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Govt restricts ceremonies, bars in COVID-19 controls



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba pictured yesterday waving to residents of Tunduma, a town in Tanzania's Songwe Region on the Tanzania-Zambia border, during a tour said to have primarily sought to help him assess the state of cross-border smuggling in the area. Photo: Finance ministry

By Guardian Reporter

THE government yesterday announced new Covid-19 control measures restricting concerts, festivals and other gatherings until further notice.

Issuing the first new guidelines in Dar es Salaam, Prof Abel Makubi, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children said all activities that bring people together including bars, social halls should adhere to the guidelines set by the government.

He directed organization of ceremonies to be suspended indefinitely, saying it was a temporary measure and the government's aim is to reduce Covid19 transmissions.

"If it's a must ceremonies should be held in open space or if they are held in the hall they should be for a short time. The number of invited guests should be limited to allow social distancing of up to one meter," he said.

If there are activities that cannot wait for the situation to stabilize then they should follow all preventive measures including of checking a body temperature by a thermometer for everyone in the area, he stated.

Organizers of such gatherings must place hand-washing equipment including running water with soap or sanitisers, with customers required to leave one meter space from one another and more appropriately take drinks at home, the top medical official said.

These areas should be inspected by

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Torch race unearths 11.2bn/- embezzlement in 17 projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Bahi

THE inspection and launch of development projects during the Uhuru Torch Race has brought up a number of irregularities including embezzlement of 11.2bn/- in 17 projects scattered in as many districts countrywide.

So far, a total of 491 development projects valued at 786.9bn/- have been launched in the Torch Race format in

the 15 regions it has passed, on the basis of remarks by the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment and Youth) Patrobas Katambi (pictured).

He made mention of those snags at an event to hand over the Torch at a border point between Singida and Dodoma regions, at Nagulo village, Bahi district of Dodoma region. He said inspected projects include ongoing efforts in various sectors like education, health, water, environment, agriculture, road infrastructures, fishing, livestock, finance and ICT.

Other deficiencies identified in the series of inspections are frauds in road building with projects implemented below standard, lack of documents on laboratory tests and shortage of building equipment.

Other snags are payment of public

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Horticultural sector freeze sees 56bn/- loss in earnings

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA loses at least \$ 24m (56bn/-) per year in annual earnings reportedly lost due to frozen operations by defunct horticultural firms here closing shop in Arusha since 2017.

About 14 horticultural entities folded up business in Arusha Region, with nine establishments that were producing fresh cut flowers and five firms growing vegetables, with packaging and exporting.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, executive director of the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) said in a statement delivered to



I have seen the situation and will take all recommendations from the stakeholders to start working in restoring this important sector

an industry stakeholder meeting here at the weekend, the apex private sector institution that oversees horticultural activities and firms countrywide.

"With horticultural firms closing business, the government not only loses revenues, but people are also being laid out of work, while on the other hand, the local firms' absence creates a gaping hole which compels the country to import flowers instead of exporting them," she asserted.

Dr Mkindi was tabling the industry report to the Arusha Horticultural

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Lufthansa low-cost aircraft touches down in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

LUFTHANSA Group's new leisure airline Eurowings Discover touched down here yesterday in its inaugural flight, with authorities expressing hope of revival of the economy as most European countries flatten the Covid-19 infections curve.

Operating an Airbus 330-200, the 270-seater flight number 4Y134 took off



from Frankfurt on Saturday evening and arrived in the morning after an hour stopover in Mombasa. It will henceforth be making two direct flights to Zanzibar per week, officials said.

Speaking at a welcoming ceremony at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport, the Tourism and Heritage minister Lela Mohamed Mussa (pictured)

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Industry and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo (L) has a first-hand account of beer processing during a tour of the Tanzania Breweries Limited plant in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lufthansa low-cost aircraft touches down in Zanzibar

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said the airline's choice of Zanzibar as one of its destinations is good news for the isles' economy which heavily depends on tourism.

"We will accord them all the assistance they need to ensure that their operations become a success for the benefit of the company, the people of Zanzibar and Tanzania as a whole," she said, appealing for travel agencies to bring tourists from countries flattening the Covid-19 curve and lifted travel restrictions.

That would put the Spice Islands on their next travel list, she stated, to which the German Ambassador to Tanzania, Regine Hess explained that the choice of Zanzibar by the leisure airline reflects the

company's faith in Zanzibar as a unique tourist destination.

The Lufthansa Group's new leisure airline was granted its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) by the German Federal Aviation Authority on June 16, the company says on a website post.

Zanzibar hopes to revive its economy which has been hit hard by the pandemic over the past year due to global lockdowns.

To instill confidence in the visitors, the Isles officially launched mass vaccination on Thursday last week with the Chinese made Sinovac jab.

The Isles' Health, Community Development, Gender and Children minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui became the first public official to be

inoculated.

The mass rollout followed an earlier effort with an unspecified vaccine delivery which prioritized health workers, with all these efforts being carried out with the Sinovac vaccine.

Presiding over the launch at the Lumumba Covid-19 testing and treatment centre, the minister sought to build people's confidence in the jab, saying it is safe, approved by the World Health Organization and endorsed by the government of Zanzibar.

Another vaccine consignment is expected to be delivered after two weeks, with the Zanzibar government expecting to receive a total of 100,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine as assistance from

the Chinese authorities.

The vaccination effort is expected to boost tourism arrivals which have been rising since June, rising to 20,416, as compared to 9,280 in March.

Abdulrauf Ramadhani Abeid, the head of government statistics here said last week that France was leading in Europe for arrivals of tourists in Zanzibar.

He said a total of 11,588 European visitors entered the Isles in June, where France led by sending in 2,232 tourists, followed by Poland with 2,101 tourists.

Visitors who came to Zanzibar by sea through the port of Malindi numbered 5,152 and those who came by air were 15,264, around three quarters of the total, he added.

Govt restricts ceremonies, bars in COVID-19 controls

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health officers as well as local security liaison committees to ensure that those instructions are followed, he further stated, following on specifications on Friday last week by the minister, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, on non essential activities.

While urging those holding essential gatherings to take precautions in the wake of Covid-19 spread, she listed unnecessary gatherings that are proscribed as

including entertainment events like music performances, discos or large groups of people watching football.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been cautioning that Covid-19 is a rising health challenge, urging the public to take precautions set out by experts.

Addressing the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) assembly in Dar es Salaam last month, President Samia said that the disease is spreading and controls must be exercised.

Torch race unearths 11.2bn/- embezzlement in 17 projects

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funds contrary to laid down procedures, conflicts pitting people and project supervisors, apart from service gaps especially for water supply projects.

The deputy minister said regional commissioners and administrative secretaries whose areas were found with projects that had deficiencies need to rectify them "and take appropriate steps against officials sabotaging government projects."

In addition, officials in regions and districts where the Torch Race is yet to pass should mobilise themselves as the Torch Race officials will continue executing their responsibilities as instructed by the highest levels of government, he cautioned.

However, the Torch Race leader Lt Josephine Mwambasi asked officials to make sure all documents for the projects are brought to the project site.

"As the Torch Race is implementing its responsibilities we should remember to abide by all precautions against the Covid-19 pandemic. People must wear masks, use handwashing facilities put in place at all times," she said.

For his part, Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka said that in Dodoma Region the Torch Race will be conducted on a 1,264.2

km route in its seven districts, where about 36 development projects valued at 41.88bn/- will be inspected.

Bahi DC Mwanahamisi Munkunda said in the district the Torch Race shall cover 124 kms and facilitate inspection of five development projects valued at 1.968bn/-.



As the Torch Race is implementing its responsibilities we should remember to abide by all precautions against the Covid-19 pandemic. People must wear masks, use handwashing facilities put in place at all times

'Innovation, partnership, vital in driving Africa's digital payment growth'

By Aida Diarra

The last decade has seen enormous growth in digital technology, including payments. Innovation and technological advances are bringing exciting opportunities for financial inclusion to the fore.

Technology is now a tool to leapfrog over old processes, systems, and protocols for the benefit of everyday consumers. This leap forward has been accelerated by the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has forced us to shift our behaviours and adopt more technology to assist with our day-to-day lives in all aspects, including our finances.

As a result, the payments segment has grown rapidly in Sub-Saharan Africa, mainly due to the high demand for financial inclusion.

Today, Visa, the world leader in digital payments, has become the connective tissue to enable new payment and commerce experiences by co-creating with all players in the payments sector - including fintechs, neobanks and wallets - to enable new payment experiences across the region.

We have always been an enabler of invention and have constantly innovated to meet market needs over the years - from credit, debit and prepaid to mobile and internet of things (IoT) - to enable new payment experiences across the region.

Our business and technology strategies have enabled us to become a leader in electronic payments over the last six decades. Despite this great success, an estimated \$17 trillion of cash and cheques are still in use globally, and nearly two billion adults lack access to formal financial services, providing huge

opportunities for Visa and the greater industry to rally around standards (e.g., QR, eCom/mCom) and capabilities that will broaden access to electronic payments.

According to the Global Innovation Index, regional divides still persist and when you look at Sub-Saharan Africa, we are characterised by high performers like South Africa and Mauritius, who rank in the top 60, while most of our region ranks below 100.

Visa's approach to innovation in the 21st century is anchored in a belief that paying with Visa in the digital world should be just as simple as when you pay with Visa in the physical world. It should also be just as secure, rewarding, and convenient.

With commerce becoming increasingly digital, there is a greater impetus for Visa to innovate to keep our system secure for everyone. Every Visa payment, for example, is secured by our sophisticated anti-fraud detection systems that apply the latest in machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI). We pioneered the use of sophisticated machine learning systems to reduce fraud on our network over a decade ago, and in the years since, we have evolved our predictive analytics to incorporate new data sources and new AI technologies. In a fraction of a second, Visa analyses up to 500 pieces of data to protect account holders and merchants by catching fraud before it happens.

The restrictions on movement and increased wariness of handling physical cash due to the Covid-19 pandemic, helped lift Sub-Saharan mobile money transaction volumes 23 percent to \$490 billion last year, greater than the GDP of Nigeria, the region's biggest economy.



An Airbus A330-200 belonging to Germany's Eurowings Discover fleet, makes its maiden landing at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Horticultural sector freeze sees 56bn/- loss in earnings

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Producers' Forum chaired by Regional Commissioner John Mongela, aimed at reviving the ailing sector and ensuring that the country forges ahead in fruits, flowers, spices and vegetable production and exports.

"Tanzanians still need flowers to mark various occasions, including weddings, funerals and official ceremonies. In the past these

used to be procured locally but nowadays, we are forced to buy them from neighbouring countries," the TAHA executive underlined.

Citing the example of Kiliflora, a horticultural firm which used to employ over 1500 people but closed down operations and sent many people home without sources of earnings, she said it was high time the government thought of working with the private sector to reclaim the lost glory.

RC Mongela who earlier visited six flower firms, saw to his horror what they were experiencing, like abandoned greenhouses, closed offices and rusting pieces of machinery after the investors packed their bags in recent years.

"I have seen the situation and will take all recommendations from the stakeholders to start working in restoring this important sector," he declared.

Tanzania is currently earning

\$8m per annum from horticulture, while its next door neighbour rakes in a whopping \$3bn from the industry, even with the Covid-19 pandemic taking its toll on the industry.

Various stakeholders said that other than the emerging pandemic, the operating environment in Tanzania had also been less conducive, thus prompting many of the investors to seek greener pastures elsewhere.



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank managing director Japhet Justine (L) and board chairman Ishmael Kasekwa welcome Finance and Planning deputy minister Hamad Masauni to the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Z'bar Finance minister praises bank operations

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Finance and Planning minister Hamadi Masauni has hailed the operations of Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) and called upon it to mobilise the community to invest in the agricultural, livestock and fishing sectors to spur the country's economic growth.

Addressing reporters at the weekend soon after holding discussion with the bank's officials in Dar es Salaam, Masauni said there is need to educate the public about opportunities in the farming, livestock and fishing sectors for their own financial enhancement.

"Many people have been investing their money in the government bond system and takes too long to realise profits, as compared with agriculture," he said.

He said TADB has a huge task in providing education to the public in the value chain investment in the three sectors.

"The statement that agriculture is bankable should reach the

people and abandon investing in government bonds," he stressed.

He added that education and reliable loans in agricultural activities will mobilise in spurring many people to invest in these important sectors that produce industrial raw materials.

Meanwhile, Masauni said he had received reports on TADB operations as since its establishment up to now it has dished out more than 300bn/- on loans to farmers in the country towards value chain investment in the farming, livestock and fishing sectors.

For his part, TADB Board Chairman Ishmael Andulile Kasekwa, apart from thanking Masauni for his visit, he assured him that the bank will continue implement its aims by adhering to procedures and guidelines of its establishment.

He said TADB will continue putting in place friendly environment to farmers to enable them benefit from low interest loans that would spur achievements in the farming sector.

President Samia wins investors' accolades

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's prominent businessman Mohamed Dewji, owner of Mohamed enterprises Limited (MeTL) has praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for restoring harmonious relations with various foreign nations and investors, saying the move will spur the country's economic growth and create job opportunities.

Mohamed Dewji, popularly known as Mo, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when addressing 100 students of high learning institutions sponsored by his foundation - Mo Dewji Foundation.

He said: "We have the right direction under President Samia, I call upon fellow businessmen to support her as she wants us to

make strides towards economic growth."

He said President Samia is doing well to woo foreign investors and protect them and after a few years the country's economy will be strong.

In efforts to support government's efforts, Mo said in the four years of President Samia's leadership he will increase jobs from 31,000 now to 100,000.

Regarding Mo Dewji Foundation to the 100 students, he said it begun in 2015 and as days go by, he plans to increase the number of students to be sponsored to reach 1,000 while targeting 10,000 students in the coming five years.

He urged the beneficiaries to pray for him as he was passing through challenging period of his life.

"I appeal to you that after you succeed in

your studies, do not forget to assist others as I do not want even a single cent from you, my aim is to make sure we make progress and do away with poverty," he said.

He added that since the establishment of the Foundation, more than 1bn/- has been spent in the project of sponsoring students at various high learning institutions to make them realise their dreams.

"The demand is big but we concentrate more on those from difficult conditions without favour, we abide by gender balancing as well as religion," he added.

Miriam Ibrahim, one of the beneficiaries thanked the Foundation, saying it has helped many of them realise their life dreams.

"We have been getting various opportunities through this Foundation including being

employed in MeTL, and I call on other institutions to emulate this example," she said.

Baraka Edward, a student from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) said:


"We cannot repay you for what you have done for us, even if we say we should come to work in your firms for free, that cannot match with what you have done for us," he said.

During the meeting, Mo recalled the incident of his abduction in 2019 from Colosseum Hotel in Dar es Salaam and dumped a few days later at Gymkana's Grounds.

He said during the nine days of his captivity, he knew he was going to die, but Tanzanians, in unison prayed for him and god listened, and that is why I decided to offer myself in service of Tanzanians.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA MAMBO YA NDANI YA NCHI
IDARA YA UHAMIAJI
OFISI YA AFISA
UHAMIAJI Mkoa
S/LP/71
MBEYA

TANGAZO LA OMBI LA URAIA



IRIFAZI

BW...NOORALI NISHADALI PIRANI
MTAJWA NA MWENYEPICHA HAPU JUU NI
MKAZIWA JIJINI MBEYA Anaoomba Uraia wa Tanzania
kwa Mji Waziri wa Mambo ya ndani ya nchi Mtaajwa kwa
sasa ni Rais wa India lakini anaitihi Tanzania na
anajishughulisha na Biashara.

Mtaajwa amekuwa hapa nchini Tanzania TANGU
Mwaka 1999. Hivyo kwamba mtu yeyote mwenye Taarifa
au Sababu ya kwani mwombaji asipewe Uraia apotele
Sababu hizo kwa maandishi yaliyoainwa kwa Kamishna
wa Uhamiaji S.LP.512 Dar Es Salaam.



TANZANIA-ZAMBIA RAILWAY AUTHORITY
HEAD OFFICE

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) is a statutory institution owned by the two Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia on a 50/50 shareholding basis. The Authority is incorporated by the Acts of Parliament of the two contracting states, with its Registered Head Office being in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and two Regional Administrative Centres, one in Mpika, Zambia and the other in Dar es Salaam. The position of Finance Manager has fallen vacant and applications are invited from suitably qualified Tanzanians and Zambians as follows.

JOB TITLE: FINANCE MANAGER

Department: Accounts and Finance
Location: Head Office (1 Position)
Reporting to: Managing Director
Job Purpose: The Finance Manager is responsible for developing and managing general accounting and financial portfolio and design systems and procedures for control of expenditure in order to sustain TAZARA operations and meet profit objectives.

Main Duties:
The following constitute the main duties of the Finance Manager:

- Formulates and directs short and long term financial policies, systems and procedures for effective and efficient utilization of the Authority's funds;
- Directs the development of policies of financial management in order to ensure effective and efficient utilization of the Authority's fund;
- Directs the design of accounting rules and regulations in order to ensure uniform and consolidated systems and reports;
- Directs the development of policies for monitoring financial performance of Cost and Profit Centres;
- Formulates and directs debt collection policies to enhance timely collection of the same from customers;
- Develops and directs investment policies in liaison with the department of Corporate Planning and Research, to ensure economic utilization of funds;
- Formulates and directs policies on cash flow management through the system to ensure optimum utilisation of revenue;
- Directs, coordinates and monitors budget preparation and application in areas of jurisdiction; and
- Directs formulation of staff development training and planning policies in order to ensure availability and proper utilisation of accounting staff.

Competencies and Skills:

- Proficiency in Accounting and Payroll Management Systems, including Microsoft Office applications;
- Strong interpersonal, communication and leadership skills;
- Ability to manage and prioritize tasks and projects;
- Good understanding of applicable tax, pension and other statutory obligations;
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills; and
- Team oriented.

Qualifications:

- Form IV/VI certificate in Tanzania or Grade 12 certificate in Zambia
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting Plus Qualified Chartered Accountant from a recognized Institution e.g. ACCA, CIMA, ACA, and CPA;
- Ten (10) years relevant experience at senior level;
- Not less than 35 years of age;
- Post Graduate Degree in Business Administration or related field is an added advantage;
- Full member of the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA) in Zambia or National Board of Accountant and Auditors (NBAA) in Tanzania.

Conditions of Service
TAZARA conditions of employment will apply. This appointment is on permanent and pensionable terms.

Mode of Application:
Only candidates who meet the specified requirements need to apply to the address indicated below, enclosing their detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of educational certificates, names and addresses of three traceable referees. Closing date for receiving application letters is 20th August 2021 at 17:00hrs.

Notes:

- Female candidates are encouraged to apply.
- Only short-listed candidates will be communicated to.

Human Resources Manager
Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA)
Head Office, Julius Nyerere Road
P.O. Box 2834
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
Email: mdhq@tazarasite.com

TAZARA - SAFE. RELIABLE. COST - EFFECTIVE



TANZANIA-ZAMBIA RAILWAY AUTHORITY
HEAD OFFICE

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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JOB TITLE: PRINCIPAL PENSIONS OFFICER

Department: Human Resources
Location: Head Office (1 Position), Dar es Salaam
Job Purpose: Reporting to the Human Resources Manager, the Principal Pensions Officer's role shall be to effectively oversee and coordinate policies and procedures relating to the pension schemes with quality service delivery to all scheme stakeholders.

Main Duties:
The following constitutes the main duties of the Principal Pensions Officer:

- Provides secretarial services to the Board of Trustees and advises on new and emerging financial issues;
- Review of pension policies and benefit packages;
- Ensures that schemes operate effectively and comply with industry standards;
- Monitors pension statutory regulations and developments in pension provisions in order to ensure the optimum performance of the pension fund;
- Monitors and provides pension scheme deficit reports to the Board of Trustees and Management;
- Develops communication strategies to promote the benefits of the pension scheme and assists in managing the relationships amongst the employer, trustees and employees;
- Makes recommendations to improve the scheme in response to member feedback and scheme performance; and

Competencies and Skills:

- Basic knowledge of financial controls, investment accounting and investment systems;
- Knowledge of mathematical principles and the ability to make accurate calculations;
- Ability to prepare executive summaries and other written communications for senior management and Board of Trustees;
- Skills in managing large and complex quantities of data and information;
- Ability to use spread sheets, word processing, and presentation software;
- Oral communication skills to positively present pension matters to individuals and groups both large and small; and
- Integrity and the ability to maintain complete confidentiality.

Qualifications:

- Form IV/VI certificate in Tanzania or Grade 12 certificate in Zambia
- Bachelor's degree in Insurance Studies, Pension Administration, Accounting, Business or Finance;
- Chartered Pension Analyst (CPA), Actuarial Science, ACCA or CIMA are added advantages;
- Minimum five (5) years of progressively responsible experience handling pension benefits for employees and preparing written reports for management;
- Not less than 35 years of age.

Conditions of Service
This appointment is on three (3) years Fixed Term Contract of Employment, subject to renewal by mutual agreement.

Mode of Application:
Only candidates who meet the specified requirements need to apply to the address indicated below, enclosing their detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of educational certificates, names and addresses of three traceable referees. Closing date for receiving application letters is 20th August 2021 at 17:00hrs.

Notes:

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TAZARA - SAFE. RELIABLE. COST - EFFECTIVE

Produce board: We're vigilant on progress of the implementation of wheat farming project

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Cereals and other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) has said that it is closely supervising the implementation of the contract farming project for wheat crop in Manyara, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions so as to increase production and employment.

Dr Anselm Moshi, CPB's director general said this yesterday that so far more than 2,937 acres of land has been cultivated for wheat crop in the regions and a total of 6,000 tonnes of wheat will be harvested in August this year.

According to him, the move is also aimed to reduce importation of the crop in the country.

"We expect to purchase all tones and store them in our modern facilities located at Unga Limited in Arusha where we have a plant for wheat milling," he said.

So far, CPB has modern facilities with advanced cereals technology for cereals cleaning, drying, grading, milling and packaging.

Dr Moshi said that the board also owns modern facilities meant for cereals cleaning, drying, grading, milling and packaging in Gangilonga in Iringa Region and Unga limited in Arusha.

In addition, there are facilities for wheat milling and oilseed extraction in Arusha.

"We provide storage facilities to stakeholders in need at our premises and other services include cereals milling, cleaning, drying, weighing, grading and packaging which are provided at our branches at competitive rate," he said.

He said CPB has branch offices in Mwanza, Arusha, Dodoma, Iringa and Dar es Salaam Regions that have storage facilities with the capacity to store more than 100,000Metric

Tonnes of produce at once.

He said CPB will continue to enter into contracts farming with companies and individuals for sunflower and wheat sorghum production.

"We aim to raise sunflower seeds processing capacity from 12,000 tonnes per year to 50,000 tonnes by 2024, this will help Tanzania to reduce dependency on imported oil from overseas," he said.

He welcomed customers to purchase the board's sunflower cooking oil as the board has a sunflower oil processing plant which produces cooking oil and are packaged from one to 20 litres.

He also said that CPB invites Tanzanians and other agricultural stakeholders who are willing to engage in contract farming to contact the board's management.

"We also invite businessmen from in and outside Tanzania to do business with us, we have enough stock and we encourage Tanzanians to use our products that have high quality standards," he noted.

Among the products produced by the board include maize flour, sunflower oil, rice, beans, cashew nut, white sorghum, sesame and other crops that customers can access it through various centres located in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Dodoma, Iringa and Mwanza.



We expect to purchase all tones and store them in our modern facilities located at Unga Limited in Arusha where we have a plant for wheat milling



Kibosho Designated Hospital doctor in-charge John Materu (L) pictured at his office at the weekend showing a cheque he had just received from Lions Club District 411C governor Mohammed Mulla (3rd-R) to support eye screening and cataract surgeries at the facility. More than 200 patients will benefit within one month, with the Dar es Salaam (Host), Moshi-Kibo and Kilimanjaro Lions clubs collaborating with the UK-based Beta Charitable Trust extending over 24m/- for the purpose. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Prof Mkenda: Govt set to import oil seeds to distribute to edible oil factory owners

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government, in collaboration with various financial institutions are mobilised to import quality seeds and distribute them to edible oil factory owners.

This has been expressed by the Agriculture Minister, Prof Adolf Mkenda as he was reporting on challenges facing the agricultural sector including low oil seeds production.

He said the seeds provided to edible oil factory owners will enable the latter enter into contracts with large scale farmers

or cooperative unions, who in turn would enter into contracts with farmers and provide them with the seeds to enhance them increase production of raw materials for the factories.

He said other challenges facing the farming sectors include inadequate facilitation of the extension officers and farming equipment, and added that to solve this the government has come up with this solution.

Prof Mkenda made the remarks here at the weekend when launching the activities of PASS leasing Company, a subsidiary of Pass Trust registered by the Bank of

Tanzania (BoT) to provide loans for purchase of farming equipment.

He said sunflower oil is of high quality than other types of edible oil for people's health, hence the strategy to increase sunflower seeds production will be done in three regions that lead in the crop's cultivation - Simiyu, Singida and Dodoma.

Speaking about the even, Prof Mkenda said the PASS Trust Agricultural Week taking place in Dodoma under the slogan "Together we Should Enable the Procurement of Funds for Sustainable Farming" in collaboration with the Office of

Dodoma Regional Commissioner, has been organised at the right time when the government was stressing campaigns that aim to strengthen farming of strategic crops in the country.

In the event, Prof Mkenda launched Pass Leasing Company that loaned four farmers with low interest loans for farming equipment without any collateral.

The farming equipment included three tractors and a rice harvester.

The event was witnessed by Dodoma Regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka in presence of PASS Trust officials.



Tanzania Commercial Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi (6th-R) pictured at the weekend symbolically presenting 200 corrugated iron roofing sheets worth 7.8m/- to Masasi legislator Geoffrey Mwambe, who is also Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), for use by Masasi Prison's hospital over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Swedish ambassador pledges continued support to CSOs

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

SWEDISH ambassador to Tanzania Anders Sjöberg has pledged continued support to the country's civil society organisations (CSOs), saying the vital role they play contributes to the country's socio-economic development as well as improvement of democracy and human rights.

According to him, CSOs are important in any country as they have multiple roles as implementing partners towards the country's social development.

Ambassador Sjöberg made the statements in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at an event to celebrate HakiElimu's 20th anniversary.

"CSOs have an ability to authorise people at grass root levels, assist them and find solutions to their problems. The government should include CSOs in all aspects because they are the ones supporting it in various ways, and that is one of the principles of democracy," he added.

He said that high level inclusion and engagement of CSOs would spur development, enhance accountability and citizen participation in development.

Sjöberg said that for the past 20 years HakiElimu has been doing a great work of transforming the country's education sector by conducting research, campaigns and advocating for social justices, the thing that makes the government accountable to its citizens.

The Ambassador noted that education is one of the human rights and that it has to be provided to the people without considering their gender.

Earlier, HakiElimu Executive Director, Dr John Kalage said he have experienced a number of challenges since they started in 2002, insisting they would have not reached where they are today without the government cooperation, as well as support from stakeholders, friends of education, and citizens.

He said the collective effort has led to the JusticeElimu Institute to be successful and even planning post-20-

year strategies.

Dr Kalagahe noted that the HakiElimu's five years strategic plan 2022-2026 focuses on areas such as language of instruction and assessment and basic education, gender equality in education, inclusive education especially for children with disabilities.

Dr Kalage added that they will also focus on child protection in schools and around school areas, integration of climate change in education as well as technology and innovation for education advancement and resilience.

"In our next five years strategic plan we will be conducting research and innovation, public media campaign and advocacy, community mobilization and empowerment, partnership and collaboration as well as strategic engagements as a approached and strategies to implement our plan, we have seen these as most effective ways as we have been using them in our previous plan" added Dr Kalage.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Prof Carolyne Nombo said the government is ready to collaborate with CSOs in various sectors including education.

Prof Nombo said the government is considering CSOs as its collaborator in all its aspects of developments because they are the yeast for development.

She said that some of the areas which HakiElimu has pointed out in its 2022-2026 strategic plans like gender issue in education, technology and inclusive education for children with disabilities are being implemented by the government.

"We are moving together in this, although we are using different approaches. The government has invested in various education issues like inclusive education and technology," said Prof Nombo.

A peer educator from Tabora, Dafroza Bernard who is also a chairlady of peer educators in the region, said that in 20 years of its operations in the country HakiElimu has helped communities in transforming education in many ways, some of them are construction of class rooms, modern toilets and girls hostels.

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

Govt to control over 300 unofficial routes along Kenya-Tanzania border

HOME Affairs minister George Simbachawene yesterday vowed to control more than 300 unauthorised exits along the Tanzania-Kenya border at Holili and Tarakea in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region.

Simbachawene said the existence of the unofficial exits have been contributing to the government losing huge amount of revenues as the routes are used by smugglers to transport contraband from one side to another.

The Minister made the remarks during his meeting with officials from various institutions working at the border areas after he inspected the border posts and listened to their reports.

"This is not acceptable, it must be worked upon, I have received it but you should understand that that among basic issues for a country is to control its borders, you cannot

claim to have a country while people enter and exit as they wish, it is not acceptable, I will sit with my fellow ministers and Permanent Secretaries to see how we can deal with it," he said.

"This is a basic issue for the country, I cannot make any judgement on it alone, I will work on it to make sure people use authorized routes to enable the government to get its rightful revenue," Simbachawene added.

For his part, Officer in Charge for Immigration at Holili Border Post Eliachi Marandu told the minister that they were faced with challenges from the existence of these unauthorised routes, the situation that makes it difficult for them to control smuggling despite great efforts to conduct frequent patrols.

"These unofficial exits are in various areas, including Kamwanga, Rongai up to Holili, more than 300 of them, and are big as big trucks go through hence it is difficult to control them, despite patrols we conduct from time to time," Eliachi said,

However, apart from these border challenges, the Tarakea border post has surpassed revenue collection target whereby beginning July last year, the post had targeted to collect 23bn/-, but by June this year, it collected more than 15bn/.

Simbachawene completed his two-day visit in Kilimanjaro Region and today (July 26) is expected to start his visit in Arusha Region to inspect the work performed by institutions under his ministry including various projects.

Government teams up with stakeholders to control escalating drowning incidents

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE government has teamed up with stakeholders in the country to control the escalating incidence of drowning that continues to cause deaths to many fisheries.

The world drowning report 2014 by World Health Organization (WHO) classified Tanzania as one of the high-risk countries that have a drowning mortality rate of 1.5 to 3 people per 100,000 people.

Speaking to reporters over the weekend in Dar es Salaam executive director for the Environmental Management and Economic Development Organisation (EMEDO) Editrudith Lukanga said that the existing statistics shows that every year 3,000 people are drown in the country.

"The incidence of drowning causes a lot of burden to families and friends, but it also reduces the manpower and skills to contribute to development of fishing sector, hence we need to work together with government to make sure we initiate concrete measures to reduce deaths from drowning," she said.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) drowning account for 7 percent of all deaths around the world, this means that 236,000 people lost life from drowning across the world.

She said that one of the challenges in the country is lack of formal arrangement for collection of data of people die from drowning, which causes the reporting of incidences to be under 50 percent despite the seriousness of the problem.

EMEDO will be working with Kinondoni Municipal Council to help fisheries and other groups working in the ocean are staying safe.

"We join the world to provide awareness to all groups working in oceans and entire public to highlight the scope of the problem and to coach them how to prevent themselves in the course of their duties," she explained.

Fisheries officer from Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) Grace Kakama said that under the Fishing Act Cap 22, 2003 provides the rights for fisher to be protected in the course of their duties.

"But also, the authority is responsible to make sure fishers abide the law in their daily operation to ensure sustainability of the sector," she said.

However, the challenge existing is poor fishing equipment which lead them to face injury or death in the water as they execute their duties.

"Because of poor equipment in fishing, a lot of them faces difficulties especially during the climate change, many of them die while others remain injured."

"Every month 4 - 5 people are reported to have die as a result of drowning in Kinondoni area," she said adding that the situation must be addressed.

Kakama explained that the World Drowning Day organized by the United Nations on every July 25, provide an exclusive opportunity for the authority to work with stakeholders in initiating strategic measures to ensure safety of fisherman and other people is given high attention.

"The authority alone cannot address the existing challenges, but by collaborating with stakeholders we can highly end drowning in Kinondoni and in the country," she said.

There are about 200,000 fisherman and other 4 million people who have employed themselves in the fishing value chain, which contribute the fishing sector to produce about 470,000 tons of fish products.

Drowning is a silent killer, it is among the ten leading causes of death for children aged 5-14 years. It is estimated that 235,600 people drown every year with more than 90 percent of drowning deaths occurs in rivers, lakes, wells, domestic water storage vessels and swimming pools in low and middle income countries.



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja cuts ribbon at the weekend to inaugurate the planting of indigenous fruit and other tree seedlings at Songea Boys Secondary School. She is with Songea district commissioner Pioleti Mgema (L) and the school's headmaster, John Sweke. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Kibaha

Govt revokes licences, registration permits for 50 nurses, midwives

THE government has revoked licences and registration permits to 50 nurses and midwives, who were working in various health facilities after they were found to have forged their documents.

Registrar of the Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council (TNMC) Agnes Mtawa said this here during the weekend at the second graduation ceremony and swearing in of new midwives and nurses.

Mtawa said the servants have been expelled after a special database system recognizing their fake credentials.

She said this year alone, there were a total of 30 complaints against employees who violated ethics and professional guidelines.

She said after conducting an

investigation the council issued warning to 17 health workers, five were suspended and one was revoked from the register book.

"To further address this challenge, the council is developing a complaints guideline that will help address various grievances as well as build capacity of stakeholders so as to facilitate quick response and action when they see breaching of professional ethics.

She said: "The council is closely overseeing the training of nurses and midwives because this profession does not only consider education alone, but also moral and

ethical practices," Mtawa said.

The registrar said a total of 2,173 new nurses and midwives have been given licenses and registration permits after conducting a selection examination administered by the council.

She further noted that since the enactment of the registration law for competent nurses and midwives, a total of 38,303 people have conducted the exams where 27,095 have passed.

"However there has been a decline in the performance of graduates in nursing and midwifery training these days due to the lack

of guidelines, management and poor curriculum management," Mtawa acknowledged.

Dr Alfello Sichwalwe, chief medical officer (CMO) called on the graduates to go and deliver well in their duties of serving people's lives.

In his speech which was read on behalf by the Coast Regional medical officer Dr Gunini Kamba, the CMO wanted the new nurses and midwives to adhere to their professional oaths and support the government's zeal of reducing diseases burden in the country.



Iuda Secondary School board members lead Mbeya city mayor Dour Issa Mohamed (L) at the weekend in assessing ongoing construction work at the school. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Tanzania picked to chair central corridor states bloc

By Guardian Reporter

THE Council of Transport Ministers from central corridor countries has handed Tanzania the chair for one-year period in 2021-2022.

The chairmanship was handed in Dar es Salaam to the Works and Transport minister Dr Leonard Chamuriho from Rwanda's Infrastructure minister Amb. Claver Gateete at the 11th Meeting conducted via video conference.

The Central Corridor countries include Burundi, Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Tanzania whose headquarters are in Dar es Salaam.

At the meeting, the ministers resolved to boost infrastructures in member states by improving water, rail and road transport and to make sure the Port of Dar es Salaam is improved to eradicate clearance delays for cargo destined to other member states.

In addition, the member states launched a strategic five-year plan (2021/25) that would look into all transport routes and

the infrastructures thereof by supervising and strengthening them to enhance competition, coordination and follow up.

Some of the projects incorporated in the plan is the construction of Standard Gauge Railways for the 240km Uvinza-Musongati section, the revamping of Bunjumbura, Rumonge and Kabonga ports on Lake Tanganyika and the construction of a highway to international standards connecting Burundi and Tanzania passing through Rumonge-Gitaza-Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu.

In his speech Dr Chamuriho explained that Tanzania government has already signed five agreements for the revamping and construction of ships to provide marine services in lakes Tanganyika and Victoria as well as the Indian Ocean in efforts to strengthen the Central Corridor.

In regard to railway transport, Dr Chamuriho said the construction of Mwanza-Isaka SGR has begun and is expected to be completed early 2024.

NAIROBI

Kenya urges enhanced fight against malaria in Africa

KENYAN President Uhuru Kenyatta has called for the intensified fight against malaria and other diseases ravaging Africa even as the continent tackles COVID-19.

Kenyatta called for more collaboration between the government and the private sector in research, local manufacture and marketing of health products

so as to create jobs and grow the economy.

Kenyatta who spoke at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)-Wellcome Trust Station in the coastal Kilifi County where he launched the first locally manufactured malaria rapid diagnostics kit developed by the institute called for collaboration

of African countries in the fight against malaria, noting that no single country can eradicate the disease on its own.

Kenyatta, who also announced the World Health Organization's (WHO) pre-qualification of Kenya's first locally made anti-malaria drug, said the country had intensified its

fight against the disease by enlisting the support of young people through the Kenya Malaria Youth Army.

Kenyatta, who is the current Chairman of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), hailed KEMRI for its leading role in the fight against malaria in Kenya, and

challenged the research institution to continue innovating technology-driven methods of defeating the vector-borne disease.

"We have a good number of diseases that we still have to overcome and we are here to overcome that. Even as we continue to partner with you (KEMRI) on

COVID-19 work, let us not lose focus on the other areas that you have been working very hard on," he said.

Kenyatta said Kenya has recognized that it's not going to be possible to defeat malaria unless it works together with neighboring countries.

'49 companies registered for procuring soybeans from our local farmers'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

49 companies have registered their names at the Ministry of Agriculture committing to purchase soybeans from farmers across the country.

The development set to start in the next farming season is part of a chain of strategies by the government to improve production of the crop with an eye to enable Tanzania to increase production and to provide for China's high demand of soybeans, which stands at 400,000 tonnes annually.

The plan will see different local and international companies directly purchasing tonnes of soybeans from farmers at reasonable prices.

Dr Meshack Makenge, national coordinator of grain legume research from Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) told The Guardian in an interview that the move was also gearing to set a uniform price of the economic crop.

"The vision is to have all soybean farmers registered, in terms of their locations and farm land capacity. So far 49 companies have been registered to purchase the crop from farmers," he stated.

He added that the strategy was focusing to ensure the crop is being cultivated in more areas and levels, than past years.

"For instance, from the coming season the crop will be grown by farmers in all regions with maize flourishes," he said.

In addition, Dr Makenge said that the parent ministry was implementing a viable strategy for the availability of better seed varieties among the farmers.

"China market requires soybeans with grain protein content of at least 40 percent, but our beans are at 37 per cent, this needs supply of more improved seeds to farmers so as to produce a quality crop," he detailed.

He added that the ministry of agriculture has tasked the Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) to import improved varieties from outside (Zambia) in order to overcome the challenge.

"TARI will continue working round the clock to ensure for mass production of soya beans seeds varieties at it different centers, added: "The focus is to produce pre-basic seeds and distribute them to the Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) and other seed companies for the seed's multiplication at the level of certified seeds and basic certified

seeds," he said.

Dr Makenge further stated the move will also see the farmers imparted with key knowledge on how to produce quality declared seeds in order to curtail the shortage of soybean seeds at different areas.

Presently, TARI has already inverted and produced at least four varieties of soya beans, namely Uyole Soya 1, Uyole Soy 2, Uyole soy 3 and Uyole soy 4, however added that other seed producing companies in the private sector have also produced other varieties of the economic cash crops.

As per relevant records, production of soy beans in Tanzania is currently standing between 2.5 to 3 tons per hectare through the use of improved seeds, whereby local varieties are usually producing between 0.3 to 0.5tonnes in a hectare," he unveiled.

The region with friendly weather and soil to support cultivation of soy beans in Tanzania include Mbeya, Iringa, Songea, Ruvuma, Manyara, Arusha and Morogoro.

"Soya beans flourishes well in areas of sandy loam soil and which receives rainfall of at least 400 to 800 millimeter," he observed.

Tanzania is the third country in the world for the production of legume (pulses) after India and Myanmar.

According to Deputy minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, in March this year Tanzania exported the first consignment of 140 tonnes of soybeans to China. China annually spends more than USD40m/- to import soybeans and Tanzania is among the 12 countries so far green-lighted to export the crop to China.



China market requires soybeans with grain protein content of at least 40 percent, but our beans are at 37 per cent, this needs supply of more improved seeds to farmers so as to produce a quality crop



Moshi district commissioner Saidi Mtanda (L) has a word with Lions Club governor Mohammed Mulla (C) and Rajinder Group-Africa executive officer Manmohan Bhamra after launching a water well and solar power infrastructure at Msandaka Primary School in Moshi District at the weekend. The twin-project was jointly implemented with support from Lions Club of Moshi-Kibo, Moshi-based Rajinder Group-Africa and the UK's FIT-Bankers. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

HUNDREDS of rice growers in Mombasa - Korogwe District in Tanga Region are benefiting from various modern agricultural technologies which enable them to realise high yields.

Dubbed 'Hybrid Rice', the project is being implemented by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in cooperation with the African Agricultural Technological Foundation (AATF), Hybrid East African Limited (HEAL), through the Alliance for Hybrid Rice in Africa (AHYRA).

Speaking during the meeting with farmers in Mombasa to evaluate the crops in the field and rice grains, Edith Kouko, Hybrid Rice Project officer said AATF's mission was to work under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) taking innovative technological solutions to farmers.

She said that with the financial assistance from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the initiative, among others, incorporates the introduction and testing of hybrid rice varieties in different agro-ecological zones.

Kouko said the target was also to determine how the hybrid seeds are performing in comparison to other commercially released varieties that are already in the market.

During the event, farmers also got opportunities to perform organoleptic tests, including the smell and physical properties of the hybrid seed and cooked rice.

"Farmers' feedback (after testing the hybrid varieties) is very important for allowing us to

New hybrid rice seed varieties trials impress farmers in Tanga

promote the preferred hybrid seeds through to commercialization so that the farmers realize high yields," she explained.

According to her, with the hybrid seeds, farmers will be able to maximize rice yields up to 12MT per hectare compared to open-pollinated varieties (OPV) that produce only 8MT in a hectare.

Barnabas Sitta, a researcher at TARI-Dakawa Centre in Morogoro said the project engages the beneficiary farmers at all steps of the technologies that are being introduced.

He said that through the project the farmers are trained on-farm preparations, planting, proper application of fertilizer and best varieties as well as ways to combat effects of climate change.

In Tanzania, the timely project operates in diverse regions that represent different agro-ecological zones, including Tanga, Morogoro, Mbeya.

Through the project, four hybrid rice varieties are under multilocal trials in Tanzania and best performing hybrids that are preferred by farmers will be submitted for evaluation by the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) before certification.

In Dakawa, the project is implemented at a special scheme of at least 100 hectares picked

specifically for undertaking research and seed trials with the zeal to ensure the rice farmers and processors in the country have a wide choice of rice varieties.

During the 2019/2020 farming season, the country produced 2.2 million tonnes, and the focus, as per the ministry of agriculture, is to heighten the production to at least 4.4 million tonnes by 2030.

Tanzania's rice records show that at least 71 percent of rice is grown under rain-fed conditions with about half of the country's rice is grown by 239, 000 smallholder farmers.

Rice is grown in three major ecosystems in Tanzania; rain-fed lowland, upland, and irrigated systems. The area under rice increased from about 0.39 million hectares in 1995 to about 0.72 million hectares by 2010.

Production increased from about 0.62 million tonnes in 1995 to about 1.33 million tonnes of paddy rice in 2009 but dropped to 1.10 million tonnes in 2010.

However, average paddy yields across ecosystems have varied widely over the last 20 years (between 1.25 and 2.40 tonnes per hectare)

The priority areas for rice production are the irrigated lowland, rainfed lowland, and upland ecosystems. In the irrigated lowlands, improved rice varieties

such as IR64 and SARO5 are usually grown.

For years local farmers have been growing mainly local and traditional varieties, many of which have low yield potential.

Most of the rice grown depends on rainfall and many irrigation schemes need urgent rehabilitation. Upland systems are prone to drought, weed infestation (including Striga), and attacks by pests and diseases (blast).

Rain-fed lowland systems suffer from floods during heavy rains but can also face drought. Weed infestation, pests (African rice gall midge and stem borers), and diseases (rice yellow mottle virus, blast, bacterial leaf blight) cause low yields.

Soil fertility is generally low. Rice competes with other crops such as maize, for land and labor. Inadequate postharvest technologies result in low-quality rice and low prices in the market.

Farm operations are mostly 95 percent done manually whereby farmers and processors do not have easy access to credit. The infrastructure for transportation, storage, and processing is often lacking or in need of rehabilitation.

Tanzania has large land resources suitable for rice (29 million hectare) and abundant water resources (underground, rivers, and lakes) for irrigation.

Uganda warns of strong winds on Africa's largest freshwater lake Victoria

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S meteorological department on Saturday warned of strong winds and large waves on Lake Victoria, Africa's largest freshwater lake.

Uganda National Meteorological Authority said in a statement that sailors and islanders are likely to be affected by the change in weather patterns.

"Starting July 24-25 the lake is going to experience strong winds of 25 kts and very large waves of more than two meters which are likely to have reduced by Monday," said the statement.

"People living on islands, fishermen and the entire maritime industry should be on high alert. Strong winds may blow off the roofs, uproot trees and cause structural damage," it added.

Lake Victoria is shared by Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. In May 2020, Lake Victoria recorded its highest ever water level, 13.42 meters, according to government figures.

Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake by area, the world's largest

tropical lake, and the world's second-largest fresh water lake by surface area after Lake Superior in North America.

In terms of volume, Lake Victoria is the world's ninth-largest continental lake, containing about 2,424 km³ (1,965×10⁹ acre ft) of water.

Lake Victoria occupies a shallow depression in Africa. The lake has a maximum depth of between 80 and 84 m (262 and 276 ft) and an average depth of 40 m (130 ft).

Its catchment area covers 169,858 km² (65,583 sq mi). The lake has a shoreline of 7,142 km (4,438 mi) when digitized at the 1:25,000 level, with islands constituting 3.7% of this length.

The lake's area is divided among three countries: Kenya occupies 6% (4,100 km² or 1,600 sq mi), Uganda 45% (31,000 km² or 12,000 sq mi), and Tanzania 49% (33,700 km² or 13,000 sq mi).

The lake includes many species of fish that inhabit nowhere else, especially cichlids. Invasive fish, such as the Nile perch, have driven many endemic species to extinction.



Ramadhan Mtindasi (with stick), a director of projects with the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa), briefs Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi (2nd-L) late last week on the implementation of a water reservoir project in the Kigamboni suburb. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mercy Corps calls for vaccines and vaccine equity as Africa sees a rise in Covid cases

By Special Correspondent

MANY African countries are in the grip of the third wave as the Delta variant continues to take hold.

According to WHO, Africa recorded an additional 1 million cases over the past month - the fastest surge the continent has seen. Unfortunately, Africa is also struggling with limited or no vaccine supplies to support mass vaccination to tackle the virus.

Mercy Corps' Regional Director for Africa, Sean Granville-Ross, says: "We are staring at a nightmare scenario as COVID-19 cases explode, driving many African nations closer to a catastrophe."

"Even as COVID-19 cases are rising, only about 3% of all global COVID-19 vaccine doses to date have been given in Africa. The number of vaccines available in Africa now is nowhere near the number needed to vaccinate clinically at-risk groups comprehensively, nor is it enough to meaningfully contain the spread of the virus.

"The African Union's commitment to reach 20% vaccination rates by the end of 2021 is an essential starting point, but global efforts to meet it have fallen short. We could be into 2023 before 20 of the most conflict-affected countries in the world, 10 of which are in Africa, have widespread access to vaccines. Our research also shows that the pandemic and the efforts to contain it without vaccines are amplifying the risk of global conflict. The longer communities must endure lockdowns, the more worried we become about the cascading side effects. "Global efforts to send vaccines, including the U.S. commitment to donate 25 million doses, are welcome, but they have to get in arms swiftly. We urge all higher-income countries to take

concrete action to address the vast vaccine inequities keeping millions standing at the back of the line."

Ndubisi Anyanwu, Mercy Corps Nigeria Country Director says:

"The humanitarian crisis in northeast Nigeria remains one of the most severe in the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced up the number of people in need in Nigeria to 10.6 million from 7.9 million in January 2020. We are seeing increasing instability and armed group activities. COVID-19 lockdowns, border closures, and movement restrictions contributed to pervasive insecurity by intensifying widespread economic hardship and heightening gaps in security provision.

"There's also rampant misinformation, so we started a rumor tracker to combat it. People need vaccines, but they also need information. They need to trust healthcare providers and be willing to take the vaccine when it's offered to them."

Mildred Makore, Mercy Corps Zimbabwe Country Director, says:

"Positive COVID-19 cases are rising rapidly, and death rates are increasing day by day. Communities we work with now tell us that they can put these numbers to the faces, and it's petrifying.

"In partnership with a local radio station, Mercy Corps Zimbabwe is running a COVID-19 awareness campaign in high-risk areas and addressing misinformation and questions about vaccines. We are seeing vaccination centres overwhelmed with people who eagerly aspire to be vaccinated, meaning the communities are getting the message. Unfortunately, there are not enough shots for everyone. So far, only just over one million people have received the first dose.



Small trader Imaculata Carlos Ny'elenge (L) of Kingonzile on the outskirts of Iringa municipality in business just off the suburb's Mashine-Tatu Street at the weekend. By the look of things, though, Covid-19 awareness is badly lacking in the area. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Charitable organisations, well-wishers called on to support free health camps

By Correspondent James Lanka

A call has been made to charitable organisations and well-wishers to support free health camps at various hospitals, a move which guarantees medical check-ups and treatment to vulnerable communities.

Speaking over the weekend at the inauguration of a one-month free medical check-up and cataract surgery at Kibosho designated hospital, Doctor-In charge, John Materu said during the period, more than 200 eye patients will be attended and undergo free cataract surgery by eye specialists from the

hospital's eye department

The camp has been organized by the Lions Club of Dar-es-salaam (Host) in collaboration with the Lions Clubs of Moshi-Kibo and Kilimanjaro, and the UK-based organization-Beta Charitable Trust which funded the exercise to a tune of 24m/-.

Dr Materu said that his hospital receives more than 40 eye patients per day, adding they conduct more than 10 eye cataract surgeries every day. He said most of the patients are from Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions.

Lions Club Governor of the

District 4HC, Mohammed Mulla explained that the charity project that started on July 23rd this year at Kibosho designated hospital will offer eye treatment to 200 people within a month.

"In our free medical check-up for the eye, diagnosed patients will undergo free cataract Surgeries while others will get free glasses and medication," he said.

President of the Moshi-Kibo Lions Club, Sarah Mandara Jones said the club has also sponsored a number of charity projects for people with disabilities and other special groups including orphans.

"Lions Club of Moshi Kibo in collaboration with partners such as Rajinder Group-Africa and FIT-Bankers of the United Kingdom (UK) sponsored a water project at Msandaka deaf school. We installed solar powered water tanks and pumps," she added.

According to her, a water project at Msandaka deaf school will not only benefit pupils, but also villagers residing near the school. She said a nearby dispensary have also been connected with water services.

The project was inaugurated by Moshi District Commissioner, Saidi Mtanda.



The inaugural batch of Form One students in class late last week at the recently established Seka Secondary School in Nyamrandirira ward, Musoma Rural constituency, which was largely built on self-help basis. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Fewer women will regain employment, reports ILO

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN women' employment in 2021 has decreased by 1.9 per cent between 2019 and 2020 when compared with 0.1 per cent in men's employment, causing a persistence in inequalities between women and men in the world of work.

The International Labour Organisation disclosed this on Monday in a new policy brief titled "Building forward fairer: Women's rights to work and at work at the core of the COVID-19 recovery."

The policy brief stated that there would be 13 million fewer women in employment in 2021 compared to 2019, while men's employment would have recovered to 2019 levels.

Even though the projected job growth in 2021 for women exceeds that of men, it would, nonetheless, be insufficient to bring women back to pre-pandemic employment levels, the report said.

Only 43.2 per cent of the world's working-age women will be employed in 2021, compared to 68.6 per cent of working-age men.

The report stated, "Recovery prospects are particularly positive for women, whose employment is expected to rise by 4.7 per cent between 2020 and 2021, more than offsetting pandemic-related job losses.

"As a result, in 2021, the employment rate for women in Africa is projected to reach 48.7 per cent, which will be the highest across regions, and men's employment rate is projected to stand at 66.2 per cent.

"The combination of ascribed gender roles, limited expansion of the services and manufacturing sectors, and lack of care services have contributed to women leaving paid work around the age of 25,

which coincides with marriage. "Conversely, in sub-Saharan Africa, the employment-to-population ratio for women is projected to remain among the highest in the world in 2021 at 57.1 per cent."

The brief also said that gender-responsive strategies should be at the core of the recovery effort.

These include investing in the care economy to encourage a more even division of work at home between women and men and working towards universal access to comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social protection for all to reduce the current gender gap in social protection coverage.



The combination of ascribed gender roles, limited expansion of the services and manufacturing sectors, and lack of care services have contributed to women leaving paid work around the age of 25, which coincides with marriage

'Tanzania, Zara Tours are open for tourism'

By Special Correspondent, Moshi

AS the world continues to emerge from the impact of the global pandemic, travel and tourism are slowly opening.

When we lead trekkers up Mount Kilimanjaro, we tell them "pole, pole," meaning "slowly, slowly," and this is another time that we see things open slowly to ensure safety.

As travel restrictions continue to lift, safety measures are firmly in place, and travelers are reuniting

with their loved ones, and to the unique places their souls wish to connect.

Travel pulls many of us towards exploring new areas and new parts of ourselves, and many of us have been missing it this last year. Those choosing to travel at this time are seeing the benefit of smaller crowds, more personalized experiences, and in some cases, deep discounts to encourage occupancy.

In Tanzania, both Qatar and KLM are safe for travel, and there are

no quarantine restrictions. Guests should always check the most up-to-date travel information and follow all local guidelines, which may be different than what the restrictions are in their own locale - check ahead. We have set up two COVID-19 testing centers in the Serengeti National Park, enabling simplified testing and ensuring the safety of our guests.

The beauty of Tanzania is unrivaled, and smaller crowds, including limited tour sizes and

lower occupancy rates, mean the area is more accessible than ever before. The wildlife follows its own natural rhythms and holds the same allure as always - adventure, discovery, and wonder. T

Those who want to get back to global travel are doing so with caution and finding solace in the safety practices the tourism industry has put in place to encourage travel. We've all been looking forward to this re-opening and invite you to do so as well.

MONDAY 26 JULY 2021

Taking A New Look
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ESTABLISHED IN 1995

When the 'deep state' phenomenon arises in mobile transactions outcry

A NEW voice has been heard in relation to the dispute regarding the size and intensity of mobile cash transactions, as the leader of the legislature has now come up to say the levy is the surest source of revenues, and that nearly everything in the budget hinges on the levy. That is palpably inadmissible since the levy is supposed to add 1.25trillion shillings after 35.4 trillion shillings was already budgeted for, in which case this claim borders on fantasy, as to how the levy is vital to government expectations. And this is indeed the lesser part, as people didn't question the levy but how it was effected, that there is a secret.

National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai sought to defend the legislature for endorsing hefty levies on mobile money transactions saying there were no alternatives, but what he appeared to forget is that the MPs did not endorse hefty levies. They endorsed fairly minimal levies, for instance 100/- to sending 10,000/- but when it was effected, the bureaucracy had found a way of meeting all their demands that may not have been included in the budget.

This state of affairs is in evidence for three reasons, first the total since of the regulatory agency on the matter, as to where the multiplication of the levy amounts decided or approved by Parliament came from. Receiving 5m/- on mobile phone was supposed to cost the receiver 10,000/- but in the current quotations, receiving 1m/- (one million) requires the receiver to pay 33,000/-.

The silence of TCRA on the way these sums have surfaced, altogether divorced from what the legislature approved is consonant with the second reason, that administrators (like the Speaker,

and earlier it was the Minister for Finance, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba), as they haven't noticed that there is a difference between what the legislature approved and what people are facing at operators' kiosks to withdraw money. They are using all sorts of epithets to justify the sums now levied to the people, contrary to what MPs approved. Ndugai sees the levy and says everything depends on it, whereas it is likely to be true that all unbudgeted for expenditures that administrators wish to make can be collected with a ballooned levy. It is the secret.

To underline the matter - as the media has at times to call a spade a spade - the minister was quoted in social media and even on televised broadcasts that those who wish for cheap cash transactions 'can go and live in Burundi,' which was admittedly an affront to the public. Some social media pundits even started drawing up a sort of reshuffled cabinet where the Treasury chieftain would be missing. Still, all what the public needs is that the correct levy approved by the legislature be seen at agents' kiosks, period.

The phenomenon of the deep state often lurks in political discussion in the United States and elsewhere, implying existence of fundamental interests underlying various layers of the bureaucracy, and if a leader fails in that regard they can work to remove such person. It is called 'deep state' because it doesn't tally with the national interest as such, makes accommodations in relation to loyalty, diligence and patriotism, for instance in this case bureaucrats are taking liberties with the levy to meet all their demands, while the blame goes to top national leaders. From then on, if dissatisfaction continues, the future is unpredictable.

Partnerships our best weapon in the fight against criminality

IN ordinary language, a crime is an unlawful act punishable by a state or other authority. The term crime does not, in modern criminal law, have any simple and universally accepted definition, though statutory definitions have been provided for certain purposes. The most popular view is that crime is a category created by law; in other words, something is a crime if declared as such by the relevant and applicable law. One proposed definition is that a crime or offence (or criminal offence) is an act harmful not only to some individual but also to a community, society, or the state (a public wrong). Such acts are forbidden and punishable by law.

The notion that acts such as murder, rape, and theft are to be prohibited exists worldwide. What precisely is a criminal offence is defined by criminal law of each country. While many have a catalogue of crimes called the criminal code, in some common law countries no such comprehensive statute exists.

The state (government) has the power to severely restrict one's liberty for committing a crime. In modern societies, there are procedures to which investigations and trials must adhere. If found guilty, an offender may be sentenced to a form of reparation such as a community sentence, or, depending on the nature of their offence, to undergo imprisonment, life imprisonment or, in some jurisdictions, execution.

Usually, to be classified as a crime, the 'act of doing something criminal' (actus reus) must - with certain exceptions - be accompanied by the 'intention to do something criminal' (mens rea). While every crime violates the law, not every violation of

the law counts as a crime. Breaches of private law (torts and breaches of contract) are not automatically punished by the state, but can be enforced through civil procedure. The world of crime and criminals is often called 'the underworld.'

Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene says police have been conducting silent operations to destroy cells of armed robbers all over the country. Addressing a rally in Lufu Ward in his Kibakwe constituency, Mpwapwa District in Dodoma Region recently, the minister said law enforcers are currently on the second phase of this operation, just in case some violent criminal networks were untouched.

He said the first phase of the operation against bandits was successful and the second one was underway against all those who think armed robberies are the right way to earn a decent income.

He said that banditry has been rising fast in various urban centres including Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Mwanza, in the wake of a change to a less stringent atmosphere. If the perpetrators think these activities will enable them make a living they are totally mistaken, he declared.

"These include those using firearms in robberies, muggers, those using motorcycles to snatch ladies' handbags in the streets and others.

"We regard them as big time criminals, and once we catch them we shall finish with them quietly, and you will know what we mean by quietly," the minister underlined.

"I would like to see what I am saying reaches all corners of the country. They should understand that crime does not pay; the government is very watchful. We shall deal with all criminals up to the last one," he emphasised.

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SA's foreign policy, trade strategy on key partnership with Asia and Middle East

By Naledi Pandor

ASIA and the Middle East are important trading partners for South Africa. Our two-way trade stood at R984-billion in 2020. But in addition to the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic, our brothers and sisters in a number of countries in the region had to endure the pain and suffering of armed conflict and oppression.

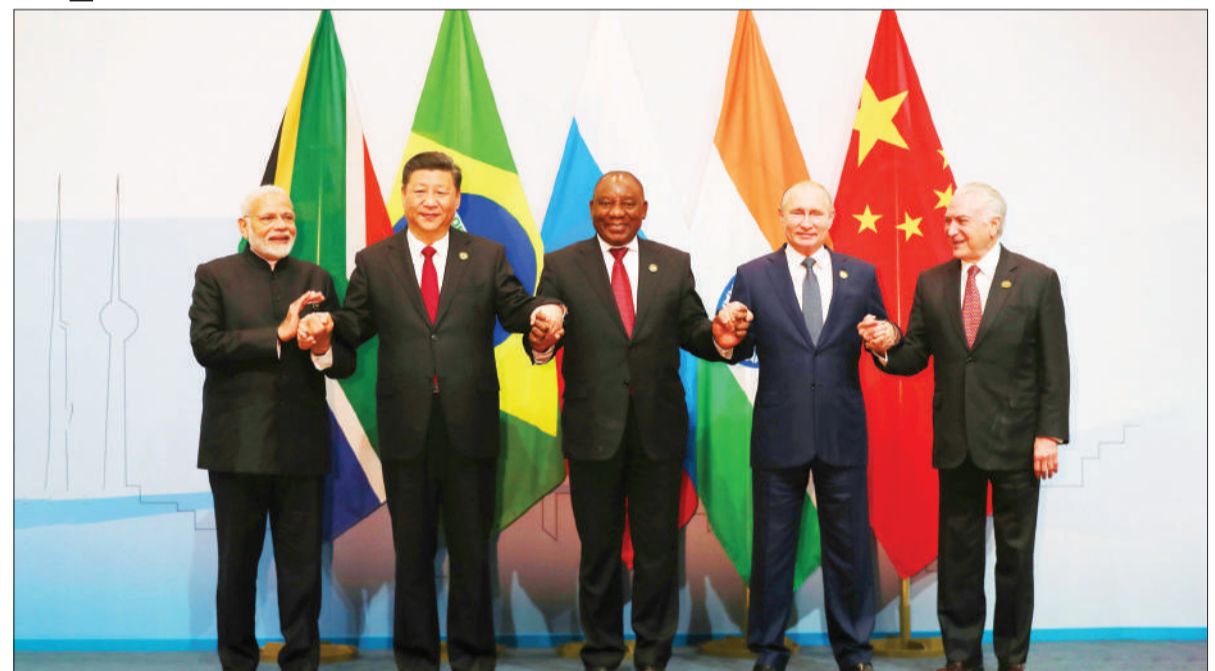
One of the major determinants of the strength of the short-term economic recovery after Covid-19 will be the effectiveness of pandemic containment measures. South Africa intends to strengthen cooperation with the Asia and Middle East region in containing further Covid-19 outbreaks. As part of this strategy, we are aggressively pursuing opportunities towards the production of vaccines in Africa.

South Africa, alongside India, has submitted a proposal to the World Trade Organization for a temporary waiver of certain rules in the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement to facilitate wider access to technologies needed to produce vaccines and medicines, especially to the poorer countries. We are pleased with the support of the international community that we have received. A temporary waiver will allow the use of intellectual property, to share technology transfer, to produce vaccines and therapeutics, lower prices and expedite distribution to everyone, everywhere. Effective and comprehensive global vaccination is vital to ending the pandemic.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on the global economy generally and on Africa in particular. Furthermore, Africa has to deal with the additional challenge of securing vaccines. Several countries in the Asia and Middle East region have committed significant resources to the Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (Covax) facility. This will benefit many African countries as well as other nations. South Africa firmly supports the World Health Organization in spearheading Covax to roll out vaccines to the global South.

Sadly, in addition to the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic, our brothers and sisters in a number of countries in the Asia and Middle East region also had to endure the pain and suffering of armed conflict and oppression.

Nothing good can come out of conflict. The tragedy of the



Sub-Saharan Africa's foreign counterparts are forging closer partnerships with the region because they see new openings for trade and investment, as well as growing threats from terrorism, criminality, epidemics, and irregular migration. Just like China, these countries believe that Africa is increasingly important to a wide range of economic, security, and political goals.

recent bombardment of Palestine is testament to the cruel effects of war and conflict. More than 75,000 Palestinians were displaced, resulting in about 243 casualties, including 64 Palestinian children and 38 women. Israel also suffered casualties. We call on all in the Middle East to intensify peace efforts.

We commend all the parties that assisted in the negotiations that led to the current ceasefire. The government of South Africa will continue to campaign for the independence of Palestine under the two-state solution, based on the international recognition and independence of the viable State of Palestine, based on the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, with both Palestine and Israel existing peacefully as independent states. All outstanding status issues must be resolved through direct negotiations without preconditions between the parties, with support from the international community.

South Africa counts itself among progressive members of the international community advocating for the settlement of disputes through inclusive dialogue, and the protection of the rights of vulnerable nations. Given our history, it is natural that we are in solidarity with the oppressed.

Regarding the conflict in Syria, we believe that only a Syrian-led solution will provide a lasting outcome. The situation in Yemen has been of particular concern for South Africa as it has created the greatest humanitarian crisis of our times. South Africa reaffirms its call

for a United Nations-mediated and Yemeni-led negotiation to resolve this conflict.

On a positive note, South Africa welcomes the progress being made in efforts to restore the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We are pleased at the attempt to find a diplomatic solution to this issue.

The world is confronted by economic recovery challenges after Covid. The countries in Asia and the Middle East are important trading partners for South Africa. Our two-way trade with the region stood at R984-billion in 2020. Our country's bilateral relations with the countries of this important region are also well established in areas such as technical cooperation, health and skills development opportunities for our people, as is their investment footprint in South Africa.

South Africa's accession to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in November 2020 is a milestone and will contribute to closer and more beneficial economic opportunities.

We fully support the association's constructive role in facilitating a peaceful solution to the undemocratic developments in Myanmar.

South Africa would like to continue working closely with governments in this region to pursue more trade, investment and business potential. There is substantial scope for improving current levels of investment, especially in industries that are geared towards the beneficiation and value-addition of our local

commodities and natural resources. The benefits of using South Africa as a logistical nodal point from which to access the vast African market to gain the full benefit of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement is another opportunity.

The Middle East will also be crucial to our reconstruction and development after the pandemic. In 2020, total trade with the region amounted to R122-billion, despite the effects of Covid-19 on trade and investment.

A key priority for South Africa with the Middle East is to diversify our trade and this has been happening gradually, but the dominance of crude oil and petrochemicals remains. We are now working on diversifying this trading dynamic through growth in other sectors.

I have tried to provide an overview of the state of relations between South Africa and the vast region of Asia and the Middle East, as well as outlining some of our future priorities, and the global issues that confront us and that will have an impact on or guide our future relations.

South Africa values the partnership with countries in Asia and the Middle East. We are particularly happy that these countries agree with our view that we should preserve the centrality of multilateralism, speak out against unilateralism, protectionism and populism, and continue to call for the respect of international law and a reformed global order that is more equitable, inclusive and representative of current global realities.

Echoes of the 80s: How today's unrest sparked by factional battles can erupt into another civil war

By Nhlanhla Cyril Mbatha

The social and economic nature of unrest and violence in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng: Is history repeating itself?

While grappling with the global Covid-19 pandemic, South Africa is also going through a sociopolitical and economic nightmare. As President Cyril Ramaphosa's administration tries to work through Covid-19-related health and economic challenges, it is now being fully confronted by the depth of its own internal factional battles. The imprisonment of former president Jacob Zuma has given his allies the go-ahead signal for an all-out attack on their opponents. As promised at Nkandla days before Zuma's jailing, the country is now experiencing the destruction and looting of business properties at a level last seen, probably, in the late 1980s.

Before the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, South Africa's economy was already displaying a structural collapse, stemming from the mismanagement, corruption and patronage that Ramaphosa once labelled "the nine wasted years". The country's economy was barely recovering from the 2008 global recession, when, from 2011 onwards, most economic indicators began taking a nosedive. Looking at the foreign exchange rate, budget deficit, public debt, employment levels and social inequalities, etc, it is clear the situation has consistently been deteriorating. The pandemic has confronted Ramaphosa's administration with one of the most complex sociopolitical and economic challenges our country has faced since the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the economy was in recession during a low-level intensity civil war.

It is notable how some of the economic and social features of the country's problems today are to a degree similar to those experienced in the early 1990s. The political environment, however, is distinctly different. In the early 1990s the socioeconomic disparities were founded on the racially discriminatory laws of a white minority government. Now, there is a democratic government that has been in place for almost 30 years, with a judiciary founded on a rights-based and pro-justice constitution. Nevertheless, sociopolitical unrest is rapidly unfolding. Sparked by political infighting in the ruling ANC and promoted by pro-Zuma supporters, it is fuelled by the bad socioeconomic conditions that have intensified over the past 10 years, and are today further compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown measures to prevent high infection rates. Although, not yet on the scale of the political violence of the late 1980s and early



1990s, this sociopolitical unrest began in KwaZulu-Natal (then Natal), from which Zuma hails and where he is serving his 15-month sentence for defying the orders of the Constitutional Court. It then spread to Gauteng (Witwatersrand). While the political unrest and violence of the late 1980s and early 1990s was founded on racially discriminatory laws of the time, it took on the face of street battles waged between ANC and IFP supporters. The current political and socioeconomic unrest is (still) confined to battles within the ANC factions and in the streets between predominantly black working-class communities who are looting and destroying mostly private business properties. Other criminal elements have reportedly also joined the looting spree, with reports of some middle-class people - including police officers - caught looting.

In the other seven of the nine provinces, the political and socioeconomic looting and destruction of property has not taken root to the extent it has in KwaZulu-Natal and, to a lesser extent, Gauteng. More community narratives against the looting and the destruction of property are emerging in all the provinces.

In KwaZulu-Natal, these narratives are coming predominantly from non-black communities, in Gauteng and other provinces they are coming from black residents in a number of townships. Black-owned businesses, including the powerful taxi associations, are also joining the calls to stop or prevent the looting and destruction. For now, this unrest is still clearly localised, mostly in KwaZulu-Natal and some parts of Gauteng. This is strikingly similar to the pattern of the political violence of the late 1980s and the early 1990s.

In KwaZulu-Natal, associated with the looting, a racial and violent conflict is also emerging between black and non-black communities, especially in predominantly South African Indian communities of Phoenix, north of Durban. These are the reasons the young King of the Zulu-speaking people of KwaZulu-Natal and elsewhere in South Africa has been pleading with his subjects to stop looting and destroying property and to make peace with Indian communities.

Where to from here?

The immediate economic costs of the looting and destruction of property so far already run into billions of rands. But the socioeconomic and political costs from the unrest and Covid-19 now and in the future may be too high to quantify.

On 14 July 2021, the eThekweni Economic Development and Planning Committee estimated the following losses: a) more than R1.5-billion of stock losses, b) more than R15-billion of damage to property and equipment, c) more than 50,000 informal trader jobs affected, d) more than 40,000 formal businesses affected, a bigger portion of which may not come back, e) more than 150,000 jobs at risk and close to 1.5 million people at home with no income, f) a loss of R50-billion to the metro's GDP. These costs are expected to increase as the unrest continues. These may only look like numbers for now, but their traumatic socio-psychological impacts can only breed more social and community violence in the near future and the long term.

From the repeating patterns of unrest and violence in generally the same geographical locations, it is clear that

the affected areas have been trapped for decades in a cycle of socio-psychological trauma. While ignited by political manipulation within the ruling ANC faction battles, the recent events are partly a flare-up of this decades-long traumatic cycle.

The province of KwaZulu-Natal is at a precipice. The socioeconomic conditions are ripe for the current unrest to develop into another low-intensity civil war, also given the historical memory of collective trauma in the same areas. The current provincial and national leadership (with Mr Ramaphosa at the forefront), like in 1990, is again required to perform miracles. First, the national ANC leadership has to ensure that law and order is restored immediately, at any cost. Second, the ANC leadership has to account honestly and take full responsibility for its role in the current and persistent socioeconomic conditions in the entire country and account for its central role, through factional battles, in creating the socioeconomic and political unrest that has unfolded in the two provinces.

The ANC and executive government leadership have to ensure, through all legal and intelligence means, that the factional battles and their effects do not spill over to the rest of the country. It should be ironic that the push to root out corruption in the party should now be given a wider political legitimacy (by the unrest) to intensify. The stakes for the current ANC leadership are that high at the moment to rid itself of its rogue elements. Those who lit the spark to set off the unrest and those who

supported them, whether actively or indeed passively by doing nothing, have to be identified, exposed and held to public account. Second, in the short term, special attention and effort have to be given to the affected provinces to ensure that communities who have been politically duped into destroying their infrastructure are food-secure to prevent further unrest.

Without a fully functional private market system in place in the severely affected areas, community forums with trusted members, where they do not yet exist, have to be set up to work alongside trusted government officials and security forces to ensure that those affected by the unrest receive food and medicines while the private market systems are being restored. Third, the government should support affected business owners in rebuilding their business properties, because without the support any economic efforts to support the province would not be sustainable. A socioeconomic task team of business owners, scholars and trusted officials should be set up to analyse the extent of the socio-psychological and economic impacts of the unrest in order to design a strategy supported by both the government and the private sector at a national level to rebuild the wasted infrastructure and re-establish the province's economy.

At a social level, it is encouraging that communities now see clearly the interconnectedness of their social and economic ecosystems and are forming forums to prevent further damage. That the unrest did not spread to other provinces is a positive signal for affected communities to self-identify and realise that they could have done better. Also encouraging is that unlike in the 1980s and the early 1990s, the unrest has not yet taken a violent turn and there are no battles across political party lines.

The majority of the Zulu people, especially in rural areas, are normally traditionalists and are respectful of their traditional leadership. This means that the calls coming from the King (even though he is still new in the position) and the more experienced traditional prime minister to refrain from further looting and destruction of property, are likely to gain traction if they are repeated frequently enough going forward. Nevertheless, the situation remains tense. There are many variables at play, some unknown or not clearly understood, which make future developments hard to predict. The situation may remain challenging to bring under control, at least for a little while. DM

Professor Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha, Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University.

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

Save Kilimo project empowers needy families in Kigoma Region to get out of poverty snare

By Guardian Reporter

THE Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) together with faith-based organizations in partnership with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is implementing the Save Kilimo project in Kigoma Region to empower marginalized households to help them graduate from poverty through climate-smart agricultural practices and effective market linkages.

Under the project, identified smallholder farmers grow various vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumber, hot peppers, and green veggies which have contributed to increased households' income and build community resilience to shocks.

It offers smallholder farmers with affordable drip irrigation kits to enable them to engage in the horticulture value chains.

With the technical support on good agricultural practices, close accompaniment and access to farm produce markets, farmers have increased agricultural productivity, incomes and achieve sustainable climate-smart farming.

As of May 2021, the project has recruited 1,527 micro-investors, among them 961 female and 556 male; established and registered 45 farmer producer groups; 1500 farmers accessed loans from savings and lending groups to invest in agriculture; 1500 farmers were linked to commercial service providers so they could access climate smart agricultural inputs and services and 2000 farmers received training on good agricultural practice through electronic learning platforms such as E-Learning and E-Extension through partner organization e-Soko.

The project has also integrated gender aspects whereas it also provides reusable sanitary pads



for improved women and girl's menstrual hygiene management.

Ester Gervas (57), a single mother with 6 children in Kibondo District, Kigoma said she started with only one veggie bed worth 7,000/- equivalent to US \$3 in October 2020, but she is now assured of generating constant income from selling vegetables at a local village

market.

"Before the project, I would only make a profit of \$2 by selling one goat every after two weeks; I am now generating a profit of \$28 in three months from one vegetable bed," said Ester who has also used part of the generated income to buy two goats worth \$18.6.

Ester is now planning to use the

profit from the sale of veggies to invest in her children's education and improve her family's nutrition.

Emmanuel Mbogo, (37) a father of three living in Kibondo district, joined the project in November 2020 with one veggie bed worth \$3.9 and after a three-month period he had already generated a profit of \$22.5.

Apart from vegetables, Mbogo is also growing maize and beans to feed his family. Emmanuel said: "The most intriguing part about the project is the fact that I can have a small farm in my homestead and grow throughout the year; I plan to extend more beds to earn more income."

Stella Daniel, a mother of seven

living in Kasulu District said she started with two veggie beds of tomatoes worth \$10, after selling them she got \$84 as a profit.

Stella has been increasing her incomes throughout and has now bought two more vegetable beds whereas she is able to generate \$17 every week.

"My income has increased substantially from \$4 to \$17 per week, I can now provide for my children and buy agricultural inputs to increase productivity," she added.

NCA in collaboration with partners has also assisted farmers to form groups. Kungarika women group in Kibondo is among the beneficiaries, the group has a total of five members engaging on tomato farming.

They started with 3 veggie beds and extended them to 8, the group has so far generated \$377 and they are still harvesting tomatoes.

One of the group members, Rose Kiyoya, (60) said she only invested \$11, and she has generated \$140 as a profit.

Sebastian Edison (24) a resident of Nyamnyusi village, Kasulu District in Kigoma has started with four beds of Chinese cabbage and cucumber and after harvesting he got \$86. He managed to reinvest by increasing one more bed to make up five.

His income before the project was \$3.4 per week but recently his income has doubled to \$7.3 per week.

Following the good work from participating farmers, in 2020 National Farmers Day (Nane Nane) exhibitions held in Kikonko District, Kigoma, NCA emerged the winner on Agricultural Innovation.

This was possible due to the support and collaboration from the faith partners and UNCDF for the mobilization and building the capacity of poor communities to engage in climate smart economic empowerment programmes.

As implementing partners, NCA and partners mobilize farmers with agricultural experts - agronomists, and marketing officers to develop the farmers' capacities to adapt and forge climate-smart farming activities.

By Guardian Reporter

A Tanzanian, Avemaria Bugulashi, works as productive and reconciliation geologist at Barrick's North Mara Gold Mine.

Having been born and brought up in an area where mining is what gives residents their bread and butter, she cultivated the love for the economic activity since her tender age.

"Since I was born in a region with many mining activities, I found myself growing up while being interested in doing mineral-related jobs. And when I was studying in a secondary school, I took up lessons related to that discipline because that was my dream and I am happy to see it being fulfilled now," says Bugulashi.

She says she still believes that well exploited, the mineral sector has the potential of boosting Tanzania's economy to new levels.

Currently, the mining sector's contribution to GDP is estimated at 3.5 percent but in line with Tanzania's Development Vision 2025, the plan is to raise the sector's contribution to GDP to 10 percent by 2025.

Bugulashi says the mineral sector keeps growing and many companies and people were increasingly getting interested in engaging in a number of minerals that Tanzania was endowed with.

The government, she says, was doing a good job of ensuring that Tanzania was benefitting from the exploitation of its natural resources.

Bugulashi is encouraging Tanzanian youths to specialize in scientific disciplines and undertake mineral studies so that there can be enough mineral experts in the country.

Bugulashi acquired her first degree in geology and graduated in 2007 at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Within one year after graduating, she secured employment at Barrick where she started as a gradu-

Avemaria Bugulashi: Barrick's geologist who is aspiring for higher professional heights



ate geologist and thereafter she rose through the ranks of the company until where she is now.

"I'm proud of working for a large mineral company like Barrick

where I have been able to learn a lot of things related to minerals. I have acquired the knowledge through a number of training seminars within and outside the company. Working

with experts in this profession has also given me the opportunity to grow," she says.

She reveals that Barrick Gold Corporation has massively invested in

the use of modern technology and mining systems that are also used in other big mines across the world to simplify mining activities.

The company, she says, cares for its workers through attractive remunerations and a number of other incentives which are vital for their [employees'] personal development and that of their families.

"The company observes international health care and security standards in its work places to the extent that we work in a good and secure environment, although we work in mines which, without observing security rules, can cause many accidents.

However, MsBugulashi threw a call to the company to offer job opportunities to many women in its mines unlike now when many jobs were done by men.

To women, she said they need to up their confidence levels by seizing job opportunities whenever they are advertised by different companies.

Women must do away with the notion that some jobs were a preserve for men.

Bugulashi desires to become an internationally-respected geologist.

To achieve that goal, she is determined to keep educating herself by acquiring new knowledge for as long as chances knock on her door.

"I am happy with the different in-house training seminars that this company offers. They have given me the right capacity to do my job confidently and get trusted," she explains.

Outside her job, she loves staying with her family, doing physical exercises as well as reading books and different magazines that are related to her line of profession.

"With an ever evolving science and technology landscape, it is important to read about different issues so that you remain updated with current best practices," she says.

Perspectives on the Nigeria police force

By Bola Bakare

The Nigeria Police still parades many officers of high moral and ethical standards who strive to uphold the code of conduct of the force



WHAT is known as the Nigeria Police Force in Nigeria today was first established in 1820. It has, however, gone through many stages and years of restructuring, reformation and reorganisation during and after the British Colonial administration in the country. During the colonial period, most police formations were associated with local governments which were then known as the Native Authorities.

An amalgamation of the defunct Northern Nigeria Police, NNP, and the Southern Nigeria Police, SNP, led to the formation of the current Nigeria Police Force in 1930. In strength, growth and character, the Nigeria Police Force, as a security agency, had been greatly influenced and impacted by the various stages of Nigeria's political trajectory; finally culminating in a national security outfit in the 1960s after the country gained her independence and republican status from the British Colonial Authorities.

The Nigeria Police Force, as the leading principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria, is the closest security agency to the people and is statutorily saddled with responsibilities of maintenance of laws and order, internal security and protection of lives and properties within

the shores of the nation. The Nigeria Police Force, like other security agencies, derives its powers, functions and responsibilities from the 1999 Constitution. At the moment, the Nigerian population is approximated at 220 million with the personnel strength of the Nigeria Police Force at 370,000. This is grossly inadequate considering the United Nations projection of 100,000 population per police officer. Though there are efforts by the Federal Government to inject new recruits of about 280,000 into the Nigeria Police Force to boost manpower needs and enhance operational efficiency. The new re-

cruits will eventually increase police manpower to 650,000. Even with the proposed increase, Nigeria will still be heavily under policed. In my opinion, there should be an average of 1.5 million police personnel in the country to ensure effective policing. The Nigeria Police Force is an endangered species which, for many years, has been classified as the most corrupt and inefficient security agency in Nigeria. It is one security agency that has suffered many years of neglect in the hands of the various governments, military and civilian. A visit to army, naval, airforce barracks and formations in comparison

with the police barracks and colleges will underscore and confirm this position.

It is one security agency that is often exploited by some unscrupulous Nigerian politicians to fan the ember of political crisis in the country. This is largely due to the fact that, of all the security agencies in Nigeria, it is the Nigeria Police Force that is the closest to the civil populace. Despite the numerous challenges confronting the Nigeria Police, the men and officers of the force are often treated with disdain and ignominy by some Nigerians they strive to protect.

A deep reflection and an objective view of the Nigeria Police will reveal that, public perception notwithstanding, the agency still parades many officers of high moral and ethical standards who strive to uphold the code of conduct of the force. These are men and officers of the force that must be celebrated and admired for choosing to be different among the pack. There are, of course, many officers and men in the Nigeria Police Force whose conducts are inimical to the image and character of the security agency.

To rid the force of a few bad eggs is a collective responsibility that must begin with our attitudinal change towards the rank and file of the security agency. We must appreciate and applaud the giant strides of the men and officers of the police force with the same passion as we castigate the few bad ones among them. In the early '70s and '80s, Nigeria paraded one of the best police establishments in Africa and beyond. The force, then, apart from the military, was highly professional, prompt and tactical in crime detection and prevention. In operational proficiency demonstrated within and outside the shores of the country, the Nigeria Police Force then commanded a lot of respect, even from the international community.

For honour and prestige, every Nigerian family was proud to have, at least, a police officer as a family member. In many of the peacekeeping and enforcement missions in some African countries and beyond, the men and officers of the Nigeria Police Force brought honour and prestige to the country more than any other security agency in Nigeria. Through professional and moral conducts, many of them were Nigeria's good ambassadors, having

demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism and competence which ranked above their peers from other nations. Regrettably, the case of the Nigeria Police Force is like a prophet that is never honoured by his own people at home. With all the accolades, honour and international acclaim accorded the Nigeria Police Force, many Nigerians have failed to appreciate the numerous sacrifices made as well as occupational hazards these men and officers go through on a daily basis.

[ALSO READ] LASAA begins awareness campaign on regulation of outdoor adverts Many Nigerians are quick to compare the standards of operations of the Nigeria Police Force with their peers in advanced countries of the world without taking into cognisance the peculiarities and situational differences. They are often quick to disparage and condemn acts of infractions by a few elements within the rank and file and jettison gallant performance and patriotic zeal of the many officers of the force.

It is a sad reality that the Nigeria Police Force operates under the most harrowing human and logistical experience in

the world. Apart from poor remuneration and inadequate welfare package, the Nigeria Police Force lacks the required modern equipment, technology and hardware to combat crime and criminality in the country. At the moment, crime detection, control and prevention by the police are still analogue-based in this age of technology.

Police intelligence gathering network, regarded as the most important and critical element of crime prevention, is poor and that accounts for reactive rather than proactive strategies and measures made by the police at combating crime in the country.

The decision of the Federal Government to inject additional 280,000 fresh recruits into the Police Force is a welcome development, particularly with the daily upsurge in banditry, kidnappings and other forms of crimes in the country. It is equally important to note that such an increase in the personnel of the Nigeria Police Force should be matched with the procurement of modern crime-fighting gadgets that will complement and improve operational efficiency and competence of the Nigeria Police Force.

It is a sad reality that the Nigeria Police Force operates under the most harrowing human and logistical experience in

By Boitumelo Masipa, Sibusisiwe Ndlela and Mbali Baduza

Excluding foreign nationals undermines the vaccine rollout

As the country proceeds with Phase 2 of the vaccine rollout plan, the government has still not addressed how undocumented people will register to receive the vaccine.

While some of the challenges experienced in South Africa's vaccine rollout programme can be attributed to external factors - including global shortages of the vaccine and the morally indefensible hoarding of vaccines by rich countries who could pay vaccine manufacturers in advance - the government's less than universal approach to health care further compromises the success of the national COVID-19 vaccine rollout programme.

Refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and undocumented people are estimated to make up around 4 million of the people living in South Africa. That is nearly 7% of

the country's total population. Although the Constitution guarantees access to health care services for everyone, documented migrants and undocumented persons are routinely prevented from enjoying this basic human right.

At SECTION27 we have been particularly concerned with the regression of migrants' access to health care services in recent years, given an increase in the number of enquiries from migrants and undocumented persons seeking help from our Advice Office - a pro bono legal office that attends to requests for help from the general public on a number of issues, including those that relate to undocumented learners and migrant health.

The government's COVID-19 vaccine rollout has not been clear on how undocumented persons can register to receive the vaccine. This

is despite President Cyril Ramphosa's assurances, at the start of the national vaccination programme, that all adults in the country would be vaccinated irrespective of their citizenship or residence status.

Double-speak on migrants When Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize (currently on special leave) subsequently announced that government would not have the capacity to vaccinate undocumented foreign nationals, the President once again reiterated that "measures will be put in place to deal with the challenge of undocumented migrants so that, as with all other people, we can properly record and track their vaccination history". It has been several months since these announcements and yet there is still no clarity on the process to register and vaccinate undocumented people.

The electronic vaccination data system (EVDS), an online database where people can register to be vaccinated, remains an obstacle for undocumented people since it requires either a South African identity number, a foreign passport number or an asylum seeker permit number. Failing to address this also means millions of citizens without identification documents, including the homeless as well as some mental healthcare users, are excluded from registering.

South Africa's national COVID-19 vaccine rollout programme officially started with Phase one in May 2021. The government's vaccine rollout programme picked up from where the Sisonke Trial ended and continued with the vaccination of those who are in the health care sector. Phase two of the government's proposed vaccination programme subsequently opened for 5 mil-

lion people over 60. Most recently, in light of concerns over the rising number of infections in the education sector and the expected arrival of Johnson & Johnson doses that would soon expire, the government was prompted to prioritise the vaccination of teachers and those who work in schools. Persons over 50 are expected to begin their vaccination from 15 July 2021.

The rollout of vaccines has been slow in South Africa with several setbacks and challenges. Presently, fewer than 1% of the population living in the country has been fully vaccinated. A larger number of people have received at least one dose of the Pfizer vaccine and the total number of people who have received at least one dose is around 5%. Speeding up the country's vaccination programme is critical, particularly as the country confronts

a severe third wave with the rate of daily recorded cases potentially surpassing the national peak of both the first and second waves. On June 23, 17 493 daily cases were recorded. As it stands, it is unknown when the third wave will reach its peak and we have hardly made a dent in vaccinating at least 67% of the population, the proportion estimated to be necessary to achieve population immunity.

Inclusive approach needed

The nature of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic requires a unified and inclusive approach. No science suggests that the spread of COVID-19 distinguishes between people along the lines of citizenship or documentation status. Furthermore, given the propensity of the virus to mutate, a rollout plan that delays reaching population immunity based on a discriminatory selection process threatens to undercut the efficacy of the vaccines currently available.



RAJIBA 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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO) | 05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO) | 05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO) | 05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO) | 05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MITAA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 20.10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO) | 05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MISETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO | |



James Wellsted, a Sibanye spokesman.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Platinum giants eye solar power as green answer to blackouts

JOHANNESBURG

The world's biggest platinum miners are ramping up plans to build renewable energy plants to free them from power outages that have plagued South Africa for more than a decade and to reduce their carbon footprint.

Sibanye Stillwater, the No. 1 platinum miner, Impala Platinum Holdings and Anglo American Platinum said they plan to scale up solar and wind farms for their own use to cut reliance on state-owned utility Eskom, some of whose aging coal-fired plants have failed to keep up with electricity demand.

South Africa has been dogged by power outages since 2005 and rolling blackouts are a big problem for the world's deepest mines, which are often forced to reduce some operations when power is rationed. By using more renewables, the miners may also ease pressure from investors wary of carbon-intensive industries as the shift from fossil fuels accelerates.

"Eskom has a shortfall, they can't supply the necessary energy at the moment," James Wellsted, a Sibanye spokesman, said in an interview. "We are reliant on Eskom and its coal-fired power, so our greenhouse gas-emission levels are high relative to our peers and these are part of the steps to get to carbon neutrality."

Sibanye has approved plans to build a 50-megawatt solar plant to provide power to its gold mines. It's also assessing plans for a 175-megawatt facility at its Rustenburg platinum mines and for additional supplies to come from a 250-megawatt wind farm, Wellsted said. The company will outline construction timelines at its half-year results next month.

Anglo Platinum aims to start gen-



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erating from the end of 2023 about 100 megawatts of renewable power at Mogalakwena, or about a quarter of the daytime electricity demand of the world's biggest palladium mine, said Jana Marais, a spokeswoman for the miner. The company is also mulling the addition of 220 megawatts of solar capacity for a proposed hydrogen-powered haul-truck project.

Implats is weighing options to use solar power at all its mines in South Africa and Zimbabwe, said Johan Theron, a spokesman for Implats. While the mines can't run solely on renewables, the alternative energy would help improve the company's green credentials.

"All investors want to understand is what are you doing to decarbonise and to become a more sustainable business," Theron said. "It's a concern about the future and whether everybody is doing their bit. If we do nothing and we continue to use coal power like we use today, then in 10 to 20 years we will have a problem."

INVESTMENT

NMB Bank reserves 120bn/- for loans to small-scale miners



NMB's head of business banking, Alex Mgeni, speaks at the event. Photo courtesy of NMB.

By Guardian Reporter

SMALL scale miners in the country can heave a sigh of relief as NMB Bank Plc allocates more than 120bn/- to provide them with loan to purchase mining equipment as a way of supporting state efforts to increase productivity in the mining sector.

Speaking in City of Mwanza during the launch of the Lake Zone Mining Club over the weekend, NMB's Head of Business Banking, Alex Mgeni said so far, the bank has already issued loans worth more than 63bn/- to the group.

"Small-scale miners will be provided with equipment and ma-

chinery loans without security because the machines will be their collateral after making a down payment of 20 percent of the equipment's value," Mgeni said.

Speaking during the event, which brought together miners from Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Geita, Shinyanga and Kagera regions, President of Federation of Miners Associations of Tanzania (Femata), John Bina said the bank's decision to invest in small-scale mining will not only increase productivity, but also boost the group's but also revenue to Treasury.

"Technology and capital are among the chronic challenges facing the mining sector, especially for the small-scale miners; NMB's

decision will help reduce the challenge of acquiring mining equipment by small scale miners," said Bina who also stated that mining needs expertise and modern technology use.

Urging small-scale miners to dispel fears and misconceptions about bank loans, the Femata President assured financial institutions that there is a fortune in the mining sector which is doing great at global markets despite challenges being faced by the coronavirus epidemic.

Addressing the miners and NMB officials, Mwanza Regional Commissioner, Engineer Robert Gabriel assured the bank of the government's willingness to work

with financial institutions and other stakeholders to implement policies and strategies aimed to increase productivity in the mining sector.

"Mining sector's contribution to the country's gross domestic product has increased from 3.4 percent in 2015/16 fiscal year to 5.2 percent in the 2019/20; and it is projected to peak more than 10 percent by 2025," said Engineer Gabriel.

He advised small-scale miners in the country to join forces to afford not only opening up medium and large mines, but also provide services in major international mines through a local content policy that directs that part of services be provided by local companies.

GHOST-RETIREES

Britons on Kenya payroll since year of independence puts Treasury on the spot

NAIROBI

Parliament has ordered the Treasury to provide proof that Asians and Europeans who retired 58 years ago but continue to earn pension at Kenyan taxpayers' expense are still alive. The pensioners served in the British colonial administration and retired before and shortly after independence in 1963.

The National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has given Treasury Principal Secretary Julius Muia seven days to table the retirees' personal files and life certificates before payments can be made in line with the Pension Department's internal controls.

The Treasury makes the payments in sterling pounds through Crown Agents Bank, a leading development bank that is regulated by the UK Financial Services Authority. Kenyan taxpayers paid Sh150 million to the retirees and another Sh12 million to the widows of the deceased foreign workers hired by the British colonial administration.

Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu had raised the red flag on the Treasury's pension payroll for Asian and European pensioners who retired due to Africanisation of public sec-



Treasury PS Julius Muia.

tor after independence in 1963.

"However, no evidence was provided that the pensioners' personal files and life certificates were submitted before payments were effected as required by the Pension

Department's internal controls," Ms Gathungu said. The colonial pensioners are required to file life certificates every April and when they die Crown Agents delete their names from the records. Treasury officials have

previously failed to explain why Kenya has not carried out a head count of the British pensioners but has instead chosen to rely on Crown Agents' records. Garissa Township MP Aden Duale directed Dr Muia to table life certi-

icates and payment schedules on the Asian and European pensioners within one week from Monday July 19, 2021.

"We cannot pay millions to nonexistent people since 1963. If they are alive, they were laid off 58 years ago. We want life certificates and payments schedules within a week," said Mr Duale. The UK pays about 75 percent of the pension to the largely former colonial employees while Kenya bridges the balance of 25 percent.

"We have no life certificates. We will get details about the recipients of Sh61.9 million. This people are in Kenya and I request you give us two weeks to furnish these details," Dr Muia told the committee. The latest directive to the Treasury comes seven years after Parliament ordered a fresh audit of pension payments made to former State employees resident abroad.

In 2014, PAC ordered a second audit after it emerged that an earlier one in 2011 by to ascertain the existence of the retirees only confirmed a single pensioner, with records of 40 others missing. Some 927 pensioners are paid amounts ranging from £0.06 to £50.42 through the UK Department for International Development.

INVESTMENT

By Guardian Reporter

OMAN's largest and most diversified real estate developer, Muriya will stage exhibitions in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar between this week and first week of August to lure local buyers of property to in Gulf state.

In a statement last week, Muriya said its annual property road-show in Tanzania, will bring together key industry players and potential investors to discuss its wide portfolio in Oman investment opportunities.

"This year's special edition, will address the current market demand as well as introduce information about Muriya's integrated tourism complexes in Oman with the real estate community," the statement said.

The statement added that during the multiple events, Muriya's team will showcase quality real estate developments and high-profile international investment opportunities in its two destinations, Jebel Sifah and Hawana Salalah, as well as unveil the newest real estate and entertainment additions to both destinations.

"Aiming to strengthen Oman's status as a global real estate investment destination, Muriya's events will feature a series of speeches, presentations, expert talks and market analysis," the statement added while noting that from apartments to high-end villas in developed communities, the Oman based developer will also showcase its most sought-after projects across Oman promising investors outstanding returns starting from US\$ 133,000 per annum.

Jebel Sifah, located 40

Oman's real estate developer Muriya for Dar and Zanzibar



Construction work going on at Muriya's flagship destination in Hawana Salalah.

minutes from the capital city of Muscat is spread over 6.2 million square metres and houses freehold residences, which are available to own or rent, an 84-berth marina, and a wide range of dining and leisure facilities, as well as the 9-hole PGA Harradine signature golf course.

"Jebel Sifah, Muscat's lowest density destination, offers a one-

of-a-kind investment opportunity of owning a home in an established community. An array of attractive freehold residential opportunities is available, with residences overlooking golf, marina, sea, and mountain views," the statement noted.

With an area of 13.6 million square metres, Muriya's flagship destination

Hawana Salalah is located in the tropical city of Salalah in the Governorate of Dhofar in Oman. "The destination is home to Oman's first aqua park, a 170-berth marina, freehold residences, retail venues, restaurants and cafes," the statement noted. Hawana Salalah's freehold residential properties make the ideal second homes and investment

opportunities.

"With over US\$ 750 million investments, Muriya is behind major developments throughout the Sultanate of Oman and will continue to bring real estate offerings that represent unique living and investment opportunities," the statement concluded.

APPRECIATION

Vodacom turns in a strong first quarter

JOHANNESBURG

Vodacom Group reported a strong 9% advance in revenue in the first quarter of its 2022 financial year, reaching R24.8 billion. If it hadn't been for rand strength, the figure would have been 14.2%.

Normalised group service revenue growth was 7.8% as international (non-South African) growth accelerated, while South African service revenue was up 5.2% to R14.1 billion, "reflecting sustained demand for connectivity services and strong growth in new services." However, the strong rand impacted international service revenue, which fell 6.3% to R5.3 billion.

Mobile money platform M-Pesa performed well, showing normalised growth of 13.5%. Group financial services revenue, excluding Safaricom, contributed 9.8% of consolidated services revenue and grew 33.9% on a normalised basis.

In South Africa, data price cuts led to increased demand. Group CEO Shameel Joosub said: "Since the beginning of the quarter, South Africans have benefited from a further 14% price reduction in the 1GB, 30-day data bundle, marking a cumulative 43% cut since April 2020." Capital expenditure in the quarter came at a relatively high R2.9-billion "to support network capacity and resilience."

"A combination of greater value and an enhanced customer experience supported sustained demand for connectivity as customers continued to work, entertain and educate from home," said Joosub. Vodacom Business's revenue was up 14.1%, reflecting growing demand for connectivity and the integration of new digital service offerings. Financial services in South Africa remained a "strong performer", delivering revenue growth of 19.1%, Vodacom said.

"Our international portfolio delivered normalised service revenue growth of 13.5%, marking a meaningful recovery from the prior financial year. The performance was supported by M-Pesa revenue growth, up 43.2% on a normalised basis, which benefited from the increased customer base, higher platform usage and the reinstatement of person-to-person M-Pesa transaction fees." Turning to last week's violent unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Gauteng, Vodacom said the financial impact of damage to its infrastructure "was not material."

EXPANSION

Ride hailing app Little set to enter Ethiopia market

NAIROBI

Kenyan ride-hailing firm Little is expanding to Addis Ababa joining Safaricom and several other Kenyan firms in the race to crack the Ethiopian market that has so far remained closed to foreign firms.

Little chief executive officer Kamal Budhabhatti told Business Daily the firm will invest \$5 million (Sh540 million) in the next five years, with plans to inject an additional \$5 million based on its growth projections. The company, which competes with global players Uber and Taxify in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and Tanzania, will start Ethiopia operations this month.

It will recruit 2,000 drivers targeting corporates and individual customers with plans to later launch food delivery, and outside Addis Ababa in the country of over 100 million people. "Ethiopia has always been on our sight," Mr Budhabhatti said in interview yesterday.

The digital taxi firm becomes the latest Kenyan company to enter Ethiopia days after

a Safaricom-led consortium received a telecommunication operator licence in Ethiopia, setting the stage for Kenya's largest telco to start operations in the market of over 100 million people. Ethiopia's award of a new telecoms licence paves the way to open the market to international investors for the first time, a key part of Prime Minister Ahmed's economic strategy.

"When we saw Safaricom heading to Ethiopia, we got the courage to get there. It is a large market and we see an opportunity to extend our services there," said Mr Budhabhatti. Business Daily learned that Little will partner with State-run Ethio Telecom which recently launched a mobile money financial service dubbed telebirr.

"We have some great Ethiopian partners. We felt that it is a very large market, and for us to succeed there, we need to work closely with Ethiopian companies who would bring a wealth of local and cultural knowledge," said Mr Budhabhatti.

Several Kenyan firms have been eyeing the Ethiopian market for



Craft Silicon boss Kamal Budhabhatti.

years due to the country's huge population. The Kenyan firms are attracted by the growth potential in that market, whose 100

million population means a huge untapped business opportunity. Its population, which is the second largest in Africa after Nigeria, offers

immense opportunities for business.

Ethiopia has kept foreign involvement in the economy at a bare minimum but its ongoing economic reforms look set to strengthen investor sentiment. The horn of Africa nation has also consistently registered robust economic growth, averaging 10 percent in the past five years. Besides telecommunications, the Ethiopian government last year announced plans to open up the aviation sector, the State logistics firm and electricity monopoly to private investment.

Shares in sugar factories are also being sold and tentative steps towards opening up the financial sector have been taken. The Kenyan firms eyeing to crack the Ethiopian market include insurer Jubilee as well as lenders, KCB, Equity, Cooperative Bank and Stanbic.

Little says through its application one can access the delivery services, transport, doctor services, corporate services, and the wallet which enables one to send money, buy airtime, pay bills among other functions.

Escalating armed conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region pitting Tigrayan forces against the Ethiopian military and its allies from Amhara and the neighbouring nation of Eritrea has raised concerns over the investment climate in the country.

INNOVATION

Africa Prudential develops cloud-based solution for Africa's hospitality industry

LAGOS

Africa Prudential has demonstrated its digital capabilities, with the launch of "Aura by Transcorp Hotels", an innovative commercial cloud-based product launched in the Nigerian market.

"Aura by Transcorp Hotels" is an online platform that curates accommodation, staycations, cuisines and memorable lifestyle experiences. The platform was created for Transcorp Hotels, the hospitality subsidiary of Transcorp. It was launched on Thursday 8th of

July in Abuja, by Nigeria's Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja.

Commenting on the launch, Dupe Olusola, CEO of Transcorp Hotels, said "we recognise that technology is enabling a wave of innovation, amid greater adoption of digital solutions by consumers and businesses. We are excited about the functionality of the Aura platform, created by the Africa Prudential team. It is an important aspect of our diversification strategy, as we seek to create a hospitality ecosystem across Africa and offer

greater value to consumers and our industry."

The launch of Aura is the latest milestone in Africa Prudential's digital technology strategy and builds on the successes of other cloud-based solutions created by the company. Obong Idiong, CEO of Africa Prudential said "Aura is significant in our journey, as a digital technology company. We have come a long way, since we launched our innovation lab three years ago. This platform is the latest evidence of the capacity that we have built, and we look forward to

delivering further innovative solutions, that will improve the business experience of consumers and corporates."

Africa Prudential has created a series of other cloud-based solutions, including EasyCoop that enables traditional cooperatives easily provide member services online. Other solutions include GreenPole, an enterprise register management software, and EasyMall, an online shopping platform.

Aura is an e-commerce platform that enables vendors to offer a range of hospitality services, while

consumers are able to pay for the advertised services immediately on the same platform, in local currency. It is available on the Google Play Store and Apple Store.

Africa Prudential Plc is a Registrar, Digital Technology and Investor Services firm, listed on the Nigeria stock exchange, offering digital technology solutions and services, share registration services, and e-commerce services. The firm leverages technology to transform the service experience of businesses and consumers across its various business lines.



Obong Idiong, CEO of Africa Prudential.

CONCERN

Wild weather in biggest coffee exporter sparks price surge

BRASILIA

The weather woes add to shipping delays from Colombia due to political unrest and soaring freight rates that have made it more expensive for traders to move beans around the world. The world's biggest coffee exporter is facing some of the coldest weather in more than 25 years, dimming hopes for the harvest and threatening to raise prices for the popular beverage.

Temperatures in Brazil's coffee-growing regions fell below zero Celsius (32 Fahrenheit) for hours on Tuesday, with southern Minas Gerais the coldest since 1994, according to Rural Clima. The freeze is forecast to continue in the southernmost part of the country Wednesday while another cold front is expected for July 29. Futures in New York jumped as much as 7.7% to the highest since 2016.

The frost is dealing growers a second blow after a severe drought left fields parched and depleted water reservoirs needed for irrigation. On top of that, the drought may worsen, with forecasts for a likely return of La Nina weather patterns that delay rainfall in the region. The series of misfortunes may leave consumers paying higher prices at cafes and

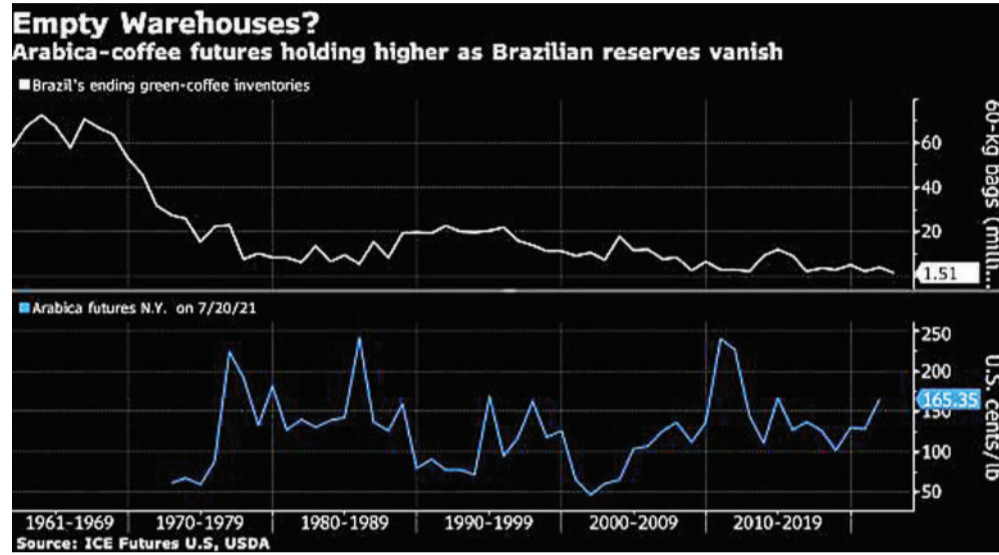
at the supermarkets.

Francisco Cesar Di Giacomo, a farmer in Sao Goncalo do Sapucaí in Minas Gerais, said frost affected about 60% of his plantings. "In some areas of the farm, it burnt all the crop," Di Giacomo said by text message. Frost may burn leaves and branches on trees, reducing the outlook for 2022 and dashing hopes for a bumper crop that would replenish stockpiles. That's especially significant because coffee trees are on a two-year cycle and are set to produce more next season.

Many fields were already pruned last year to produce in 2022, and now will have their potential output reduced, said Regis Ricco, a director at RR Consultoria Rural. After the drought and frosts, next year may be the worst high-yield cycle in decades, he said.

The last two frosts are jeopardizing between 1 million to 2 million bags from Brazil's 2022-23 crop, according to a survey conducted of exporters and agronomists by Minas Gerais-based Cazarini Trading.

A drought earlier this year slashed production of arabicas, the type of bean favored by Starbucks Corp. In northern areas of Sao Paulo and Triangulo Mineiro, in Minas, soil moisture is around 20%, way below the 60% needed for crop development,



according to Rural Clima. There are also signs of lower productivity this season as well for Brazil's robusta beans, used by companies such as Nestlé SA in its Nescafé instant brands that are in higher demand during the pandemic. The odds for La Nina's return at 45% between

August and October, 55% from September to November and 62% from October to December, according to the U.S. Climate Prediction Center. There's little cushion – the U.S. Department of Agriculture sees inventories in Brazil ending the season at the lowest level in data going

back to 1960 and U.S. green-coffee stockpiles are down 18% from a year ago.

With all the upheaval, a La Nina's return "would likely inject new impetus to prices," said Hernando de la Roche, senior vice president for StoneX Financial Inc. The weather woes add to shipping

delays from Colombia due to political unrest and soaring freight rates that have made it more expensive for traders to move beans around the world.

For Carlos Mera, Rabobank International's head of agricultural research, all weather issues have been priced in, at least for this year's harvest. However, the prompt return of rain for next year's harvest will be "fundamental" for supply prospects, he said. Even with a big chunk of the harvest done, buyers are having a hard time finding beans in the spot market, said Ricco, who sees arabica output this year at about half of last year's total.

Daniel Dianas Ribeiro, a 42-year old farmer who cultivates about 2,000

hectares of coffee in Sao Paulo and Parana with his family group, has reduced his crop estimate by 25% to 30% since the harvest started in May.

Disappointing harvest The current harvest is already disappointing. The drought has damaged beans, making them smaller or hollow. As a result, on average farmers need 600 liters (158.5 gallons) of beans to fill one 60-kilogram bag, instead of the usual 450 to 500 liters, said Judy Ganes, a consultant who has covered the market for more than three decades and just returned from touring the crops in Brazil. "Some people don't want to believe how bad the situation is, and they keep inflating last year's crop, saying there's plenty of stockpiles," she said.

RELIEF

ECB lifts restrictions on bank dividends as economy rebounds

By Okoh Aihe

FRANKFURT

The European Central Bank said it will lift a cap on how much lenders can return to shareholders with dividends and share buybacks, while urging them to remain cautious given uncertainty in the pandemic.

The ECB "decided not to extend beyond September 2021 its recommendation that all banks limit dividends," the central bank said in a statement on Friday. "Instead, supervisors will assess the capital and distribution plans of each bank as part of the regular supervisory process."

With the euro-area economy rebounding as vaccinations increase and businesses reopen, regulators had little choice to remove the restrictions, which had drawn rebukes from top bankers concerned about their stock prices. The ECB's decision comes after the Bank of England said this month it's fully removing guardrails that limited dividends at HSBC Holdings Plc, Barclays Plc, Standard Chartered Plc and other top lenders.

"The latest macroeconomic projections confirm the economic rebound and point to reduced uncertainty, which is improving the reliability of banks' capital trajectories," the ECB said. "However, banks should remain prudent when deciding on dividends and share buy-backs."

The ECB issued a de facto ban on payouts in March last year and in December capped dividends and buybacks for the first nine months of 2020 at 15% of profit for the previous two years, or 20 basis points of a bank's key capital ratio, whichever was lower. It was expected to lift the cap after saying it would do so "in the absence of materially adverse developments."

Ten of the biggest euro-area banks have more than 22 billion euros (\$26 billion) set aside to reward shareholders, according to calculations by Bloomberg. BNP Paribas SA, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA, ING Groep NV, Intesa Sanpaolo SpA and Nordea Bank Abp are sitting on the biggest reserves.

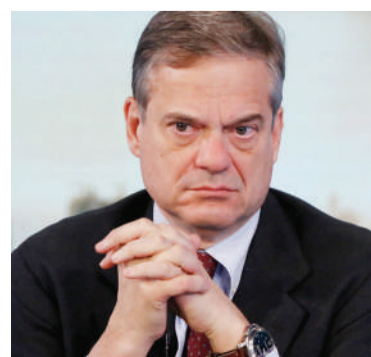
The ECB also reiterated previous calls on banks to be "prudent" when deciding on bonuses. The supervisor previously demanded that banks including Deutsche

Bank AG, UniCredit SpA and BNP Paribas SA cut their bonus pools for 2020 when it deemed them as too generous, Bloomberg News has reported.

Even with the dividend cap removed, the ECB's note of caution shows policy makers are worried that the true damage from the health crisis has yet to materialize on lenders' balance sheets. Banks shouldn't underestimate "the risk that additional losses may later have an impact on their capital trajectory as support measures expire," the central bank said in its statement.

Still, bank leaders will likely welcome the announcement on Friday. Many of them last year slammed the ECB's de facto ban, with Societe Generale SA Chairman Lorenzo Bini Smaghi and Banco Santander SA's Ana Botin among its greatest detractors. Bini Smaghi, a former ECB official, went as far as to say that it risked making European banks "un-investible." "Stress test results for banks in Europe may reflect smaller capital buffers, in most cases, and structurally lower profitability. BNP and HSBC are currently forecast to lead European banks' 2021 dividend payouts, expected to exceed \$50 billion in aggregate, with limited buybacks from 4Q also possible."

Policy makers responded to the criticism by saying their recommendation helped to bolster balance sheets and ensure that credit continues to flow to firms. The restrictions were also part of a trade-off under which banks got unprecedented support from governments which guaranteed hundreds of billions of dollars of loans and regulators that allowed them to use flexibility in accounting for doubtful loans. The ECB also extended a key plank of its relief measures by nine months in June.



Societe Generale SA Chairman Lorenzo Bini Smaghi.

UZALO

MONDAY – FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

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| SUNDAY 18 April 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Movie rpt: Nzowa 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Maphisi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Mizengwe 21:35 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: Laana 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin MONDAY 19 April 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera News 12:30 Mtego rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 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WORLD

Vatican reveals property holdings for first time in transparency drive

THE Vatican released information on its real estate holdings for the first time on Saturday, revealing it owns more than 5,000 properties as part of its most detailed financial disclosures ever.

The information was contained in two documents, a consolidated financial statement for 2020 for the Holy See and the first-ever public budget for the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See (APSA).

The information was contained in two documents, a consolidated financial statement for 2020 for the Holy See and the first-ever public budget for the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See.

APSA, a sort of general accounting office, manages real estate and investments, pays salaries, and acts as a purchasing office and human resources department.

Between the two documents - each with an unprecedented number of pie

charts, graphs and maps - and two explanatory interviews, the Vatican issued more than 50 pages of financial material.

The 30-page APSA budget showed that it owns 4,051 properties in Italy and about 1,120 abroad, not including its embassies around the world.

Only about 14 percent of its Italian properties were rented at market rates, while the others were rented at cut rates, many to Church employees. About 40 percent were institutional buildings such as schools, convents and hospitals.

The documentation showed that APSA owns properties as investments in upscale areas of London, Geneva, Lausanne and Paris.

Turning Point

One building, in London's smart South Kensington district, led to enormous losses after it was purchased by



Pedestrians wearing a face mask cross Via della Conciliazione in Rome near St. Peter's Square in The Vatican on September 25, 2020. File photo

the Vatican's Secretariat of State as an investment in 2014.

On Tuesday, the trial of 10 people in connection with its purchase, including a prominent cardinal, starts in the Vatican. They are charged with financial crimes including embezzlement, money laundering, fraud, extortion and abuse of office.

Father Juan Antonio Guerrero, head of the Vatican's Secretariat for the Economy (SPE), told the official Vatican News website that the building would be sold soon.

He said the trial would be a "turning point" in the Vatican's credibility in economic matters and that a similar event could not be repeated because of measures put into place since.

Last year, Pope Francis stripped the Secretariat of State of control over its funds, transferring them to APSA and with oversight by the SPE.

A separate consolidated financial statement for the Holy See issued on

Saturday showed a 64.8 million euro deficit in 2020, down from a 79.2 million deficit in 2019.

The Holy See budget includes the central administration of the Roman Catholic Church, known as the Curia, that oversees the governing of the 1.3 billion-member worldwide Church, its global diplomatic representations and media operations.

Vatican City, including the Vatican Museums and the Vatican bank, has a separate budget.

To plug the 2020 deficit, about 50 million euros were taken from Peter's Pence, a fund of donations to help the pope carry out the Church's worldwide work.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Vatican revenues hard in 2020.

St Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums, the latter a cash cow that received about 6 million paying visitors in 2019, were closed or only partially open for much of 2020.

China refutes US accusations on next stage of virus origin tracing

BEIJING

CHINA on Friday refuted accusations from the United States that China's stance on the next stage of the global origin-tracing issue was "irresponsible and dangerous".

In a daily news briefing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that the US side has been extremely irresponsible and shameful in its behavior toward its own people and the international community.

Zhao (pictured) made the remarks when asked to comment on the "deep disappointment" expressed by the White House concerning China's stance on the next stage of global origin tracing.

Zhao said that some people in the United States have con-

tinued to slander and smear China, using the epidemic as an excuse, totally disregarding common sense and taking an arrogant approach to science.

"China resolutely says no to this," said Zhao.

He said that, not only did China take the lead in controlling the domestic epidemic, but it has also offered over 300 billion masks, 3.7 billion protective suits, 4.8 billion test kits and large quantities of other epidemic-prevention materials to more than 200 countries and regions around the world. China has also provided more than 600 million doses of vaccines and has continuously made important contributions to the global fight against the epidemic.

China has always main-



tained an open and transparent attitude on the origin-tracing issue and has invited WHO experts to China twice. The expert group visited all the places they wanted and met everyone they wanted, said Zhao.

"China's fight against the epidemic can withstand the test of history and the people. However, it is the actions of the United States

that have deeply disappointed the international community and its own people," said the spokesperson.

The United States has never responded to reports that early COVID-19 cases in the United States may be earlier than the first case currently reported. It is also turning a blind eye to concerns by the international

community regarding the US military facility Fort Detrick and 200 plus US overseas biological laboratories, said Zhao, adding that this is the most dangerous attitude.

Zhao said that viruses are the common enemy of mankind, and origin-tracing is an important and complex scientific issue that needs the cooperation of scientists from all over the world, as well as the joint efforts and cooperation of the governments and people of all countries.

He stressed that stigmatizing other countries using the epidemic and politicizing the origin-tracing issue will only provoke strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition from the international community, and will never succeed.

Xinhua

First task for Afghan forces is to slow Taliban's momentum - Pentagon chief

ALASKA

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Saturday that the Afghan security forces' first job was to make sure they could slow the Taliban's momentum before attempting to retake territory, as Afghan forces plan to consolidate forces around strategically important parts of the country.

Reuters reported that Afghanistan's military is overhauling its war strategy against the Taliban to concentrate forces around the most critical areas like Kabul and other cities, border crossings and vital infrastructure.

"They are consolidating their forces around the key population centers," Austin (pictured) told reporters during a visit to



Alaska.

"In terms of whether or not it will stop the Taliban, I think the first thing to do is to make sure that they can slow the momentum," Austin said, speaking as the U.S. military is set to end its mission in Afghanistan on Aug. 31, on orders from President Joe Biden.

Austin added that he believed the Afghans had the capability and the capacity to make progress, but "we'll see what happens."

The politically perilous strategy appears to be a military necessity as over-stretched Afghan troops try to prevent the loss of provincial capitals,

which could deeply fracture the country.

Taliban insurgents are gaining control of more and more territory, which the Pentagon estimated on Wednesday now extends to over half of half Afghanistan's district centers. The Taliban are also putting pressure on the outskirts of half of the provincial capitals, trying to isolate them.

The Taliban's swift territorial gains are rattling Afghans just as the United States withdraws from a war that succeeded in punishing al Qaeda following its Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington but failed to deliver anything close to peace for Afghanistan.

The United States has continued to carry out air strikes to support Afghan government

forces that have been under pressure from the Taliban as U.S.-led foreign forces carry out the final stages of their withdrawal from the country.

Biden has promised to provide financial assistance to Afghan forces and to redouble diplomatic efforts to revive stalled peace talks.

Biden on Friday authorized up to \$100 million from an emergency fund to meet "unexpected urgent" refugee needs stemming from the situation in Afghanistan, including for Afghan special immigration visa applicants.

For years, the U.S. military has been trying to get Afghan troops off of far-flung checkpoints - static positions that can easily be overrun by Taliban forces.

Agencies

Ecological protection in NW China's Qinghai province boosts tourism development

DRIVING westward along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway for two hours from Xining, capital city of northwest China's Qinghai province, one can arrive at the Qinghai Lake, a famous tourist destination in Qinghai, which ripples and sparkles in the sun.

Amazed by the magnificent scenery of the Qinghai Lake, Wang Xuan, a tourist from east China's Anhui province, couldn't help but press the shutter release. "The Qinghai Lake is definitely worth visiting," Wang said.

Due to climate change, human ac-

tivities and other factors, the Qinghai Lake once suffered from serious ecological degradation, when biological resources declined sharply, the surrounding grasslands underwent desertification and degradation, water level fell continuously, and water area kept shrinking.

To tackle the problem, the local government set up a nature reserve at the Qinghai Lake, blockaded the lake for fish breeding, and incorporated the conservation of the lake into the construction of China's nature reserve system centered around national parks.

After years of efforts, Qinghai Lake finally started to see improving ecology and yield increasing ecological and social benefits.

"I'm really happy that the Qinghai Lake I knew when I was little has finally come back," said Li Chaowei, head of a criminal investigation and law enforcement police team in charge of husbandry-related cases in Gonghe county, Hainan Tibetan autonomous prefecture, where the Qinghai Lake is situated.

Li and three of his fellows are responsible for patrolling the 186-kilometer shoreline on the south

bank of Qinghai Lake. "Less than three incidents of illegal fishing in the lake are now reported a year," Li said, who noted that the amount of naked carp in the Qinghai Lake exceeded 100,000 tons by the end of last year, an increase of nearly 40 times from the beginning of the 21st century.

During this year's May Day holiday in China, Qinghai Lake received 45,000 tourists, registering a tourism income of nearly 5.17 million yuan (about \$798,633).

Farmers and herdsmen in Qinghai have become increasingly

aware of the importance of ecological conservation, and understood more deeply that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

The clear Chaka Salt Lake, also a popular tourist attraction along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway, attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. It looks like a fairyland against the blue sky and white clouds, and is known as the "mirror of the sky" in China.

Bayin village, which is located near the Chaka Salt Lake, has brought villagers a better life by

boosting tourism.

To draw tourists, Bayin village has comprehensively improved its living environment and infrastructure. Now the village has flat and clean roads, spacious and lively squares, and bright and tidy hotel rooms.

"Decorating the garden can not only attract more visitors, but bring pleasure to myself," said Shen Deping, a local villager, while planting flowers in a garden in front of her home.

People's Daily

Another round of Russian-US strategic stability dialogue to be held in Geneva on July 28

MOSCOW

ANOTHER round of the Russian-US dialogue on strategic stability will be held in Geneva on July 28, the Russian foreign ministry said on Friday.

"In furtherance of the agreements reached at the June 16 talks between Russian and US Presidents, Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden, another round of the Russian-US strategic stability dialogue will be held in Geneva on July 28," the ministry said.

According to the ministry, the Russian delegation will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov. "The sides will discuss issues of maintaining and strengthening strategic stability, as well as prospects for arms control," the ministry added.

Ryabkov told TASS earlier that the Russian side planned to discuss in detail all the aspects of strategic stability, potential risks and threats, and to elaborate a mechanism of further joint activities in the sphere, including the working format and the agenda.

A Russian-US summit took place in the Swiss city of Geneva on June 16. The initiative came from Washington. Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Joe Biden of the United States discussed the current state of and prospects for further development of bilateral relations, issues of strategic stability, international matters, including cooperation in combating the Covid-19 pandemic and ironing out regional conflicts.

Meanwhile, the US Department of State said on Friday that the US delegation will be led by US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Bonnie Jenkins will be among the members of the delegation. *Agencies*

G20 ministers stumble over coal, global warming targets

ENVIRONMENT ministers from the Group of 20 nations were unable to reach full agreement on key climate goals, just 100 days before a critical international conference kicks off.

After marathon negotiations that ran through the night, the ministers couldn't find common ground on phasing out coal or how much to limit global warming. Italian Ecological Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani said at a press conference Friday in Naples.

The divisions among the G20 nations bode badly for United Nations climate talks set to start Oct 31 in Glasgow. Leaders and diplomats including US presidential climate envoy John Kerry have repeatedly stressed that the meeting, known as COP 26, may be the last chance to set international policies that would prevent the planet from warming more than 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels, which scientists say is key to staving off the worst impacts of climate change.

"The G20 accounts for 80 percent of all global emissions," Patricia Espinosa, head of the UN's climate change secretariat, said during the meeting. "There is no path to 1.5C without the G20."

Ending the use of coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, was a major sticking point. Italy, which is hosting the G20 meeting, pushed to include that goal within the official communiqué that will be issued Saturday. However, a number of countries including India and Russia resisted.

Ending the use of coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, was a major sticking point. Italy, which is hosting the G20 meeting, pushed to include that goal within the official communiqué that will be issued Saturday. However, a number of countries including India and Russia resisted, Cingolani said.

"It is frustrating that despite the progress made by some countries, there was no consensus in Naples to confine coal to history," said Alok Sharma, the incoming COP26 president, following the meeting. The question over phasing out coal will now be kicked to the gathering of G20 leaders in October, taking place in the days immediately before COP26 starts.

As the talks dragged on overnight from Thursday into Friday, the US, Canada and Europe lobbied for including the goal of limiting warming to 1.5C.

But other countries were unwilling to go beyond the 2015 Paris Agreement's less ambitious target range. In the end, the text recognized that the impacts of climate change at 1.5C are much lower than at 2C.

This year is seen as a crunch time in climate policy, because all 197 countries in the Paris accord must submit enhanced national plans for cutting emissions. So far only 97 have done so, the UN's Espinosa said.

At the meeting, all countries agreed to submit their updated plans before COP26. The nations also reached agreements on other fronts, such as ensuring a green recovery from the pandemic.

Indonesia, the world's eighth-largest source of carbon emissions, submitted a new national plan during the meeting. However, it had the same top-line emissions targets proposed five years ago.

Its longer-term goals show that the country plans for peak emissions in 2030 and could reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2060 or sooner. *Agencies*

Lavrov expects no one will dare to launch aggression against Moscow-led bloc's members

MOSCOW

MOSCOW expects that no one will dare embark on any sort of aggression against members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), taking advantage of the current situation in Afghanistan, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a webinar on Russia's foreign policy on Friday.

"Our position, as well as that of our Central Asian neighbors, is that all obligations within the CSTO remain in full effect. We certainly do hope that nobody will dare test the Collective Security Treaty and try to carry out aggressive actions against

any of its members," he emphasized.

The security situation in Afghanistan significantly deteriorated in April 2021 after US President Joe Biden had announced plans to end Washington's operation in Afghanistan.

As of July 13, more than 95% of US troops left the country. Meanwhile, the Taliban is mounting offensives in several directions.

It has taken control of dozens of districts and seized a number of key crossing points on the border with Tajikistan, Iran and Pakistan, according to the Afghan media. Meanwhile, Kabul is planning a large-scale counter-offensive against Taliban fighters.

Agencies

Merkel's bloc continues to slide in German election poll

WASHINGTON

THE Christian Democratic party of outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel continued to lose support while its main rivals remained stable in the latest Insa poll, according to weekly Bild am Sonntag.

Combined support for the Christian Democratic Union and Bavaria's CSU party, led by Merkel's successor candidate Armin Laschet, declined by 1 percentage point to 27 percent.

While the bloc remains on track to lead the next government, the devastating floods that battered the country have shifted the dynamic in the election campaign. Conservative front-runner Laschet damaged his standing when he was caught laughing on camera in the midst of the catastrophe.

The CDU/CSU will very likely need at least one coalition partner after September's election to secure a governing majority in parliament.

Insa's poll showed the liberal FDP was the only party to gain ground, reaching a level of 13 percent, up one percentage point. The opposition Green party remained stable at 18 percent from a week earlier, as did the So-



cial Democrats, the right wing AfD and left wing party Die Linke.

The flood, which has killed more than 160 people, has shown signs of shaking up the campaign with the CDU/CSU seeing its lead over the Greens narrow. Merkel's cabinet has approved a 400 million-euro (US\$470 million) aid package to provide immediate help for people in affected areas.

Merkel isn't running for a fifth term after 16 years in office.

Agencies

Brazilians take to streets to seek Bolsonaro's impeachment

SAO PAULO

PROTESTERS took to the streets in several Brazilian cities on Saturday to demand the impeachment of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, whose popularity has fallen in recent weeks amid corruption scandals against the backdrop of the pandemic.

This week, news broke that Brazil's defense ministry told congressional leadership that next year's elections would not take place without amending the country's electronic voting system to include a paper trail of each vote.

Bolsonaro (pictured) has suggested several times without evidence that the current system is prone to fraud, allegations that Brazil's government has denied.

Bolsonaro is facing reelection next year, in a race in which he is likely to face his political nemesis, former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Polls currently show Bolsonaro losing against Lula.

Saturday's protests were at least the second time this month that Brazilians have taken to the streets in several cities to oppose Bolsonaro.

"I'm here because it is time to react to the genocidal government that we have, that has taken over our country," said Marcos Kirst, a protester in Sao Paulo.

Over 500,000 Brazilians have died of COVID-19 under Bolsonaro's leadership, who has been widely criticized for dismissing the severity of the disease and opposing masks and social distancing measures.

Bolsonaro is now being investigated in the Senate, which is probing the possibility of corruption tied to the purchase of an Indian coronavirus vaccine.

In Sao Paulo's Paulista Avenue, the traditional location for political protests, over a thousand people were gathered as of 4 p.m. Saturday.

Bolsonaro was in Brasilia, the capital, on Saturday and went out for a motorcycle ride while greeting supporters.

Xinhua



ORIGIN tracing of COVID-19 shall be conducted in multiple countries and regions based on extensive consultations among WHO member states, said a senior official of China's National Health Commission (NHC) at a press conference on the COVID-19 origin-tracing work Thursday.

Zeng Yixin, deputy head of the NHC, said he was "shocked" to learn that an origin-tracing proposal released by the WHO last week has listed the hypothesis that violations of laboratory protocols in China could have resulted in the virus' leak as one of the major research objectives.

"In some respects, this plan disrespects common sense

China calls for multiple-site origin tracing of COVID-19

and defies science. It is impossible for us to accept a plan like this," he said during the news conference held by the State Council Information Office.

Up to now, none of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) staff members and postgraduate students have been infected by the novel coronavirus, the lab has not carried out the gain-of-function experiment on the pathogen, and there is no so-called artificial novel coronavirus in the WIV, he reiterated.

In addition, WHO experts concluded that lab leak is extremely unlikely after person-

ally visiting the WIV, Zeng said, adding that such conclusion must be respected as the experts were elaborately selected by the WHO and are very authoritative and experienced in their respective fields.

On March 30 this year, the WHO officially released a report on the global tracing of COVID-19 origins. The China part of the report made a good start of the global tracing work, Zeng remarked. More and more scientific evidence indicated that the report is valuable, authoritative, and able to withstand the test of science and history. The conclusion

of the report is science-based, and the report was also made upon scientific principles, he said.

Through joint efforts of scientists from multiple countries, positive progress has been achieved in the study into the origin of the coronavirus. Xu Nanping, vice minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology introduced that as of July 19, Chinese scientists had issued 225 papers on COVID-19 origin tracing in cooperation with research teams from the US, the UK, and other countries, and 352 papers had been released by domestic re-

search teams. Besides, Chinese and US medical experts had convened six video conferences on epidemic prevention and control.

According to Xu, the COVID-19 information database established by China National Center for Bioinformation has collected and shared 2.53 million genome sequences, providing services for nearly 300,000 users in 177 countries and regions around the world.

Zeng said the Chinese government has always supported science-based origin tracing, but it opposes politicizing the work. The second-phase

study shall be an extension of the first-phase one, and be conducted based on extensive consultations among WHO member states, he added.

What was done in the first stage of origin tracing, especially by those that have reached a clear conclusion, should not be repeated. What should be carried out is the origin tracing of early cases, molecular epidemiology, and intermediary hosts in multiple countries and regions based on extensive consultations among WHO member states, Zeng said.

At present, the academic community generally believes

that the novel coronavirus originated from the nature. Wang Chen, president of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College said at the conference that cold chains remained an important transmission channel amid the epidemic, and the evidence chain of transmissions by cold chains is relatively substantial. Given global trade and exchanges of personnel and goods, the human-to-object transmission in cold chain environment has made pathogen transmission even more complicated. Wang suggested that cold chains should be a significant clue in ongoing virus origin tracing.

People's Daily

After the flood, Germany battles to clear mountains of trash

WASHINGTON

BAD NEUENAUHR, Germany - Germany's most devastating floods in 60 years have created mountains of trash, from broken fridges to wrecked cars, piled up on roadsides and in makeshift dumps. Disposing of it could take weeks and local leaders have appealed for help.

Amid the stench and fear of disease, the country that pioneered modern waste management is struggling to cope with the tens of thousands of tonnes of wreckage strewn across the towns and villages of its western Rhineland after the heaviest 24-hour deluge on record.



A man throws debris in street in Arloff, western Germany, on July 18, 2021 after heavy rain hit parts of the country, causing widespread flooding. File photo

The flooding claimed at least 180 lives. A week on, much of the trash has been heaped into piles so that streets are passable or carted off to makeshift dumps.

For resident Hans-Peter Bleken in Bad Neuenahr, a wine-growing hub in Rhineland-Palatinate that was one of the towns worst hit, a clean-up operation led by the fire brigade and army has been a "brilliant help".

"The next big problem is going to be the huge piles of household rubbish," he told Reuters, saying the stench from rotting food waste was everywhere.

"We have beaten corona but if we now get the bacteria, the rats and more viruses then that will be our problem."

Germany pioneered modern waste management in the 1970s, introducing the concept of separating rubbish to go for recycling, incineration or into landfill.

Yet the sheer amount of trash is far more than the waste-management industry

can cope with. Construction firms and farmers are helping to shift wreckage, but with storage facilities full up, temporary dumps are having to be found.

"The greatest challenge is the huge amounts of bulky waste," said Anna Ephan, a spokesperson for Remondis, the largest private waste management company in Germany. "The amounts are inconceivable."

Exporting trash

In Germany's most populous state of North Rhine-Westphalia, governor Armin Laschet told a news conference on Thursday: "It won't be possible to dispose of all the waste locally. We need wider help." Laschet is the conservative candidate to succeed Chancellor Angela Merkel at a general election in

September. A poll this week for Spiegel magazine found 60% of Germans considered Laschet to be a poor crisis manager: read more

The cathedral city of Cologne, the state's largest city with a population of more than a million, has issued an appeal on Facebook for help to clear "unimaginable quantities" of trash. "The districts and households affected need urgent support to quickly cope with this task, as our existing infrastructure is already exhausted," read the appeal, which included a hotline number for helpers to call.

Most of the rubbish will have to be incinerated, but with municipal and commercial facilities

running more or less flat out before the flood catastrophe, there is scant spare capacity.

"This is coming on top of all the rubbish that we already process - and it's unexpected," said Bernhard Schodrowski of the BDE waste-management industry association.

There are huge challenges to safely store the rubbish to minimize the risk of disease, said Schodrowski, while many companies in the sector are also battling to restore supplies of clean water and repair sewage systems.

"We're hopeful but it will be a question of weeks before we are able to master this challenge," said Schodrowski.

Moments of solidarity in Henan's record rainstorm

ZHENGZHOU

AFTER a record rainstorm ravaged central China's Henan Province, Zhou Jing, a resident in neighboring Anhui Province, lost contact with her longtime hairdresser.

Text messages and phone calls went unanswered, which never happened in the past, Zhou said. Only later did she know that the barber had rushed to Henan in his second identity: a professional rescuer.

The barber, Yu Tao, is a member of the Blue Sky Rescue Team in Hefei, capital of Anhui.

He said his team, a non-governmental organization, assembled overnight and rushed to Henan in the wee hours of Wednesday after torrential rains unleashed deadly floods there.

On China's popular microblogging site Sina Weibo, Zhou heartily praised her barber for "dropping his scissors to save lives," one of the many messages showing solidarity with the flood-hit Henan.

"Every ordinary person around you may become a hero to save others on a special day," Zhou said in a post forwarded 71,000 times.

A video interview by a local media outlet showed Yu standing in ankle-deep floodwater and wearing a blue helmet and a red life jacket, apparently stunned by his overnight fame on social media.

"I do not see myself as special or outstanding. All the team members put aside their daily work to come and help," Yu later told Xinhua.

Thirty-three people have died, and eight remain missing after an unprecedented rainstorm walloped the populous province of Henan. In the provincial capital



Rescuers evacuate stranded villagers in flood-hit Longtou Village, Dengfeng City of central China's Henan Province, July 20, 2021.

Zhengzhou, road traffic was paralyzed and many passengers were trapped in waterlogged subway trains after the city's rainfall over three days neared the average annual amount.

The country has launched massive rescue and relief efforts. By Wednesday afternoon, the Central Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had sent over 5,700 soldiers, armed police troops, and militias to join the rescue in Henan, in addition to 148 vessels and vehicles. China's Ministry of Finance Wednesday earmarked 100 million yuan (about 15.42 million U.S. dollars) for disaster relief in Henan. Social forces are also on the move to offer timely assistance.

On Tuesday evening, Zhengzhou's library, its science and technology museum, and some schools volunteered free overnight shelter for people trapped on their journeys home by rising floodwater.

Many private house owners and companies also joined the initiative. Online travel service provider

Fliggy said Thursday that 487 hotels in nearly 20 cities in Henan are offering free resting space for people in need.

Fliggy said the hotels' information could be found by searching "Hang on Henan" on its app. A cinema in downtown Zhengzhou took in over 1,000 stranded residents, allowing them to sleep on seats in its screening halls on Tuesday evening.

Yang Zhen, a staffer with the Oriental Jiahe Cinema, said he encountered many stranded pedestrians on his way home and guided them to the cinema after the cinema management agreed to his proposal to open up the halls. The cinema has decided to suspend business until Friday to continue to shelter the displaced and those whose homes had no electricity or water supply.

Yang said. "Operation costs are not our concern at this moment. As part of the city, we're supposed to share weal and woe with Zhengzhou," he said.

Aid also poured in from other parts of the country, as celebrities,

companies, and ordinary netizens expressed solidarity with the province.

Alipay said its users had donated 100 million yuan through the online payment platform, 36 hours since it dedicated a donation section for Henan.

Wuhan, capital of neighboring Hubei Province, sent a team of engineers to help pump waterlogged streets and tunnels in Zhengzhou.

"Wuhan received generous support from people in Henan during the epidemic. Now we should repay their kindness as they are in difficulty," said Yang Lei with the Wuhan Water Authority.

Yang Xidao, one of the 392 firefighters dispatched to Zhengzhou from the eastern province of Jiangxi, uttered a similar view.

"Last year, when the severe flood hit Poyang Lake, support poured in from across the country to help us overcome the difficulties. Now we feel obliged to help when Zhengzhou is in trouble," Yang said.

Xinhua



The country has launched massive rescue and relief efforts. By Wednesday afternoon, the Central Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had sent over 5,700 soldiers, armed



Waluguru Original Music Band's Director, Deogratius David, alias 'Killer Man'.

Waluguru Original Music Band seeks to win more fans in Dar

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MOROGORO'S Waluguru Original Music Band has said it is out to host a bonanza, which will be taking place at venues in Dar es Salaam every Sunday.

The troupe's Director, Deogratius David, popularly known as 'Killer Man', stated the approach targets to get the troupe to win more fans in Dar es Salaam.

David pointed out his troupe feels it needs to showcase its mettle and see to it that the troupe can lure more fans.

The vocalist disclosed the troupe believes it also has fans outside Morogoro and it can live up to its expectations.

David noted: "Dar es Salaam is a city full of entertainment, therefore we are keeping on setting up strategies, which will see to it we get one hall that can host our shows every Sunday, to bring us closer to more dance music fans."

The vocalist disclosed the knowledge that got from a recent show, 'Wafia Dansi', which had also involved

some of the troupes from Dar es Salaam, will help them gain a stranglehold in the city.

David noted his troupe's ability to hold its own against Dar es Salaam bands is a plus for the former.

The vocalist pointed out his band now feels there is a need for it to seek popularity outside Morogoro, given the troupe had already won the hearts of dance music fans in the region.

"We have won much fame in Morogoro, Dodoma, and Iringa, it is now our turn to do the same in Dar es Salaam, we will achieve success given we have experience in dance music, although some of the genre's fans believe Dar es Salaam is the only place that offers entertaining dance music," David revealed.

The artist said Waluguru Original Music Band can win prominence in big cities.

The Waluguru Original Music Band leader insisted his troupe's artists had also performed for various troupes in Dar es Salaam.

How team of refugee athletes made it to Olympics

TOKYO

THE Refugee Olympic Team was created by the International Olympic Committee for the 2016 Olympics to allow athletes to keep competing even if they have been forced to leave their home countries. It had 10 athletes at the Rio de Janeiro Games and is set to include 29 athletes this time in Tokyo.

Here's a closer look.

WHO'S ON THE TEAM?

There are 29 athletes competing in 12 sports, including a medalist at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games who left Iran citing institutional sexism.

The team selected by the International Olympic Committee June 8 was drawn from 55 athletes who fled their home countries and got scholarships to train for the games in a new home country.

The 29 athletes – a rise from 10 in the inaugural refugee team at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics – are also originally from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Congo, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela.

They will compete in swimming,

athletics, badminton, boxing, canoeing, cycling, judo, karate, shooting, taekwondo, weightlifting, and wrestling.

Kimia Alizadeh won a bronze medal in taekwondo for Iran in 2016 but moved to Germany last year, saying she was subjected to sexism from officials and objected to wearing the mandatory headscarf. Now competing as a refugee, she rebuilt her career after injuries and qualified for Tokyo, where she beat an opponent representing Iran in her opening bout.

The team is being managed in Tokyo by officials from the IOC and the United Nations' Geneva-based refugee agency, the UNHCR. There's also a refugee team at the Paralympics.

HOW WAS IT FOUNDED?

When the IOC announced the refugee team in March 2016, the war in Syria was causing millions of people to leave the country in the largest displacement crisis since World War II.

The IOC encouraged national Olympic officials to reach out to displaced athletes around the world and selected 10 athletes from a pool of 43 candidates for Rio.

AP

2020/21 Premier League season offers valuable lessons to clubs

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WHILE the outbreak of the coronavirus has ravaged the world and the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it a 'world emergency', many countries have suspended gatherings, including sports events.

And as the situation improved and sports were allowed to continue without fans, some countries continued to consider the tragedy as a global emergency.

The ones that could and whose regulations were based on the emergence of disasters beyond human capacity that could disrupt normal activities ended their competitions by declaring teams that were occupying the top spots champions and other representatives from their leagues.

This was done with the consideration that there is the next day. That is, the off-season should be for better preparations for the new season so that the following season is not so much affected by late league finishes.

It as well sought to see to it the new season will not involve players that had no enough time to rest, coaches not having enough time to prepare their teams, and other sports-related business.

As a result, all European nations have completed their 2020/21 season, but Africa is still struggling to finish the 2020/21 season and delay the start of the 2021/22 season.

There is no doubt that this trend will continue next season.

The coronavirus indeed shook us but to what extent did we consider those issues to be an emergency and thus ensure we do our activities urgently?

In two such emergencies, a person would not expect to see an outfit wait for a month to take part in a league fixture because one of such league's clubs is as well participating in an international tournament.



Azam FC midfielder, Salum Abubakar R, shoots past Dodoma Jiji FC left fullback, Jukumu Kibanda, as the sides faced each other in the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League match, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

A sports follower would not expect Yanga and Simba SC not to take the pitch for a week just because they have to take on each other.

A person would not expect the matches to be played as usual as if nothing could cause the season to end late.

The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) moved the final matches of the UEFA Champions League to Portugal and the matches were one-off fixtures to ensure the tournament ends early.

This approach came about because by transferring matches to one venue, no team will be the clash's host and so one match would be enough.

How we failed to allocate special regions for the First Division League (FDL) to facilitate transportation and reduce teams' time to travel from their respective regions to the centers, where the league's fixtures were taking place.

Likewise, was there no alternative idea to run the Premier League in an emergency to end it on time?

Is it true we did not have an alternative idea to run the Fed-

eration Cup so that the final could be played early before the end of the season and, instead, the final is played on the day the season ends?

Our neighbours know the date of the final and the stadium, which will host the final, on the day the season starts.

Can we say we have not reached that level yet because we are Tanzanians?

The FDL teams that qualified for the Premier League promotion/relegation play-offs were forced to wait for about three weeks or more to take on their rivals from the Premier League.

To what extent will the owners of these clubs be able to keep the players together for the duration of those matches? To what extent will those matches be competitive?

In the Premier League, Simba SC's Perfect Chikwende has returned to Zimbabwe, Yanga's midfielder, Carlos Fernandes, has returned to Angola, Fiston Abdulrazak has returned to Burundi and the list goes on and on.

There are the ones, who have returned to Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, and else-

where.

They have all left before the end of the season and some of the players' contracts expired in June.

Much as such footballers were not given a place in their respective teams' squad, the culture is that all players are waived immediately after the season ends.

How can a tournament have the required level of competitiveness if the league's organization does not take into account major national and global emergency events?

In this environment, the league must be annoying, irritating, full of blame and grievances, and winners are ultimately deemed as having enjoyed favour.

There is a great need for the domestic soccer governing body to do away with the notion 'our colleagues are way better than us', which is why their competitions are run professionally.

A tendency by the domestic football fraternity to hold on to inferiority complex projects weakness, carelessness, and irresponsibility.

Morogoro boxer wins non-title bout

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MOROGORO'S professional Super Featherweight boxer, Charles Chilala, came out victorious in a non-title bout against the region's other boxer Innocent Kanuti in the region last weekend.

Chilala was the victor by points in the six-round bout, which took place at National Stadium in Ifakara District.

The fight's eventual winner put skilful showing from the first round and won plenty of applause from boxing fans, who attended the fight.

It turned out to be the first time for sports fans in the district to turn up at a venue for a professional boxing fight, which was sponsored by, among others, Smart Gin, Creative Bee, and Peak Time Media.

Several undercards were held at the venue during the day.

In the fourth round of the bout, Chilala managed to connect a punch on Kanuti's mouth and the latter developed a cut and started bleeding.

Chilala was ultimately declared the winner by the bout's three judges



Morogoro's professional boxer, Charles Chilala (R), trades blows with the region's other boxer, Innocent Kanuti, in a fight that was held in the region last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

after the six-round bout had ended.

Prominent local professional boxers, Selemani Kidunda, Mwanne Haji, Hassan Ndonga, and Ismail Galiatano had been some of the members of the domestic boxing fraternity who turned up to witness the bout.

Immediately after the fight, Kanuti said that he had been beaten be-

cause he had not made any preparations for the fight.

The boxer expressed his willingness to have a rematch with a view to proving his worth.

Chilala noted he won the fight because he had made adequate preparations for it to entertain his fellow Ifakara District residents.

The pugilist was adamant that the domestic

boxers should be valued.

Chilala is currently rated 477th out of 1319 boxers in the Super Featherweight division in the world by Boxrec, a network that holds statistics for all professional boxers worldwide.

The network has rated the pugilist ninth out of 40 boxers in the Super Featherweight division locally.

In the day's other

bouts, Haidari Mchanjo beat Festo Chiboni by Technical Knockout.

Domestic boxer, Ayoub Mjerumani, took the ring to take on Peter Ntinginya, and the former won by points.

In other fights, Anuary Mlawa beat Ibrahim Bakari, Saleh Mnamba came out victorious against Yohana Gerald, Fadhili Chamile lost to Frank Likupelile.

Here to cheer: lucky few allowed for Olympic football

TOKYO

KOJI Abe has never been to a football match before, but on Saturday he'll see his first and become one of the few in Japan to watch the Olympics in person.

Strict coronavirus rules mean spectators are banned from almost all Olympic venues.

The Tokyo 2020 opening ceremony unfolded in a virtually empty Olympic Stadium, with fewer than 1,000 VIPs in the 68,000-capacity arena.

The capital is under a virus state of emergency because of rising infections, and several other regions hosting Olympic events have also decided to bar fans.

But there are a few exceptions -- including in northern Japan's Miyagi region, where Abe will watch Brazil's women footballers take on the Netherlands.

"It will be my first time watching a football game. I'm looking forward to it," the 70-year-old told AFP as he waited for a bus to the Miyagi Stadium.

"It's true that I'm a bit worried about infections rising, but still, I decided to come with a friend and enjoy this."

He was one of thousands waiting for special transport ferrying fans to the stadium.

To use the buses, spectators had to reserve in advance and have their temperature checked.

Japan has seen a smaller coronavirus outbreak than many places, with around 15,000 deaths despite avoiding tough lockdowns.

But its vaccination programme has moved slowly, and less than a quarter of the population is fully inoculated as infections surge in the capital and elsewhere.

Abe admitted some ambivalence about the Games going ahead. "It would have been better to push it back a little bit, six months or so," he said.

Bank clerk Kento Yashita, out for the match with his girlfriend, was feeling a bit more confident and pointed out that rules still limit the crowd to 10,000 people.

"And if we take appropriate measures ourselves, we should be able to watch this game safely, I think."

"We didn't want to miss the opportunity," the 28-year-old added.

"We are not exactly the most knowledgeable lot when it comes to women's football," he admitted.

"But we are going to cheer, and we are mostly here for the atmosphere."

Masa and Hiro Numakura travelled up from Tokyo for the match, glad for the chance to catch a bit of an Olympics being held mostly behind closed doors.

In Tokyo "there aren't any spectators anywhere", said Hiro, 56, who works in IT.

"But here people from the city went through great trouble for us to be able to come. So we thought we should attend, to support the athletes," he added.

Inside the stadium, the lucky few fans will still be subject to tough rules.

"We are not allowed to shout, so we will just clap," said Hiro.

"We'll make sure our positive thoughts and the voice of our hearts reach the athletes," added Masa, a 59-year-old bank employee.

"We will cheer with our hearts."

AFP

Pogba, Man Utd still in talks over new deal - Ole

LONDON

MANCHESTER United and Paul Pogba are still in discussions over a new contract, according to manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Pogba has entered the final year of his deal at Old Trafford and has been the subject of interest from Paris Saint-Germain.

If the club cannot agree fresh terms with the France international, he will be able to walk away for free next summer after also leaving United at the end of his contract when he moved to Juventus in 2012.

"Talks are ongoing between Paul's representatives and the club representatives," Solskjaer said, following a 4-2 preseason defeat to QPR on Saturday.

"All the dialogue I've had with Paul is that he's looking forward to the season. There's always speculation about Paul, the talks between the club and Paul's representatives, I don't know every detail of every single one of them. I've not got anything to say really about that.

"There's always clubs being interested and of course we've seen Paul at his best and Paul knows what we feel about it and I've enjoyed my time working with him and hopefully we can work together."

United announced on Saturday morning that Solskjaer has signed a new three-year contract to stay on as manager until at least 2024.

The Norwegian has already sanctioned the £72.9 million signing of Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund and suggested there could be more new arrivals to follow before the deadline amid interest in Real Madrid defender Raphael Varane.

"You never say a team is complete," Solskjaer said. "It's always dynamic, always moving parts and you've got to be ready for changes.

(Agencies)

Powerhouse US swim team shines with 6 medals, 1st US gold

TOKYO

CHASE Kalisz got things rolling, claiming the first U.S. gold at the Olympic pool.

By the time the morning was done, the powerhouse team had a whole bunch of medals.

Six of them in all, quite a start Sunday for the Americans in the post-Michael Phelps era.

"I'm happy to be here and kick the U.S. off," said Kalisz, who won the 400-meter individual medley.

There was room for others to shine, as well.

Host Japan won a swimming gold, Tunisia claimed a surprising spot atop the medal podium, and the mighty Australian women set the first world record of the competition in the 4x100 freestyle relay.

The Americans certainly had no complaints about their opening-day performance. In Phelps record-setting career, which encompassed five Summer Games, they never won six medals in the first session of finals.

"A pretty good start for the U.S.," said Kieran Smith, who in his first major international meet snagged a bronze in the men's 400 freestyle. "We executed today. I'm really proud of us."

The Aussies, who hope to challenge America's dominance in the pool, picked up three medals Sunday.

The free relay was never in doubt, not with a dynamic quartet that included sisters Bronte and Cate Campbell swimming the leadoff and anchor legs, respectively, joined by Meg Harris and Emma McKeon.

McKeon blew away the field on the third leg and Cate Campbell touched in 3 minutes, 29.69 seconds. At the medal ceremony, the sisters touchingly draped their medals around each other's neck.

The silver went to Canada in 3:32.78, while the Americans capped their morning with one more medal to surpass their best first-day haul from the Phelps era (five in both 2004 and 2008).

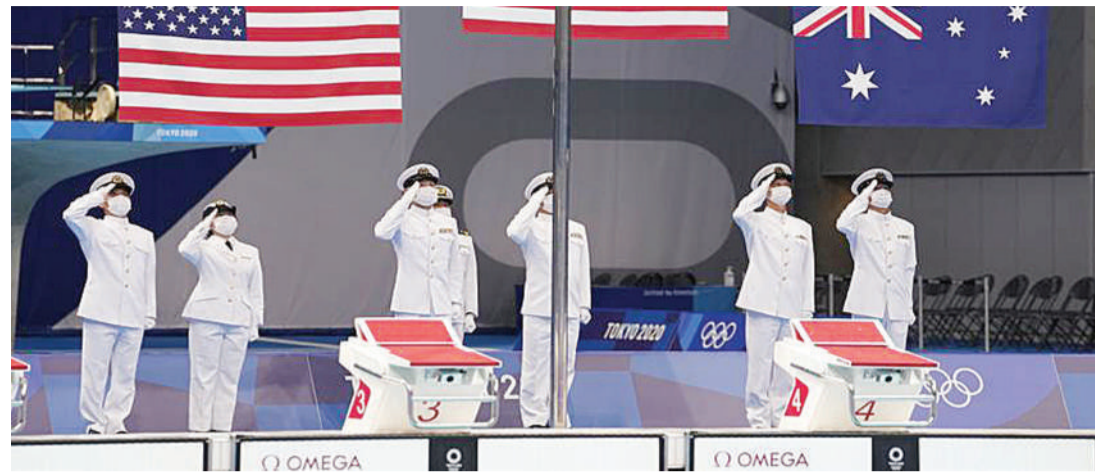
With Simone Manuel anchoring the relay, they touched just behind their rivals to the north in 3:32.81.

Kalisz was the first U.S. medal winner of the Tokyo Games, and Jay Litherland -- who was born in Osaka -- made it a 1-2 finish for the Americans by rallying on the freestyle leg to claim the silver. Brendon Smith of Australia earned the bronze.

In the 400 free, 18-year-old Tunisian Ahmed Hafnaoui was the stunning winner from lane eight, his victory punctuated with loud screams that could be heard throughout the largely empty arena.

"I was surprised with myself," said Hafnaoui, who joined Ous Mellouli as a gold medalist from the north African country. "I couldn't believe it until I touched the wall and saw the 1 (on the scoreboard)."

Hafnaoui finished in 3:43.26, followed by Australia's Jack McLoughlin and Kieran Smith. The top three were separated by less than a second af-



The flags are raised for the medal ceremony for the men's 400 meter individual medley at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Sunday, July 25, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. (AP Photo)

ter eight laps of the pool.

The U.S. women did their part, too.

Japan's Yui Ohashi won gold in the women's 400 IM with an electric breaststroke leg, but two Americans were right in her wake. Emma Weyant earned the silver, while the bronze went to Hali Flickinger.

"After we saw (Kalisz and Litherland go 1-2), we kind of looked at each other and said, 'It's our turn,'" Weyant said. "I think that really got our team going."

Kalisz, a protégé and former training partner of Phelps, touched first in 4:09.42. Litherland was next in 4:10.28, just one-tenth of a second ahead of Brendon Smith.

Kalisz flexed his muscles and then climbed atop the lane rope, splashing the water while a contingent of his teammates cheered him from the stands at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre. "U-S-A! U-S-A!" they chanted.

Kalisz was the silver medalist in the gruelling event at the Rio Games five years ago. Now, at age 27, he's the best in the world at using all four strokes.

"That one was the most special type of pain," Kalisz said. "I had vowed that I was going to make that hurt as much as possible and give my absolute best to accomplish this."

Litherland came over to give the winner a hug, having ensured the Americans got off to the best possible start at the pool.

"To come back and do this with Chase means a lot," said Litherland, who finished fifth in the 400 IM at Rio.

After putting on their medals during a masked-up victory ceremony, Kalisz and Litherland walked around the deck arm-in-arm.

No social distancing for them.

The Americans seized their chance after Japanese star Daiya Seto stunningly failed to advance to the final, having finished ninth in the preliminaries after making a tactical error attempting to save his energy for the medal race.

The finals were held in the morning Tokyo time rather than their usual evening slot, a nod to U.S. television network NBC, which wanted to show the finals live in prime time back in America.

That was the same format used at the 2008 Beijing Games, where Phelps won a record eight gold medals. He retired after Rio, having captured 23 gold medals overall, but the Americans still have plenty of star power for the post-Phelps era.

Ohashi helped to make up for Seto's flop in the

men's IM. She pulled away in the breast to win in 4:32.08.

Weyant gave chase in the freestyle leg but settled for silver in 4:32.76. Flickinger was third in 4:34.90, while Hungarian great Katinka Hosszu, the defending champion, faded to fifth.

The only people in the stands of the 15,000-seat arena were media, VIPs, officials and swimmers who weren't competing Sunday. It was an eerily quiet atmosphere at times, though many ignored requests by Japanese organizers to refrain from any sort of cheering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

There was a drum in the stands, as well as a few horns to spice things up.

In a striking touch before the first race, the loudspeakers blared the song "Pompeii" by the British band Bastille, which includes the lyrics, "But if you close your eyes, does it almost feel like nothing changed at all?"

In the pool, it was business as usual. But it certainly felt like plenty had changed in an Olympics that were delayed a year by a worldwide pandemic and are finally being staged under tight restrictions that included a ban on all fans.

The Americans had no complaints.

Even with Phelps looking down from a broadcast seat, they are off to a dynamic start at the Olympic pool.

Meanwhile, The routines Simone Biles puts together are so difficult that she can afford a misstep or two and still dominate.

The country she represents? Maybe not so much anymore.

While the reigning Olympic gymnastics champion began her quest for a repeat by topping qualifying on Sunday, the four-woman U.S. team looks to have a serious fight on its hands if it wants to claim a third straight crown.

The Russians posted the top team score of 171.629 through the first three subdivisions at the Ariake Gymnastics Centre, the first time in more than a decade that the Americans failed to finish atop the standings during any portion of a major international event.

While Biles leads the all-around with a total of 57.731, it didn't come easy. She stepped all the way off the mat following a tumbling pass on her floor exercise, then basically did the same on vault. She responded with a solid set on uneven bars, but a spectacular beam routine ended with her taking three major steps backward following her dismount.

The 24-year-old who came to Japan as the face of the U.S. Olympic movement saluted the judges with a wry smile, then walked off the podium with a smile that looked like a combination of re-

lief, sarcasm and frustration.

There was a lot to go around.

Jordan Chiles' remarkably consistent run that carried her to a spot on the four-woman team ended with a major mistake on bars and a fall on beam. Sunisa Lee overcame a so-so performance on floor to surge into second behind Biles with an electric bar routine.

The Americans arrived in Tokyo riding a decadelong winning streak, one fueled in large part by Biles' unmatched brilliance. Her routines are packed with so much difficulty, it often becomes a matter of math.

For the first time in a long time, when the numbers were added up, the Americans found themselves looking up in the standings at someone else.

ROC's performance offered proof that the former gymnastics superpower is in the midst of a resurgence led by 21-year-old Angelina Melnikova. Even better, the Russians survived the balance beam relatively unscathed.

The 4-inch piece of wood set 4 feet off the ground has been the place where the country's gold-medal hopes have gone to die in recent years, yet there were no major issues during qualifying. The only major miscue came when Lilia Akhaimova fell off during the end of an acrobatic series.

No biggie. The Russians were allowed to drop her score. Things will be different in the finals, when the meet goes to a "three up/three count" format in which there is no margin for error. While Melnikova stressed that she was not going to forecast what might happen on Tuesday, she does believe what once was a walkover for the Americans will turn into something far more compelling.

"We hope that (we win)," Melnikova said. "We're also going to struggle and fight. We have to. That's the expectation for us."

And for the first time since the 2010 world championships, it suddenly looks doable.

In Saitama, it's been nearly 30 years since the U.S. women's basketball team lost a game in the Olympics, yet the Americans showed they may be a little bit vulnerable in Tokyo after dropping a pair of exhibition contests last week in Las Vegas.

Despite losses to a team of WNBA All-Stars and Australia, the U.S. is still an overwhelming favorite to win a seventh consecutive gold medal. If the Americans win the gold, it would be a fifth for Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi -- the most ever in women's basketball history.

Having a week together to train in Tokyo before playing against Nigeria in the opener has helped the U.S.

"I see progression, I see where we're getting better," U.S. coach Dawn Staley said.

The Americans haven't dropped an Olympic contest since 1992, winning 49 consecutive games since they were beaten in the semis by the Unified Team.

Of the teams playing in Tokyo, only host Japan has beaten the U.S. in Olympic competition, topping the Americans in 1976, the debut of women's basketball at the Montreal Games. No team has gotten within single digits of the U.S. since Russia lost in the semi-finals of the 2004 Athens Games -- the first Olympics that Bird and Taurasi played in.

Staley believes there will be more competitive games in Japan.

After the U.S., the competition to reach the medal stand is wide open. Australia, Belgium, France, Canada, Serbia, Spain and host Japan all have a chance at standing on the podium.

"Everyone's getting better and taking this thing a lot more seriously than they have in a long, long time, not to say we aren't taking it seriously," Staley said of women's basketball. "It's getting better. People are investing in women."

Serbia won a bronze in the 2016 Olympics and returns most of the same players from that team.

"We are much more mature than in Rio, and I feel like that is a thing we can probably use to our advantage because you know most of this generation is toward the end," Serbian team captain Sonja Vasi said. "It will be tough because I think this is probably one of the best tournaments ever, like maybe one or two teams that they're not pretenders for the medal."

Games begin Monday with the bronze medal game on Aug. 7 and the gold medal contest the next day to close out the Olympics.

Some other things to watch for at the Olympics in women's basketball:

WNBA FLAVOR

A record 29 WNBA players will be competing in Tokyo's 5-on-5 basketball as well as 22 former players. Nearly half of Australia's roster is currently in the WNBA. That tops the previous mark of 26 set in Rio five years ago.

TAURASI'S HIP

Taurasi missed the U.S. exhibition games in Las Vegas while recovering from a hip injury. She thinks she'll be ready for the opener after practicing the last few days.

"Yeah I'm hopeful. Yeah I feel good about it," she said. "I want to come back as fast as possible. That's the problem. It's a balancing act of making sure you're fit enough to play where you're going to help the team and not put yourself at risk and the team at risk. I've been working diligently with our strength and conditioning coach Susan Borchart and Ed Ryan, our longtime (physical therapist), so we're making progress."

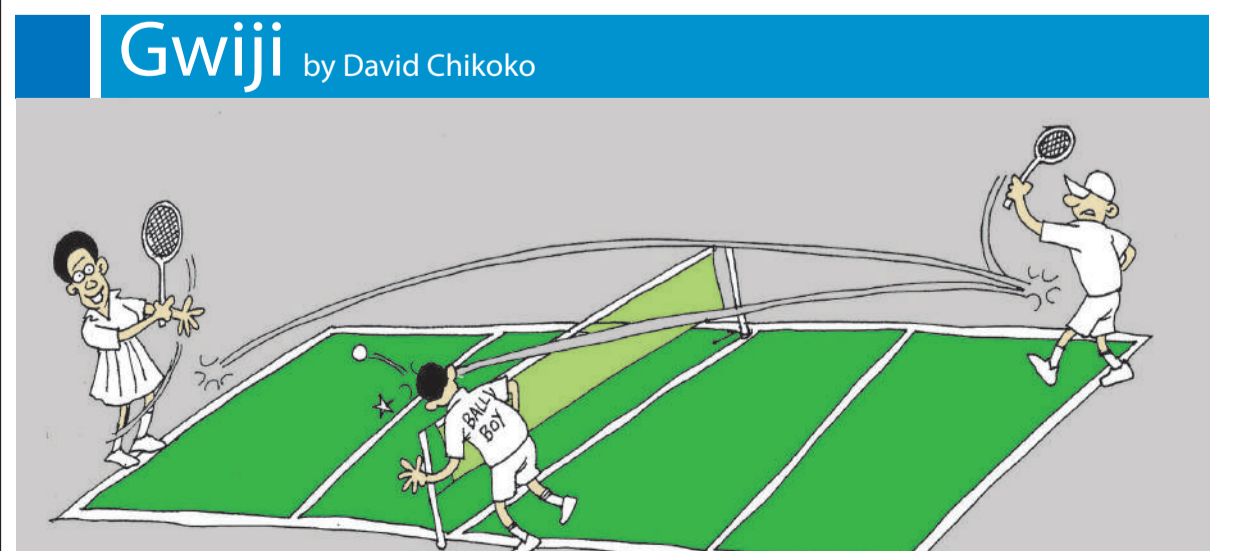
ENDING A DROUGHT

Nigeria will try and end a winless streak for African teams at the Olympics dating back to the 2004 Athens Games. The African nation went 1-5 in Greece and no team from that continent has won a game since.

There are hopes for that to potentially change: Nigeria went 3-4 at the World Champions in 2018, falling to the U.S. in the quarterfinals.

"We aren't just looking to win one game, but we want to get a medal," Nigeria coach Otis Hughley Jr. said.

AP



Start the Week with Cynthia Stacey

Noise legislation.....it's time to implement it!

Greetings for the last week in July, but I don't know why I often give such relevance to the calendar, possibly because I've been meaning over the months to go on a small holiday somewhere, though it's proving difficult because of Covid's evil influence, or should that be dispoiling?

.....anyway, what have we got to muse over today, and are you sitting comfortably in a peaceful environment, as you do so. Because, for many parts of the country, Dar es Salaam particularly, the answer to that question could certainly be a resounding "NO"!

A media editorial, once posed the sensible query....."Are the fines for unacceptable noises from social gatherings reasonable"?and at 10m/-.....that answer might also have been.....a resounding No!

At the time of this legislation in 2015, noise offences, could well incur two years in jail, plus a large fine, or both. But where do these arbitrary figures come from?

.....perhaps like so many 'social crimes' that are subject to fines, they simply appear to be plucked from the air with no sound basis, and municipal or government services might increase a charge from 10,000 sh. a month, to 100,000sh or more, with no common sense input at all.

.....and yet there was, (and maybe still is) a statutory law of long standing that serves this issue, and had it been implemented over the years, could have eased the lives of those who've long been tormented by the noise menace.

.....Section 186 of the Penal Code chapter 16, the laws on offensive trade states "any person who for



President Jakaya Kikwete (R) poses for a photograph with Bi Kidude (C) during the launching of the Malaria Campaign on February 2010. Left is First Lady Salma Kikwete. (File photo)

the purpose of trade or otherwise, makes loud noises or offensive and unwholesome smells in such places and circumstances, as to annoy any considerable number of persons in the exercise of their common rights, commits an offence, and is liable to the same penalty prescribed under sub section (l) of section 170".

A lawyer friend said this legislation is effective enough to deal with most noise offenders, but it seems little known, and seldom used.

.....and a UK journalist wrote at the time, that ".....noise is everywhere, and worryingly we seem to have stopped caring about imposing it on others.....and our ears are permanently embattled, as silence becomes the greatest luxury of them all".

He's correct of course, and in western nations, "noise pollution" is viewed as a major hazard, affecting general health and well being, but here, it almost defines urban culture.

Breweries and other businesses in the past have been sanctioned to add to this pandemonium, performing ghetto blasting promotions of such volume as to permanently damage the hearing of those involved, let alone the general public.

Adding to the unpalatable "sound soup" from noisy bars etc. have been the cassette vendors, whose brains must be as scrambled as their ear drums, so recklessly have they marketed their product over the years. Fortunately such 'services' are now redundant, but other ear blasting systems have taken their place.

As complaints to the media can testify, noise beleaguered citizens have complained of this scourge for decades, but the official response can best be described as "silent indifference". Though it's now being taken more seriously, as it wasn't then.

At the back of Ada estate was the decaying government owned Leaders Club, though when I lived nearby, this was so lacking in maintenance, and

ramshackel in appearance, that "Losers club", might have been a more appropriate description, and at any given time, decibels of music were blasted round the entire area from these premises, whenever a function held there necessitated it.

In February 2010, the President Jakaya Kikwete joined by singing legend Bi Kidude, helped launch an anti malaria campaign from the club, and this full to capacity event, out blitzed all other volumes of music in the in the whole area.

.....it was acoustic mayhem, a mega volume pop style concert backed by the Ministry of Health, who should have realised how inappropriate the noise levels were.

I wondered later, did none of the guests seated next to the president or the giant speakers, not run screaming into the night to escape, if not, maybe their ear drums were already blown, like a broken light filament.

Also, knowing the existing legislation, why did none of the many senior police officers present at the function not realise that they were renegeing on their duties of at least cautioning the perpetrators of the event!

In April 2015, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) announced a major

crackdown on noise pollution, and at the same time, the former Minister in the Vice Presidents Office Dr. Binilith Mahenge, initiated similar action in controlling noise in the Tanzania mainland.

Anyway, I asked that the Minister of Health at the time, Prof. David Mwakuyusa, a quietly (note this adjective) dignified man, if in future, he could influence such events nationwide to be low volume, incorporating the message that extreme noise is a major health hazard.... and I hoped his hearing was first class.

.... I also asked the President "Jakaya honey, after doing that launch duty, how's YOUR hearing?!"

and over a decade later, I hope his health and ear drumsare hale and hearty....and his good looks remain long term.... along with mine....!

President Jakaya Kikwete (R) poses for a photograph with Bi Kidude (C) during the launching of the Malaria Campaign on February 2010. Left is First Lady Salma Kikwete. (File photo)

"Recently the government announced that it would start taking legal action against 'sound polluters', with penalties including six months imprisonment and a ban on business or activity that cause the problem.

By Sertan Sanderson

The arrest of another separatist activist wanted by Nigeria sends a clear message that President Buhari won't tolerate secessionist aspirations. But critics say there's much more at play than just arresting figureheads.

Activist Sunday Adeyemo, known popularly in Nigeria as Sunday Igboho, was arrested in neighboring Benin on Monday evening, according to media reports. He was about to take a flight to Germany at the time. A senior Benin police official confirmed the arrest, saying Igboho "will be extradited to Nigeria as soon as the two countries have agreed on conditions." It is unclear whether the extradition has taken place.

Nigeria's Department of State Services (DSS) has accused the activist of plotting "to wage a violent insurrection against the Nigerian state." A DSS spokesman said earlier that the agency had found a stockpile of weapons during a raid on Igboho's residence in the southwestern city of Ibadan on July 1.

Igboho's appeal to ethnic Yorubas to break away from Nigeria has made him yet another public enemy in the eyes of Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, according to DW's Fred Muvunyi.

"He has a (potential) following of more than 40 million people. ... And his calling for the total separation of the north and southern region makes him a target of the government," Muvunyi reported from Lagos.

Giving in to 'big brother'

Nigeria cracks down on separatists as security issues mount in the north



Umar Ardo, a politician for the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) called the arrest of Igboho "a success" that showed that "laws that are defined both in Nigeria as well as in the international community will be respected if Nigeria uses recognized platforms for its diplomatic interactions.

"It also shows that that security agreements of either bilateral or multilateral nature have benefits for all parties involved," Ardo told DW.

Security risk management specialist Kabir Adamu told

DW that the government of Benin hardly had any other choice, with Nigeria flexing its regional muscle as Benin's "big brother."

"Benin cannot oppose Nigeria because Benin depends on Nigeria heavily, economically," he said, adding that the Nigerian government was using similar tactics elsewhere on the African continent as well.

Nigerian dissidents under threat

Igboho's arrest is seen as part of a trend in Nigeria, which is intensifying its ef-

orts to pursue dissident voices, especially those who are classed as threats to national security. The government has repeated shown that it does not shy away from going beyond Nigeria's borders in its endeavors to fight separatist sentiments:

Nnamdi Kanu, the 53-year-old leader of the outlawed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) group, which has been campaigning for the southeast of the country to secede, had been arrested in an undisclosed location outside of Nigeria last month

and returned to the country to face trial - having spent four years on the run.

His wife claimed that the arrest happened during a business trip to Kenya, though this has not independently been confirmed. Several governments have, however, since challenged Kanu's arrest:

The UK has asked Nigeria to explain why and under what exact circumstances the separatist leader -- who holds British citizenship -- was arrested. Protests against the arrest were staged in Nigeria, Europe and beyond.

"I even saw one in Israel," security analyst Adamu told DW about Kanu, who is a convert to Judaism.

"This arrest is further agitating their supporters to further oppose the Nigerian state," he said, highlighting that Yoruba and Biafran secessionist movements weren't going anywhere. Adamu added that the "arrests of Nnamdi Kanu and Sunday (Igboho) cannot be said to bring about the end of the agitation or secession ... in Nigeria."

Buhari's message of zero tolerance

Not everyone shares that view. Political scientist Abubakar Umar Kari told DW that the arrests amount to a "great setback for the two separatist groups." He said that, in addition to the demoralizing aspect, the arrests also provide an opportunity for more moderate voices among Yoruba and Biafran activists to distance themselves from their fallen leaders.

The arrests and the impending trials, however, will also further cement Buhari's uncompromising approach to dissidence, he said: "The fact that these men were arrested is the clearest testament that indeed Buhari and his government will go to any length to ensure that this kind of dissidence, this kind of secessionist activities are not going to be tolerated."

Claims of 'genocide' lodged with ICC

Some Yoruba voices claim that the clampdown is about much more than just political dissidents, and that there is a genocide against their people underway in Nigeria.

A group of 22 international organizations led by the Yoruba Strategy Alliance have filed claims to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague against leading members of the Nigerian government, including Buhari. The complaint accuses multiple members of the Nigerian government of genocide, torture and crimes against humanity, among other charges.

"The state-sponsored terrorism against the Yoruba people has to stop," attorney Aderemilekun Omojola, who filed the claim at the ICC, said in a statement. He supported his submission at the ICC with extremely graphic video images alleging the use of rape as a weapon of war and arbitrary beatings of Yorubas.

The ICC confirmed that it has received the complaint. The Office of the Prosecutor will now make a decision as to whether an official inves-

tigation will be opened into these grave allegations.

No safe place left in Nigeria

While the outcome of that claim at the ICC might take weeks if not months to be processed, Nigeria continues to face violent dissidence practically in all four corners of the country:

In addition to Yoruba and Biafran separatist aspiration, the country has been rocked in recent weeks by banditry in the northwestern Zamfara State, where locals were kidnapped for ransom and held for weeks. The criminal groups also shot down a military plane just days ago.

Zamfara's neighboring Katsina and Kaduna states have also been affected by similar acts of criminal violence, not to mention the activities of the Islamist Boko Haram group in the northern Kano state and beyond. The so-called Islamic State of West Africa group is also now present in various parts of Nigeria, most notably the northeast.

Political scientist Kari said that "the larger issue of insecurity, particularly in the northern half of the country, is still going on almost unabated" while the government focuses on its fight against separatist movements.

"On a daily basis, kidnappers and bandits have been unleashing violence, killing people, causing serious fright and tension," Kari said. "The government appears to be more concerned, appears to be deploying more resources and more energy on secessionists than on these bandits and kidnappers," he added.