

National Pg 2
Access to clean water up by 20 pct



National Pg 3
Govt to have 80 aquafarming centres



National Pg 4
1bn/- set aside for water projects



National Pg 6
Agency triples production of seeds



After CGA report, Jafo directs eight council internal auditors out

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE internal auditors of eight local councils that received qualified opinions in the latest annual report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) must be suspended forthwith, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Selemani Jafo (pictured) directed yesterday.

He tasked the Permanent Secretary, Joseph Nyamhanga to fire the respective officials, saying he will submit to President Samia Suluhu Hassan their names for final decision.

He also asked regional commissioners and administrative secretaries to evaluate their own conduct well in advance as the conduct of local authorities in expenditures is being examined.

The step follows the presentation of the 2019/20 CAG Report to the president yesterday, whereupon minister Jafo called a press conference to affirm that the ministry was mobilized to take corrective action in the areas of weakness the report highlighted.

"I expected that the internal auditor's task was to oversee proper financial expenditure. But if his council does poorly, it means he

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ATCL suffers 60bn/- losses in 2019/2020

By Guardian Reporter

AIR Tanzania Corporation (ATCL) chalked up losses of a whopping 60bn/- in one year, on the basis of a report by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG).

Presenting the audit report for the 2019/20 financial year to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday, CAG Charles Kichere said that the national carrier lost the amount in that period and counting. "ATC been making losses for the past five years," he said.

This means the company has been piling up losses since the government started pumping billions of shillings into its revival in 2016 with new operating systems, staff and a fleet of brand new aircraft.

It is also the first time the actual situation at the national carrier has come out in an audit report prepared by the government since its ambitious recovery efforts.

The first time ATCL acknowledged loss was in March last year when it said it had suffered revenue loss of around two to three percent of annual projections following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ATCL Managing Director Ladislaus

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Samia casts image of bold presidency



Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere readies to present to President Samia Suluhu Hassan his Office's Annual General Report on the Audit of Development Projects for financial year 2019/2020 at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photos: State House

By Guardia Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday created a vivid image of her presidency with directives signaling openness and boldness from the word go.

Receiving annual reports of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), Charles Kichere and the Director General of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), Brigadier General John Mbungu at the State House, Chamwino yesterday, the president demonstrated intent to keep the pressure on public officials to obtain credible levels of performance.

President Samia showed she will continue with the spirit of shaking up slothful bureaucracy and deal with corrupt executives, deepening previous measures in regard to port authorities for instance.

Apart from suspending the director general of the Tanzania Ports Authority to pave the way for investigation of corruption, she directed the TRA to conduct an audit of all the money withdrawn from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in three months.

"The governor is here. Go and audit all the

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Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau director general Brig Gen John Mbungu moves to present to the President the bureau's report for financial year 2019/2020 at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday.

Probe, clean up TPA, President tells PCCB

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday directed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to thoroughly investigate apparent massive embezzlement of public funds at the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) and take legal action against the culprits.

Receiving performance reports from Controller and Auditor General



PCCB this is a special task; camp there and do your work

(CAG) Charles Kichere and PCCB director general Brigadier General John Mbungu at the State House, Chamwino in Dodoma yesterday, the president directed that PCCB detectives camp at TPA and nail all those suspected of corruption.

She set the pace for investigation to be conducted smoothly by suspending the TPA Director General, Deusdedit Kakoko.

The president referred to an executive summary of the CAG's report handed to

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Samia casts image of bold presidency

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monies withdrawn from January to March and directed at various projects. We want to know how the same was spent," she said, keeping the method and punch of the mode of governance of her predecessor, John Magufuli.

As for other audit reports, the president told the CAG not to water down his reports but tell the whole truth as it is. Hiding challenges is not solving anything, she declared.

"Don't mince words; be as open as possible. If a certain parastatal is not doing well, say so; if a board is not performing, tell us," the president emphasised.

"By knowing our weaknesses we can improve; by being silent we will not make any gains and our people will suffer the consequences of our silence."

Tanzanians languishing in remand prisons with weak cases against them may regain their freedom soon after the president ordered authorities to review

their cases if they can't be taken to court, and drop them.

Addressing Brigadier General Mbungu, she said there is no need for prosecution authorities to proceed with weak cases that the government cannot win, and yet suspects and accused persons spend months and years in remand prisons. "Drop all baseless cases," she pointedly demanded.

If implemented, this could mean huge relief and joy for suspects and accused persons, especially those who were accused of unbailable offences such as economic crimes.

President Samia was sworn in as the sixth president of the United Republic on 19th March in the wake of the death of her predecessor of heart complications.

She made history as the first woman to hold the position of president in this country and one of the few women who have held the position in African states since independence.



Masuma Bharwani pictured at the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner's Office yesterday signing a condolence book to honour former president Dr John Magufuli. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Probe, clean up TPA, President tells PCCB

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her the previous day, saying it reveals embezzlement of 3.6bn/-.

"I hereby order the suspension of the authority's director general so that investigation can start," she told the audience.

The massive audit query highlighted by the CAG is for 2019/20 financial year alone. Still the president said that the rot at TPA has been there for quite a while and previous efforts to rein in the vice have yielded scant dividends.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa had formed a probe team to undertake investigation, which resulted in removing a couple of senior corporation officials.

"PCCB this is a special task; camp there and do your work," the president emphasised.

In December last year, the

premier suspended finance director Nuru Mhando and expenditures manager Witness Mahela, stating that the authority had deprived the government of revenues through tax exemption of more than 2bn/- granted to Mbeya Cement despite rejection of the proposed relief by a special committee within the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

The premier said it was unusual that TPA approved the payment of 8.2bn/- to Kigoma Port for various payments while the limit of funds for the port stood at 7.4bn/-.

Last year's meeting held at the TPA offices was also attended by the PCCB director general, among other senior officials, making this investigation a continuation of earlier efforts, observers noted.

TPA manages and operates ocean ports and lake ports of Dar

es Salaam, Tanga and Mtwara on the sea shore plus key lake ports of Mwanza and Kigoma as well as lake ports. It also operates a system of ports serving the Tanzania hinterland and the landlocked countries of Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

Kakoko was confirmed as TPA Director General in October 2018 after serving in the position in acting capacity for two years, from July 2016.

He replaced Awadh Massawe, who was fired along with the then permanent secretary in the transport ministry, Shaaban Mwinjaka, by then President John Magufuli following the disappearance of over 2,700 shipping containers at the Dar es Salaam port.

Access to clean water increased by 20 pct in Lindi Region - govt

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

Assessing access to safe and clean water in Lindi Region had increased from 42.9 per cent to 61.5 per cent following the government's decision to provide the region with funds to implement water projects in the last five years.

This was revealed by the acting Lindi Region Regional Commissioner Shaibu Ndemanga during special prayers in honour of late Dr President John Magufuli held at Ilulu grounds in Lindi town. Ndemanga was recounting the implementation of various development projects in the region since Dr Magufuli came to power in 2015, saying a total of 72.42bn/- was directed to water

supply projects.

Ndemanga, who is Lindi district commissioner, said the achievements are credited to the fifth phase government under Dr Magufuli in his efforts to improve water infrastructure in urban and rural areas under rural and Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA) management.

He explained that to ensure people were supplied with water services delivery every district council in Lindi Region had allocated funds for the implementation of water projects, whereas Ruangwa District received 8,647,406,808/- for its Kitandi and Ruangwa Urban water projects.

He added that Kilwa District received 6,260,775,860/- for its

project for Mingumbi and Masoko wards while 3,173,582,199/- was allocated to Nachingwea District for the expansion of water project to from Ngwinji in Masai District in Mtwara Region to Nachingwea and 2,723,864,420/- was given to Liwale District for its projects for Kichonda, Mikunya, Mbaya and Mtumbwa villages.

She added that Lindi Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (LUWASA) was provided with 41,117, 849,038/-, while Lindi Municipality was given 7,588,760, 308/- for Nandambi, Chikonji and Kineng'ene projects.

In regard to late Dr Magufuli Ndemanga said the only way to hold the late President in high esteem was to enhance accountability in agricultural and industrial production.

There is no other way, we must all work hard for our own development," he added.



Rachel Njau, secretary of the Mirerani branch of the Manyara Regional Miners Association, explains at a meeting at the weekend the role former president Dr Magufuli played in empowering small-scale miners. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

ATCL suffers 60bn/- losses in 2019/2020

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Matindi said that the national carrier had suspended flights to Mumbai and cancelled the launch of its China route, while it was at the time operating four weekly flights weekly to the Indian business capital of Mumbai.

Presenting estimates of the national development plan and budget profile for the financial year 2021/22 to the National Assembly last month, Finance Minister Dr Phillip Mpango, said the government intended to buy two more planes – a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner and Bombardier Dash

8 Q400 – in the new financial year.

He said the purchase of three other planes was 90 per cent complete, two of these being an Airbus A220-300 and a De Havilland Dash 8-400 at which point the national carrier would have a fleet of 12 planes.

At present ATCL has eight aircrafts, namely four Dash 8-Q400s, two Airbus A220-300s and two of the brand Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner.

The corporation was established in 1977 following the dissolution of the East African Airways.

ATCL has gone through a number of changes in its structure and ownership as the government pursues efforts to make it a strong national airline. There was a failed partial privatization of ATCL in 2002 when the government reduced its shareholding to 51 per cent and entered into a partnership with South African Airways (SAA) until this arrangement collapses acrimoniously 2006.

The government repurchased SAA shares to recapture its 100 per cent ownership of ATCL while SAA desisted from taking court action

for what its lawyers considered to be breach of contract.

During the fifth phase, the government invested heavily in its operations to make it a viable airline to boost the country's image outside and expedite numerous public sector and civil service travel needs.

Efforts to rebuild ATCL took high gear in 2016 when the government adopted a strategic plan to revamp ATCL, purchasing six new aircraft from 2016 to 2018, paying debts and funding the modernization of ATCL business systems.

After CGA's report, 8 council internal auditors suspended

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has failed in his task. I therefore direct their removal immediately after going through the CAG's Report," he affirmed.

"Internal Auditors are essential to ensure various financial procedures and guidelines are adhered to, as they are chief consultants and supervisors," he said, directing the PS to appoint capable people in those positions.

The minister sounded caution against local council directors, saying despite training sessions and directives given on financial control, the directors have displayed poor management and received qualified CAG audit certificates. "As they are presidential appointees, I will submit their names to the president for decision," he stated.

He similarly wanted the permanent secretary to examine the report to figure out officials mentioned in other local councils for inappropriate conduct even though they received clean certificates.

"Our regional secretariats which I believe are the main supervisors in their areas were supposed to advise on the conduct of government expenditure in their areas. They should also evaluate themselves."

The move followed closely on a public directive by President Samia for Jafo to find lasting solutions to extensive losses of government funds in local authorities.

"There is massive loss of public funds; please go and supervise revenues and expenditures in this ministry," the president intoned, quipping to the minister that should the minister fail other authorities are there to help, as

the situation is not satisfactory.

The president had earlier received the report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) and that of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) for the financial year 2019/20.

The CAG report shows that local government authorities got 162 unqualified opinions (clean opinion) and three adverse opinions out of the total 165 opinions presented.

"Although the CAG said local government authorities don't have qualified opinion or disclaimer of opinion, the loss of funds is still quite high," she told the minister.

The president especially castigated local government authorities for habitually receiving huge funds from the central government but they don't return funds that aren't used in the designated projects.



Our regional secretariats which I believe are the main supervisors in their areas were supposed to advise on the conduct of government expenditure in their areas. They should also evaluate themselves

ITV producer, presenter Blandina Sembu was murdered, police say

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in Dar es Salaam yesterday confirmed the death of ITV producer and presenter, Blandina Sembu (pictured), saying she was murdered.

Blandina was popular for her programme 'Jarida la Wanawake' (Women Magazine) on ITV. Kinondoni Regional Police

Commander (RPC) Ramadhani Kingai told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that Blandina (47) died on Sunday mid-night after being hit with a sharp object on her face.

He said the body of the deceased was found between Bamaga and ITV bus stops in Mwenge suburb along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road.

"The circumstances of the killing are uncertain, preliminary investigation shows that Blandina has been killed. The body was dumped by unknown people who were in a car near Maryland bar at Bamaga, the vehicle's registration number is yet to be established," he said.

He said the murders stopped the car at the area whereby

within a short time after leaving, witnesses found the body of the deceased.

"The deceased was a resident of Zinga in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region. Investigation on the incident is still going on," Commander Kingai said.

He said that the body was found having injuries on face and eyes. She is seen to have been hit with a heavy object.

"This is not a normal death. Our experts are in the field working to find out the major cause of the death and all who are behind this," he added.



For these farmers of Usangu Valley in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region, the rice planting season has set in earnest - as found at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Govt plans to establish aquaculture centres in 80 districts, says minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has plans to establish aquaculture centres in 80 districts that would be used as demonstration farms for the people to learn fish farming.

This was revealed here recently by the Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki to the Agriculture, Livestock and Water Parliamentary Committee members during their visit to the Kingolwira Aquaculture Centre.

Ndaki said the ministry's FY 2021/22 budget aimed to establish these centres to increase fish ponds that would help reducing illegal fishing activities in those areas.

He said another goal is to ensure every district to have an aquaculture centre to be used as demonstration farm for fish farming.

The minister said the government's strategy through the centres is to attain 50 percent fish production from fish farms and the rest from natural waters.

He said as for now the ministry has mobilized itself through various strategies to attain its goals including its plans to refurbish and empower all

existing aquaculture centres to go in tandem with the production of fish fingerlings.

For his part, the Committee Chairman Dr Christine Ishengoma praised the Livestock and Fisheries ministry for its various efforts to increase the production of fish fingerlings as well as providing training in fish farming.

She said the committee will review the ministry's budget submitted for FY 2021/22 in order to bring about positive results in the fish farming sector.

Acting Assistant Director from the ministry's Aquaculture Development Department Dr Imani Kapinga said between 2010 and 2020 the kingolwira Aquaculture Centre in Morogoro Region provided training on fish farming to 11,280 people from the country's various regions.

He added that the centre also produced more than six million fingerlings for the 'sato' type of fish that were distributed countrywide.

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She said the committee will review the ministry's budget submitted for FY 2021/22 in order to bring about positive results in the fish farming sector

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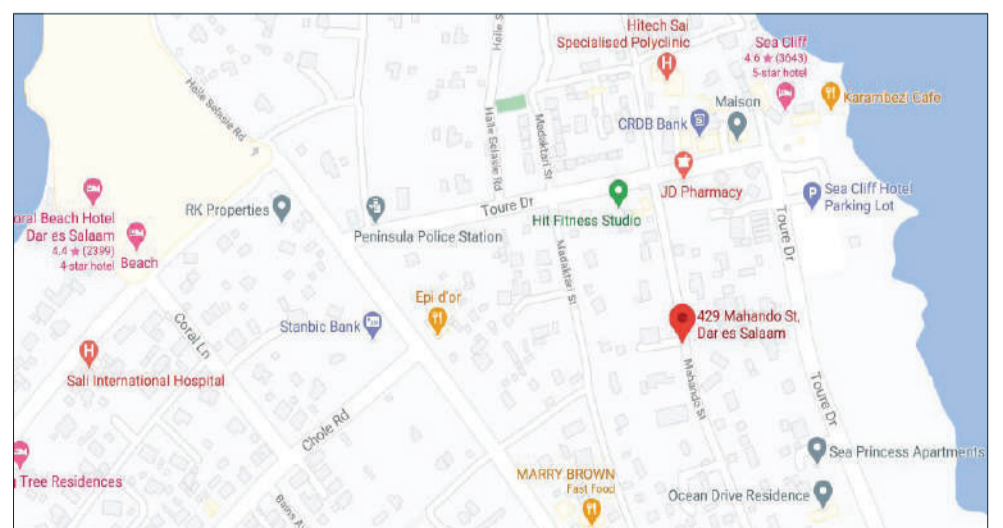
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Samia is highly focused as Union president - Z'bar Chief Secretary

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Government's Chief Secretary, Eng Zena Ahmed Said has said Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan is well focused to lead the country due to her abilities and efforts she had carried out in various past positions in Tanzania.

She issued the remarks after signing the book of condolences for the late President John Magufuli at Sheikh Idrisa Abdulwakil Conference Hall at Kikwajuni in Zanzibar at the weekend.

She said President Samia is fortunate to have gained leadership experience at various levels in the Zanzibar's government in which she held various top leadership positions.

Eng. Zena said whilst in Zanzibar Samia held various top positions including as Minister for Youth, Women and Children before she became Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry for 10 years.

"I have no worries in regard to her holding top leadership positions both in the Zanzibar and Union governments, the last of which she

was Vice President for five years," Zena said.

She added that in the Union government she held various top positions including as the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office dealing in Union issues, hence to a very large extent she is well conversant in the workings of the Union government.

"I hold high hopes in her leadership... she knows very well the Tanzania Union Government in addition to her having worked under both Zanzibar and Union presidents, she has gained immense experience and wisdom, rest assured Tanzania is in very safe hands," she added.

Seven Permanent Secretaries who worked under Samia have also removed fears in some people saying she has immense capability and wisdom leading the country.

Omar Dadi Shajak, former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Women and Children under Samia in 2000 said she is a calm leader who listens to those under her and her decisions were always well reasoned and unemotional.



Assistance comes the way of the driver of a commuter bus that broke down at a spot on the Tangi Bovu section of Dar es Salaam's Bagamoyo Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Muraji Msala

Govt stresses need for women to access land

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has reiterated the need to strengthen women participation and decision making in Land governance for women empowerment and involvement in economy.

Opening a side event of the 65th session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) recently, Commissioner of Social Welfare, Dr Naftali Ng'ondi said the government is aware on the need for women participation on land governance issues as it has taken a number of measures to make it work.

"We aware that the Priority theme is Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls" he said during the zoom meeting.

He affirmed the government commitment that articulates the issue of promoting equality in access, ownership and use of land as one of the priorities in achieving inclusive development.

He said women's economic development is noted as a pre-requisitely determined by how easily the access and use of land are productive resources for their economic potential.

Statistics, Dr Ng'ondi said show that, more than 65 per cent of Women in the country depend on land as their key productive resource to support their livelihood. However, they only own between ten and 20 per cent of the available land.

The Social Welfare Commissioner said gender inequalities in land rights are pervasive whereby culture and traditions support male inheritance of family land.

"Not only do women in Tanzania have lower access to land than men but they are also restricted to 'secondary land rights', meaning that they hold these rights through male family members" he stressed.

The government has instituted various policy measures to set standards to ensure that land ownership rights are equally shared. It has also made significant progress in ensuring women's participation and decision making in land Governance at all levels.

He noted that ownership of land and other productive assets remain a serious constraint to women's progress as the country women mstill face discrimination in both laws and practices.

The Customary Laws of Inheritance of 1963 prohibits women, widows and daughters from inheriting land. The Lack of secure ownership of land for women contributes mto the lack of identity as household owners, leaving women less able to effectively engage themselves in decision making at various levels.

However, he added, women do not have the same opportunities as men to own assets and improve their economy, which in turn leads to limited opportunities to increase their resource base and investments. He sad is it time to strengthened land rights and tenure security Legal reform to improve women's inheritance rights is therefore required to improve socio-economic outcomes for women.

He also called for strengthening public awareness, participation and education regarding women's inheritance rights, and women enhancement of open and accessible appeal system to address the concerns, are taken as a strategic issue.

He highlighted so some of the initiatives and achievements made by the government in the implementation of Women land Governance as The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania recognizes equality to own property for all citizens regardless of their gender.

Moreover, there are The existence of legal framework to execute land rights and women's participation in lands Governance and The 1999 Land Act, revised in 2019, establishes principles that help to safeguard women's land rights and the 1982 Local

Government (District Authorities) Act establishes the village council which requires that a minimum of one-fourth of village council members are women.

Also the government is reviewing Policies that are in line with Gender Equality and Women Empowerment issues to incorporated women rights to access and own land in the Country. Amongst is the review of Women and Gender Development Policy of 2000 which focus to articulate the current situation.

The village council is the executive body vested with power in respect of all village affairs, including managing village land, therefore, decisions made at the village council are then subject to approval from the village assembly - a village's highest decision-making body, which includes all villagers including women.

The Government, he said ensures women have access to land without limitations imposed by customs, culture, norms and traditions.

These kind of reforms contribute significantly to the effort of eradicating discriminatory practices which hinders women's participation in land governance.

These efforts have resulted into several achievements which include increase in number of individual women ownerships of land from 9 per cent to 25 per cent and joint ownership increased from six per cent to 16 per cent respectively.

He was optimistic that the meeting panelists and community members who will show case best practices in ensuring Women's participation in Land Governance in line with Sustainable Development Goals. "It is my expectation that, at the end of this Side event, we shall come up with strategies and recommendations on how the Government in collaboration with stakeholders can enhance Women's participation in land governance in our communities" said Dr Ng'ondi.



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1,974 villages to be connected to the national grid - minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 1,974 villages that are yet to get electricity will be connected to the national grid in the second round of the third phase of the national rural electrification project

Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani said during the project launching at Ugaka village in Igunga District, Tabora Region project will cost 1.24trn/- and will be implemented in 18 months in all regions.

He said every district will be provided with a contractor to implement the project so that it is completed in time, as opposed to earlier practice where a contractor was given a series of regions, thus causing delays in completion of the projects.

He said there would be no extension of time for contractors failing to meet the deadline, but revoking the contract and being referred to court according to the law.

He stressed that rural dwellers pay 27,000/- connection costs in villages and watch out for commensurate, whether it is unfaithful officials or fake technicians, who would be demanding copious amounts for the service.

Contractors must introduce themselves to district and regional officials before starting work, enter into agreement on the time schedule for implementation of the work in their respective areas to enable district and regional authorities to closely monitor progress in each district, the minister directed.

Contractors must similarly make sure that all work not requiring special expertise is assigned to residents of the area or near the various districts as to enable them to benefit from the projects.

Dr Kalemani also pledged to construct a small power substation in Igunga District to beef up power supply.

The minister held a meeting with Isanzu villagers in Nzega District, where he told them that the contractor for power distribution in the district has already been picked and would start work at any time as the funds were available.

Regional Commissioner Philemon Sengati appealed to people in the villages still not getting power to grab the opportunity and get power connected to their homes. The government wishes to ensure that all households use electricity in petty trade for their development, he added.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA City Council (DCC) has set aside 1bn/- to implement infrastructure and water projects in the region..

Dodoma City council director, Joseph Mafuru revealed this here after holding a meeting with councillors council to discuss and approve the 2021/2022 regional budget.

"We understand that there are authorities dealing with roads and water but we want to make sure that

Dodoma council sets aside 1bn/- to implement infrastructure and water projects in the region

there is availability of water that is why we made budget allocation for this and ensuring that TARURA is improving our roads," he said.

"During the 2021/2022, the city council is expecting to spend about 120.8bn/- majority of which will be spent on development expenditure," said Mafuru.

Regarding the implementation

of the 2020/2021 budget, Mafuru said during the implementation of the second half of the year, the city council collected about 14.8bn/- in internal revenue sources which were channeled to implementation of strategic development projects, provision of social services as well as payment of compensation, among others.

Also, he said, DCC issued about 15,512 business licences. He said it spent 11.5bn/- in implementing strategic projects including building of a five star hotel.

According to him, the construction of the hotel located in the city centre was now at 90percent and that it will officially kick off operation in April this year.



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and wishing you all the best
H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Bank of Baroda (Tanzania) Limited join fellow Tanzanians in CONGRATULATING Hon. President SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN for being sworn in as the 6th President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST

H.E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN

SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The Board of Directors, Management, and all staff of the construction company for the Standard Gauge Railway in Tanzania - Yapi Merkezi, would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the sixth President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan.

We wish you success in your endeavours of nation building.





Kyela residents remember JPM over development projects in the district

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

KYELA residents in Mbeya Region say they will continue to remember the late President John Magufuli by bringing to them development including refurbishing of infrastructures to various health centres and construction of Tenenda- Matema road to tarmac level.

They gave their remarks during special prayers in mourning of the late Dr Magufuli held at John Mwakangale grounds here.

Anganile Amani from Mikoroshini area said among the marks left behind by Dr Magufuli is the 30-km Tenenda-Matema beach tarmac road which in the past was a great headache to Mwaya, Ipinda, Mababu, Ngyekye, Makwale, Ipande and Ikombe residents.

"His death is a huge blow to us poor people as he stood by us to ensure were not being despised, we lived in peace as we knew our protector was around, we pray to

God to rest him in peace," he said.

Some religious leaders including Anglican Church Bishop Joseph Mwambungu said the nation has lost an important person whose contribution was still needed for the country's development.

He appealed to Tanzanians "to show solidarity and put God at the forefront in all things while supporting President Samia Suluhu Hassan to guide us to the Tanzania we need."

Songwe River Basin Commission Acting Director Gabriel Kalinga said they hold high hopes that president Samia Suluhu can carry on with all the good initiated by the late President in all economic, social and political sectors.

Kyela District Sheikh Nuru Mwafula said Muslims should continue praying for the late Dr Magufuli to rest in peace.

For his part, Kyela district Commissioner Claudia Kitta called on Kyela residents to work hard for their own development.



David Shauri (C), an orthopaedic specialist with a community programme for youths with disabilities in Tanga Region, receives 14 wheelchairs donated by Arusha Region's Tanzania Big Games Safaris yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Dodoma sets aside trading grounds for timber traders

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA city authority has set aside trading grounds for timber traders after they were issued relocation notice by private owners of business premises they acquired.

Most of timber traders within the city centre operate around the Jamhuri stadium in private rented premises whose owners have since told them to vacate the area.

Speaking with The Guardian here, City Executive Director, Joseph Mafuru said the authority has set aside trading grounds at Kizota and Nzuguni wards for the traders, saying the aim is to end disturbance the traders face.

"Since timber traders were ordered to vacate their business areas, I have therefore directed the relevant officers to hurriedly set aside the places for them" he said, adding that currently timber are sold unsystematically around the stadium.

He explained that within three months from now the traders shall have permanent trading areas after city authority has held a meeting with them.

According to the director, the aim is to have a well-planned city which generates own revenues and its people are involved in authorized business activities, thus to achieve this, traders must have business addresses.

One of the traders, Vera Ngamale called on the city authority to relocate all timber traders in the city to the designated areas once everything is in place in order to boost business as customers will have a common place.

"All traders should be removed from the city centre and buyers be told of the specific places to get timber" she said, adding that by so doing it will be possible for the authority to get rightful revenues.

In December, 2020, the Regional Commissioner, Dr Binlith Mahenge expressed satisfaction with the pace of construction going on in various areas in Dodoma Region but has demanded the City Council to embark on fixing the necessary infrastructure.

Dr Mahenge expressed the satisfaction after visiting various areas of investments, including Nala, Mahungu, Michese, Mkalama and Iyumbu in the outskirts of the

city.

He said the construction was progressing well but there were still infrastructure challenges in the new settlements.

"The city should issue building permits only to areas which have already been developed with the necessary infrastructure," he said.

During his trip to Nala IFM, the area set for small industries, residential and commercial settlements, Dr Mahenge said the area will also host the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) and the Institute for Rural Development Planning campus.

Dodoma City Director Joseph Mafuru said that the area seats on 5,610 acres in which 5.3bn/- was used to compensate the villagers, noting that 7,500 plots were surveyed and mapped in which 1,600 building permits for the area have so far been issued.

"Now we want to open road infrastructure networks in this area. We have the machinery ready for the job," he said.

Mafuru said in Michese area, 2,062 plots have been surveyed and over 300 building permits have been issued.

Agency triples production of improved seeds in four years

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has increased seed production capacity from 557 tonnes in 2016/17 to at least 1,750 tonnes during 2018/19.

The impressive development has managed the state-owned Agency to stand fifth out of more than 42 companies that produced quality seeds within the country during the period between 2019/20.

ASA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr Sophia Kashenge said that the improvement was attained through an effort by the Agency to add four new seed production farms.

Dr Kashenge unveiled the farms that the agency has obtained include Kilimi (1,115 acres), Msungura (250 acres), Mazizi (12 acres), and the Luhafwe farm (500 acres).

According to her, the new farms have increased the number of the seed farms to 13 from 8, bringing the total Agency's seed production area to 10,115.2 hectares from 9,890.

"As demand for quality government seed keeps on skyrocketing to help accelerate production of enough food and crop-based raw materials, we came aware over continued diminishing of suitable land for seed productions due to increased

human population and activities and thus, we decided to initiate an effort to amass more land" she observed.

She added: "The farms are increasingly surrounded by the fast-growing population. It is high time now that the seed farms are highly protected since they are prone to destruction. As part of urban greening, these farms offer traditionally rural services in cities, thereby contributing to food resources as well as working to alleviate pressing social issues like poverty."

"It also provides a way to create opportunities for employment and community-building for the people surrounding the fields. As part of greening, they present urban agriculture and provide a buffer for pollution and improve environmental (and well as human) health and well-being through the land-based carbon sink."

In more efforts to improve seed production, Dr. Kashenge said ASA has also managed to expand seed production acreage at some of its old farms.

"For instance, at Mwele farm in Tanga, we managed to expand 200 acres, at Kilangali 400 acres and Mbozi farm has been extended to at least 300 new acres," she detailed.

Dr. Kashenge informed that the Agency has so far increased the number of private seed companies working under Public-

Private Partnership (PPP) from five during 2017/18 to 11 during 2019/20.

"The companies have played a significant role to help increase production of quality seed from 2,666 tonnes to 3,884, making the total production at ASA's land resources to raise from 3450 to 5634 between 2016/17 and 2019/20," she unveiled.

With a mandate of producing improved seeds, ASA, plus its land resources currently contribute to at least 28 percent of all seeds produced in Tanzania.

The current demand for seed in Tanzania stands at 186,500 tonnes in a year, but the amount that is being produced is only 71,000 tonnes.

To curtail the shortage, the agriculture ministry is currently implementing a 10-years strategy to improve the seed production sub-sector, aimed at enabling the country to meet the local seed adequacy as well as reaping economic fortunes from potential external seed markets.

The strategy incorporates more investments in the side of seed research, inventions, multiplication as well as quality control.

According to agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe, Tanzania was standing a possible chance to fetch lucrative profits from external seed markets, hence a need to strengthen local seed production capacity.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIGHT VEHICLES TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Light Vehicles and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the Supply and Delivery of Light Vehicles.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01177	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIGHT VEHICLES (TOYOTA LIGHT VEHICLES)

1. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	5%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.6%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.6%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.6%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	75%
Rated ANCAP safety ratings 5*	25%
Proof of ability to supply Brand New Vehicles and must be under warranty not less than 12 months.	25%
Proof of ability to Supply Light Vehicles fitted with single piece rim and all terrain tires including spare tyre.	25%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01177) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 09 April 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



**Congratulations
and wishing you
all the best**

H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan

The board and the entire staff of Absa Bank Tanzania Limited, wish to convey our heartfelt congratulations to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.



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**CONGRATULATORY
MESSAGE**



**President of the United Republic of Tanzania
Her Excellence Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan**

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Demeter Financial & Insurance Services Ltd and Will Mars Reinsurance Brokers Limited would like to extend sincere CONGRATULATIONS to the new President of the United Republic of Tanzania Her Excellence Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan. Wishing her continued success, strength and wisdom in performing the highly important and demanding presidential duties.

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NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
actalliance

Advertisement of Business Opportunities

Date: 29th March 2021

Reference no: 0001/NCA/2021

Subject: Consultancy Service

Contracting Authority: Norwegian Church Aid - Tanzania Office

Deadline for submission of letter of interest: 5th April 2021

Background

Haydom Lutheran Hospital (HLH) was established in 1955 and has since practiced a holistic approach to health care for its patients, to meet the "total needs of the person" (spiritual, social, and health needs). The hospital is in Northern part of Tanzania around 300km from Arusha. HLH is a Faith Based Hospital owned by Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Mbulu Diocese and works in partnership with Government of Tanzania. HLH operates as a regional referral level hospital for the purpose of delivering quality health services in Manyara and nearby regions, having 420 bed capacity and approximately 500 staff. This hospital has long term partnership with Norwegian Government in funding through The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA).

NCA invites qualified and experienced applicants to respond to this advertisement.

Applicants who have responded to this advertisement and provided the required information may be invited to participate in the procurement procedure for the relevant lot(s).

Service required:

Midterm Evaluation of the project - Haydom Lutheran Hospital 2019-2022

The service relates to a project, which seeks to improve, among others the quality of health services and foster organizational development of the hospital. The interested applicants shall provide the following information preferably **in one page** to the Contracting Authority using the contact details below:

- The company's name and contact details.
- Contact person.
- A brief description of the company's background and main line of work.
- A brief description of the company's experience in evaluations, health facility management and organisational development.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience with this kind of service

This is purely information on business opportunities and **does not** constitute a commitment to purchase or any other form of contractual commitment with the Contracting Authority.

Information should be provided to the following address by email:

Country Director,
Norwegian Church Aid
Plot 436, Mikocheni II Mwai Kibaki Rd,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania+255 22 2 700 252
e-mail: Procurement.Tanzania@nca.no

halotel



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Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

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MONDAY 29 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Many deaths and injuries from road crashes are completely preventable

It is a fact that road traffic accidents are the leading cause of death among children and young adults aged 5-29 years. And it is a growing problem in many developing and even developed countries. However, the alarming rate at which it occurred in Tanzania in the past years has raised concern and even suggestion for a national debate over the issue.

Let's bear in mind that road traffic accidents in the country are multi-factorial. The lesser faire attitude of some drivers, illicit drugs use and speeding.

We cannot agree that it is as a result of rapid urbanisation and motorisation as factors leading to higher number of road traffic accidents.

According to World Health Organisation's (WHO) approximately 1.35 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes globally. This figure is just alarming and a lot more could be done to address the issue at the national level.

Unless more comprehensive global action is taken, the number of deaths and injuries is likely to rise significantly.

And most of these road traffic crashes are not 'accidents'. We need to challenge the notion that they are unavoidable and make room for a pro-active, preventive

approach.

There is need for road users, majority of whom, are youths to change their mindsets, do away with speeding and use of illicit hard drugs.

As rightly stated by some analysts implementing traffic laws and regulations by the police is crucial in the whole issue. As part from protecting the lives of citizens, police have a lead role to play in curbing road traffic accidents.

Even the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set an ambition of halving the global number of deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by the end of 2021.

Road traffic crashes cost most countries 3 per cent of their gross domestic product. Therefore, curbing road traffic crashes would help cut the cost of the country's gross domestic product.

We once again challenge the drivers, majority of whom are youths to take change their mindsets. Always drive carefully on the roads. Remember that the life they save be their own!

Life is a gamble. You can get hurt, but people die in plane crashes, lose their arms and legs in car accidents; people die every day. Same with fighters: some die, some get hurt, some go on, you just dont let yourself believe it will happen to you.

African countries must do more to boost trade among themselves

The expansion of trade among sub-Saharan African nations holds the key to faster growth and development to the benefit of all its citizens. To unlock this potential, countries will have to focus more on trade facilitation, including the simplification and modernisation of trade procedures.

Sub-Saharan African countries have the lowest trade among themselves compared with other regions. Intra-regional trade is estimated at about 10 per cent compared with 40 per cent in North America and 60 per cent in Western Europe.

Among the factors holding back growth are non-tariff trade barriers. Excessive document requirements, burdensome customs procedures, inefficient ports and poor infrastructure add to the cost of exporting and importing goods. Firms benefit more from a 10 per cent reduction of these costs than from a similar cut in tariffs.

This is why there has been a major focus on reducing red tape and other non-tariff trade barriers. Implementation of trade facilitation measures can reduce the cost of moving of goods across borders by between 12.5 per cent and 17 per cent. It can boost exports too by making it cheaper for firms to import materials they can transform into finished products for sale in other countries.

Trade facilitation can also create an enabling environment for foreign direct investment.

And red tape harms poor producers the most, so trade facilitation is especially beneficial for small- and medium-sized businesses. This is very important in the case of African countries.

A number of African countries have been implementing measures aimed at easing the flow of goods across borders. A guide to what needs to be done is set out in the Trade Facilitation Agreement earlier signed by World Trade Organisation members in 2013. The agreement outlines measures for expediting the movement,

release and clearance of goods at borders.

A few sub-Saharan Africa countries have started working towards the implementation of a "single window" system - a collaboration between all state entities involved in the regulation of international trade.

For example, Ghana initiated a single window operation in 2002 following concerns about slow and expensive border procedures. It standardised information through a single administrative document for all its customs operations though implementation is not yet fully functional and automated.

Another measure involves the creation of one-stop joint border posts. An example of this is the Chirundu border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Since traffic only stops once for the country being entered, the time it takes to cross the border is greatly reduced.

After the implementation of the one-stop border post, trucks are electronically scanned - which takes much less time. Another initiative, the African Union Border Program, initiated in 2007 with the goal to have all borders in Africa delimited and demarcated by 2017, has also made progress.

But there is more that countries can do to ease the flow of goods across their borders.

They should harmonise procedures. These should be made simple and then they should be aligned - first within regions and then across the continent. The alignment should be backed by appropriate legal and institutional frameworks.

Countries should also be standardising documents through a national and later regional single window system. This will resolve challenges with bureaucracy, corruption and delays in processing trade documents.

The capacity of customs should also be enhanced in terms of electronic data management. This will improve risk management and revenue generation. For example, the Philippines' computerised customs management systems reduced corruption in its bureau of customs.

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By Eric Topona

THE Republic of the Congo's longtime president Denis Sassou Nguesso is likely to continue his rule after last this month's election - to the surprise of no one.

On Sunday March 21, citizens of the Republic of Congo were called to the polls to elect their president.

The country is a pivotal point in central Africa, which Cameroonian intellectual Achille Mbembe has dubbed the continent's "heart of darkness."

The expression, borrowed from Polish author Joseph Conrad, is intended to convey his indignation at the region's apparent stagnation, despite its richness in human capital, fertile soil and a subsoil full of natural resources.

Denis Sassou Nguesso has been the country's head of state for 36 years. He remains the only Central African head of state to have been defeated - in 1992 following a democratic and transparent presidential election - and to not have contested the verdict of the ballot box.

However, it was through force that Sassou Nguesso again rose to the country's top office: On October 24, 1997 he overthrew his successor, Pascal Lissouba, at the end of a war which left several thousand dead and which remains a painful wound within Congolese society.

Sassou Nguesso went on to declare a flexible transition of power over three years - which ultimately lasted five years, from 1997 to 2002.

Consolidation of power Since then, Sassou Nguesso has only continued to consolidate his bedrock of power. The electoral process of renewing political personal at the highest level has proven to be little more than a ritual, without much suspense.

On March 21, Sassou Nguesso faced six opponents contesting his re-election to the top job.

His main adversaries were also once his collaborators. Mathias Dzon was Sassou Nguesso's money man from 1997 to 2002.

Then there was Guy-Brice Parfait Kolelas, the former Minister of Marine and Inland Fishing and Minister of the Civil Service.

Sassou Nguesso also faced up against his old aide-de-camp between 1979 and 1992, Albert Oniangue.

There were also the regulars of the competition: Joseph Kignoumbi Kia-Mboungou and Anguio Nganguia Engambe.

Kolelas, who came second in the 2016 presidential election, died on Sunday evening just a few hours after the polls closed, after

The vicious cycle of power in Republic of Congo stays intact



contracting COVID-19.

"Guy-Brice Parfait Kolelas died in the medical plane which had come to pick him up in Brazzaville on Sunday afternoon," said his spokesperson Christian Cyr Rodrigue Mayanda.

Just a few hours before the polls were due to open, the former minister posted a video in which he claimed he was "fighting against death."

"My dear compatriots, I am fighting death, but I ask you to stand up," he said weakly. "Go and vote for change. I would not have fought for nothing. Stand up as one. Make me happy. I am fighting on my deathbed. You, too, fight for your change. The future of your children is at stake."

But the death of Kolelas - who resigned from his government position in 2015 before contesting Sassou Nguesso, who he considered his "father," at the ballot box in 2016 - will not change the political game or influence the outcome of the vote. Because the open secret is, Sassou Nguesso remains the big favorite.

A political earthquake?

Should we be prepared for a political earthquake following the first round of this presidential election? The candidates believe they have a change to beat the Congolese president at the ballot box, counting on the discontent and weariness of the population. Then again, former challenger Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko, who has been locked up since 2016 and found guilty in 2018 of endangering state security, thought the same.

They will also have to confront the formidable political machine and administration at the service

of Sassou Nguesso.

In addition to spreading its institutional and ideological web across the country, the ruling Congolese Party of Labour (PCT), which was founded in 1969, is a powerful political apparatus devoted to the president and his willingness to remain the head of state.

A new five-year term for a septuagenarian?

The big question of this presidential election is therefore less about who wins than about what 77-year-old Sassou Nguesso would do with another five-year term.

One of the challenges of the ensuing political cycle will inevitably be the matter of his succession. And it will be within the great PCT family that the great battles will take place which will decide the future of the Republic of the Congo.

The mysteries of the oil boon

Congo is the sixth-largest oil producing country in Africa, with an estimated production rate of 350,000 barrels per day. In 2019, the government announced the discovery of four new oil deposits that would increase its daily production to 980,000 barrels.

But the announcement aroused skepticism among oil exploration specialists, who believe it may be an attempt to foster the illusion of a bright future among the population.

Located in the heart of the Congo Basin - considered the planet's second lung after the Amazon - Sassou Nguesso's country is paradoxically one of the poorest in sub-Saharan Africa.

With a national debt amounting to 87% of its gross domestic

product (GDP), half of the population lives below the poverty line. In this respect, the Republic of Congo is a case study for the "curse of the black gold," while its people still hope for a fair distribution of the land's wealth.

In fact, high-ranking dignitaries of the Republic of Congo have, since 2009, been in the crosshairs of several NGOs, as well as French, Swiss and American judicial authorities.

In response, they have cried out against judicial harassment and attempts at neocolonialist destabilization. But ever since the "ill-gotten gains" affair in France, which saw several Congolese officials indicted, the justice system has been steadily inching closer to the management of Congolese oil under the Sassou Nguesso administration.

Two proceedings opened before American courts based on a report by NGO Global Witness, which led to the precautionary seizure of a residence in Miami, Florida. The home, worth approximately \$3 million (€2.52 million), was acquired by one of the president's sons, Denis Christel Sassou Nguesso, when he held the top job at the National Petroleum Company of the Congo (SNPC).

More recently, in 2019, Swiss trading company Gunvor was ordered to pay a fine of 90 million Swiss francs (€81 million, \$97 million) on a charge of acts of corruption for the benefit of Congolese officials.

Regardless of what happens from here, it's clear that a new term for Sassou Nguesso won't be smooth sailing on the judicial front.



Congratulations

The President of the
United Republic of
Tanzania

**Her Excellency
Samia Suluhu Hassan.**



The Board of Directors, Management, and Staff of CRDB Bank joins all Tanzanians in congratulating **H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan on becoming the Sixth President of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.**

CRDB Bank pledges to continue supporting the Government's efforts to achieve its goal of building a viable economy.

We wish Her Excellency the President good health and success in fulfilling her responsibilities to serve our Nation.

**Issued by
Directorate of Corporate Affairs**

On early marriages and International Women's Day

BY YUSHAU A. SHUAIB

ADVOCACY for early marriage, rather than child marriage, hinges on promotion of reciprocal love, alongside mutual respect and understanding.

I insisted that early marriage, as distinct from child marriage, should be tolerated and encouraged in society. Since marriage is a union of two people who have met certain conditions set up by different cultures, customs, religions and legislation, then it should naturally lead to a legal and legitimate companionship.

In preparation for the 2021 edition of the International Women's Day, Hawwah Jiddare, a vocal feminist from Northern Nigeria and Chevening Scholar requested if I could recommend any person to discuss the rampant cases of early marriage in Arewa, Northern Nigeria.

I told her that not only in Northern Nigeria but also across Africa, a lot of educated people and political leaders are products of early marriages. I added that beyond the hysteria and negative denotations around early marriage, many of these experiences could be narrated from proper and more positive perspectives.

In her response, Hawwah who runs "Sheroes", a publishing platform for women's empowerment, advocacy and documentation, requested my participation as one of the panellists.

"As a journalist, writer, author and Public Relations practitioner, your role is to give us an objective rationale behind a situation where 59% of girls are married before the age of 18 in Northern Nigeria, even though it does not guarantee them having an education..." she added.

While mulling over my proposed participation in the webinar, whose agenda pertaining to the theme of

the discussion was not immediately clear to me, Hawwah added that "What is the rationale behind such beliefs and actions in the North?"

I suspected that she asked the question as a way of goading me and inciting my interest in the discussion. It was a fairly emotional issue for me, not only because of some of the misconceptions that have come to be attributed to the issue of early marriage but also because I am a product of parents who married early. Yet, the experience of my family has been nowhere near the predominantly negative narrative being peddled around. I can say the same for a number of families I know. My father evolved to become a distinguished scholar and academic, who is now retired, while my mother is a trader, who is now a remarkable matriarch of our family. They both remain strong, physically and mentally till date.

I decided to accept the invitation to be a member of the panel on early marriage and girl child education, as a way of offering my lived perspective to the issue of early marriage in the North.

During the webinar on March 8, International Women's Day, I came into the same discursive space with other panel members who had contrary views to mine, including a legal practitioner, a gender activist and a medical doctor.

The designation of legal adulthood and the marriageable age in many countries is 18 years; however, the marriageable age may be older or younger in other countries. Still, cultural traditions may override legislation, as many jurisdictions permit early marriage with parental consent or in special circumstances, such as teenage pregnancy.

Since I had the opportunity to speak first, my argument set the agenda of the discourse.

I insisted that early marriage, as distinct from child marriage, should be tolerated and encouraged in society. Since marriage is a union of two people who have met certain conditions set up by different cultures, customs, religions and legislation, then it should naturally lead to a legal and legitimate companionship.

The designation of legal adulthood and the marriageable age in many countries is



18 years; however, the marriageable age may be older or younger in other countries. Still, cultural traditions may override legislation, as many jurisdictions permit early marriage with parental consent or in special circumstances, such as teenage pregnancy.

Meanwhile, in exceptional cases, apart from parental consent, authorisation from the court and religious laws allow for marriages below the age of 18 to hold.

A report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) shows that in 2010, 18 years was the minimum legal age for marriage for women, without parental consent or approval by the pertinent authority, in 158 countries; also, in 146 countries, state or customary laws allow girls younger than 18 to marry with the consent of their parents or other authorities. Still, in 52 countries, girls under the age of 15 can marry with their parental consent.

Most religions forbid the marriage of a female before the onset of puberty and maturity. In fact, disputes regarding physical maturity are often resolved by a scholar or a judge, potentially after examination by a female expert witness. In addition, many religions also vehemently prohibit sexual intercourse outside marriage; therefore, they establish a minimum age for marriage in one way or

another.

Early marriage allows a couple to experience adult life, while still young and strong.

Obviously, there are other factors responsible for early marriage, which include the promotion of a sense of responsibility, the guarantee of security and prevention of social decadence. The unfortunate cases of baby factories where young girls are made to reproduce essentially for illegal adoption could be avoided, even when such adoptions are common and encouraged in some developed countries.

The advocacy for early marriage, rather than child marriage, is one that hinges on the promotion and encouragement of reciprocal love, affection, alongside mutual respect and understanding, as against a union formed through compulsion or the forceful yoking of two people.

During the webinar, I pointed out that early marriage provides a safety net against poverty and deprivation, which could lead some to prostitution and drug addiction. It also protects the female, especially, from sexual violation and insecurity, particularly for those who live in or find themselves in slums and crisis zones.

We should also be mindful and aware of the fact that political and financial al-

liances between parents, beyond poverty and insecurity, are also rampant among the Northern elites, who seal these relationships by arranging marriages for their children.

Meanwhile, in most states in Northern Nigeria, newly married wives are becoming homemakers and home-entrepreneurs through skills acquisition. They now engage in tailoring, food catering and snacks making services, among others, from the comfort of their homes. Surprisingly, some of the skills being utilised and deployed are acquired through online programmes on credible social media platforms, websites and webinars, and not necessarily from conventional schools, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.

While age can occasionally be a wrong indicator of physical, emotional and psychological maturity, some good insight can be gleaned from how, in these modern times, young people are emerging as very successful entrepreneurs, who are creating huge business enterprises and empires early in life. Interestingly, some highly successful entrepreneurs have been found out to be even school dropouts. The stories of Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, Matthew Mullenweg of WordPress, Catherine Cook of MyYearBook.com, Blake Ross of Mozilla Firefox and even Justin Bieber, a singer and performer are proof that with focus, starting things early in life can only serve to enhance one's potentials.

The advocacy for early marriage, rather than child marriage, is one that hinges on the promotion and encouragement of reciprocal love, affection, alongside mutual respect and understanding, as against a union formed through compulsion or the forceful yoking of two people.

It is necessary to urge partners who are candidates for early marriage to be strong, confident, and supportive of each other in achieving their personal and career goals. They should also seek to be always level-headed, thoughtful, and with senses of maturity in managing their emotions. Quite unfortunately, many even above the age of 40 do not exhibit the same level of maturity displayed by a number of young people.

While the other panel members were not comfortable with some of my submissions, one of them even made bold to suggest that the best age for marriage should be between 35 and 40 years! Nevertheless, the point I reiterated in the webinar is in support of early marriage and not a child marriage.

On this occasion of International Women's Day, we must acknowledge women for making all of us in society aware, appreciative and proud of their fundamental and remarkable contributions to our development.

Yushau A. Shuaib; www.YAShuaib.com; yashuaib@yahoo.com



S.E.C (EAST AFRICAN) CO. LTD.
SALES AGENCY OF SHANGHAI MITSUBISHI ELEVATOR

**PRESIDENT
MAMA SAMIA
SULHU HASSAN**



**CONGRATULATORY
MESSAGE**

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of **S.E.C (EAST AFRICAN) COMPANY LIMITED** would like to extend sincere CONGRATULATIONS to the new President of the United Republic of Tanzania Her Excellence Mama Samia Saluhu Hassan. Wishing her continued success, strength, and wisdom in performing the highly important and demanding president duties.

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Call for Proposals

The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) invites proposals from Agricultural cooperatives, producer groups, and enterprises for grant financing and local support for innovative solutions that extend their own capabilities to increase revenues, create jobs, improve farmer incomes, and achieve sustainable market-based growth.

Proposals will only be accepted from registered agricultural cooperatives, producer groups, and agricultural processors in Tanzania working directly in the coffee, cotton, horticultural/vegetables and cereals (maize/rice) value chains. Innovative approaches to agricultural and economic development will also be considered. This includes, but is not limited to digitization, information technology, agricultural solutions using renewable energy.

Maximum Award US \$250,000

- The organization must demonstrate that it has successfully worked together for a minimum of 2 years, have a minimum of 200 active members or suppliers, and has the capability to effectively use grants funds.
- The ownership and management must be in agreement on the problem to be addressed and have a commitment to benefit their community.
- The organization must have basic functional management and financial controls for a minimum of 2 years to demonstrate capability to account for USADF funds.
- Organizations must be 100% Africa-owned and led.

Successful Proposals Must

- Have a clearly defined market opportunity to grow revenues that can increase incomes.
- Have a clearly defined plan of how they can increase revenues and incomes in 2- 4 years.
- Be able to make significant cash or in-kind contributions to the project.
- Be able to directly impact hundreds of people and community members.
- Be able to identify a path for growth after the USADF grant ends.
- Special consideration will be given to applications that incorporate innovative strategies to make use of new approaches and technologies, including complementary finance and information technology.
- Special consideration will also be given to women owned organizations and applications that promote youth.

For details go to:
www.usadf.gov/apply/

Submit your application form, financial statements for the last 2 years and a copy of registration document to: Tanzania@usadf.gov by **May 17, 2021**.
Office Phone number; **0736 750 360 /0786 431 384**

Access to funds hampers growth of nutrition-sensitive businesses - govt

By Guardian Reporter

ONE of the key players in the Morogoro agribusiness value chain is Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs incubator (SUGECO), established in 2011 to promote youth engagement in agriculture and to support nutrition-sensitive businesses in the region.

The incubator works strategically with the reputed university of agriculture to nurture the agribusiness ecosystem in the region, with credits to supporting companies such as Sanavita and Kinshaga Food Products which have also been part of the Lishe Accelerator, a program implemented by Sahara Ventures and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Tanzania.

SUGECO also works as the center for product development and technology transfer, offering business development services for SMEs, and advisor to private and public agencies on issues related to nutrition and agribusiness.

A recent report by Sahara Ventures and GAIN Alliance Tanzania on the state of nutrition-sensitive small and medium enterprises in the country has established that the region's ecosystem is growing, compliments to the role played by Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and SUGECO.

The report, however, notes that there are still many challenges that need to be addressed, most notably being lack of access to high quality and attractive packaging materials, access to financing, machines to measure nutritional contents, and new markets for nutrition-sensitive products.

"The incubator play a crucial role in the region's ecosystem, and it addresses serious issues such as malnutrition, ending post-harvest losses, ending hunger, and creating employment opportunities for youths through agribusiness," said Jumanne Mtambalike, Sahara Ventures Chief Executive Officer (CEO), architects of the report.

It has also provided incentives to farmers to get involved in Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) farming, also known as "Vizi Lishe, by creating a business value chain by linking farmers to local food vendors also known as "Mama Lishe" and Baba Lishe.

According to the report, the incubator which also works as a business incubator has been working with food vendors in Dumila, Kilosa Municipality, and has supported youth and women in the production, processing, and value addition of OFSP.

"The incubator has also been working with entrepreneurs helping them to learn to make healthy bread from OFSP instead of wheat. The incubator is helping the entrepreneurs by creating demands from local schools primary and secondary to adopt health OFSP bread instead of wheat bread," Mtambalike said.

Some of the notable products that emerged from the



incubator include; Akili Banana Biscuits from Kinshaga Food Products, Sanavita OFSP Flour from Sanavita, and SolarTunda Vizi Lishe Biscuits from SolarTunda.

"While at SUGECO some of the key issues we learned even though there is acceptance from the market for nutrition-sensitive products and the entrepreneurs are working hard to develop their businesses, there are a lot of obstacles keep entrepreneurs from building products that meet regional and global markets standards," he added.

Founder of Kinshaga Food Products, Elia Kinshaga, shared his frustrations about building his business from the ground up and his experience engaging with financial institutions to access capital, saying that accessing loans from local banks is a back-breaking process.

"Local banks lack understanding and services packages for SMEs and treat SMEs like established businesses," Kinshaga said.

The company was eventually able to secure funds and raise capital but unfortunately due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus, they faced delays in production because of the difficulties in receiving a machine they need for production which is stuck in China.

"Banks demand that small businesses continue paying interests even when these businesses are not operating," Kinshaga lamented.

He also said that most agribusiness funds that are meant to de-risk SMEs while accessing loans are not designed to support the SMEs since their priority is the safety of their own funds.

"Guarantee fund managers need to rethink their models to ensure they really serve the purpose and address real problems supporting SMEs. Otherwise, the funds will just be helping the banks to maximize profit while benefiting everyone else except the intended businesses which are SMEs at

early and growth stages," he said.

Another entrepreneur in the agribusiness value chain, Rachel Kingu, is the founder of Jore TZ, which offers a range of nutrition-sensitive products sold in supermarkets in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Morogoro, and Dodoma regions. Her experience in dealing with the local government authorities to access funding dedicated to youth and women groups has left her with a bad aftertaste.

She said that she was involved with a women's group in which she served as a secretary and at one point the group sought funds from Mvomero local government authorities but was disappointed by the sheer lack of commitment by members of the group.

"The lack of commitment on the part of the women involved in the group made it a struggle to return the funds they received from the local government. Out of the ten women involved during the loan applica-

tion process, only two remained to manage the original project," she said bitterly.

Kingu has advised the government to rethink how it dishes out funds to youth and women with the focus being on supporting actual businesses instead of groups.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Tanzania and Sahara Ventures have been collaborating to support nutrition-sensitive SMEs in the country to attain technical and investor readiness and contribute to the national economic development and nutrition agenda.

Nutrition-sensitive SMEs are more than just businesses that add value to agriculture; they also help people understand the need of consuming nutritional foods in order to address malnutrition

In 2015, more than 2.7 million Tanzanian children under 5 years were estimated to be stunted and more than 600,000 were suffering from acute malnutrition, of which 100,000 were severe cases, according to Unicef.

Ten regions account for 58 percent of all stunted children and five regions account for half of the children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in the country.

Given the importance of nutrition in the overall physical and cognitive development of children, there is a need to focus on the first 1,000 days of a child's life to prevent the negative effects of malnutrition from becoming irreversible.

Unicef argues that investing in nutrition is essential for Tanzania to progress. It is estimated that the country will lose USD 20 billion by 2025 if the nutrition situation does not improve. In contrast, by investing in nutrition and improving the population's nutritional status, the country could gain up to USD 4.7 billion by 2025.

As such supporting these businesses is vital for a myriad of reasons with benefits that spread wide and far.



USAID | TANZANIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position identified below at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Solicitation No.: 72062121R10010

Position Title: Maintenance Inspector (Facilities Assistant)

A copy of the complete solicitation, listing all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required, is available at:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

HOW TO APPLY:

Effective immediately only online applications will be accepted via usaidtzlesapps@usaid.gov

Applicants **MUST** follow instructions in the solicitation on the website:

Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: April 12, 2021



USAID | TANZANIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) No. 72062121R00003

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Tanzania is seeking proposals from eligible organizations interested in implementing the Tanzania Comprehensive Client-Centered Health Program-HIV and Tuberculosis (C3HP-HIV&TB). The purpose of this program is to increase the demand for and use of quality integrated HIV, TB and Family Planning services, particularly by youth and children, leading to improved health outcomes.

This procurement is conducted under a limited competition to "Local Partners". Only Tanzania local organizations that meet the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief's (PEPFAR) definition of a Local Partner as provided below are eligible to compete and submit offers.

1	Either	Must be incorporated or legally organized under the laws of, and have its principal place of business in the country served by the PEPFAR program with which the entity is involved;
	or	Must exist in the region where the entity's funded PEPFAR programs are implemented.
2	Either	Must be at 75% beneficially owned at the time of application by individuals who are citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the same country;
	or	At least 75% of the entity's staff (senior, mid-level, support) at the time of application must be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of that same country.
3		Where an entity has a Board of Directors, at least 51% of the members of the Board must be citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of such country.

For purposes of this RFP, "Principal Place of Business" means the primary location where the business is performed. In this case, the prime organization's principal place of business must be Tanzania.

The full solicitation and its subsequent amendments can be downloaded from the US Government's official website at <https://beta.sam.gov/>. To access the solicitation from the website, search by the key word "C3HP-HIV&TB Local". Organizations that are unable to find the solicitation can request an electronic copy (as attachment via e-mail) by contacting USAID at usaidtzco@usaid.gov.

Questions on the RFP and proposals in response to the RFP must be submitted in writing to USAID at usaid.tzco@usaid.gov, and must be received no later than the dates indicated on the cover page of the RFP.

Thank you for your interest in USAID/Tanzania program activities.



Hunger hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity

By Guardian Reporter

ACUTE hunger is set to soar in over 20 countries in the coming months without urgent and scaled-up assistance, warn the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) in a

new report issued over the weekend. Yemen, South Sudan and northern Nigeria top the list and face catastrophic levels of acute hunger, with families in pockets of South Sudan and Yemen already in the grip of - or at risk of starvation and death according to the "Hunger Hotspots report."

Although the majority of the affected countries are in Africa, acute hunger is due to rise steeply in most world regions - from Afghanistan in Asia, Syria and Lebanon in the Middle East, to Haiti in Latin America and the Caribbean. Already, over 34 million people are grappling with emergency levels of acute hunger (IPC4) - meaning they are one step away from starvation - across the world.

"The magnitude of suffering is alarming. It is incumbent upon all of us to act now and to act fast to save lives, safeguard livelihoods and prevent the worst situation", said FAO Director-General QU Dongyu.

"In many regions, the planting season has just started or is about to start. We must run against the clock and not let this opportunity to protect, stabilize and even possibly increase local food production slip away," urged Qu.

"We are seeing a catastrophe unfold before our very eyes. Famine - driven by conflict, and fuelled by climate shocks and the COVID-19 hunger pandemic - is knocking on the door for millions of families," said WFP Executive Director David Beasley.

"We urgently need three things to stop millions from dying of starvation: the fighting has to stop, we must be allowed access to vulnerable communities to provide life-saving help, and above all we need donors to step up with the US\$ 5.5 billion we are asking for this year," he added.

Conflict, COVID-19 amongst key drivers of acute food insecurity

One or a mix of the following factors are behind the projected rise in acute food insecurity in the 20 hunger "hotspots" between March and July 2021.

Conflict or other forms of violence may protract or is likely to increase in parts of Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Central Sahel, Ethiopia, northern Nigeria, northern Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan.

COVID-19 will continue to impact numerous countries around the world, leaving them highly vulnerable to economic shocks. Latin America is the region hardest hit by economic decline and will be the slowest to recover. In the Middle East, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon are seriously affected by a rapid currency depreciation and skyrocketing inflation.

Climate extremes and la Niña****-driven weather will likely continue in April and May, driving hunger in several parts of the world - from Afghanistan, Madagascar to the Horn of Africa.

Desert Locust outbreaks in East Africa and on the Red Sea Coast remain of concern. In Southern Africa, in parts of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, African migratory locusts threaten to ravage the summer crops.

Increasingly constrained access in some countries to help people in need has been making things worse.

U****rgent, at-scale action needed to stop rising hunger and risk of famine

The report recommends critical short-term actions in each hunger hotspot to address existing and future needs.

These range from scaling up food and nutrition assistance, distributing drought-tolerant seeds, treating and vaccinating livestock to rolling out cash-for-work schemes, rehabilitating water-harvesting structures and increasing income opportunities for vulnerable communities.

Agricultural production is possible and essential, especially where access is constrained and people are even more reliant on local production.

Earlier this month, FAO and WFP called for US\$ 5.5 billion to swiftly scale up actions and avert famine through a combination of humanitarian food assistance, cash and emergency livelihoods interventions.

Hunger hotspots - up close

People in South Sudan, Yemen and northern Nigeria remain most at risk of rising and dangerously high acute food insecurity. In Burkina Faso, food security has slightly improved since last October, but the situation is still very concerning.

In South Sudan, in parts of Jonglei State, people were likely already grappling with famine last October and November, and will continue to do so through this April-July lean season. FAO and WFP call for urgent and at-scale action now to stop likely widespread starvation and death, as well as a complete collapse of livelihoods in these areas.

Over 7 million people across South Sudan are projected to fall into crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity, including over 100,000 at catastrophe level (IPC5), during April-July - 700,000 more since the same period last year.

In Yemen, continued violence and economic decline as well as severe disruptions to the humanitarian response are likely to persist over the coming months.

In Al Jawf, Amran and Hajjah governorates, the number of people in catastrophe level of food insecurity is estimated to triple - reaching 47,000 in June 2021, up from 16,000 in October-December 2020.

With already highly vulnerable populations, severe malnutrition, rising displacement and the deteriorating economic situation, the risk of famine in Yemen is increasing.

Overall, over 16 million Yemenis are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity by June 2021, an increase of some 3 million since the end of last year.

In conflict-hit northern Nigeria, projections for the June-August lean season show that the number of people in emergency level of acute food insecurity is likely to almost double - to over 1.2 million - since the same period last year. In the next six months, food and nutrition insecurity is set to rise considerably in northern Nigeria with some 13 million people affected unless food and livelihood assistance is scaled up.

Burkina Faso has seen a slight improvement in food security since June 2020 due to a good agricultural season and people in remote and previously, inaccessible areas reached with food. But the situation remains very worrying and needs close monitoring as violence is likely to continue pushing people into acute food insecurity.

Improving the electoral system of Hong Kong is imperative, justified and legitimate

By Wang Ke

THE National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, on March 11th, adopted a decision on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) by an overwhelming majority vote during the fourth session of the 13th NPC, which has drawn wide attention. This is a major event in the political life of the people in Hong Kong, as well as a crucial step towards the steady and sustained implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle.

But it is regrettable that some countries interfere in China's internal affairs and interprets the said decision maliciously, calling black white. On this decision, I have some key points of view to share with our Tanzanian friends.



I. Improving the electoral system of the HKSAR is imperative and urgent. During the 150-plus years of colonialism, there was no democracy in Hong Kong, and its people did not even have the right to march on the streets. It was only after reunification with the motherland that Hong Kong had really started the development of democracy. The Chinese Central Government has steadily promoted the development of Hong Kong's democratic political system and ensured that Hong Kong residents enjoy unprecedented democratic rights and freedom in accordance with the law.

However, in recent years, the electoral system of the HKSAR has shown some defects. With the support of some external forces, the anti-China rioters and the advocates of "Hong Kong independence" have been trying to capitalize on these defects to challenge the constitutional order in HKSAR and jeopardize the national sovereignty and security of China. The political security and social stability of Hong Kong have also been threatened due to the unsound electoral system. Therefore, the Chinese Central Government believes it is extremely urgent to revise and improve the electoral system of the HKSAR and let patriots govern Hong Kong. This initiative has been echoed and supported by people from all walks of life in Hong Kong.

II. Improving the electoral system of the HKSAR is justified and reasonable. Hong Kong is a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China. The design, development, and improvement of the electoral system in Hong Kong is an inviolable right of the central government. That the Central Government decides the electoral system of regions is the common legal system and political bottom line of all unitary states.

It is a basic political ethic that the jurisdiction of Hong Kong must be in the hands of patriots. Over the past 20-plus years since Hong Kong's reunification with the motherland, facts have proved that a small number of anti-China rioters in Hong Kong will bring destruction, turbulence, and terror to Hong Kong only. Is there any country in the world that would give the jurisdiction of any part of its territory to the hands of those who advocate or engage in separatist activities? Only patriots can truly strive for the well-being of Hong Kong people, bring prosperity and stability to Hong Kong, and promote the common development of Hong Kong and the motherland.

III. Improving the electoral system of the HKSAR is constitutional and lawful. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates that the NPC has the right to decide on the establishment and system of special administrative regions, including the electoral system. What's more, some provisions in the Basic Law of the HKSAR stipulate that the ultimate aim of the Hong Kong political system reforms is the selection of the Chief Executive and the election of all members of the legislative council (Leg Co) by universal suffrage. Improving the electoral system of the HKSAR this time does not modify these provisions, and the aforementioned ultimate aim has not changed at all.

In fact, some anti-China groups in HKSAR backed by external forces have jeopardized the constitutional order and the rule of law in Hong Kong as well as China's national security. The purpose of improving the electoral system of HKSAR is to maintain the authority of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and to ensure that the development of democracy in Hong Kong returns to the right track determined by the Basic Law of the HKSAR.

IV. The principle of non-interference in other country's internal affairs remains the cornerstone of international law, which will never fade. As we always say, justice will prevail. On March 5th, a joint statement from 70 countries including Tanzania was delivered at the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, reiterating their support for China's "one country, two systems" principle and measures taken in relation to Hong Kong.

Every country has the right to explore its own political system and democratic form which suit its own national conditions. As Tanzania choose the unique Union Government System to maintain national unity and socio-economic development, the Chinese people have adopted the "one country, two systems" principle which has been playing an important role in safeguarding China's sovereignty, security, development interests, and Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.

The decision on improving the electoral system of the HKSAR conforms to the principle of "one country, two systems", meets the realities in the HKSAR and serves to ensure that Hong Kong is administered by those people who love China and love Hong Kong. We hold a firm belief that "patriots administering Hong Kong" is conducive to maintaining stability and promoting prosperity in the HKSAR.

Wang Ke (pictured) is the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania

As we always say, justice will prevail. On March 5th, a joint statement from 70 countries including Tanzania was delivered at the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, reiterating their support for China's "one country, two systems"

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



MONDAY

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

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



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

WINDFALL

Shanta Gold senior officials sell bonus shares in London

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

SENIOR management officials at Shanta Gold Limited, CEO Eric Zurrin and Chief Finance Officer Luke Leslie, have sold 4,868,688 shares they were awarded as bonus this year at 0.01 pence (about 31.96/-) each totalling over 146.05m/-.

In a statement, the London Stock Exchange alternative investment market listed company said last week that Zurrin sold a total of 2,045,688 ordinary shares or an equivalent of 15 percent of holding at an average price of 13.3 pence per ordinary share while Leslie sold 2,823,000 ordinary shares or an equivalent of 27 percent of holding at an average price of 13.2 pence per share.

"Following the sale of these shares Eric and Luke remain interested in a total of 11,869,086 ordinary shares representing 1.1 percent of the company's issued share capital

and 7,604,396 ordinary shares representing 0.7 percent of the company's issued share capital, respectively," the statement noted.

The statement further noted that a significant proportion of executive compensation continues to be paid in shares and this is the first sale of shares in four years during the CEO and CFO's tenure as company executives. In January this year, Shanta Gold awarded bonus shares to its senior management officials who also included New Luika Gold Mine's General Manager, Honest Mrema, Singida Gold Mine's General Manager, Philbert Rweyemanu and Head of Corporate Affairs, Calvin Mlingi.

"Performance pay in shares is based on prescribed KPIs (key performance index) set out at the beginning of 2019 and the number of shares awarded is calculated based on an average share price over the calendar year 2019," the company said in its statement.

Shanta's flagship New Luika Gold Mine commenced production in 2012 and produced 84,506 ounces in 2019. The statement further noted that

each of the top executives were issued with ordinary shares of 0.01p each in the company. In aggregate, this will result in the issuance of 6,555,926 ordinary

shares. "Application has been made to London Stock Exchange Plc for those 6,555,926 ordinary shares to be admitted to trading on AIM. Admission is expected

to occur and dealings in the new ordinary shares are expected to commence on the LSE at 8.00 a.m. on or around 6 February 2020," the statement added.



Shanta Gold Limited CEO Eric Zurrin

PATRIOTISM

Made in Africa conference seeks to drive pan-African prosperity

NAIROBI

THE inaugural Made in Africa Conference and Expo, a large virtual gathering and showcase for African buyers and sellers, will take place on 13 and 14 April 2021. Hosted by Smart Procurement World and Sapics, two key roleplayers in the procurement and supply chain management sphere, the event promises to bring together purchasing decision-makers, policymakers, investors and businesses from across the continent. Made in Africa will feature a two-day, high-impact online programme that will enable delegates to learn, engage and do business.

Business leaders speaking at the launch of the inaugural Made in Africa conference, drove home the message that with the Covid-19 pandemic

pushing African nations to develop local solutions to the continent's challenges, the time has come to rally around the pan-African agenda, to collaborate and leverage the unique and diverse skills and resources of each region in Africa to drive growth and prosperity across the continent. It is time for an unwavering commitment from all to buy Africa for Africa, to help grow local industries, entrepreneurial skills and "support our own" to grow and compete internationally.

Speaking at the launch, John Karani, chairman of Kenya's Institute of Supplies Management, affirmed his belief in the transformational power of the event's theme, 'Buy Africa for Africa'. "Made in Africa is an initiative whose time is long overdue. Africa has so much - a beautiful climate, great natural



John Karani, chairman of Kenya's Institute of Supplies Management.

resources, mineral wealth and fertile agricultural land. It is undoubtedly the world's richest continent. It is time to rally

around this Pan-African call. "If we can all collaborate and leverage our God-given resources, with each terri-

tory focusing on what they do best, imagine what Africa can achieve. We have both the consumption power and the

buying power in Africa. With an initiative like Made in Africa supporting and developing our homegrown industries, businesses that start as cottage industries could quickly scale up to become global players with the support of fellow nations," Karani said.

He shared the virtual stage at the Made in Africa launch with African business leaders from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia, including his Kenyan Institute of Supplies Management colleague, acting CEO James Kaloki.

In his address to stakeholders, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Ambassador Tal Edgars, group executive chairman of GBSH Consult Group Worldwide, harked back to former President Thabo Mbeki's powerful 'I am an African' speech in 1996, and appealed for support for Made in Africa to change Af-

rica's trajectory.

Kalaluka Kangulu, senior supply chain executive: international trade and compliance at Bayer, Zambia, discussed the advantages of buying Africa for Africa. "If we embrace the Made in Africa movement, all revenue generated from within will be spent within Africa. The risks of complex global supply chains will be mitigated. Working together, we will even be able to uplift and empower African nations and economies that are weak right now," he said.

Susan Karcher, founder of the African Circular Economy Network, echoed this. "In the context of the Africa Free Trade Agreement and opening Africa to more inter-continental trade, the Made in Africa initiative is much needed now," she commented.

DIVERSION

World's biggest shipping giants send vessels towards SA amid Suez blockage

CAPEN TOWN

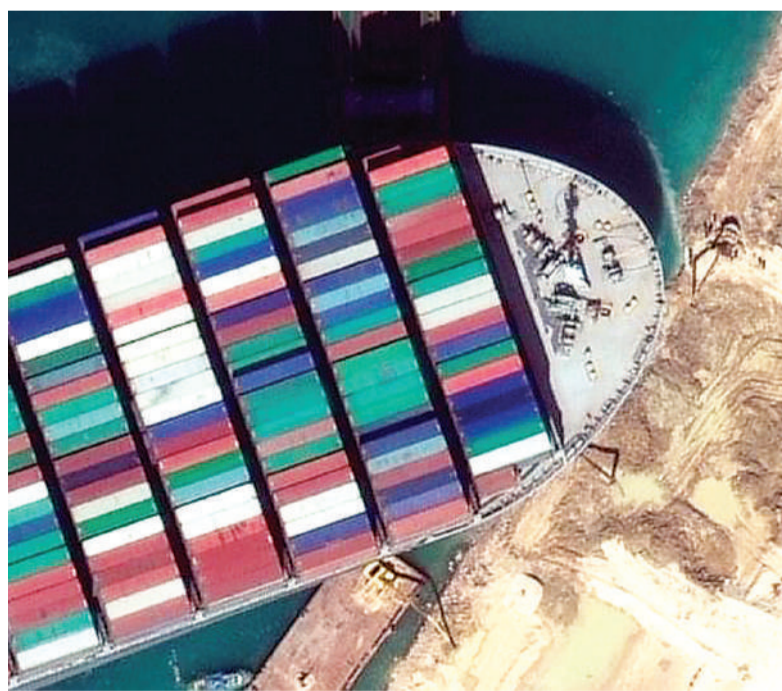
THE world's biggest shipping container companies have redirected their vessels to the route around South Africa as the Suez Canal remains blocked.

On Saturday, The Guardian reported that the world's biggest shipping group Maersk has rerouted two of its ships, and in a statement issued late on Friday, the second-biggest company Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) announced that eleven of its vessels have been rerouted around the coast of South Africa.

The Ever Given ran aground in the Suez canal on March 23 due to high winds from a sandstorm. The vessel is one of the world's largest container ships - it's roughly twice the length of the iconic Ponte apartment tower in Johannesburg.

"MSC expects this incident to have a very significant impact on the movement of containerized goods, disrupting supply chains beyond the existing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic," MSC said in a statement.

More than 90 vessels pass through the canal on a typical



A bird's eye view of Ever Green blocking the Suez Canal.

day, and with queues building, some of the world's largest ships have changed course away from the Suez, and towards the Cape of Good Hope instead. This includes large oil and gas tankers that have also changed course in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean before diverting to go around the Cape, CNBC reported.

"We are seeing not only containerships rerouting in both directions but also LNG carriers and dry bulkers from the US Gulf of Mexico," Peter Sand, chief shipping analyst at BIMCO, told CNBC. "The vessels are taking a sharp turn to the right in the middle of the Atlantic to head south towards the Cape of Good Hope to avoid the logjam around Suez."

Cape detour

Among the ships heading towards South Africa is the "mega ship" Ever Greet, which is operated by the same Taiwan-based company (Evergreen) as the Ever Given.

On Friday morning, the international vessel tracking platform FleetMon reported that another ultra-large container ship, the HMM Rotterdam, was on her way from China to the Netherlands, but made a U-turn around Gibraltar to head away from the Suez towards the Cape.

The Hyundai Prestige has also changed course away from the Suez Canal to the Cape, on her way from Thailand to the UK, the shipping platform Marine Traffic reported. A Transnet spokesperson told Business Insider that the detours could result in some vessels using local ports for refuelling services.

CRISIS

NAIROBI

KENYA Airways' pilots are earning millions of shillings despite working less than a third of the legally set flying hours amid a legal standoff that has blocked plans to lay off half of them. The workers union has frozen Kenya Airways (KQ) plans to cut up to 207 of the 414 pilots on the carrier's payroll last year over the next three years.

This has seen the pilots to work for an average of 30 hours monthly compared to the legally set limit of 105 hours and normally acceptable target of 72 hours following the coronavirus crisis that hit demand

Idle KQ pilots make millions amid losses

for travel.

Although the pilots are currently being paid 70 percent of their salaries due to Covid-induced pay cuts, they are technically on full pay because the airline is expected to settle the balance once it returns to growth.

KQ last year said the pilots account for 10 percent of the airline's total workforce, but take home the equivalent of 45 percent of the overall pay to employees or Sh6.48

billion based on the carrier's wage bill for the year to December. This means that on average a KQ pilot costs the company Sh1.3 million, which matches the salaries and allowances of top chief executives of State-owned firms such as KenGen, Kenya-Re and Kenya Power.

"The pilots are currently averaging 30 hours a month while the normal productivity rate of pilots is 72 hours and the legal limit is 105 hours. That means that their

productivity is less than 50 percent," KQ said in an e-mail response to the Business Daily.

The carrier's revenues plunged by more than half last year, as lockdown measures reduced passengers. KQ expects its passenger business to recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2024. This has reduced its need for pilots by at least half based on revenue projections. "Based on our three-year projection, we

will require 50 percent to 60 percent of pilots to efficiently support the reduced operations," KQ chief executive Allan Kilavuka told the Business Daily earlier.

The airline has been involved in protracted court fights with its pilots and has also suffered from poaching of talent by wealthy Middle East carriers that can afford to pay higher wages, triggering a talent war that has made pilots among Kenya's best-paid workers.

INNOVATION

Allianz Africa touts digitisation of agriculture insurance on continent

By Francis Kajubi

ALLIANZ Africa has shown interest in transforming agriculture insurance services into digitized models by investing in parametric solutions to push for further penetration of insurance services among African farmers, processors and suppliers.

Through a webinar organized by the group in partnership with its Kenyan chapter held in Nairobi last Friday, the group's hierarchy held discussions with stakeholders in the agriculture sector to share insights on how parametric solutions can bring more efficiency to the agriculture value chain.

The webinar which was themed 'The digitization of agriculture insurance through parametric solutions,' went in line with discussions on the group's mission of expanding its presence in the East African

market.

In an official statement, Delphine Traoré, Chief Operating Officer of Allianz Africa, said the group is aiming to leverage its decades of underwriting and digital expertise to become the market leader in agriculture insurance. Traoré said parametric insurance products are innovative, efficient and fully digital solutions to expedite payments to customers.

"There is an ever increasing need to invest in agriculture, given its vital importance as a food source, especially in view of the increase in global population," affirmed Traoré while explaining that Allianz Africa is interested in sustaining growth of the agriculture.

"Indeed, agriculture production makes up a substantial portion of the continent's gross domestic product in Africa, yet only a small portion of the producers are in-



Allianz Africa COO Delphine Traoré

sured. Raising awareness of insurance plays in sustaining production is a key step to increasing insurance penetration in the sector," she added.

According to her, parametric solutions are taking direction of tapping a number of advantages such as high accuracy with state-of-the-art satellite information, hybrid products to address additional perils, increased efficiency through fully paperless processes and a combination with loans in an integrated value chain.

"Allianz Africa aims to contribute towards closing the protection gap and position itself as a leading agriculture insurance provider on the continent, plus climate risks increase the need for investments to make agriculture more resilient is vital," Traoré noted.

Reto Schneider, Regional Head of Agriculture at Allianz Re backed Traoré by saying that despite certain limitations, technology is closing the gap between indemnity and parametric crop insurance hence getting the best of both worlds in a single product.

"The agricultural sector in the insurance industry could reach the potential of US\$1bn within 10 years, provided that penetration can be substantially increased," Schneider said.

The web based event was the second in a series aiming at sharing with stakeholders pan African solutions that the Allianz Group can offer through its footprint in Africa, and brought together insurance experts such as Lovemore Forichi, Senior Underwriter of Agriculture at Allianz Re; Gregoire Tombez, CEO of Warm Consulting Group Limited and Co-founder of Green Triangle.

In 2020, the insurance industry recorded a cumulative premium of approximately US\$300 million from agricultural insurance. The Southern and Eastern regions of Africa contributed more than 80 percent of the recorded premium with Eastern Africa recording an improvement in its trajectory.

PROTECTION

New rule on 50kg potato packaging taking effect April 2

NAIROBI

TRADERS will from April 2 be required to adhere to the 50 kilogramme per bag rule in packaging of Irish potatoes as the agriculture regulator moves to enforce the directive that is meant to safeguard farmers from exploitation by unscrupulous middlemen.

The Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and stakeholders in the value chain have set out an elaborate programme for implementation of the Irish Potato business regulations after many years of stalling due to litigation from brokers.

"Key in the implementation process is to ensure packaging in the required standard of 50kg. The enforcement will be executed in the entire value chain from the farm to the markets," said acting AFA Director-General Kello Harsama yesterday.

The enforcement will reverse the current scenario where potatoes are packaged in 110 kilogramme bags, subjecting farmers to losses. Mr Harsama said inspectors have been recruited and duly briefed ahead of the crackdown across the potato growing counties and major markets.

The inspectors will work with the law enforcement agencies from the national and county governments. A sensitisation campaign will start next Tuesday across the major Irish potato growing counties, targeting farmers, traders and transporters.



Irish potato farmers in Meru should utilise a 250-tonne cold storage facility whose construction is set for completion soon.

The standardisation efforts predate the creation of AFA. The initial by-laws were adopted by cities, municipality and township authorities through Legal Notice No 113 of 2008, following a 2005 notice on the

standardisation policy that had set a Sh2,000 as fine or a term not exceeding six months imprisonment for offenders. The law required officers in charge of markets to block entry of the produce for sale in the

extended bags.

Following a 2014 directive by AFA meant to implement the long-delayed rule, 17 traders moved to court seeking to quash it, terming it unconstitutional since they were

allegedly never consulted. However, the court last month ruled in favour of growers, directing that the Packaging of potatoes will remain capped at 50 kilogramme at the farm-gate.

ALERT

South Africa set to pay well up to Rand 218 billion for power ships

JOHANNESBURG

KARPOWERSHIP, a unit of the Turkish Karadeniz Energy Group, is on track for its longest contract to date to supply power from vessels to South Africa in a deal worth as much as R218-billion.

The company that advertises a "fast, flexible, reliable" solution of floating electricity generation was named last week as a preferred bidder for three projects fuelled by liquefied natural gas to provide 1.2GW of electricity. The programme is aimed at closing a supply gap in South Africa that's resulting in periodic blackouts.

The 20-year deal will cost as much as R10.9-billion annually, according to a presentation by the CSIR. The estimate is based on the department of mineral resources & energy's evaluation price of the bids. It didn't immediately reply to requests for comment.

The award adds a significant amount of generation capacity from fossil fuels for two more decades as South Africa plans a move away from coal that dominates its current power supply and has made it the world's 12th biggest source of greenhouse gases. Other, smaller projects chosen use a mix of solar and wind with batteries and LNG.

"Power ships have proven effective at providing fast-response, emergency electricity – hence the maximum 10-year tenure for past contracts," said Antoine Vagneur-Jones, an analyst at BNEF's energy transition policy team for Europe, Middle East and Africa. "That the South African government would procure one for 20 years speaks to the depths of the country's power crisis, and questionable long-term planning in light of dropping renewables costs."

Deal with Shell

The agreement also allows for variable charges, including fuel. "Costs are kept low by Karpowership's reach into the LNG market and an exclusive, long-term deal with Shell," the company said in reply to questions.

The company started pitching power from vessels to be moored off South Africa's coast at least six years ago. More recently it has been looking to expand on the continent, including in two West African countries that it declined to identify in a January interview.

South Africa's department of environment, forestry & fisheries last year revoked an environmental exemption granted to Karpowership because it failed to disclose fully its reasons for the application. Prices have varied among Karpowership contracts and may not always include fuel supply.

Lebanon paid \$0.05/kWh on a three-year contract, according to data compiled by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, while South Africa's evaluation price posted for Karpowership's Saldanha project is about \$0.11/kWh for 20 years.

CONCERN

Total evacuates workers from Mozambique project after attack

MAPUTO

FRENCH oil giant Total SE is evacuating most of the remaining employees from its liquefied natural gas project in northern Mozambique as insurgents attacked a town nearby, throwing Africa's biggest private investment into disarray.

The fresh violence that follows attacks at the turn of the year suggests Mozambique's armed forces are struggling to regain control of the region surrounding the \$20 billion project. Total, which bought a 26.5% stake in the LNG development for \$3.9 billion in 2019, has said it wants security to be restored in the area before resuming onshore work with the aim of starting gas shipments in 2024.

Total has decided to reduce the workforce on the Afungi site to a minimum, the company based near Paris said in a statement Saturday. The resumption of work that was contemplated at the start of the week will also be suspended, it said. The energy giant said it "trusts" the government, whose security forces are "currently working" to take back the control of the area. There were no casualties among employees at the project, Total said.

The pullout comes as militants attacked a security convoy attempting to rescue more than 180 people who'd been under siege in a hotel near the project site, according to three people familiar with the matter.

More than a dozen vehicles were ambushed



An aerial view of Total SE's Afungi LNG site in Mozambique.

late Friday during an operation to evacuate people from the Amarula Palma Hotel, and only seven vehicles managed to escape, two of the people said. While about 100 fled to the beach, many are feared dead, according to one person. The militants, who've previously aligned with the Islamic State, were still active in the town of Palma on Saturday morning, they said. The latest attack began on March 24, the same day To-

tal announced it would resume onshore works at its project, after fighting in late December prompted the company to evacuate staff.

The ongoing raid in Palma, less than 8 kilometres (5 miles) from Total's camp and where a number of subcontractor companies are based, could be a watershed moment in the insurgency that threatens to dampen further foreign investment in the region. The rebellion that started in

2017 has left more than 2,600 people dead and caused about 700,000 more to flee their homes.

Human Rights Watch said there were bodies on the streets in Palma, with residents fleeing after the assailants fired indiscriminately. Omar Saranga, the Ministry of Defense spokesman, declined to comment by phone, saying the government would issue a statement.

FORECAST

Bailouts to limit airline consolidations over next five years, IATA chief says

GENEVA

GREATER government intervention in airlines amid the pandemic will limit consolidation within the industry in the next three to five years. Foreign ownership rules and a liquidity crunch will also slow down consolidation in the industry, Alexandre de Juniac, outgoing director general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), has said.

"I do not believe consolidation will be very active in the coming three to five years because you still have foreign ownership limitations everywhere and because the intervention of states has increased, potentially through shareholding," he said.

"I do not see them giving up their shares in a company in which they have invested taxpayer money to sell to a neighbouring country or partner." Consolidation will also be an expensive proposition for cash-strapped airlines, said Mr de Juniac. "I do not think airlines have the money to commit to any consolidation in the next three to five years ... they don't have a penny to do that."

Governments have poured in aid worth \$225 billion to prop up airlines ravaged by the Covid-19 crisis that has shut borders, hit revenue and grounded aircraft. Iata has called on governments to support a restart in international travel through stimulus measures such as subsidies for air tickets, routes and domestic journeys.

The aviation industry will have fewer players operating smaller networks in the next three to five years, with the possibility of further bankruptcies given that many small and medium-sized airlines remain fragile, Mr de Juniac said.

A shrinking industry "is not good news" for the market and it is "not good news for passengers", he said. "It means less destinations, less connectivity and - perhaps, in some cases - higher fares and reduced competition."

The structure of the industry will remain unchanged, centred around budget and full-service airlines that will overcome Covid-induced challenges - mainly due to government support. "Long-haul, low-cost is still a question mark," he said. "It is in a very, very difficult



IATA director general Alexandre de Juniac

situation. I do not know if and when it will restart."

Mr de Juniac said the industry had probably reached the bottom of the crisis. "I hope there will be no fourth or fifth wave with a different mutation of the virus that will resist the vaccine," he said. Mr de Juniac expects a recovery that is linked to vaccination drives and efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

"The recovery will accelerate during the second half of 2021 and in 2022," he said. The resumption of

travel could be "very fast and very strong", so governments and the industry must be prepared, he said.

The pandemic has had three main lessons, with the first being that airlines need to strengthen their balance sheets as the industry is "too fragile".

They also need to be better prepared with processes and equipment and, thirdly, to continue to advocate international collaboration between countries, as well as

between governments and the aviation industry, said Mr de Juniac.

"We cannot deal with a world problem like this as we have done - completely fragmented, no collaboration," he said. "Frankly, it is unacceptable." The executive called on governments to form a strategy to reopen economies and borders while they vaccinate and conduct tests to curb the spread of the pandemic.

"This gives people more reason to follow tough measures that are necessary in the short-term, with a

view of an end in sight," he said. The major challenge for the industry is to ensure that travel is safe through the adoption of reliable and simple processes that are homogenous and based on user-friendly technology.

The organisation has touted the Iata Travel Pass, a digital health passport, as a potential solution. To build back greener, the 290-member body is considering "more ambitious" climate change targets and is working on a plan, Mr de Juniac said.

"We think that we should do more. We will probably, in the coming months, set up more ambitious targets. The industry is ready for that. We are convinced we have to do it," he said. "Even in this crisis we are still thinking long term to comply with our responsibility for the planet," he said.

The industry contributes 2 per cent of global carbon emissions and pledged to reduce net emissions to half of 2005 levels by 2050. Mr de Juniac said biofuel would be a key contributor to carbon reduction in the next 20 years because "it is safe and it works."

There is need for a commitment from the industry to use sustainable aviation fuel, in addition to significant government investment to scale up its production and distribution networks. "It is really surprising to see that governments have invested billions and billions on renewable energy everywhere and they are not putting a penny into sustainable aviation fuels," he said.

Meanwhile, Iata continues to maintain and push for its gender balance programme called 25 by 2025. The Iata boss will hand over the reins to IAG veteran Willie Walsh in April, after more than four years at the helm. The start of Mr de Juniac's tenure at the lobby group was marked by a decade of airline profitability.

However, he faced mounting challenges that rocked the industry - from two Boeing 737 Max crashes to Britain's complicated exit from the EU, the long-term crisis of climate change and Covid-19. Mr de Juniac, whose motto was aviation is "the business of freedom", said this has never been more true than now.

"This crisis has shown that perfectly, more than I could have ever known, unfortunately," he said.

CRISIS

Smartphone maker Xiaomi 'to make electric cars'

BEIJING

CHINA'S Xiaomi plans to make electric vehicles (EVs) using Great Wall Motor's factory, said three people with direct knowledge of the matter, making it the latest tech firm to join the smart mobility race.

The tech firm's stock price was up more than 9% in afternoon Friday trade after Reuters reported the plan. Great Wall's Hong Kong stock rose more than 15% and its Shanghai shares gained by their maximum 10% daily limit.

Xiaomi, one of the world's biggest smartphone makers, is in talks to use one of Great Wall's plants in China to make EVs under its own brand, said two of the people, who declined to be identified as the information is not public. Xiaomi will aim its EVs at the mass market, in line with the broader positioning of its electronics products, the two people said.

Great Wall, which has not before offered manufacturing services to other companies, will provide engineering consultancy to speed up the project, said one of the people. Both companies plan to announce the partnership as soon as early next week, said another person. Xiaomi and Great Wall declined to comment.

Diversifying

The plan comes as Xiaomi seeks to diversify its revenue streams from the smartphone business which accounts for the bulk of its income but carries razor-thin profit margins. It flagged on Wednesday rising costs from a global chip shortage and reported quarterly revenue below market estimates. The move also comes against the backdrop of automakers and tech firms working closer together to develop smarter vehicles with technology such as smart cabins and autonomous driving.

Chinese search engine provider Baidu said in January it plans to make EVs using an auto plant owned by Geely - a car maker with aspirations to offer engineering consultancy and contract manufacturing.

From smartphones to EVs

Apple and Huawei Technologies also have ambitions to build electric cars. Xiaomi's founder and chief execu-



Xiaomi smartphones

tive, Lei Jun, believes the firm's expertise in hardware manufacturing will help accelerate the design and production of its EVs, one of the people said.

"Xiaomi wants to find a mature automobile manufacturer to provide model infrastructure, enabling its own advantages in mobile Internet technology," said Alan Kang, senior analyst at LMC Automotive. "Xiaomi's advantages in operating systems and home furnishing also bring a lot of imagination for such cooperation in the future." Alongside smartphones, Xiaomi makes dozens of Internet-connected devices including scooters, air purifiers and rice cookers. The firm plans to launch its first EV around 2023, one of the people said. It will enable its cars to connect with other devices in its product ecosystem, the people said.

Baoqing-based Great Wall, China's biggest bakkie maker, this year launched a standalone brand for electric and smart vehicles. It is also building an EV factory in China with Germany's BMW. The automaker sold 1.11 million vehicles last year helped by the popularity of models such as the P-series bakkie and Ora EVs. It is currently building its first factory in Thailand.



ISIDÍNGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM I T V

ITV PGM SCHEDULE						
5:30	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli	6:00	HABARI	21:00	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli	
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7:00	Habari	7:30	Ratiba ya Kuaga Mwili wa Dk. John Magufuli	20:00	Habari	
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20:00	Habari	TUESDAY 23 March			5:30	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli
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05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	6:00	HABARI	
21:30	Capital Prime News	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	6:40	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli	
Sun 21 March					7:00	Habari
05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	7:30	Ratiba ya Mazishi ya Dk. John Magufuli - Chato	
21:30	Capital Prime News	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	20:00	Habari	
Mon 22 March					21:00	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli
05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	FRIDAY 26 March		
21:30	Capital Prime News	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	5:30	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli	
Sat 27 March					6:00	HABARI
05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	6:40	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli	
Sun 28 March					7:00	Habari
05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	7:30	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli	
Mon 22 March					20:00	Habari
05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	21:00	Msiba wa Dk. John Magufuli	
21:30	Capital Prime News	05:00	Condolence for Dk Magufuli	SATURDAY 27 March		

Xiaomi wants to find a mature automobile manufacturer to provide model infrastructure, enabling its own advantages in mobile Internet technology.



WORLD

Holy Sepulchre church opens on Palm Sunday as Latin Patriarch says 'We feel more hopeful'

JERUSALEM

IN scenes very different from last year, Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre was open to the public on Palm Sunday, allowing Christians to attend mass at the start of Holy Week on the site where they believe Jesus was crucified and resurrected.

With more than half the population

of Israel having received two vaccine doses, coronavirus restrictions were eased to allow small congregations to gather with social distancing measures in place.

The mood was celebratory as scores of Roman Catholics passed through the huge wooden doors of the church that is the global focus of the most important festival in the Christian calendar.



"Last year was a terrible Easter, without people, closed doors. This year is much better, the door is open, we don't have a lot of people but we feel more hopeful that things will become better," the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, told Reuters as he emerged from the church flanked by clerics and worshippers carrying palm fronds.

"The message of Easter is life and love, despite all the signs of death, corona, pandemic, whatever, we believe in the power of love and life," Pizzaballa said.

Palm Sunday commemorates the

day the gospels say Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was hailed by the people, only to be crucified five days later.

This year, Roman Catholics celebrate Easter on April 4 and Orthodox Christians nearly a month later, on May 2.

Later the patriarch was expected to take part in a Palm Sunday procession from the Mount of Olives to the Old City.

The procession will take place under Israeli COVID-19 restrictions with a limited number of participants.

Agencies

Russia likely to achieve herd immunity against COVID-19 by late summer, says Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin expects that herd immunity against COVID-19 in Russia will be developed by the end of summer.

In an interview with Moscow, Kremlin. Putin (pictured) programme on Rossiya-1 TV channel, answering a question when the pandemic restrictions in Russia could be lifted and the country would return to a normal life, the president assured that "this will happen."

He recommended to "listen to specialists" who say that restrictions could be lifted "after herd immunity is developed."

"In order to make this happen, some 70% of adult population should get the jab. If [mass vaccination] goes at the same pace as now, I believe that in summer, by the end of summer we will achieve, we should achieve this figure," the president stressed.

Three vaccines against COVID-19 have been registered in Russia. The first vaccine registered in the country and in the world is Sputnik V, developed by the Gamaleya Center of Russia's Health Ministry. It was certified on August 11, 2020.

EpiVacCorona by the Vector State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology of the consumer rights watchdog was registered in October 2020. The third vaccine CoviVac by the Russian Academy of Sciences' Chumakov Center was authorized by the Health Ministry in February.

Russia launched mass vaccination against COVID-19 in January 2021. According to the latest data, more than 6 mln Russians have received one vaccine dose and more than 4 mln of them have taken two doses.



Wang Yi lauds China-UAE cooperation, friendship

ABU DHABI

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Saturday lauded the ties between China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) featuring mutual trust, pioneering cooperation and solid friendship.

He made the remarks at an interview in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi with the official news agency WAM during his visit to the Gulf country, highlighting the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the UAE.

Wang (pictured) said that the goal of his visit to the UAE is to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries.

He added that his visit is aimed to send out the following messages to the UAE: China supports the UAE's independence in choosing own development path and opposes foreign interference in the UAE internal affairs; China will strengthen the synergy between its construction of a new development paradigm with the UAE 50-year national development strategy to

elevate the mutually beneficial cooperation to a higher level; China will deepen mutual communication and coordination with the UAE on safeguarding Gulf peace and stability.

The two sides have demonstrated the true essence of the comprehensive strategic partnership featuring mutual firm support over core issues and at difficult times, Wang said.

The minister considers the China-UAE cooperation as "pioneering", which has been benefiting the two sides through innovation.

The two sides always seize the opportunity to explore cooperation in almost every area, such as fighting the COVID-19, vaccines, energy, trade, investment, infrastructure, and high technologies including 5G, big data, and artificial intelligence (AI), he said.

Wang expressed the hope that the China-UAE cooperation will be furthered through pushing forward the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with high-quality landmark projects such as the China-UAE Industrial Capacity Cooperation Demonstration



Zone and the Hassyan clean coal power plant, consolidating cooperation in the fields of fossil fuel, new and renewable energies, and nuclear energy, exploring potentials of both markets, and optimizing the bilateral trade.

The two countries will also realize new growths through more cooperation in high tech areas including 5G, big data, AI, aerospace, and higher level of financial cooperation such as local currency settlement and an international BRI bourse, he said.

"Frequent exchanges serve as an important bond to convey

plies, experience exchanges, and joint research and development of vaccines, which have benefited the two peoples and contributed to the global fight against the COVID-19, Wang noted.

China is keen to, together with the UAE, accelerate the joint production of COVID-19 vaccines, explore cooperation with third parties, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, and establish a mechanism for health code sharing to facilitate visits between the countries, he said.

Referring to the Middle East situation, Wang blamed the current instability and conflicts in the region on the policies by "some big powers", which have also harmed the global security.

"It's been 10 years since the so-called Arab Spring, the aftermath of which still lingers in this region and impacts its stability," he said, adding that he saw hope as Middle East countries have been trying hard to explore independent paths of development and seek peace and stability in the region.

Xinhua

Sudan and rebel group sign agreement on separation of religion and state

JUBA

THE Sudanese government and a major rebel group from its southern Nuba Mountains yesterday signed a document which paves the way for a final peace agreement by guaranteeing freedom of worship to all while separating religion and the state.

The signing is viewed as a crucial step in efforts by the power-sharing government headed by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan to reach accords with rebel groups across the country and end decades of conflicts that left millions displaced and hundreds of thousands dead.

Last year Sudan signed a peace agreement with many groups, including from the Western region of Darfur.

But a key faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu, did not join in last year's agreement because it stuck to its demand that Sudan dispenses with sharia law and becomes a secular, democratic state.

Sharia law was first imposed in Sudan in 1983, and maintained by the now deposed president Omar al-Bashir for the duration of his 30-year-long Islamist rule.

The so-called "Declaration of Principles" signed on Sunday in South Sudan's capital Juba between Sudan and the rebel faction means talks on a final accord can now begin.

The declaration stated that both sides agreed to "the establishment of a civil, democratic federal state in Sudan, wherein, the freedom of religion, the freedom of belief and religious practices and worship shall be guaranteed to all Sudanese people by separating the identities of culture, religion, ethnicity and religion from the state."

"No religion shall be imposed on anyone and the state shall not adopt official religion," it said, without specifying that Sudan would become a secular state, a controversial issue in the country's transition.

Aman Amum, the Secretary-General of SPLM-N told Reuters yesterday that reaching a consensus on the role of religion in Sudan's politics was a breakthrough that would now accelerate talks towards a final peace settlement.

Sudan had now "accepted the separation of religion from the state," Amum said.

It had been unclear whether Sudan's military, which shares power with a civilian executive branch, would support any such moves after years of backing Islamists.

Civilian prime minister Abdalla Hamdok signed a similar declaration with al-Hilu last year.

Sudan has been wracked by conflicts for decades. After the oil-rich south seceded in 2011, an economic crisis fuelled protests that led to the overthrow of Bashir in 2019.

SPLM-N has been operating in a region inhabited by minority Christians and followers of African beliefs who complain of long discrimination under Bashir's rule.

South Africa plans to vaccinate 200,000 people daily

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa is targeting vaccinating about 200,000 people a day from mid-May as the government seeks to scale-up inoculations to tackle the pandemic, according to Health Minister Zweli Mkhize.

The government has set up 2,000 centers where the doses would be administered, Mkhize told the Sunday Times newspaper.

Just over 230,000 people have been inoculated in South Africa so far.

Shortages of doses threaten to upend South Africa's plans to vaccinate two-thirds of a population of about 60 million

people this year, though the country is set to take delivery of 2.8 million Johnson & Johnson vaccines at the end of April.

Uneven vaccine distribution

If you're living in Israel, the United States or the United Kingdom, where vaccination programs are rolling out with remarkable speed, glimpses of a post-pandemic future are starting to appear: Schools have mostly reopened, family gatherings are being planned and summer vacations may be just over the horizon.

But move away from this handful of rich countries, and a darker reality emerges: The virus is still rampaging around



most of the planet, and uneven vaccine distribution poses a major public risk as variants emerge.

Since mid-March, COVID-19

deaths have started trending upward again worldwide even as the numbers improved in the US and UK, according to Johns Hopkins University (JHU) data.

So far, over 126.61 million confirmed cases and more than 2.77 million deaths have been reported across the world, according to JHU data.

Worldwide, half a billion vaccine doses have been administered, according to Bloomberg's vaccine tracker. While shots have been given in some 140 countries, the vast majority have gone to developed nations that secured early doses by the hundreds of millions. That disparity risks prolonging the pan-

demic, even for places currently leading the vaccination race.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has been particularly condemning rich countries, saying they are directly responsible for the deaths of high-risk people in low- and middle-income countries, USA Today reported on Thursday.

"Countries that are now vaccinating younger, healthy people at low risk of disease are doing so at the cost of the lives of health workers, older people and other at-risk groups in other countries," the report quoted WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as saying at a news conference on Monday. **Agencies**

China's foreign trade continues gaining momentum in spring of 2021

CHINA'S total value of foreign trade in goods in the first two months of 2021 reached 5.44 trillion yuan (\$836.1 billion), up 32.2 percent year on year. In particular, the country's exports registered a remarkable 50.1-percent growth rate from the same period last year. China's foreign trade has maintained momentum since resuming positive growth last June.

As China makes constant efforts to push forward with higher-level opening up, the country is obtaining greater competitive edges in global markets with the help of such growth drivers as technology research and development, talent cultivation, China-Europe freight trains, as well as cross-border e-commerce.

Cybird Technologies Inc., a Chinese company mainly engaged in the development, production, and sales of functional polymer materials, had over 80 percent of its production lines operating during this year's Spring Festival holiday in February.

"There are so many orders, and everyone is energetic at work," said Wu Xiaoping, president of the company.

As a leading enterprise in the global photovoltaic (PV) panel market, Cybird Technologies Inc. witnessed shrinking overseas market and declining exports at the beginning of last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the face of new difficulties, the company adopted a package of countermeasures timely and maintained

its market share amid the pandemic. It has intensified efforts to get new customers in regions including Southeast Asia and Japan, and consolidated cooperative relations with old overseas clients through efforts to send anti-epidemic supplies to its foreign clients and provide them with technical services via video link.

What's more important for the company is to hone its abilities, Wu said, stressing that technological innovation is where its core competitiveness lies and professional personnel hold the key to the company's development.

Cybird Technologies Inc. raised its number of research and development personnel from 70 to more than

100 last year, and intends to bring the number to 150 this year.

Not long ago, the company established a school, which offers courses regularly to cultivate a number of versatile employees who can shoulder the main responsibility in the company. Innovation is the driving force for high-quality development of trade and the key to improving the value-added level of commodity value chain, said Wang Xiaohong, deputy director of the Information Department of China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

Since the cost of production factors rises continuously, traditional comparative advantages are declining, and export commodities have relatively low

additional value, companies should speed up efforts to shift the driver of foreign trade from production factors to innovation, Wang noted.

While the COVID-19 pandemic took a heavy toll on global logistics industry last year, China-Europe freight trains, which feature high efficiency, wide coverage, all-weather stable operation, and low cost, served as an important bridge and fast channel connecting the continents of Europe and Asia.

China-Europe freight trains made a record 12,406 trips and carried a total of nearly 1.14 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) of cargo in 2020, marking year-on-year growth rates of 50 percent and 56 percent respectively.

"This year we will send 3,800 containers of goods to Robert Bosch GmbH, and ship equipment to companies like Mercedes-Benz and Honda. Our annual value of foreign trade is expected to exceed 4 billion yuan this year, more than twice that achieved in 2020," said Chen Jiangnan, an executive of an international freight forwarder in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province.

As Chen made the above remarks, a China-Europe freight train carrying 50 containers of auto parts and electric tools for Germany's Robert Bosch GmbH, one of the largest auto parts suppliers in the world, departed from Chengdu International Railway Port for Germany. **People's Daily**

Fox News faces lawsuits for alleging 2020 election fabrications

DENVER

AMERICA's media network Fox News is facing a lawsuit brought by Dominion Voting Systems for allegedly spreading and reinforcing lies about the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Dominion Voting Systems, one of the largest election equipment manufacturers in the United States, has filed a defamation lawsuit against Fox News in the U.S. state of Delaware, saying the network spread false claims that the voting machine company was involved in voter fraud in last November's presidential election. Dominion was seeking at least 1.6 billion U.S. dollars in lost profits and enterprise value, plus more than 1 million dollars in security expenses and expenses combatting disinformation.

According to Dominion, the incessant conspiracy theories floated by Fox have damaged its credibility and reputation, costing it millions in revenue. "Fox sold a false story of election fraud in order to serve its own commercial purposes, severely injuring Dominion in the process," the filing read.

"What they are saying," NBC legal analyst Pete Williams explained to Yahoo News, "is that if a network continues to broadcast falsehoods even after it has been told about them, then it's actionable."

In a defiant response, Fox News issued a statement on Friday, saying that it "is proud of our 2020 election coverage, which stands in the highest tradition of American journalism, and will vigorously defend against this baseless lawsuit in court."

However, the legal pundit said as the legal system in Delaware is showcasing some of the top defamation lawyers and courts in America, Fox News may be in serious trouble.

Williams said that when Fox News' ratings started slipping, after it fell behind on election night with errant reporting, it tried to "lure voters back in by embracing this claim that Dominion had a system that allowed votes to be flipped in favor of Biden," he said.

Dominion was not the only election technology company to say it was targeted by Fox News. Smartmatic, an electronic voting systems maker, filed a 2.7-billion-dollar lawsuit against the network last month, saying that the media group had accused it of helping rig the U.S. presidential election in favor of Joe Biden. Fox News filed motions seeking to dismiss the Smartmatic lawsuit, claiming it was "meritless" and defended its reporting of the U.S. presidential election.

Fox News was created by billionaire Rupert Murdoch in 1996.

Xinhua

Sinister intentions behind Xinjiang cotton boycott

BEIJING

RECENT claims made by enterprises like H&M and Nike of refusing to use Xinjiang cotton have triggered widespread denunciation and resistance from the Chinese public.

Behind the so-called Xinjiang cotton boycott are the sinister intentions of anti-China forces in some Western countries including the United States to smear China and suppress Chinese industry.

The Chinese government and people firmly oppose it. Cotton production in Xinjiang has long been highly mechanized and does not require a large number of cotton pickers.

The accusation of "forced labor" in Xinjiang's cotton industry is an utter lie. The ultimate intention of using such phrases as "forced labor," "concentration camps" and "genocide" is to undermine Xinjiang's security and stability and stifle China's development.

Lawrence Wilkerson, chief of staff to former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, has once said that if the Central Intelligence Agency wanted to destabilize China, the best way to do so was to cause social unrest and push China from the inside.

Focusing on Xinjiang cotton has economic motives as well. Bizarre claims of "forced labor" and "human rights abuses" are mere allegations used to suppress China's textile industry.

China is the world's second largest cotton producer, and Xinjiang is the most important cotton producing region, accounting for nearly 90 percent of the country's cotton output. Steady increases in China's cotton production and the growing textile industry are making some in the United States and the West nervous.

As the world's largest cotton exporter, the United States hyped up the Xinjiang issue as early as last February during the Trump administration and has issued a ban on cotton products from Xinjiang.

Under the pretext of protecting human rights, the United States is attempting to bolster production at home. "Countless lies are being spread by people who have never been to Xinjiang," said French journalist Maxime Vivas, who recently published a book about his two trips to the autonomous region in northwest China.

The U.S. government's "genocide" accusation against China was based on data abuse and false claims of a right-wing religious extremist, according to a report published last month by the independent news website Grayzone.

During the just-ended 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Cuba delivered a joint statement on behalf of 64 countries urging relevant countries to stop interfering in China's internal affairs by manipulating Xinjiang related issues, refrain from making unfounded allegations against China out of political motivations and curbing the development of developing countries under the pretext of human rights.

China is focused on fighting terrorism and separatism in Xinjiang. It is preserving human rights in the region, not abusing them.

Western countries must quit fabricating narratives about Xinjiang and abandon attempts to undermine China's stability and development. Foreign enterprises operating in China should respect market rules and avoid politicizing commercial issues. China welcomes foreign companies and personnel to operate and grow in the country. But it resolutely opposes malicious attacks based on rumors and lies that harm China's interests.

Xinhua

Troops fire at funeral as Myanmar mourns bloodiest day since coup

MYANMAR security forces opened fire yesterday, witnesses said, at people gathered for the funeral of one of the 114 people killed the previous day, the bloodiest day of protests since the military coup on Feb. 1.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the firing on the funeral in the town of Bago, near the commercial capital Yangon, according to three people who spoke to Reuters.

"While we are singing the revolution song for him, security forces just arrived and shot at us," said a woman called Aye, who was at the service for Thae Maung Maung, a 20-year-old student who was shot on Saturday. "People, including us, run away as they opened fire."

Three people were killed in firing on Sunday in separate incidents elsewhere, witnesses and news reports said. One person was killed when troops opened fire overnight on a group of protesters near the capital Naypyitaw, Myanmar Now news reported.

So far on Sunday there were no reports of large-scale protests in Yangon or in the country's second city, Mandalay, which bore the brunt of the casualties on Saturday, Myanmar's Armed Forces Day. Funerals were held in many places.

At least six children between the ages of 10 and 16 were among those killed on Saturday, according to news reports and witnesses. Protesters call the victims "Fallen Stars".

The bloodshed drew renewed Western condemnation. The U.N. Special Rapporteur for Myanmar said the army was carrying out "mass murder" and called on the world to isolate the junta and halt its access to weapons.

Foreign criticism and sanctions imposed by some Western nations have failed so far to sway the military leaders, as have almost daily protests around the country since the junta took power and detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"We salute our heroes who sacrificed lives during this revolution and We Must Win This REVOLUTION," one of the main protest groups, the General Strike Committee of Nationalities (GSCN), posted on Facebook.

Heavy fighting has also erupted between the army and the ethnic armed groups that control swathes of the country.

Military jets killed at least two members of the Karen National Union (KNU) militia in a bombing raid near Thailand and many civilians fled across the border, said David Eubank, founder of the Free Burma Rangers, a relief organisation.

In an air attack by the military on Saturday, at least three civilians were killed in a village controlled by the KNU, a civil society group said. The militia earlier said it



A man stands behind a barricade during a protest against the military coup, in Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday. REUTERS

had overrun an army post near the border, killing 10 people.

Fighting erupted on Sunday between another armed group, the Kachin Independence Army, and the military in the jade-mining area of Hpakant in the north. The Kachin forces attacked a police station and the military responded with an aerial assault, Kachinwaves media reported.

There were no reports of casualties.

A junta spokesman did not answer calls seeking comment on the killings or the fighting.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the junta leader, said during a parade to mark Armed Forces Day that the military would protect the people and strive for democracy.

'RINGING HOLLOW'

Saturday's dead included 40 people in Mandalay and at least 27 in Yangon, Myanmar Now said. The casualties took the overall number of civilians reported killed since the coup to more than 440.

Countries including the United States, Britain, Germany and the European Union strongly condemned the violence.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said on Twitter: "We will not tolerate the military's brutal course of action against the people of Myanmar".

U.N. Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews said the junta

should be cut off from funding, such as oil and gas revenues, and from access to weapons.

"Words of condemnation or concern are frankly ringing hollow to the people of Myanmar while the military junta commits mass murder against them," he said in a statement.

U.N. Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Alice Wairimu Nderitu and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet called the killings "shameful, cowardly, brutal actions of the military and police, who have been filmed shooting at protesters as they flee, and who have not even spared young children".

The top military officer from the United States and nearly a dozen of his counterparts said in a statement that a professional military must follow international standards for conduct "and is responsible for protecting - not harming - the people it serves".

The Myanmar military took power saying that November elections won by Suu Kyi's party were fraudulent, an assertion dismissed by the country's election commission. Suu Kyi remains in detention at an undisclosed location and many other figures in her party are also in custody.

Agencies

Over 500 relics found in prehistoric Sanxingdui Ruins in South West China



Ivory carving relics unearthed from No. 5 sacrificial pit of the Sanxingdui Ruin, Guanghan, southwest China's Sichuan Province. File photo

OVER 500 artifacts were unearthed in the six ancient sacrificial pits newly discovered in Sanxingdui Ruins in southwest China's Sichuan Province between November 2019 and May 2020, including pieces of gold masks, bird-shaped gold pieces, and pieces of miniature ivory sculptures, said archaeologists during a meeting held in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan on March 20.

The historic site, located in Sichuan's Guanghan, is believed to be the remnants of the ancient Shu Kingdom dating back some 3,000 years to 5,000 years ago. It is hailed as one of the greatest archaeological findings in the 20th century. Discussions on it have never faded since the first two sacrificial pits were discovered in 1986.

Archaeologists practiced maximum protection over the Sanxingdui Ruins soon after the salvage excavation of the No.1 and No. 2 pits. The six newly discovered pits are similar with the No. 1 and No. 2 pits in terms of shape, structure, orientation and relics unearthed.

The six new pits and the two discovered in 1986 are all in the eastern part of the ancient Sanxingdui city, surrounded by small circular pits, rectangular grooves and large grooves related to sacrificial activities, introduced Lei Yu, a researcher with Sichuan Provincial Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute who heads the excavation work at the Sanxingdui Ruins site. This means that the conclusions formed upon the relics unearthed in the 1986 pits and relevant archaeological activities have to go through new challenges and tests, he added.

This time, bronze heads with colored eyes, gigantic bronze masks, bronze statues, and bronze sacred trees were unearthed in the No. 3 pit of the Sanxingdui Ruins site. Besides, hundreds of ivories were also discovered, a part of which were burned and buried with jade and bronze ware items.

The discoveries this time are of milestone significance compared with those in 1986, as

archaeologists made a new attempt to move advanced laboratories to the field, Lei said.

An emergency shelter was set up in the enclosures at the site with constant humidity and temperature to protect organic relics. The shelter was equipped with low-temperature and low-humidity cabinets, as well as low-temperature sample boxes, in which bones, horns, ivories, textiles, lacquerware and woodware can be protected.

Archaeologists also established another emergency shelter for inorganic relics, where gold pieces, bronze ware, jade and potteries could be protected by ion chromatography and extraction devices. Besides, excavation data and videos were also recorded and transmitted. These techniques guaranteed synergetic excavation and protection, multi-discipline integration and multi-party collaboration.

Sun Hua, professor with Peking University noted that the excavation this time wasn't just about unearthing relics, but also discovering, with technological means and theoretical models, how these relics were buried, so as to help archaeologists gain a better understanding of the layout of the sacrificial zone of the Sanxingdui Ruins.

The academic world has never ceased its studies on Sanxingdui civilization over the past three decades, raising a series of questions and conducting plenty of discussions, said Song Xinchao, deputy director of the National Cultural Heritage Administration.

"Today, we have a clearer picture of the history of the Chengdu Plain, and are well prepared both academically and technically, so we are able to carry out multi-discipline cooperation," he said. He also extended a warm welcome to foreign archaeologists to jointly study the Sanxingdui civilization that brings both challenges and surprises.

People's Daily



Today, we have a clearer picture of the history of the Chengdu Plain, and are well prepared both academically and technically, so we are able to carry out multi-discipline cooperation

Sputnik V production in EU to take one year after certification, says EU

PARIS,

IT will take about a year to organize production of the Russian Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine in Europe after its certification by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), so it is unlikely to influence the coronavirus situation in European nations, EU's Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton said on Sunday.

"I really respect Russian scientists and I have no grounds to have any doubts in their vaccine," he stressed. "But my task as a European commissioner is to ensure enough vaccine doses. We cannot meddle with the production processes at our companies that are focused on manufacturing the existing vaccines in the coming months."

He noted that it may take a lot of time to organize production of the Russian vaccine in the European Union.

"If the vaccine is certified within weeks or months and a way of its production in Europe is found, it will take at least 10-14 months before its first batch is manufactured," Breton said. "Why not. But it will not be a response to our today's problems."

Russia was the world's first to register an anti-coronavirus vaccine on August 11, 2020. The vaccine, developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry, was given the name Sputnik V. It is a vector vaccine based on the human adenovirus.

In early February 2020, The Lancet, a world-acclaimed medical journal, published the results of the third phase of Sputnik V clinical tests.

The vaccine has proved to be among the world's safest and most efficient. Thus, its efficacy is estimated at 91.6% and 91.8% among volunteers older than 60. Ninety-eight percent of volunteers developed antibodies to the coronavirus.

The vaccine has been registered in 57 world nations, including EU countries Hungary and Slovakia, with an overall population of more than 1.5 billion.

The European Medicines Agency said on March 4 it had begun the Sputnik V evaluation procedures to look at its compliance with the EU efficacy, safety and quality standards. The Agency anticipates that the registration of the Russian vaccine could be over by late May.

As of today, four coronavirus vaccines have been certified for use in the European Union. They are vaccines of BioNTech-Pfizer, US' Moderna, British-Swedish Astra-Zeneca, and Janssen, a US Johnson & Johnson branch.

Agencies

SPORT



Morogoro's Jordan University College (JUCO) Principal, Bertram Mapunda (R), shows Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) vice-president, Athumani Nyamlani (2nd R), the institution's sports ground, which hosts a tournament involving the college's students and staff. Nyamlani was a guest of honour in the institution's Sports Day, played at the ground recently. Others are Morogoro Municipal's sports officials and JUCO's staff. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

TFF pledges to boost Morogoro college's soccer initiative

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has pledged to send professional coaches and soccer analysts to Morogoro's Jordan University College (JUCO) soccer competition, which is held annually.

The professionals are seeking to select the best players in the tournament for national sides.

The federation as well targets to assist some of the players access scholarships outside the country.

The federation's vice-president Athuman Nyamlani, made the pledge after he had closed the institution's tournament, which took place in the region recently.

The institution also organizes netball and basketball tournaments.

Nyamlani too handed over a variety of prizes the tournament best performers.

He presented the soccer event's winners, JUCO's staff, a cow, the event's second-placed side, comprising students pursuing degree in Business Administration (BBA), were also presented with a cow.

A side which ended third received a goat.

The TFF official pointed out the tournament substantiates JUCO's willingness to seriously implement extracurricular programs as well as seeing to it public officials do not depend on one source of income.

He noted: "The coming competition will see TFF arrange a program for professional coaches and soccer analysts to be among judges who will select best players that will be assisted in fulfilling their dream of playing professional football elsewhere."

"Several football players are currently attending trials abroad, with TFF having organized the initiative," he disclosed.

He congratulated the competitions'

best performers, Lameck Lameck (soccer), Maria Patrick (netball) and Selestine Rodgers (basketball) for their achievements.

He noted the trio's stellar showing steered their respective teams to success.

He called on the teams to keep on working hard.

"I congratulate you because you have performed well, you will enjoy success in future if you keep on giving your all," he told the trio.

He pointed out: "Your success will as well help you have more sources of income and, consequently, do away with financial constraints brought about by dependence on one source of income."

He said the federation will, apart from bringing in professional coaches and analysts, present equipment, which include goal posts and nets, to motivate players to train.

"The college's management is free to visit TFF's office at any time, sports facilities are there, you are lacking more than what my office pledged here today," he said.

The JUCO's Principal, Bertram Mapunda, said sportsmen never fail because as participation in sports boosts their fitness and seeing to it they make sound decisions.

"I'm a sportsman, I walk over five kilometers per day and that has been my spirit since I was young. I'm supporting sports activities in my college, I'm congratulating TFF for appreciating our efforts."

He disclosed: "I moreover express regards to the federation for pledging to offer support."

Otto Matandula, the JUCO's students union's president, pointed out the union's leadership has scheduled sustainable plans to empower student via inviting other universities' sides and street sports teams to feature in events.

"Apart from inviting colleagues from other universities, rewards were in terms of money and materials as winners got a cow, the situation encourages more students to participate in the tournament," he said.

Hassan Mwakinyo vows to defeat Zimbabwean boxer

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN pugilist, Hassan Mwakinyo, has said his long-term training gears towards seeing to it he perform well in the upcoming fight against Zimbabwean boxer Brendon Denes scheduled for April 9 in Dar es Salaam.

The 12-round African Boxing Union (ABU) Super Welterweight title fight is expected to take place in Dar es Salaam.

Mwakinyo's record stands at 18 wins and two losses, whilst Denes is yet to lose any bout out of eight he has taken part in.

Previously Kelvin Twissa, a Tanzanian boxing promoter, explained that his firm has decided to organise the ABU bout for Mwakinyo while targeting the World Boxing Council (WBC) ranking and titles for the boxer.

"This is the second episode of a series of major fights, dubbed 'Rumble In Dar', and we expect it to be intense and exciting as most of the boxers are top and they are seeking victory," Twissa stated.

The bout was originally scheduled for March 26, but it was postponed because of the death of President, John Pombe Magufuli, and the government announced 21-days of national mourning.

Speaking to The Guardian recently, Mwakinyo said he is doing intensive training because he does not want to underrate any opponent.

According to him, he is concentrating on seeing to it he is in good shape and come out victorious.

"Even if the opponent is young, you can't ignore his abilities. It's important to organize yourself by knowing what your fans want. I always want to win because I have goals," he said.

Mwakinyo, who started training for a long time coming into this fight, said he fears losing form after the announcement of the national mourning but he believes that he will be in good shape.

"I really did not want the fight to be postponed but we were not in the mood because of passing of President John Magufuli, if this fight was postponed it would even hurt more because I was practicing strongly and these exercises a painful, but I believe things will go well and I will give the fans what they want," he said.

Apart of the Mwakinyo versus Denes bout, the day will see another fierce fight, in which famous domestic Cruiserweight boxer, Jongo Jongo, will face Nigerian Olanrewaju Durodora for ABU Cruiserweight title.

Another prominent Tanzanian professional pugilist Ibrahim Mgendera 'Class' will also step up to accompany Mwakinyo, with the former set to take on a boxer who will be announced later.

The fight is mainly sponsored by KCB Bank and DStv. It is as well co-sponsored by Onomo Hotel and M-Bet

SPORTS

Club dominance in African football: Can Simba SC sustain its ascendance?



Kagera Sugar's head coach, Francis Baraza.

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SOMETHING unusual seems to be taking place in Tanzanian and African football at large, as pundits start thinking of what is likely to happen when Simba SC meets Egyptian giants, Al Ahly, in Cairo in about two weeks, on April 9.

Checking the data to make sense of overly optimistic predictions of an avalanche of local pundits supporting the Msimbazi Street outfit, it was a bit surprising to see that same stance repeated in rapid assessments online.

Simba appears to have a better match result record in tackling the Egyptian champions and veteran winners of the Africa Club Champions League, but is this misleading?

Trying to direct attention to some other factor explaining this situation becomes a problem, as there is an expression that 'numbers don't lie,' in which case the kind of impression that one gets from the numbers must be right, and that is what the pundits affirm.

Yet the wish to dispute that impression persists, as unlike Al Ahly, Simba has a poor record in upper levels of the Champions League, despite edging closer to the group stage in a regular manner as years come and go.

For once it looks like the most impressive team in East Africa, rivaled by top Congolese clubs or East and Central Africa top honours.

Still it seems South African clubs are at a different level when it comes to eastern, central and southern Africa lists.

There was a rather misleading statistic that was made plenty of milking from it, at the time that the local giants were preparing to tackle

Al Ahly lately, and their results in that match tended to boost the nearly mythical status of how powerful the local side has become.

The statistic was affirming that since November 2019 the only time that Al Ahly had lost a match was its encounter with Bayern Munich in inter-continental tournament semi-final a few weeks earlier, which of course is beside the point.

Not many clubs outside the UEFA top level can stave off a 2-0 outcome if faced with the German giants, definitely.

The trouble with soccer is that mathematics (numbers) appear to lie in soccer if they say the right thing elsewhere, as a team that defeats Al Ahly and then has problems obtaining a good result with Ruwu Shooting in the local premier league might not sound altogether convincing.

To wit, a Mwanza club, Mbao FC, survived relegation three years ago or thereabouts by defeating Yanga in one of its last matches, and it is likely (by rough memory) that the club had defeated Yanga in an earlier encounter and had reason to be confident about the match.

And Yanga appeared to have no ready answer at the time.

In the constraint of data and actual game analysis, it is plausible to say that the Yanga-Mbao FC results or even two results may in a way serve as an image of the Simba-Al Ahly results, that the Msimbazi Street side are now definitely among the 'premier league' sides in African football, and not just as perennial Tanzanian champions.

There is something else, that the team is increasingly more assured of reaching the group stage, unlike in the past where it was almost certain it would fail against good clubs, and often they aren't picked from the neighbourhood as with CECAFA Kagame Cup tournaments. They usually come far quite far.

Pursuing this example one can say that just like Yanga took time to learn the lessons needed from bad results in playing Mbao FC, in like manner Al Ahly are taking time learning lessons from their encounters with Simba SC.

One plausible reason is that Simba may have been improving - given its preoccupation with doing well in the Champions League while Al Ahly have no such worry - in which case the side from Tanzania that

Al Ahly encounters time and again is tactically different from the one they played with at an earlier stage, which can in a sense be said of Mbao FC and Yanga.

The former were taking time to digest lessons from various matches in preparing to tackle Yanga, while the latter were checking injuries.

Put differently, it can be said that local pundits are going too far in casting Simba SC not just as an equal of Al Ahly but perhaps the only club that the Egyptian side fears in the wider neighbourhood, apart from local competition in Egypt.

It is to raise Simba to the same rank as the likes of Raja Casablanca or TP Mazembe, the less consistent Enyimba, AC Horoya, Etoile du Sahel and a few others, while the picture one gets is that Simba are a rising side, and at times they are giant killers as with Al Ahly matches lately.

Not more can be said in that direction, as to confirm status as among giant continental clubs needs a track record, one of whose cardinal elements is ability not to reach groups and even quarters, but the final itself.

Morogoro athletics club out to curb financial constraints

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO Athletics Club has come up with new strategic plans for doing away with financial constraints that prevent most of the region's athletes from taking part in races.

The outfit's treasurer, Nabora Keith, unveiled the initiative in the region recently after he was elected as new treasurer.

Keith noted the leaders will organize various activities and invite athletics stakeholders from national parks, companies and others who are seeking to use athletics to market their products.

"I'm an economist, a bachelor degree holder, I also have a post graduate diploma in international relations with three-year experience of working in India," he noted.

"I worked there as an ambassador of athletics, I hope to share that experience with my compatriots in Tanzania because we, in India, were engaged in other activities that supported our programs, hence, most people loved athletics," he disclosed.

He said athletics gather various



Morogoro Athletics Club's treasurer, Nabora Keith, highlights strategic plans the club has set up to bring financial constraints to an end after the completion of the outfit's election, held in the region recently. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

people from both in and outside the country, so, the sport's stakeholders ought to host competitions with slogans for promoting tourist attractions, including parks, in an effort to boost number of participants and investors in the events.

"I have an exposure in organizing national and international competitions and I hope to overcome all challenges that our club experiences," he said.

Morogoro Municipal's Sports Officer, Asterial Mwangombe, congratulated the club for setting up the strategic plans.

The official revealed most of clubs fail to pay participation fee to municipal offices, hence, most were given a stop order to hold competitions.

"That is a good stage, I hope the Municipal Council will increase its revenues from clubs which will participate in the competitions," she said. The club's Chairman, Angelus Likwembe, called for elections in outfits in districts, pointing out the outfits must be registered, otherwise they will not be allowed to participate in any competition.

He noted: "The outfits should hold elections in districts within 90 days, they will not be allowed to run any activity related to athletics, if they will fail to do that."

He disclosed such a practice is followed by all clubs across the country. He moreover called on the region's athletes to train regularly in preparation for races including Iringa Marathon.

He disclosed they should train well, should they wish to perform well in the race.

Ronaldo rages after no-goal call denies Portugal win vs. Serbia

BELGRADE

PORTUGAL'S Cristiano Ronaldo stormed off the pitch seconds before the final whistle after he was denied a clear winner in a controversial climax to their World Cup qualifier against Serbia, who fought back from two goals down to snatch a 2-2 draw on Saturday.

Ronaldo was left fuming in stoppage time when his effort was cleared by Serbia defender Stefan Mitrovic after it had crossed the line, with Dutch referee Danny Makkelie waving play on and with no VAR in place to review the decision.

Ronaldo threw his captain's armband on the floor before leaving the pitch and heading for the tunnel seconds before the full-time whistle in a thrilling Group A qualifier.

A Diogo Jota double had given Portugal a 2-0 lead in the first half but Serbia striker Aleksandar Mitrovic became his country's all-time top scorer on 39 goals from 63 international appearances after he pulled one back in the 46th minute.

The Serbians, who ended the match with 10 men, earned a share of the spoils when Filip Kostic levelled and Portugal's misery was completed in stoppage time with Ronaldo also booked for dissent when his effort was denied.

"There are moments which are tough to digest especially when we feel the entire nation is being punished," Ronaldo said on Instagram. "We will keep our heads up and move on to the next challenge."

Seconds earlier, Serbia defender Nikola Milenkovic was sent off having received a straight red card for a rash challenge on Portugal midfielder Danilo Pereira.

The result left both sides on four points from two games, with Serbia topping the group ahead of Portugal on goals scored while Luxembourg are third on three points from one game after a shock 1-0 win at Ireland.

Portugal coach Fernando San-

tos was gracious in accepting the result although he said it was unacceptable not to have VAR at this level of competition.

"The referee apologised to me straight after the game and we now have to move on," he told a news conference.

"It was a clear goal but there is nothing we can do now. We controlled the first half but lost our focus in the second and failed to contain Serbia as they surged forward."

Serbia coach Dragan Stojkovic, who made five changes to the side that beat Ireland on his national team debut on Wednesday, was philosophical about the incident.

"I never comment on referee's decisions whether they go our way or not. Mistakes by officials are part of the game and should be viewed as such. I didn't see it clearly, I can only pass a verdict after I've seen the replay."

"Ronaldo is a great player but we largely contained him tonight and in the second half we showed true grit and character to fight back from two goals down."

"We always knew what to expect from a top team like Portugal but against such opposition you have to be brave and never give up. This group of players is quickly learning that."

Liverpool forward Jota fired European champions Portugal ahead with an 11th-minute header from a superb Bernardo Silva assist and added another in the 36th as he glanced a Cedric Soares cross from the right.

But Serbia roared back at their Rajko Mitic stadium and halftime substitute Nemanja Radonjic, who engineered both their goals, gave his markers a roasting after the break and also drew a fine save from Portugal goalkeeper Anthony Lopes.

The outcome also made for a bittersweet milestone for Santos, who reached 1,000 games as head coach at club and international level combined in his 33-year long career in the dugout.

(Agencies)

Dutch fans cheer win over Latvia as players protest for rights in Qatar

AMSTERDAM

THE Netherlands earned their first win of the 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign on Saturday with a 2-0 victory over Latvia in front of 5,000 fans, who saw Stephanie Frappart make history and another pre-match protest for human rights in Qatar.

Frank de Boer's side bounced back from their opening round defeat in Turkey with a dominant performance that delighted the small but rowdy crowd at the Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam.

The Dutch capital is set to host matches at this summer's delayed Euro 2020 and the supporters, who all tested negative for Covid-19, were at the match as part of an experiment to see whether events with spectators can take place safely during the pandemic.

They went home happy thanks to Steven Berghuis' superb first-half strike and a Luuk de Jong header in the 69th minute, although the Dutch could have won by more, wasting a host of chances and twice hitting the bar. "The way we played pleased me but only winning 2-0 after creating dozens of chances isn't enough," said a frustrated De Boer.

"We deserved to win by at least five goals. We tried everything... I looked at the statistics and we touched the ball 96 times in the opposition area. It's incredible."

The Netherlands are third in Group G, three points behind leaders Turkey, who won 3-0 in Norway and Montenegro, who maintained their perfect start with a 4-1 victory over Gibraltar.

The 'Oranje' travel to Gibraltar for their next match on Tuesday.

Frappart was once again a trailblazer as she became the first woman to take charge of a men's World Cup qualifier.

France's Frappart was in December the first woman to take charge of a men's Champions League match, between Juventus and Dynamo Kiev.

The 37-year-old was also the first woman to referee in the French top flight, the lead official for the 2019 UEFA Super Cup final between Liverpool and Chelsea and made her Europa League debut in October.

Ukrainian Kateryna Monzul will oversee Sunday's match between Austria and the Faroe Islands in Vienna.

- Dutch join rights protests -

The Dutch became the third team after Norway and Germany to carry out a pre-match protest in favour of rights for the migrant workers involved in stadium construction for next year's finals in Qatar.

They entered the field in Amsterdam wearing T-shirts with the message "Football supports CHANGE", aimed at the Gulf state.

Qatar has faced criticisms for its treatment of migrant workers, many of whom are involved in preparations for the 2022 World Cup, with campaigners accusing employers of exploitation and forcing labourers to work in dangerous conditions.

Qatari authorities insist they have done more than any country in the region to improve worker welfare.

Netherlands defender Matthijs de Ligt told Dutch media he and his teammates would be working with player unions in other countries "to discuss joint action".

"We know that the workers who are building the stadiums for the 2022 World Cup are working under very difficult conditions. We cannot remain indifferent to it and do nothing," he said.

Lyon forward Memphis Depay told news agency ANP: "As footballers our voice needs to be heard. It will be more effective through collective action which brings together different countries rather than by acting individually."

ANP also reports that while the Dutch football association (KNVB) was never in favour of holding next year's finals in Qatar, they are not planning on boycotting the tournament.

Portugal, Belgium held in WCup qualifying, Ireland shocked

LONDON

PORTUGAL and Belgium were left frustrated by draws in their World Cup qualifying matches. Ireland was left in shock.

Cristiano Ronaldo stormed off after he failed to score as Portugal was held 2-2 by Serbia – though TV replays indicated he did put the ball over the line – while top-ranked Belgium could only salvage a 1-1 draw in the Czech Republic. On a night when underdogs tested big names, Luxembourg pulled off the biggest shock of all to beat Ireland 1-0.

Stéphanie Frappart made more history as the first woman to referee a men's World Cup qualifier as the Netherlands beat Latvia 2-0. She's previously made similar breakthroughs in the men's Champions League and French league. Another female referee, Kateryna Monzul, is taking charge of Sunday's game between Austria and the Faroe Islands.

After Norway players had challenged next year's host Qatar on its human rights record, another team joined in Saturday. Dutch players wore T-shirts before the game bearing the message "Football supports change" before the Netherlands' 2-0 win over Latvia. Norway's players urged more teams to follow suit, with shirts asking the question "Next?"

Fans remain a rare sight in European soccer amid the coronavirus pandemic, but some countries are changing that. Russia had 13,000 supporters for its 2-1 win over Slovenia, the biggest crowd at this week's qualifying games. The Netherlands had 5,000 fans as part of a trial scheme to test how more public events can reopen safely.

RONALDO UNHAPPY

Ronaldo tossed his captain's



Cristiano Ronaldo, right, was left furious after his last-minute winner was ruled out despite appearing to cross the line. (agencies)

armband on the field as he walked off at the end of Portugal's draw with Serbia, believing he should have had a winning goal. His shot was heading over the line when Serbia's Stefan Mitrovic slid and cleared the ball. TV replays indicated the ball did cross the line, but goal-line technology and video review aren't used in the World Cup qualifiers.

Diogo Jota put the reigning European champions ahead with a pair of first-half headers. But halftime substitute Nemanja Radonjic set up two goals to pull the hosts level with half an hour to play. Serbia defender Nikola Milenkovic saw a direct red card in stoppage time for a dangerous studs-first tackle on Danilo.

Also in Group A, Luxembourg's Gerson Rodrigues scored with five minutes remaining to humble the Irish, who remained winless in 10 games under coach Stephen Kenny. Ireland failed to deal with a high ball and Rodrigues pounced to smash a

dipping shot past 19-year-old goalkeeper Gavin Bazunu from 25 yards on Bazunu's international debut.

LUKAKU SAVES BELGIUM

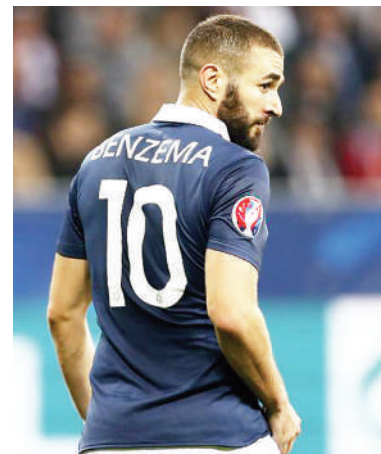
Romelu Lukaku extended his impressive scoring record with Belgium to salvage a 1-1 draw against Czech Republic as FIFA's top-ranked team was lucky to escape with a point.

Facing an inspired Czech team which hit the woodwork twice, Belgium struggled defensively and conceded early in the second half. Lukaku, Belgium's all-time leading scorer, then took his tally to 59 goals in 91 international matches after Kevin De Bruyne's brilliant assist.

Both teams had depleted squads after German clubs refused to release players including Belgium's Thorgan Hazard because they could have been forced into quarantine after returning from the Czech Republic.

Why Karim Benzema won't represent France anytime soon

By Julien Laurens, ESPN Correspondent



Karim Benzema

MENTION France vs. Ukraine to Karim Benzema, and you'll see his eyes sparkle. The expression on his face will light up. In November 2013, Benzema played his best match ever for Les Bleus in a 3-0 win over Ukraine in which he scored France's second. That evening at the Stade de France, he was excellent and helped send his team to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

More than seven years on, Les Bleus drew 1-1 with Ukraine at the Stade de France on Wednesday in Europe's official start to World Cup qualifying, but Benzema wasn't involved as his years-long feud with manager Didier Deschamps still rages. He was likely in his big house in Moraleja, a posh suburb of Madrid, and probably didn't watch the game either. He is not interested.

Yet the debate over Benzema's lack of inclusion with the national team continues to rumble on, and Wednesday's lack of attacking prowess – 18 shots, just three on target – by his countrymen will do nothing to quiet the noise given the 33-year-old's form at Real Madrid right now.

Benzema is the best French striker in world football at the moment, apart from Kylian Mbappe. He is in incredible form with eight goals in his last six games in all competitions. Almost on his own, he's taken Real Madrid to the Champions League quarterfinal and to within six points of Atletico Madrid in La Liga's title race. He is better than the strikers that Deschamps has called up for France – Olivier Giroud, Antoine Griezmann, Anthony Martial and Wissam Ben Yedder – during this break, too.

So it's no surprise that Real manager and France legend Zinedine Zidane is struggling with the fact that his No. 9 is not part of the national team set-up. "I don't understand it and a lot of people don't understand it either" Zizou said after the 3-1 win against Celta Vigo on Saturday in which Benzema scored twice.

and Raphael Varane, so it's fair to assume he also sees Benzema play every weekend. They used to have such a strong relationship. In his first three years in charge, the head coach built everything around the former Lyon striker, and Benzema repaid him well. He was a driving force for the team as he helped them qualify for the 2014 World Cup. He shone in Brazil and carried the team to the quarterfinal, putting in a strong performance against eventual champions Germany despite the defeat.

But none of that matters since Deschamps effectively banished Benzema from the national team after a sex tape and blackmail scandal with teammate Mathieu Valbuena erupted in 2015. Benzema is accused of having played a role in blackmailing his former teammate – allegations Benzema denies and says he will prove are false in a trial that's due to start at some point in 2021. Guilty or innocent, the incident scarred his reputation. After Deschamps dropped Benzema during the investigation, the player accused him in 2016 of having "bowed to the pressure of a racist part of France" when agreeing to leave him out of the squad for Euro 2016.

Not long after Benzema made that statement, Deschamps' holiday home was tagged with the words "racist" and in some ways, that was the likely point of no return.

"There have been very unpleasant moments which were outside

of the context of football, when it went on the private and personal sphere. Am I thinking about the tag? Yes. I will never be able to forget it. Then, it went too far. It was violent, inappropriate and unacceptable," Deschamps explained again in the summer of 2020.

More and more people in France right now, like former France captain Jean-Michel Larque, are asking Deschamps to forgive Benzema and call him up again, making the argument that it's such a waste to see a player of his talent and experience not playing international football. They believe the national team would be even stronger with Benzema in the squad, a point that's hard to dispute. While Deschamps always avoids questions about Benzema when in front of the media – "I make the best choices for the team" is his typical response – in private, Deschamps is having none of it and simply isn't interested, according to ESPN sources.

The fact is that Deschamps has gotten great results without Benzema, reaching the Euro final in 2016 only to lose to Portugal and winning France's second World Cup title in 2018. The former Juventus manager is a big believer in team spirit, unity, cohesion, as well as preserving the notion of squad and team. The strikers in Deschamps rotation, like Giroud, have done well for him considering the way he wants to play.

In a match played in the Spanish city of Malaga, Ozan Tufan scored a goal in each half and Caglar Soyuncu headed his country's second goal as Turkey easily beat Norway.

Montenegro beat Gibraltar 4-1.

HARD WORK FOR CROATIA

Croatia looks nothing like the team which reached a World Cup final in 2018, but at least its five-game winless run is over.

A defensive error gave Mario Pasalic the chance to score the only goal in a 1-0 win over Cyprus, but it wasn't the emphatic victory Croatia wanted after its opening loss to Slovenia. Luka Modric made his 135th appearance for his country, breaking a tie for the record with former full-back Darijo Srna.

Russia is top of Group H after beating Slovenia 2-1 to pick up its second win. Artem Dzyuba scored both of Russia's goals to move within one goal of the Russian team record of 30 held by retired striker Alexander Kerzhakov. There were 13,000 people in the stadium in Sochi on the Black Sea coast because of competition rules and Russian law. Malta earned a rare point in a 2-2 draw with Slovakia.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Portugal, Belgium held in WCup
qualifying, Ireland shocked

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba SC's midfielder, Bernard Morrison.

Coach Gomes now counsels midfielder Morrison

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA Sports Club's head coach, Didier Gomes, has said that the club's attacking midfielder, Bernard Morrison, has great potential but he needs to pay more attention on the pitch.

Gomes, a French national, has said he has always been pleased with all his players in their roles but sometimes Morrison has been a man of many jokes.

Morrison was part of the squad that wore Al Merreikh in CAF Champions League's Group A clash at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam as the hosts won 3-0 and helped them move three points clear at the top.

Morrison further executed one assists for left fullback Mohamed Hussein who netted one of the goals.

The midfielder was at his best and he seemed to be making quick decisions which pleased Gomes.

Regarding the player's ability, Gomes said: "Morrison is a good player but sometimes he has been a joke, now if the team needs a win the joke must be set aside and then the work must be done."

"Every player in Simba has their potential and they depend on each other in their quest for victory, the journey is still long as we need one point to reach the quarterfinals and it will not be an easy task if there is a joke," he said.

Simba are in training to prepare for their clash against AS Vita from DR Congo, with the former claiming that they want three points from the game.

On April 3, this year Simba will be out to edge AS Vita in their fifth group stage match to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Simba lead the Group A standing with 10 points after playing four games, winning three games and posting draw in one.

Simba need just one point in the remaining two games to qualify for the quarterfinals, but victory over AS Vita will put them in a good position to finish the group stage.

Commenting on their plans, Simba manager Patrick Rweyemamu said: "Our players who are not included in the senior national team continue with daily training under head coach Gomes."

He disclosed: "We know the difficulty and the importance of getting good results in this game, so far no player has been injured so what we are waiting for is the return of part of our players in the national team so that the coach can make final preparations before the game, which obviously we need to win."

“

Every player in Simba has their potential and they depend on each other in their quest for victory, the journey is still long as we need one point to reach the quarterfinals and it will not be an easy task if there is a joke

Morogoro karate center ranks players

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO's taekwon'do and karate center has ranked seven trainees with black and white belts after completion of shotokan and taekwon'do courses.

The ranking ceremony was held in the region recently, with presentation of certificates to trainees that took part in taekwondo and karate courses also taking place simultaneously.

The trainees that were presented with white belts are Treth Wildasin (12 years), Naya Wildasin (10 years) and Meshack Emmanuel (12 years).

The yellow belts category had Samson Focus (12 years), Sezius Focus (10 years), Amos Focus (10 years) and Issa Rajabu (38 years).

Wildasin, a student from Morogoro International School (MIS), thanked the taekwondo center, saying the training will be useful for self-defense and fitness.

She said: "From today, I will not fear walking alone because I have learned combat sports, karate, shaolin kung fu and tai chi, which help me deal with any attack from another person."

Sensei Michael Benedict, the center's Head, appealed to parents to empower children's talents in such sports like taekwon'do with a view to curbing diseases including diabetes and hypertension, which can be controlled by exercises.

"I welcome youths to our center, children under 10 years are not charged but those aged above 10 are required to pay 10,000/- each per month," he said.

He said his center has already trained over 5000 students who work at private and public offices as bodyguards and security officials.

"Our center now has 43 students aged 5-14 and 67 students aged 15-60, we call on Morogoro community to enroll children at our center," he said.

The region's karate enthusiast, Joel Wildasin, who graced the ceremony, called on parents to identify children's talents during the latter's development stage.

Wildasin maintained parents should as well assist children fully exploit their skills.

He pointed out the parents should not force children to engage in particular sports, which are not in the latter's interests.



Morogoro karate center's student, Naya Wildasin (L), demonstrates Korean martial art under supervision of her coach after the completion of ranking ceremony, which took place at the center recently. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Mwambusi reveals his preferred approach as Yanga keep on searching for new head coach



Yanga's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi, has revealed the style of football he would like the Vodacom Premier League side to implement.

The Tanzanian tactician disclosed that his preferred style of play is direct football as he continues to lead the side in training before the league resumes.

The competition was halted in honour of the late President John Pombe Magufuli, who passed away on March 17.

"I believe in direct football and that is what I want Yanga to adopt," he said.

He disclosed: "We are currently engaged in physical and tactical training and I am happy about the determination of the players who have indicated they will be ready to fight once the league resumes."

He maintained: "Talking of the title, the race is still on and we are leading, title talk should not be there now but I understand that our objective has not changed."

The former Mbeya City FC head

coach said even though he is qualified to take the head coach position at Yanga on a permanent basis, he would let the club's hierarchy decide on who should be given the mantle.

"I believe I am qualified to be appointed head coach and that is why I am here to take charge of such responsibilities now," he added.

He pointed out: "If I am chosen I will not hesitate to accept the role but at the end of the day, it is the management that will decide."

Mwambusi also revealed he would only work with a coach whose views on football are compatible with his own.

"The coach I would work with is the one whose philosophy will realign well with my own. And as I said, my style is direct football and that will not change," he added.

Mwambusi's revelation comes a few days after Yanga's administrative and technical advisor Senzo Mazingisa explained why they will hire a head coach mid-season instead of waiting longer.

"If the new coach will come at the beginning of the next season, he will not quickly understand what is needed of him unlike when he arrives now," Mazingisa said.

He disclosed: "We are in the last stages of getting the new coach and we hope that before we get back on the pitch, a new coach must be around already."

He added: "We still got a huge chance to win the league despite the slippery road we have travelled recently. That was just a storm and it has passed."

Yanga are without a head coach since Cedric Kaze was fired early last month after the club succumbed to loss to Coastal Union in a Vodacom Premier League game.

Credible reports have indicated former Kenya's national side's coach Sebastien Migne is close to agreeing on a deal with Yanga.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHY DOES IT TAKE LONG FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY WHILE IT IS SHORT FROM FRIDAY TO MONDAY?



THE WORLD IS ROUND

5 Sports
EATV
MONDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrica RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise
88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM