday that the country's government is set to announce new restrictions to cope with the new variant, including tightened flight rules on seven southern African nations.

"Omicron demonstrates just why the world needs a new accord on pandemics: our current system disincentivizes countries from alerting others to threats that will inevitably land on their shores," said Tedros.

Xinhua



A number of countries have already introduced entry bans on travelers from South Africa, where Omicron was first confirmed on Nov. 9 and has been identified

China urges continuous efforts to build higher-quality Belt and Road

THE Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) should aim for high-standard, sustainable and people-centered progress, Chinese President Xi Jinping said at a symposium on the development of the BRI held on Nov. 19 in Beijing.

Over the past eight years, regions across China have opened wider to the world through the BRI, and a win-win cooperation has been achieved between China and participating countries, Xi noted at the symposium, which was the third of its kind.

In his speech, Xi systematically summarized the important achievements and experience gained by China in the joint construction of the BRI, analyzed the

new circumstances facing the endeavor, and put forward clear requirements for continuing promoting the joint efforts for the high-quality development of the BRI.

Xi's remarks manifested China's firm resolution and the sense of responsibility of a major country to leverage the joint construction of the BRI to continue expanding high-level opening-up, sharing development opportunities with the rest of the world, and advancing the building of a community with a shared future for mankind in the new era.

As an ancient Chinese teaching

goes, "All good principles should adapt to changing times to remain relevant." Grasping the trend of the times of peace, development, cooperation, and win-win results, Xi proposed the BRI in the autumn of 2013.

Over the past eight years, China has adhered to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and focused its efforts on promoting "hard connectivity" of infrastructure, "soft connectivity" of rules and standards, as well as an people-to-people connectivity, achieving tangible and rich fruits in advancing the high-quality de-

velopment of the BRI through joint efforts.

Today, the BRI is a public product widely welcomed by the international community and the largest platform for international cooperation. As of November 2021, China has signed more than 200 documents on BRI cooperation with 140 countries and 32 international organizations, and third-party market cooperation agreements with 14 countries, including Japan and Italy.

In addition, certain cooperation concepts and proposals of the BRI have been written into the outcome documents of important

international mechanisms, such as the United Nations (UN), Group of 20 (G20), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

As the circle of friends of the BRI continues to expand, the quality of cooperation under the initiative is becoming higher and higher, which ushers in better and better prospects of BRI development.

Countries around the world should seize the opportunities brought about by the BRI cooperation to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, said UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

People's Daily

COVID-19 vaccine makers start work on Omicron-tailored shots

NEW YORK

BIONTECH, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are working on vaccines that specifically target Omicron in case their existing shots are not effective against the new coronavirus variant, the companies said on Monday.

The variant's emergence has triggered a strong global response as countries worried that it could spread fast even in vaccinated populations impose travel curbs and other restrictions. BioNTech SE said it had started work on a vaccine tailored to Omicron, along with partner Pfizer.

Meanwhile, Moderna Inc said it could take months to begin shipping such a vaccine, Chief Executive Officer Stéphane Bancel told CNBC.

Bancel said the effectiveness of existing

COVID-19 vaccines against the variant was currently not known, adding there should be more clarity in about two weeks.

Johnson & Johnson is also evaluating the effectiveness of its COVID-19 vaccine against Omicron, while also pursuing a vaccine specific to the variant.

"We have begun work to design and develop a new vaccine against Omicron and will rapidly progress it into clinical studies if needed," said Mathai Mammen, global head of research for J&J's pharmaceuticals unit.

A top South African infectious disease expert said Omicron appears to be more transmissible than previous variants, including to people with immunity from vaccination or prior infection.

Agencies

Sweden's first female premier returns days after quitting

STOCKHOLM

SWEDEN'S first female prime minister Magdalena Andersson was reappointed on Monday days after she quit amid political turmoil and jostling ahead of elections.

Lawmakers narrowly elected her premier for the second time in less than a week after she set out plans for a minority government made up of only her Social Democrats.

The former finance minister had won a similar vote on Wednesday but threw in the towel hours later after a junior coalition partner left the government over a lost budget vote.

"Like all minority governments, we will seek co-operation with other parties in parliament, and I see good opportunities to do so," Andersson, whose party holds 100 seats in the 349-seat parliament, told a news conference.

"The Social Democrats have the biggest party group in parliament by a wide margin. We also have a long tradition of cooperation with others and stand ready to do what is needed to lead Sweden forward."

The leader of the right-wing opposition Moderate Party, Ulf Kristersson, described the incoming administration as a "nine-month caretaker government" and said it would not be able to achieve much in the run-up to elections due in September 2022.

Andersson will have to lead one of Sweden's weakest governments in recent decades, and govern on a budget in part formulated by three opposition parties, including the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, whose gains over the past decade lie at heart of Sweden's political turmoil.

Parliament adopted budget amendments put forward by the opposition last week which heavily reshaped government spending plans.

The Social Democrats have been in power since 2014 supported by parties united by little else than their desire to keep the Sweden Democrats from influencing policy.

The centre-right opposition has struggled to gather enough votes to form a majority government and polls suggest there may be little shift in the political calculus in the next election.

Andersson will face major challenges.

Gang violence plagues the suburbs of major cities. The health service barely coped with the pandemic and needs strengthening, while the government will need to manage a promised transition to a zero-emissions economy.



Domestic politics to test Kuwait crown prince in fiscal reform

KUWAIT

THE biggest task facing Kuwait's octogenarian crown prince after unexpectedly stepping in for the emir this month will be to tackle the perennial political feuding which has long blocked badly needed fiscal reform in the wealthy oil producer.

Previously a low-profile figure who avoided public politics, little was known about Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, 81, who was security chief and then deputy of the National Guard before being named crown prince by his half-brother the emir in 2020.

On Nov 15, he was moved further into the spotlight when a frail-looking emir temporarily handed him most of his duties as Kuwait focuses on recovering from a coronavirus downturn, though higher oil prices have eased pressure on finances.

Before the handover, the emir undertook conciliatory moves to defuse a standoff between government and the elected parliament that paralyzed legislative work with only one regular session proceeding this year to approve the state budget.

"Kuwait needs to address its fiscal situation. I think the focus really will be getting the house in order financially," said Courtney Freer, fellow at Atlanta's Emory University.

The government has sought palliative measures to temporarily boost finances while more structural and fiscal reforms remain deadlocked, including a debt law to tap international markets.

Successive parliaments have also resisted efforts to introduce new taxes, including value-added tax, and to

reform a lavish cradle-to-grave welfare system for Kuwaitis, who account for less than a third of the state's 4.6 million population.

The crown prince last week reappointed Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid and tasked him with forming a new cabinet, the third this year under the standoff in which members of parliament wanted to question the premier on various issues. Sheikh Meshal also met opposition lawmakers.

"The emir and crown prince see him (Sheikh Sabah) as the most suited and strongest to deal with parliament at the current stage," said Kuwaiti political analyst Dahem Al Qahtani.

Analysts say resolution efforts are expected to end the legislative paralysis and further benefit from a divided opposition, some of whom wanted to question Sheikh Sabah on various issues.

"The so-called opposition has serious divisions. It will be difficult for them to continue united," said Kuwaiti political analyst Ghanim Alnajjar. The new cabinet could also see more than one lawmaker -- as had been the norm -- become a minister, Al Qahtani said, adding they would be among pro-government legislators.

Domestic matters are expected to take precedence over foreign policy at a time of simmering tension between Kuwait's larger and more powerful neighbors Saudi Arabia and Iran. Some Kuwait experts say the crown prince is close to Saudi Arabia and may move to further align Kuwait with Riyadh. His first calls after taking on his brother's duties were with King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Agencies

Keynote Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China at the opening ceremony of the eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

29 November 2021
Your Excellency President Macky Sall,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Dear Guests and Friends,

It is such a pleasure to attend the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Let me first express sincere appreciation to President Sall and the government of Senegal for their excellent organization, and extend a warm welcome to the colleagues and guests attending the Conference.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the start of diplomatic relations between China and African countries. Over the past 65 years, China and Africa have forged unbreakable fraternity in our struggle against imperialism and colonialism, and embarked on a distinct path of cooperation in our journey toward development and revitalization. Together, we have written a splendid chapter of mutual assistance amidst complex changes, and set a shining example for building a new type of international relations.

Dear Friends,

Why do China and Africa have such a close relationship and so deep a bond of friendship? The key lies in an everlasting spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation forged between the two sides, which features sincere friendship and equality, win-win for mutual benefit and common development, fairness and justice, and progress with the times and openness and inclusiveness. This truly captures the relations of China and Africa working together in good and hard times over the past decades, and provides a source of strength for the continuous growth of China-Africa friendly relations.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of China's lawful seat in the United Nations. Here, let me express sincere appreciation to the many African friends who supported China back then. Let me also make it solemnly clear that China will never forget the profound friendship of African countries and will remain guided by the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith and the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests. China will work together with African friends to promote and carry forward the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation from generation to generation.

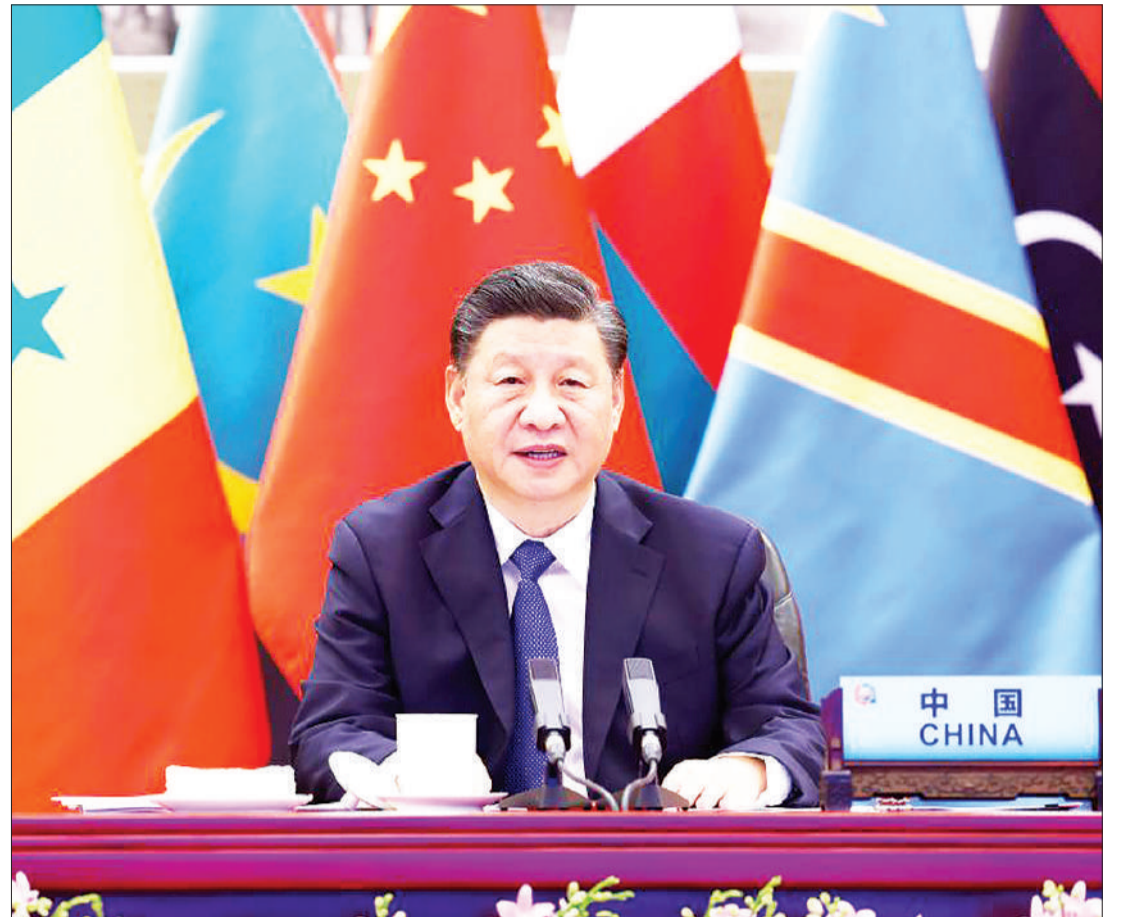
Dear Friends,

At the 2018 FOCAC Beijing Summit, I proposed that we build an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by African leaders. Over the past three years and more, China and Africa have worked together to fully implement the eight major initiatives and other outcomes of the Beijing Summit, and completed a large number of priority cooperation projects. China-Africa trade and China's investment in Africa have been on a steady rise. Almost all African members of FOCAC have joined the big family of Belt and Road cooperation. All these have injected strong impetus into the China-Africa comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. As we stand at the historic starting point of building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, I wish to make the following four proposals:

First, fighting COVID-19 with solidarity. We need to put people and their lives first, be guided by science, support waiving intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines, and truly ensure the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in Africa to bridge the immunization gap.

Second, deepening practical cooperation. We need to open up new prospects for China-Africa cooperation, expand trade and investment, share experience on poverty reduction, strengthen cooperation on digital economy, and promote entrepreneurship by young Africans and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). At the UN General Assembly this year, I



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) via video link in Beijing, capital of China, on Monday. Xinhua

put forward the Global Development Initiative, which dovetails with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We welcome the active support and participation by African countries.

Third, promoting green development. In the face of climate change, which is a major challenge to all humanity, we need to advocate green and low-carbon development, actively promote solar, wind and other sources of renewable energy, work for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change and keep strengthening our capacity for sustainable development.

Fourth, upholding equity and justice. The world needs true multilateralism. Peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom are common values of humanity and represent the abiding aspirations of both China and Africa. We both advocate a development path suited to our national conditions and are both committed to upholding the rights and interests of developing countries. We both oppose intervention in domestic affairs, racial discrimination and unilateral sanctions. We need to unequivocally stand for the just propositions of developing countries and translate our common aspirations and interests into joint actions.

Dear Friends,

In the run-up to this Conference, our two sides have jointly prepared the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035. Under the first three-year plan of the Vision, China will work closely with African countries to implement the following nine programs:

First, the medical and health programme. To help the AU achieve its goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the African population by 2022, I announce that China will provide another one billion doses of vaccines to Africa, including 600 million doses as donation and 400 million doses to be provided through such means as joint production by Chinese companies and relevant African countries. In addition, China will undertake 10 medical and health projects for African countries, and send 1,500 medical personnel and public health experts to Africa.

Second, the poverty reduction and agricultural development program. China will undertake 10 poverty reduction and agricultural projects for Africa, and send 500 agricultural experts to Africa. China will set up a number of China-Africa joint centers for modern agrotechnology exchange, demonstration and training in China, encourage Chinese institutions and companies to build in Africa demonstration villages for China-Africa cooperation on agricultural development and poverty reduction, and support the Alliance of Chinese Companies in Africa for Corporate Social Responsibilities in launching the initiative of "100 Companies in 1,000 Villages".

Third, the trade promotion programme. China will open "green lanes" for African agricultural exports to China, speed up the inspection and quarantine procedures, and further increase the scope of products enjoying zero-tariff treatment for the least developed countries (LDCs) having diplomatic relations with China, in a bid to reach 300 billion US dollars in total imports from Africa in the next three years. China will provide 10 billion US dollars of trade finance to support African export, and build in China a pioneering zone for in-depth China-Africa trade and economic cooperation and a China-Africa industrial park for Belt and Road cooperation. China will undertake 10 connectivity projects for Africa, form an expert group on economic cooperation with the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and give continued support to the development of the AfCFTA.

Fourth, the investment promotion programme. China will encourage its businesses to invest no less than 10 billion US dollars in Africa in the next three years, and will establish a platform for China-Africa private investment promotion. China will undertake 10 industrialization and employment promotion projects for Africa, provide credit facilities of 10 billion US

dollars to African financial institutions, support the development of African SMEs on a priority basis, and establish a China-Africa cross-border RMB center. China will exempt African LDCs from debt incurred in the form of interest-free Chinese government loans due by the end of 2021. China is ready to channel to African countries 10 billion US dollars from its share of the IMF's new allocation of Special Drawing Rights.

Fifth, the digital innovation program. China will undertake 10 digital economy projects for Africa, set up centers for China-Africa cooperation on satellite remote-sensing application, and support the development of China-Africa joint laboratories, partner institutes, and scientific and technological innovation cooperation bases. China will work with African countries to expand Silk Road e-commerce cooperation, hold online shopping festivals featuring quality African products and tourism e-commerce promotion activities, and launch a campaign to market 100 African stores and 1,000 African products on e-commerce platforms.

Sixth, the green development programme. China will undertake 10 green development, environmental protection and climate action projects for Africa, support the development of the "Great Green Wall", and build in Africa centers of excellence on low-carbon development and climate change adaptation.

Seventh, the capacity building programme. China will help build or upgrade 10 schools in Africa, and invite 10,000 high-level African professionals to seminars and workshops. We will implement "Future of Africa -- a project for China-Africa cooperation on vocational education", and start an employment "through train" scheme for African students in China. China will continue to work with African countries to set up "Luban Workshops", and encourage Chinese companies in Africa to create at least 800,000 local jobs.

Eighth, the cultural and people-to-people exchange programme. China will support making all African countries having diplomatic ties with China approved destinations for Chinese tourist groups. We will hold African film festivals in China and Chinese film festivals in Africa, as well as a China-Africa youth services forum, and a China-Africa women's forum.

Ninth, the peace and security programme. China will undertake 10 peace and security projects for Africa, continue to deliver military assistance to the AU, support African countries' efforts to independently maintain regional security and fight terrorism, and conduct joint exercises and on-site training between Chinese and African peacekeeping troops and cooperation on small arms and light weapons control.

Dear Friends,

Senegal's first President Léopold Sédar Senghor once wrote, "Let us answer 'present' at the rebirth of the world." I am convinced that the concerted efforts of China and Africa will make this FOCAC Conference a full success, one that shall pool the mighty strength of the 2.7 billion Chinese and Africans and guide us toward a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

Thank you.

The Guardian

SPORT

Tigo gearing up for 2022 Kili Half Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

The famous Kilimanjaro Marathon's preparations are now in top gear as scores of athletes, stakeholders, and partners psych themselves up for the 2022 event which was launched recently in Dar es Salaam.

The grand launch effectively set the stage for all the parties to get set for what is billed as the greatest athletics jamboree in this side of the region.

Tigo Tanzania, the country's premier telecommunications company, is a big player amongst the event's key stakeholders sponsoring the Kili Marathon's 21km stretch, (popularly known as the 'Tigo Kili Half Marathon').

Tigo says it is already revved up for the event, with all systems going to make the 2022 marathon even more memorable.

The Kilimanjaro Marathon boasts scores of accolades to its name. It has been dubbed, 'The Original and Still the Best', recognized too as the '#2 Wonder of the World Marathon' from 'Runner's World' Magazine and 'Number four Best International Adventure Marathon' by the influential Forbes Magazine—a clear illustration of its distinction and eminence in the vast global athletics arena.

The 2022 Kili Marathon will be relishing its 20th edition, two decades of regaling Tanzanians with the best athletics annual showbiz that gathers scores of experienced and budding athletes, provides exquisite entertainment, the most idyllic and lush scenery of Moshi City (a city that hosts race) and its environs, friendly and welcoming residents—all eclipsed by the ever-omnipresent, a watchful and protective gaze of the mother mountain, the great Mt. Kilimanjaro, with all its awe, splendor, majesty and glory.

The marathon's participants need not worry because the towering snow-capped peak and its legendary dalliance with the mystical and mythical gods and spirits will always be available to provide the requisite spiritual,



Tigo Kili Half Marathon participants during one of the past editions of Kili Marathon, which took place in Moshi.

emotional and sentimental guidance as they maneuver the marathon's sometimes treacherous circuit.

Suffice it to say, this is perhaps the alluring spectacle, among others, that Tigo considered when accepting to sponsor the Tigo Kili Half Marathon. But the sponsorship went and still goes beyond the thrills of the race and its attendant adventures.

According to Tigo Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael, besides its quest to provide an ideal platform for budding Tanzanian athletes to showcase and nurture their talents, the telecom firm is further committed to supporting socially-impactful initiatives to give back to the community in which it serves.

"Tigo has been at the forefront of supporting the Tigo Kili Half Marathon for over seven years now, our continued presence in championing the half marathon category further cements our commitment to nurture talents and support sporting activities in Tanzania", Woinde says.

Woinde points out: Over the years, we have been able to complement our sponsorship endeavors with community initiatives and in 2022, we look forward to doing even bigger things especial-

ly through our Tigo Green for Kili project which was launched in 2021 to conserve the environment around Mt. Kilimanjaro region and ultimately reduce the adverse impact of global warming".

The main purpose for the Tigo Green for Kili Project, Woinde says, is to safeguard the mountain's ecosystem, an endeavor for which Tigo has committed to contribute by implementing by planting over 10,000 trees.

Besides, Woinde says, Tigo's sponsorship of the half marathon underscores the telecom services provider's role as a worthy partner to the government and other stakeholders in their efforts towards boosting the development of the sports sector in the country.

"We understand the important role that sports play in bringing people together and our sponsorship of the Tigo Kili Half Marathon attests to this."

Further, the sponsorship not only demonstrates Tigo's love for sports, especially athletics but also considers the significant role that sports play in the empowerment of youth in particular and in the nation's socio-economic development," Woinde reveals.

Woinde encourages runners to register early for the

2022 Tigo Half Marathon edition using Tigo-Pesa to avoid last-minute inconveniences.

She congratulates the organizers of the Kilimanjaro Marathon for achieving 20 years of coordinating and supporting the national event which brings together professional and non-professional athletes from across the globe.

She says registration opened online on October 17, 2021, through www.kilimanjaronmarathon.com and via TigoPesa by dialing *149*20#.

Other sponsors of the 2022 Kili Marathon include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager- 42km, Tigo- 21km, Grand Malt-5km water table sponsors, Unilever, Absa, TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water and.

Kilimanjaro Marathon's official suppliers are Kilimanjaro International Leather Industries Company Limited, GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel, and CMC Automobiles.

Next year's event will be held at the Moshi Cooperative University (MOCU) venue on February 27, 2022.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.



Costa Siboka

Siboka set to introduce two new songs

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PROMINENT traditional music artist, Costa Siboka, has entered the studio to release two hits, which he hopes to officially launch at the Easter festival in Ukerewe, Mwanza.

Siboka, who is also the leader of the Mfalme traditional music group, mentioned the hits as 'Kisugugu', sang in the vernacular, and 'Wawaa' remix, recorded last week in Dar es Salaam.

"The Christmas season is inching closer and every year we do a festival known as 'Shangwe za Ukerewe Festival', so I will use the opportunity to introduce these new songs that I have recorded," Siboka pointed out.

He said the festival will take place at Gertrude Mongella Stadium.

Siboka pointed out although he is the festival coordinator, he will stage show with his troupe, Mfalme.

"Our group has many songs including 'Shikwamo', 'Mgulinde', 'Jitarhuma', 'Wawaa remix', 'Kanchepe', 'Om-wanga Wange', and 'Mla Chake', sang in the languages of the various ethnic groups of the Lake Zone," he said.

He moreover noted his group has also been encouraging Tanzanians to come out in large numbers to get the COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves from the dangerous disease that has yet to get treatment.

Siboka disclosed: "Vaccination is important, so Tanzanians should not be afraid, as President Samia Suluhu Hassan has set an example."

"We for that matter have to emulate President Samia and go to the immunization centers to get the service," he said.

He said, since the vaccine was introduced in the country, there have been many comments from various people, including those who do not want to be vaccinated, and that his group is committed to encouraging Tanzanians to get vaccinated.

Tanzania has yet to benefit from basketball

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

HE is one of the best and attractions among basketball players in Tanzania at the moment due to his impressive performance on the field which has been influencing many fans of the game in the country.

I'm talking about Enrico Agustino, a baller turning out for Dar es Salaam's Army Basketball Club (ABC) owned by the Tanzania People's Defense Forces.

The player emerged as the top scorer of the Dar es Salaam Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League after scoring 263 points.

Agustino further emerged as the top scorer of the National Basketball League (NBL) after scoring 165 points.

The basketball player also emerged as the Most Valuable Player of the NBL due to the high level he showed in the tournament held last month in Arusha while helping ABC excel in the showpiece.

The performer says Tanzania has a lot of talent in hoops but it is found wanting in infrastructure, especially stadiums, hoops leagues lacking sponsors.

The baller pointed out that the drawbacks turn out to be the biggest obstacles to the efforts to develop the game.

He says many local players play the game as a hobby just because they like it but it does not benefit them at all due to the various leagues being played without sponsorship.

On various occasions, hoops squads compete for free in tour-



Unguja women's basketball squad's forward, Caren Anderson, slots in a point when her side battled it out in this year's national basketball tournament, known as the 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup', which is taking place at Chinangali courts in Dodoma. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CRDB BANK PLC

naments without getting anything.

He says they need more sponsors to come forward to sponsor various hoops competitions to give the game value.

"The ballers who are playing this game must benefit because in recent years things were different, many people play but do not know how basketball benefits them in a different way, which can hardly be likened to players who used to play basketball and benefit-

ted from it." "I think something needs to be done to get this game back on track, including finding sponsors."

The Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) and regional associations need to be well organized as many sponsors are afraid of committing to the game because they do not even know what the league system is like," Agustino pointed out.

"The TBF leaders, the re-

gional associations have a lot of work to do to restore this game to its former glory."

"We are happy to see CRDB Baks work hard right now to enter and sponsor various competitions and that gives the impetus to many young people to fight and come in large numbers to play as there are some who get scholarships."

"We ought to see to see more companies back the sport so that more players can enjoy

playing, considering the performers know there is something they are benefiting from," Agustino noted.

He appealed to the government to concentrate on promoting the game of basketball, stressing the sport deserves investment.

"We know that football is a popular sport in the world and that is why even the government, in many of its sessions, mentions football but they should also look at other sports including basketball, it can also make the country proud."

"We need more local stadiums for this game as the problem of lack of stadiums is huge in this country and needs to be looked at broadly and addressed to further discover more talent in this sport," Agustino said.

ABC was one of the best teams in the RBA last season but it found itself unable to win the title ahead of Savio Basketball Club despite playing five final games.

This hurt Agustino but he eventually accepted the results but vowed they must win the NBL top honour.

ABC went on to clinch the NBL title and thus

fulfilled Agustino's goals.

"Losing the RBA League title hurts me, not only me but all my teammates but, in the end, he who does not accept defeat is not a competitor."

"We fought hard in all five finals and I can say that what helped Savio win the title was the presence of center, Thabeet, that is, he was the biggest obstacle for us but, without him, we would have finished them sooner and we would not reach five games," the baller pointed out.

"You know Thabeet is a very talented and experienced player and his shape gave us a lot of trouble playing against him."

"We are thankful after missing out on the RBA title, we won the NBL title in a very difficult tournament as even in all the matches we knuckled to victory against our opponents and we did not win by more than 10 points," Agustino noted.

As is the daily slogan that sports are a source of employment Agustino was fortunate to fulfil that slogan, as basketball gave him employment in the army.

He started playing the game in 2001 at Nyamalang Primary School in Mwanza and excelled in the national inter-primary schools' games (UMITASHUMTA) and impressed the management of Lord Barden Secondary School in Bagamoyo owned by retired Colonel, Iddi Kipingo.

Lord Barden Secondary School, which specializes in talent development, offered Agustino a scholarship to study from Form One to Form Four.

"While studying at Lord Barden, I played basketball for Savio Basketball Club and when I finished school I joined JKT side and continued to play there from 2014 to 2016."

"In 2017 I went to a military course and when I returned in 2018 I joined ABC and I was employed to this day."

The basketballer claims he loved basketball due to the influence of his brother, Frank Agustino, who was a talented basketballer.

Despite being a role model for young players who are watching him, the basketball player revealed he has a player who impresses him.

Lionel Messi's enduring brilliance rewarded with another Ballon d'Or

PARIS

SOME might question whether Lionel Messi really deserved to win his latest Ballon d'Or prize ahead of other worthy candidates, but the Argentinian has been rewarded for continuing to be so good for so long.

The most turbulent year of Messi's glittering career, in which he was forced to tearfully bid farewell to Barcelona, ends with him -- at the age of 34 -- claiming a record-extending seventh Ballon d'Or for the best player in the world.

In Germany they thought it had to be Robert Lewandowski's year after he missed out 12 months ago when the 2020 edition was scrapped due to the pandemic.

Karim Benzema might have had plenty of support in Spain for his remarkable performances with Real Madrid, and Jorginho could stake a claim following a year in which he won the Champions League with Chelsea as well as Euro 2020 with Italy.

Yet it is the enduring brilliance of Messi -- who won the last award in 2019 -- which stays in the minds of the jurors when it comes to voting.

Having joined Paris Saint-Germain in August, he is the first male player to win the award while with a French club since Jean-Pierre Papin of Marseille in 1991, although it was his achievements with Barcelona and with Argentina that counted towards him effectively retaining his crown.

Messi tried unsuccessfully to force his departure from Barcelona in August 2020 but he showed no signs of rancour as he stayed put at the Camp Nou and ended last season with 38 goals in 48 games for his boyhood club.

- International success at last -

These are the kind of remarkable figures that he has made so mundane over the course of his career -- indeed he had actually scored more goals than that in 10 of his previous 11 seasons.

Messi was the top scorer in La Liga for the fifth consecutive year with 30 goals and won the Copa del Rey, scoring twice in the final as Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao 4-0.

This will always be remembered as the year his long association with the Catalan giants came to an end, after 672 goals in 778 appearances, a record goal tally for one club.

However, 2021 was also the year he finally won a major international title, captaining Argentina to victory in the Copa America with a 1-0 win against Brazil in the final at the Maracana.

AFP

Ballon d'Or sees Barca childhood fan Putellas go down in folklore

PARIS

ALEXIA Putellas grew up dreaming of playing for Barcelona and after clinching the treble of league, cup and Champions League last season, her status as a women's footballing icon was underlined as she claimed the Ballon d'Or on Monday.

Unlike the men's side, Barca's women swept the board last term with the 27-year-old, who wears "Alexia" on the back of her shirt, at the forefront, months before Lionel Messi's emotional departure.

Attacker Putellas, who turns 28 in February, spent her childhood less than an hour's car journey from the Camp Nou and she made her first trip to the ground from her hometown of Mollet del Valles, for the Barcelona derby on January 6, 2000.

Exactly 21 years later she became the first woman in the modern era to score in the stadium, against Espanyol. Her name was engraved in the club's history from that day forward, but her story started much earlier.

She started playing the sport in school, against boys.

"My mum had enough of me coming home with bruises on my legs, so she signed me up at a club so that I stopped playing during break-time," Putellas said last year.

So, with her parent's insistence, she joined Sabadell before being signed by Barca's academy.

"That's where things got serious... But you couldn't envisage, with all one's power, to make a living from football," she said.

After less than a year with "her" outfit, she moved across town to Espanyol and made her first-team debut in 2010 before losing to Barca in the final of the Copa de la Reina.

She then headed south for a season at Valencia-based club Levante before returning "home" in July 2012, signing for Barcelona just two months after her father's death.

In her first term there she helped Barca win the league and cup double, winning the award for player of the match in the final of the latter competition.

It was in the following year that she made the step up to the national team and she has gone on to feature in four major tournaments with Spain, winning 92 caps.

Last season was her crowning glory as her childhood side won the Primera Division and the Copa de la Reina as well as the Champions League in a matter of weeks, a historic achievement for a Spanish women's outfit.

Individual recognition shortly followed, as she was named UEFA women's player of the year and Monday's announcement in Paris made her just the second Spanish player, after Luis Suarez in 1960, to win the much-coveted Ballon d'Or.

AFP

PSG's Messi wins record seventh Ballon d'Or

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain forward Lionel Messi was awarded the prestigious Ballon d'Or for a record-extending seventh time in a ceremony at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris on Monday.

Messi, who led Argentina to Copa America success in Brazil in July for their first major trophy since 1993, spent the majority of 2020 at Barcelona before his 21-year stay at the club ended when he left on a free in August and joined PSG soon after.

He now has two more Ballon d'Or awards than Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo, whose tally of five is two more than anyone else.

Messi added to his 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2019 trophies with the announcement on Monday.

"It's incredible to be here again. Two years ago I thought it was the last time. Winning the Copa America was key," Messi said. "It is a special year for me with this Copa America title. It meant a lot to win at the Maracana stadium and I was so happy to celebrate with the people from Argentina."

"I don't know if it's the best year of my life, I've had a long career, but it



Messi was awarded the seventh Ballon d'Or of his career at a ceremony in Paris on Monday. (Agencies)

was a special one with the title with Argentina after the tough times and the criticism."

Messi beat 29 other nominees for the award, including Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, who was the favourite for last year's prize before it was cancelled because of the lack of football during the coronavirus pandemic.

Lewandowski was nominated for the award again this year after he broke late Bayern legend Gerd Muller's single-season Bundesliga goal record in May after he

netted 41 league times last season, as well as winning the European Golden Shoe.

Although Lewandowski didn't win the night's biggest prize, he was named Striker of the Year at the ceremony and finished second to Messi on the final ballot.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho was also tipped for the award after winning last season's Champions League with his club side before playing a crucial part in Italy's triumph at Euro 2020.

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah, Real

Madrid's Karim Benzema and PSG's Kylian Mbappe and Neymar were also nominated for the award.

AC Milan's Gianluigi Donnarumma, who was also a finalist for the Ballon d'Or best player, was named Goalkeeper of the Year.

Chelsea, whose men won the UEFA Champions League in 2021 and saw their women's side win the Women's Super League, were named Team of the Year, with managers Thomas Tuchel and Emma Hayes accepting the award remotely because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Ballon d'Or is awarded annually by France Football, with FIFA's The Best a separate honour handed out every year -- Messi won that award for the first time in 2020.

Barca midfielder Pedri won the Kopa Trophy as Europe's best young player, which comes just a week after he claimed the Golden Boy award.

Meanwhile, Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo has slammed Ballon d'Or organiser and editor-in-chief of France Football Pascal Ferre, saying that Ferre "lied" about his rivalry with Lionel Messi and used Ronaldo's name to "promote his publication."

Ferre told the New

York Times last week that Ronaldo's only career ambition was to win more awards than Messi.

The Portugal international has five awards while Messi has six and is favourite to win the 2021 edition.

"Ronaldo has only one ambition, and that is to retire with more Ballons d'Or than Messi," Ferre said. "I know that because he has told me."

Ronaldo, who will not attend the ceremony in Paris on Monday, hit back at Ferre's claims in an Instagram post ahead of the announcement of the winners.

"Today's outcome explains why Pascal Ferre's statements last week, when he said that I confided in him that my only ambition was to finish my career with more Ballons d'Or than Lionel Messi," Ronaldo wrote.

"Pascal Ferre lied, he used my name to promote himself and to promote the publication he works for."

"It is unacceptable that the person responsible for awarding such a prestigious prize could lie in this way, in absolute disrespect for someone who has always respected France Football and the Ballon d'Or."

"And he lied again today, justifying my absence from the Gala with a supposed quarantine that has no reason to ex-

ist or be carried out."

Messi became favourite for the award after a list was leaked last week which appeared to show him winning the trophy.

"I always want to congratulate those who win, within the sportsmanship and fair play that have guided my career since the beginning, and I do it because I'm never against anyone," Ronaldo added.

"I always win for myself and for the clubs I represent, I win for myself and for those who love me. I don't win against someone."

"The biggest ambition of my career is to win national and international titles for the clubs I represent and for the national team in my country."

"The biggest ambition of my career is to be a good example for all those who are or want to be professional footballers."

"The biggest ambition of my career is to leave my name written in golden letters in the history of world football."

"I will end by saying that my focus is already on Manchester United's next game and on everything that, together with my teammates and our fans, we can still achieve this season."

"The rest? The rest is just the rest."

(Agencies)

Ballon d'Or prize tainted by lack of respect given to women's game

By Kathleen McNamee

THE addition of the Ballon d'Or Feminin in 2018 was a high point for women's soccer. It could have come a lot earlier with the men's version running since the 1960's, when it was created by magazine France Football, but it was finally a recognition that the top women's players in the world deserved to be celebrated alongside their male colleagues.

The perceived equal footing also gave the women a massive boost in visibility. To have these players stand beside Lionel Messi, Neymar, Cristiano Ronaldo and other top names in the men's game introduces them to a new cohort of people, along with the kind of career and commercial opportunities that have never been abundant.

Monday's winner, Barcelona Femeni and Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas, was crowned after a dominant season that saw the Spanish club win the domestic league/cup double and then their first-ever Champions League prize. It was also the first Ballon d'Or honor for a Spain international (male or female) since 1960, yet since the award's introduction, the prize has been marred in controversies, several of which were the fault of its organizers.

First, they had to apologise to Ada Hegerberg -- the first-ever winner of the Ballon d'Or Feminin -- when she was asked by DJ Martin Solveig to twerk on stage after receiving her trophy. Then there's the fact that the women's long-list is just 20 play-



Ada Hegerberg made history for being the first winner of the women's prize, but the ceremony was ruined by a degrading request made of the Norway international. (Agencies)

ers while the men's is 30. If they were truly seen as equal awards, this number would be the same. There were also rumblings of it being a popularity vote when Megan Rapinoe won it in 2019 but, considering the voting system in place, this one is hard to prove.

The initial list is compiled by the France Football team before it is turned over to a panel of journalists, who are asked to vote based on three categories: collective performances (winners) during the year, player class (talent and fair play) and overall judgment of the player's career. While Rapinoe won the Women's World Cup and Golden Boot in 2019, there was a criticism that her Ballon d'Or win was not based on stats, with three of her national team goals coming from penalties and questions over her club record. In 2019, she played just six times for her club, amassing 422 minutes out of over a possible 2,000. She also wasn't involved in any goals.

Perhaps the most egregious fault from the award's organizers, however, comes with this year's scheduling of the awards right in the middle of a Women's World Cup qualifying window, which means many of the 20 women nominated were unable to attend.

Of the 20 players nominated, only six attended the ceremony with Barcelona confirming on Friday that their five nominees would be present as a thanks for

their Treble-winning season. Canada's Ashley Lawrence, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain, also attended. The Spanish club posted a statement on Friday saying that they were going to ensure their players could attend as a thanks for their Treble-winning season. Lieke Martens is one of those Barca players and should be playing in a friendly against Japan, which kicks off at the same time as Monday's ceremony.

While it is a friendly and not a qualifier, which likely swayed their decisions, it's unfair that they had to choose between playing with their national side and attending the ceremony, especially in a year that sees teams like the Netherlands preparing for the Euros in England next summer, as well as the next set of 2023 World Cup qualifiers in April. ESPN reached out to several players for comment, but received no responses ahead of Monday's ceremony.

The rest of the nominees are largely unavailable. Paris Saint-Germain's Christiane Endler will be in Brazil

as she captains Chile, while Canada's Olympic gold medal winners, Christine Sinclair and Jessie Fleming, are in Mexico. Australia's Sam Kerr, a Golden Boot winner across several continents, is back home playing against the United States. These are just a few examples, with all the Europe-based nominees also due to be playing games across the continent on Tuesday.

The Ballon d'Or ceremony may be one of the glitziest events in the football calendar, but it's not ideal pre-match preparation for what are important qualifiers ahead of the 2023 World Cup. By holding the ceremony during one of the most crucial weeks in women's football, the organizers are once again showing a disregard for the women's game. This is supposed to be the top prize in the game yet many of those nominated aren't given the opportunity to attend. What does that say about the regard in which the award is held?

Then there was the handing over of the award itself. PSG's Ky-

lian Mbappe was chosen to give the prize to the winner, and it could have been a clever move from organisers to take one of the world's biggest sports superstars and have him cast some of the spotlight over the women's game.

They could have asked him about his clubmates, who won the women's league for the first time last season, or even have a discussion about the women's European Championship next summer, in which France will be competing. Instead the time leading up to the women's award was spent asking Mbappe about his own nomination for the men's prize and his possible involvement in the Paris 2024 Olympics. At a moment when all eyes should have been on the top women's players in the world, they were once again in the shadows.

By launching the Ballon d'Or Feminin 62 years after the men's award, you would expect the organisers would have many years of scheduling experience behind them.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

PSG's Messi wins record seventh Ballon d'Or

PAGE 19

Simba SC, Yanga, Azam FC land fair Federation Cup draw



Yanga's forward, Yacouba Songne (2nd R), dribbles past Biashara United's center back, Lenny Kissu (2nd L), and midfielder, Ramadhan Chombo (L), in previous season's Azam Sports Federation Cup's last four stage's match at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora last year. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE round of 64 draws for Tanzania's biggest knockout football competition, the Azam Sports Federation Cup, was held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday afternoon.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Competition Manager, Baraka Kizuguto, flanked by the national beach soccer side's coach, Boniface Pawasa, and youth soccer coach, Maa-lim Saleh, conducted the draw.

The Federation Cup round of 64 consists of 16 clubs from the

regional leagues together with 16 clubs from the First League, 16 clubs from the Championship, and 16 clubs from the NBC Premier League.

Top-flight NBC Premier League clubs have landed fair draws with light opposition and the advantage of playing at home.

The defending champions Simba SC will kick off its campaign at home against Championship side, JKT Tanzania.

Last season's finalists, Yanga, will entertain Mbarali's side, Ihefu SC, which was relegated from the top flight last season.

Azam FC which was knocked out at the semi-final stage last season will host Green Warriors while the other semi-finalist, Biashara United, has been drawn against Nyota Academy.

The matches for the Round of 64 will kick off between December 13-16 2021 at various playgrounds across the

country.

The format of play at this stage is knockout with the successful clubs making the grade to the round of 32's stage.

Winners of the competition earn a direct ticket to represent the country at the CAF Confederation Cup.

2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup Round of 64 Fixtures (*Home Team is mentioned first):

Dar City FC Vs Victoria FC, Maskani/Manyoni Vs Rhino Rangers, Tunduru Korosho Vs Gogo Blue, Swallows Vs Cata, Nyankumbu FC Vs Lipuli FC, Ndanda FC Vs Ilemi FC, Mbuni FC Vs Mwanga City FC, Pamba SC Vs Milango IO, Sumbawanga United Vs Sharp Striker, Tanesco FC Vs Lindi United.

Stand FC Vs Nyaishozi FC, Kiluyva FC Vs Baga, Mbao FC Vs DTB FC, Kimara United Vs Top Boys, African Lyon Vs Nzega United, Kawe Fresh Vs Transit Camp FC, Dodoma Jiji FC Vs Pan Africa, Biashara United Vs Nyota Academy, Mtibwa Sugar Vs Tunduma United, Yanga Vs Ihefu SC.

Mbeya City FC Vs Africans Sports, Namungo FC Vs Mashujaa, Kagera Sugar Vs TRA, Geita Gold FC Vs DHB.

Ruvu Shooting Vs Gwambina FC, Azam FC Vs Green Warriors, Mbeya Kwanza FC Vs Mwadui FC, Prisons Vs Kitayose, Polisi Tanzania Vs Ken Gold FC, Coastal Union Vs Fountain Gate FC, Simba SC Vs JKT Tanzania, KMC FC Vs Majimaji FC.

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Perennial favourites Zambia aim to make it a dozen COSAFA U-20 Championship titles

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S head coach, Oswald Mutapa, is set to lead the side at the COSAFA U-20 Championship in Eswatini next month, the draw for which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday where the Young Chipolopolo, along with the other teams competing, will learn their fate.

The competition will be played from December 10-18, with Zambia among the favourites has been the most successful side in the tournament's history.

They will be hoping to add to their 11 titles, the last of which came in 2019 under Mutapa, who had led the national U-17 side to the COSAFA title that same year.

It was a commanding performance from the side two years ago as they claimed a full haul of nine points in the pool stages, before seeing off Angola 3-0 in the semi-finals.

That was followed by victory against old foe South Africa by the same comprehensive margin in the decider.

Zambia was also rampant in 2016 as they stormed through that competition and inflicted a 2-1 defeat on their hosts South Africa in the decider.

They went on to claim the 2017 Africa U-20 Championships title on home soil and also excelled at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in South Korea in May last year.

But the side disappointed in the COSAFA Men's U-20 Championship on home soil in 2017, bowing out in the first round after a defeat to East African guest nation Uganda was followed by a draw with Malawi and a win over Eswatini.

They did make the semi-finals on home soil in 2018, but lost 2-1 to Zimbabwe and were then beaten 2-1 by Angola in the bronze-medal match.

They reached the semi-finals again in 2020, a competition played in South Africa, winning all three pool matches against Namibia (1-0), Comoros (2-0), and Malawi (2-0).

They came unstuck in the semi-finals though when they were held 0-0 by Mozambique, before losing 5-4 on penalties. They were beaten 2-1 by Angola in the bronze-medal match.

Zambia has won four of the last eight COSAFA U-20 Championships played, one in every two, so they will hope that trend continues and they make up for last year's disappointment.

Zambia has also been fairly regular visitors to the Africa U-20 Championship.

They have appeared at the continental tournament on seven previous occasions and apart from their gold medal in 2017, they also finished fourth in 1991, 1999, and 2007.

AGENCIES

SHIMMUTA Games' winners set for friendly in Uganda

By Guardian Reporter

THIS year's winners Tanzania Public Corporations & Private Companies Sports Federation (SHIMMUTA) Games' soccer champion, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) SC, has been invited to play an international friendly match with its Ugandan counterparts, it has been reported.

The invitation was issued by the Chief Commissioner of the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), John Musinguzi, while welcoming TRA SC that returned to Dar es Salaam from Morogoro, where this year's SHIMMUTA Games took place.

Commissioner Musinguzi congratulated the champions and urged them to continue maintaining good co-operation at work and in sports they participate in.

He said he was aware that success in sports would also help in boosting the country's development through the daily duties they do.

"I see five cups in front of me, I invite you to come to Uganda to either play a friendly match or they will come here (Tanzania), I promise you also in Uganda we have a strong football team, I am not sure in other sports, but let's start with football first," Musinguzi revealed.

The Chief Commissioner of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Alphayo Kidata, commended his players for continuing their dominance in the competition and said they had given the institution great respect.



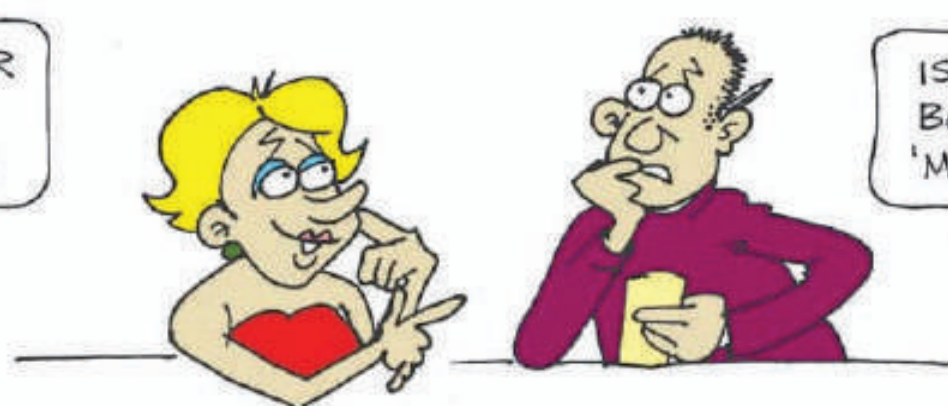
The Chief Commissioner of Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Alphayo Kidata (L), receives a trophy from TRA SC skipper, Shomary Kamna, shortly after the team emerged as this year's SHIMMUTA soccer tournament's champions in Morogoro. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT



Tanzania's national amputee football team 'Tembo Warriors' player, Frank Nkailo (L), dribbles past the Sierra Leone team's player when they faced off in the quarterfinals of this year's Cup of African Nations for Amputee Football (CANAF) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Tanzania won 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I'M LIKE 'SUPER POPULAR' ON SOCIAL MEDIA



ISN'T THAT LIKE BEING RICH ON 'MONOPOLY'