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Ex-minister Basil Mramba dies



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Chande now Ardhi University Chancellor



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AfDB leads on climate finance



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Gold processors complain of power costs



Ministry starts marking rhinos to ease tracking

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government has started marking Tanzania's rhino population with specially designated numbers in an effort to improve conservation.

The exercise was launched yesterday at the Ngorongoro Crater for the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Damas Ndumbaro (pictured) and the Director of the Wildlife Division, Maurus Msuha, an exercise expected to be completed at the end of the month.

Marking the horned endangered species is being conducted in conjunction with the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and the Pans Foundation, where ten rhinos will be marked in the conservation area.

Elibariki Bajuta, assistant conservation commissioner at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) said the number of rhinos in the crater has grown to 71, among them 22 males and 49 females.

NCAA is carrying out the marking in association with Tanzania National Parks and the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), he elaborated.



It is tough to avert human-wildlife conflicts, especially when rhinos sometimes get out of the park, venturing to the nearby Karatu District

Philbert Ngoti, the national rhino coordinator, said all rhinos in Tanzania will have identifying numbers preceded by letter "U" to differentiate them with those in neighboring Kenya, being marked with the identifying letter "V" preceding an individual animal's number.

The official numbers designated for the rhinos in Ngorongoro start from 161 to 260, he specified.

Identification tags on the rhinos' left and right earlobes will be placed, while four of the male mammals will be fixed with homing devices for radio monitoring, upon discovering that the bulky animals often venture beyond the conservation precincts.

The minister directed NCAA to ensure that rhinos under their charge get marked with special numbers for identification and protection.

Ngorongoro conservation commissioner Dr Fred Manongi pointed out that the management still faces major challenges in protecting the rhinos, as the conservation area is a mixed heritage site with a teeming

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Samia: Use opportunities from Covid-19 pandemic

By Henry Mwangonde



President Samia Suluhu Hassan attends the 41st Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states which opened in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe, yesterday. Another photo on Page 2. Photo: State House

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called upon Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states to make use of opportunities brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic as tools to solve problems facing the regional economic bloc.

Addressing the 41st ordinary meeting of SADC Heads of State in the Malawian capital of Lilongwe yesterday, the president said that despite the devastating effects that the pandemic has wrought on these countries, it has also brought up some opportunities that can be maximised.

"There is need to embrace the growth of technology which has been very useful since the pandemic started and it has shown us that things can be done if we maximize its use," she said.

If well embraced, technology can help increase production and address various challenges facing the regional economic bloc, like the proliferation of arms, climate change and insecurity, among others challenges, she stated.

SADC countries need to promote women's rights by offering them opportunities available, she stated, noting that data shows there is need for collective efforts in

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Legal battle erupts in court over misspelling of name of accused

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

A LEGAL battle erupted in court yesterday between the prosecution and defence lawyers in a criminal case against embattled former Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya after it emerged that his name was misspelled on the charge sheet.

Following the realisation of the mistake, the prosecution requested the court for permission to make a minor amendment to the charge sheet by replacing 'Sayaba' with the accused's correct surname - Sabaya.

It was senior state attorney Abdallah Chavula who made the request - in the



I pray to the court to reject the request, as it ought to have come much earlier - before the accused started defending himself

Arusha Resident Magistrate's Court.

The case, No. 105 of 2021, is being heard by senior resident magistrate Odira Amworo, with Sabaya and other accused charged with three counts of armed robbery.

Chavula told the court that the name of the accused as appears on the charge sheet is correct with respect to all three counts except in the particulars of offence, where there is a typo (typing error) - with the accused's surname reading 'Sayaba' instead of 'Sabaya'.

"Even in the initial particulars of offence, when the charges were first read in court

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Minister urges Rev Gwajima arrest over anti-vaccine rants

By Guardian Correspondent, Butiama

HEALTH, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima now wants vocal cleric Josephat Gwajima (pictured) arrested over his repeated remarks against Covid-19 vaccine.

Speaking here yesterday, Dr Gwajima said that anti-vaccine comments by her namesake preacher, most of which are made in church by urging congregants not to take the jab, jeopardize the ongoing countrywide inoculation drive.

The minister appealed to the police



force and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to swiftly intervene by arresting and interrogating Rev Gwajima for intentionally derailing government efforts to get people vaccinated. "He has been intentionally misleading the public and this is counterproductive to the efforts being made by my ministry in particular and the government in general," she stated.

Rev Gwajima, who is MP for Kawe constituency under the ruling CCM, has been vocal in his vaccine skepticism not only from the pulpit of his church in Dar

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PERMITS

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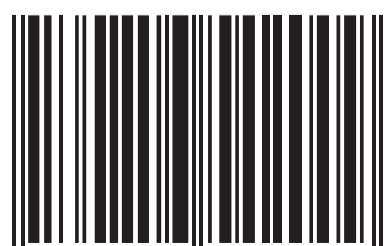
ENERGY

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EMPLOYEES

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan in group photo with other Heads of State and Government of Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries shortly after the opening of the regional economic bloc's 41st Ordinary Summit in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe, yesterday. Photo: State House

Uganda to host 2,000 Afghan refugees on the US govt request

KAMPALA

Uganda is set to temporarily host 2,000 refugees from Afghanistan following the political unrest in the country.

State minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Esther Anyakun, said yesterday that this follows a request by US government, which was granted by President Museveni.

"We expect to host them temporarily before they can be relocated by US government. It was request from US government to His Excellency. We started the preparation on Monday," Anyakun said today.

She added that the first batch of about 500 Afghan refugees were expected August 16 but they didn't arrive.

"We are expecting- they might come any time since it's an emergency landing. They have requested us to host 2,000. They will be received in shifts," she explained.

According to government, the US administration will meet all expenses incurred during their (refugees) stay.

The refugees from the US and other countries will be accommodated by Uganda for a period of three months and will arrive in groups of 500.

Uncertainty grew in Afghanistan after the hardline Islamic group of the Taliban regained power from President Ashraf Ghani, almost 20 years after a US invasion had toppled the group.

We are expecting- they might come any time since it's an emergency landing

Samia: Use opportunities from Covid-19 pandemic

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addressing current challenges, including pushing for technology transfer to allow the production of vaccines within the continent.

"Even as it overwhelms our healthy systems, the pandemic has an impact on our economies, and there is need for more to be done," she said.

Covid-19 has hit SADC economies heavily, leading to many countries failing

to keep up with scheduled repayments of their foreign debts, she stated, affirming that there is need to involve the private sector in handling the matter.

The summit was held under the theme "Bolstering Productive Capacities in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Inclusive, Sustainable, Economic and Industrial Transformation," seeking to accelerate the implementation of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030.

For his part, host president Dr Lazarus Chakwera, who was also crowned SADC chairman for the coming year, said that one way to stand up to Covid-19 challenges was to roll out a vaccine programme, as vaccine deliveries from developed countries are slow and unreliable.

"This year's summit is a special one; it comes at a time when the world is devastated by Covid-19 and we therefore sit here to chart ways on how we facilitate

recovery of key sectors," he stated.

SADC must collectively address nationalist attitudes by some countries to hold millions of vaccines and bar other countries from accessing them, he declared.

"This depends on our collective ability; let's keep up and continue complying to measures and guidelines to conquer this challenge. We should speak with one voice on fighting climate change and fight insecurity," he added.

Ministry now marking rhinos to ease tracking

FROM PAGE 1

human population sharing its ecosystem.

"It is tough to avert human-wildlife conflicts, especially when

rhinos sometimes get out of the park, venturing to the nearby Karatu District. Farmers never take it easy to see wild animals in their vicinity," he added.

Legal battle erupts in court over misspelling of name of accused

FROM PAGE 1

to the accused, the surname was correctly spelled and the accused had accepted it as his correct surname," said Chavula.

He added: "This is mere due to a typing error, and we request the court, basing on its authority and on conditions it will deem fit, to allow us to make small amendments to make it possible for the accused's surname to read 'Sabaya' instead of 'Sayaba'."

Defence attorney Moses Mahuna stood against the request and asked the court to reject it, saying it had come when the accused had already given his sworn defence in court.

"I pray to the court to reject the request, as it ought to have come much earlier - before the accused started defending himself," said Mahuna.

"It is on the strength of this very document that this court found my client with a case to answer and he defended himself basing on the particulars therein, with the State closing its case after calling 11 witnesses," he said.

"In the circumstances, it is unacceptable that it should come up again in this court alongside a request for amendment," he added.

The defence attorney argued further that the error was discovered by the accused himself during his defence, making him believe that the one being referred to was a completely different person - and not him.

State attorney Chavula stood up and asked the court to reject the argument by the defence, saying the law was clear and has not imposed a time limit to the making of minor amendments to the charge sheet "as it deems fit".

Chief State Attorney Tumaini Kweka requested the court to allow the defence to effect the minor amendments sought "which is, basically, legally permitted".

"We would like to make a minor amendment, merely changing the positions of the 'ba' and 'ya' in the accused's surname, without adding even a single letter," he pleaded.

Senior resident magistrate Amworo adjourned the case for some time to allow himself time to consider the request.

When the court resumed, the magistrate said that since the name Sabaya was misspelled in the accused's particulars of offence but correctly spelt in the statement of offence in the charge sheet, the court granted the defence permission to make the minor amendment.

"The request to make the minor amendments will in no way violate the rights of the first accused and, therefore, the request by the defence is granted," he declared.

Soon thereafter, senior state attorney Chavula read out the amended version of the charge sheet to all accused.

Other accused in the case include Sylvester Nyegu and Daniel Mbura, who face three counts of armed robbery, to which both have pleaded not guilty.



It is on the strength of this very document that this court found my client with a case to answer and he defended himself basing on the particulars therein, with the State closing its case after calling 11 witnesses



Dr Dickson Wambura, a veterinarian with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, pictured yesterday etching special identification marks onto the ear of a black rhino living in the world-acclaimed Ngorongoro Crater in Arusha Region. Second left (foreground, in sunglasses) is Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

Minister urges Rev Gwajima arrest over anti-vaccine rants

FROM PAGE 1

es Salaam but even in the debating chamber at the National Assembly.

In May, while debating the 2021/22 budget estimates for the ministry, he issued a warning to the government against accepting Covid-19 vaccines, saying that the jabs could interfere with recipients' DNA.

In his latest sermon whose clip circulated widely at the weekend,

Gwajima is heard saying that he would not "bow to the vaccine," cautioning his audience also to act likewise.

This happened at a time when President Samia Suluhu Hassan has led other national leaders by publicly taking the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen Covid-19 vaccine which was recently donated by the United States.

Last month, the government received more than one million doses of the Janssen jabs and almost immediately launched a nationwide vaccination drive which started with frontline workers, people aged 50 and above and those living with underlying health conditions.

Gwajima's anti-vaccine remarks came at a time when the Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndagai

was insisting that all MPs take the jab to avoid spreading the disease in the chamber.

Interviewed on Deutsche Welle, he said that relevant organs of the legislature shall sit to discuss protocols on the issue, as taking the jab is a personal decision, not campaigning against vaccination, or infecting others because of not taking the jab.



NBC Bank head of insurance Benjamin Nkaka (3rd-R) and Sanlam Tanzania head of Bancassurance Klispinana Shirima (R) jointly launch products known as 'Bima ya Afya na Maisha', which chiefly target family members and social groups like village community banks, saving and credit cooperative societies, and social media groups. Witnesses include NBC Bank head of communications David Raymond (L) and "ambassadors" Dina Marios (2nd-L) and Dr Aloyce Maro. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bank launches health insurance to serve families, social groups

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has launched a new product known as 'Bima ya Afya na Maisha' aimed at facilitating community inclusion in financial systems through insurance products for families and various social groups like VICOBA, SACCOSS, employees, cooperatives and WhatsApp group members.

The product, under partnership with Sanlam Life Insurance Tanzania, includes 'Afya Salama' health insurance specifically for family members as well as 'Nia Njema' health insurance which is tailored for members of various social groups and their families.

Speaking at the launch of the product in Dar es Salaam earlier today, NBC Bank's head of insurance Benjamin Nkaka said the products were aimed at supporting the government's commitment to ensuring that health insurance service reach every Tanzanian.

"Through the 'Nia Njema' insurance, we aim to protect Tanzanians in various social and economic groups and at the same time facilitate their inclusion in financial systems through group insurance to VICOBA groups, SACCOS, employees, employees' groups, entrepreneurs, institutions, cooperatives, WhatsApp groups and other similar groups," he said.

He explained that the social groups are limited to a minimum of 5 members who can be relatives, neighbours or any other association while noting that the cost for annual membership is 18,000/- "The difference between this product and other insurance products is that this one covers all group members and their families at low cost, faster response and with social insurance expertise. These products are available in all

regions of the country and insurance benefits are provided within 24 to 48 hours after submitting accurate information and attachments from group admins. Registration for these products is done through groups," he added.

He mentioned the advantages of the social groups insurance to include improving group benefits for group members' needs, reducing the inconvenience of fundraising among group members, accessing quick funds and thus eliminating continuous contributions among members.

On 'Afya Salama' health Insurance, Nkaka said it aims to ensure access to health services for family members and it will be used on more than 372 hospitals across the country including government and private hospitals.

"This product is aimed for everybody under the age of 64. For a family, it involves a maximum of six people including a client taking out insurance, their spouse and four children under the age of 18," he explained.

Sanlam Tanzania's head of Bancassurance, Klispinana Shirima, assured customers that the products are quality and are aimed at directly benefiting the community while noting that the company is committed to ensuring that the service is provided to meet requirements and objectives of its establishment.

Speaking at the event, the ambassadors for the products Dina Marios who is also a prominent media practitioner in the country and renowned health expert and media practitioner, Dr. Isaac Maro said their participation in promoting the products is due to products' importance in the society.

Ex-minister Basil Mramba dies of Covid-related complications

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania's former Finance minister, Basil Mramba, has died at the age of 81 after being hospitalised with Covid-19 complications, his family says.

He died on yesterday at Regency Hospital in Dar es Salaam while he was undergoing treatment.

"With great sadness, Mramba's family hereby announce the passing of our beloved father, Basil Pesambili Mramba. A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered.

"Mzee succumbed to illness at the Regency Medical Center early this morning. Given the pandemic situation, the family accepts your sympathies and prayers and asks for privacy," his son Godfrey Mramba said in a statement.

Speaking to Mwananchi on the phone, Godfrey said his father had Covid-19 and had been receiving treatment at the hospital for two weeks.

Due to the pandemic, only relatives will be allowed at Mramba's residence in Dar es Salaam, Godfrey added.



Former Finance Minister, Basil Mramba has died at the age of 81 yesterday at Regency hospital in Dar es Salaam while undergoing treatment.

The family said he had been admitted to the facility with COVID-19 complications.

The death of the former minister who served during the third phase government was confirmed by his son Godfrey Mramba.

"With great sadness, Mramba's family hereby announce the death of our beloved father, Basil Pesambili Mramba; A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered.

"Mzee succumbed to illness at the Regency Medical Center earlier yesterday

morning, given the pandemic situation, the family accepts your sympathies and prayers and asks for privacy," said Godfrey in his statement.

However, Godfrey said they will receive visits from family members only at his residence on Mawenzi Road, Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam.

Basil Mramba was born in May 15, 1940 was a Member of Parliament for Rombo constituency in Kilimanjaro region. He served in the various position in the government including Mbeya Regional Commissioner (1995-2000), Minister of Finance (2001-2005) and Minister of Trade and Industry (2006-2008).

Mramba alongside with former energy minister Daniel Yona were on July, 2015 sentenced by the Kisumu Resident Magistrates' Court to three years in jail after being convicted of 11 counts of abuse of office and causing 11.7 billion/- loss to the government before they were set free after serving six months behind and were ordered to do community services while serving a suspended sentence for the remained two years of their jail term.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
AT DARES SALAAM COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 99 OF 2020
CRDB BANK PLCPLAINTIFF
VERSUS
MAIGE EZEKIEL MAGOLYODEFENDANT
DECREE

WHEREFORE: The Plaintiff prays for judgment and decree against the Defendant as follows:-
a) Payment of the principal sum of Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Eighty Four Million Six Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven and Twenty Two Cents (i.e. TZS. 184,683,887.22), all accruing interest at 18% and penalties at 3% from 24 September 2020 to the date of full payment;
b) Payment of Commercial interest at 21% per annum on (a) above from 30th August, 2020 to the date of full payment;
c) Payment of General damages to the tune of Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Million (i.e. TZS 100,000,000.00);
d) Payment of interest on decretal sum at the rate of 12%;
e) Costs of this suit;
f) Any other relief(s) as the court may deem fit and just.

This matter coming for Judgment on this 10th day of August, 2021 before Hon. K. T. R. Mteule, Judge in the presence of Advocate Catherine Tibasana for the plaintiff and in absence of the Defendant.

THIS COURT DOETH HEREBY ORDER THAT:
a) Payment of the principal sum of Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Eighty Four Million Six Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven and Twenty Two Cents (i.e. TZS 184,683,887.22), all accruing interest at 18% and penalties at 3% from 24 September 2020 to the date of full payment;
b) Payment of Commercial interest at 21% per annum on (a) above from 30th August, 2020 to the date of full payment;
c) Payment of General damages to the tune of Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Million (TZS 100,000,000.00);
d) Payment of interest on decretal sum at the rate of 12%;
e) Costs of this suit.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 10th day of August 2021.

KATARINA T. R. MTEULE
JUDGE
10/8/2021
Extracted on this 11th day of August 2021.

HelpAge International

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HelpAge International Tanzania is a non-government organization that has a vision of a world where older people fulfil their potential to lead active, dignified, healthy and secure lives. We aim to ensure that older men and women, including older people with disabilities and their carers, have meaningful, dignified, and safe access to humanitarian services, including food, shelter, WASH, income, protection, physical and mental health services, and psychosocial support.

HelpAge International Tanzania is hereby inviting interested and qualified candidates to apply for the below post openings.

Summary of the job purposes and person specification are indicated below while the full details and Job Description will be available on request.

- 1. Health and Care Programme and Monitoring Officer, Dar es Salaam**
The incumbent will provide support to HelpAge International's Programme work: coordinating the effective design, development, implementation and evaluation of Tanzania programmes that address the expressed Health and Care needs of older people and people with disabilities (PwDs); provide lessons for HelpAge International and partners; and contribute to HelpAge International's advocacy strategy on Health and Care needs of older people and People with Disabilities including WHO's Priority Assistive Products.
Person Specification
A medical related degree or public health specialist with knowledge and experience of using qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods, including key statistical packages and who have practised at least for 2 years. Minimum 3 years of programme implementation experience out of which 2 years must be with INGO. Experience in capacity building and working with local organizations; Ability to coach and mentor diverse partners across several regions. Background on Assistive Technology for PwDs will be an added advantage.
- 2. Human Resource and Communication Manager, Dar es Salaam**
The incumbent will manage the profile of HelpAge International in Tanzania and design Communication systems and strategies to reach the diverse audiences in the country and overseeing all the human resources practices and processes, including recruitment process, designing Organisation policies and setting objectives for the HR team.
Person Specification
At least Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource, communications, public relations, or similar field. Experience of working in an international NGO. People oriented and results driven. Demonstrable experience with Human Resources metrics. Knowledge of HR systems and databases. Ability to architect strategy along with leadership skills. Competence to build and effectively manage interpersonal relationships at all levels of the Organisation and In-depth knowledge of labour law.
- 3. Finance Officer II, Kibondo, Kigoma**
The incumbent will provide effective financial management support to programmes by implementing HelpAge International's Financial controls, policies through monitoring projects and programme budgets, reviewing and analysis expenditures, properly recording authorised transactions and reporting timely to both management and donors.
Person Specification
At least Bachelor's Degree in accounting and/or Finance. Minimum 3 years financial management experience out of which 1 year must be with INGO. Computer skills including the ability to operate computerized accounting, spreadsheet and word processing programs at a highly proficient level. Advanced accounting and auditing skills. Numeracy and ability to prepare accounts and other financial reports.

Candidates who meet these requirements should send an email requesting for the full details and Job Description to syone.simon@helpage.org. Interested applicants should apply with a CV of not more than 2 pages and a cover letter stating how you meet the key competencies by email to: syone.simon@helpage.org copy to tanzania.office@helpage.org

Applications should be sent not later than Friday 03 September, 2021. HelpAge International is an equal opportunity employer. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Certificates are not needed at this stage.

MFUKO WA FIDIA KWA WAFANYAKAZI

WCF
Workers Compensation Fund

NOTICE ON REDUCTION OF TARIFF FOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES

The Director General of Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) informs all employers in the private sector in Tanzania Mainland that the tariff for employees' contribution to WCF has been reduced from one per centum (1%) to zero point six per centum (0.6%) with effect from 01st July 2021. The reduction is in accordance to the Government Notice No. 496G issued on 30th June 2021.

Employers are advised to continue accessing the Fund's Online Self-Service Portal through <https://portal.wcf.go.tz> to generate control number and proceed with payment of their monthly contributions.

For further information, please contact us through Toll Free numbers (0800110028 or 0800110029).

Issued by:
Director General
Workers Compensation Fund

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DAR ES SALAAM.



Geoffrey Mwambe (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), has a word with staff of Sumbawanga Agriculture and Animal Food Industry (SAAFI), a modern meat processing factory, during a visit to Rukwa Region on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Hamidu

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

No sugar import permits to dealers, vows minister

THE government says it will not grant sugar import permits to traders and dealers in the sweetener despite intense lobbying but only to local producers if need arises.

The remarks were made here on Monday by Agriculture minister Prof Adolph Mkenda soon after his meeting with the country's major sugar producers.

He also revealed that the country has a surplus of 70,000 tonnes of sugar, hence the government will not issue any licences to import the commodity.

Prof Mkenda added that granting such licences was not right as the move would undermine the country's sugar production thereby denying employment to many

Tanzanians as well as denying farmers of the market for their sugar harvests that end in setting fire to them due to small purchasing capacity by local sugar factories.

"I sincerely appeal to you traders that you have to understand that in as much as the government supports their businesses but in regard to sugar should be left with us to encourage local sugar production," said the minister.

Prof Mkenda's remarks comes at a time when many applications have

been submitted to the country's Sugar Board seeking sugar import permits.

"I am the one who oversees the laws, hence do not bother so much the Sugar Board Chief Executive Officer saying he was denying you permits to import sugar. The laws do not grant him, or even me powers to do so," he added.

He said the laws directs the ministry to make sure sugar is imported via a procedure that assists more sugar investment in the

country, and it will not be changed as many people think.

For his part, the chairman of Tanzania Sugar Producers Association (TSPA), Seif Ally Seif praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for continuing to strengthen the country's industrial sector.

He said investment in sugar is a long term process hence the government continues to encourage both local and foreign investors to invest in various sectors, including the sugar sector.

Dr Chuwa urges girls to do more to make it in science

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

STATISTICIAN General, Dr Albina Chuwa has called upon students, especially girls to take science subjects seriously for they are the future statisticians.

She made the challenge here while addressing students from Arusha-based Henry Gogaty memorial Girl's secondary school who visited the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on a learn more about the office functions and preparations for the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

Dr Chuwa observed that most science related fields in the country are dominated by men while women have the capacity to hold such positions.

Citing her 14 years' experience at the helm of NBS as chief statistician and 34 years as a statistician, she reminded the students that mathematics related studies are the easiest, urging them to shun the notion that science subjects are very difficult.

She recalled her hay days at high school where they were only 12 girls taking science subject combinations at her school and just handful of pursued science courses at university.

"Statistics is the heart of the government for data produced help in budgeting, policy planning and decision making" she said, explaining that statistics are used down at family levels too.

The chief statistician was impressed upon hearing that all the form three students who paid a visit to her office scored the first division in 2020 form two national examinations. She promised to reward a student who will manage to score 100 per cent in mathematics in the form for national examination.

She urged the students to be a good

example to others, seriously focus on studies and avoid things that can lure them to teenage pregnancies by all means. "Education helps shape the future of girls and women at the same women is the source of development in the society" she noted.

She told them that preparations for the upcoming 2022 slated sixth Population and Housing Census are in full swing, urging them to be ambassador and educate the public on importance of the exercise.

Earlier during the meeting, senior statistician, David Mwaipopo explained to the visiting students the functions of NBS and the importance of statistics.

He also stressed on the importance of census, being one of the obligations of the bureau. "We conduct the country's census in order to put plans in place that can help the government to provide services for people, because you cannot plan for development if you do not know the number of your people and their ages," he noted.



Education helps shape the future of girls and women at the same women is the source of development in the society

Government on course devising adult learning and education system

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Education, Science, Technology is preparing guidelines that will include youth and adult learners on subjects to be taught, a process which will include all the stakeholders in adulthood education.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Adamson Simbatano, a specialist in adulthood education from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Dodoma during his presentation at the on-going workshop on adult learning and education system building consensus building and road mapping

"Our future plan for adulthood education as a nation is to involve all the stakeholders to go through the current documents that are used to offer this kind education in particular areas. This will help us to come up with the best guidelines for adult education in Tanzania," said Simbatano. Data from the Institute of Adulthood Education indicates that the number of illiterate youth and adults aged 15 years and above is estimated to be between 5.4 and 8 million.

DVV International, Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa, Frauke Heinze, said the organization aligns its work with the government structures such as the Ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government. He added that they also engage within existing government programmes and strategies as well as other actors.

Heinze said the Adult Learning and Education System Building Approach (ALSBA) has the potential to guide the process of system strengthening and service delivery optimization.

According to him, the current

status of the system need to be assessed, blockages in services delivery need to be diagnosed to find root causes. "The current roles and responsibilities are unpacked, new relationships structure may have to be considered," he said.

In his opening remarks, the DVV international Project Manager, Lucas Mkude said the workshop aimed at enabling participants to strengthen implementation and coordination of adult learning education services by bringing together key stakeholders, system strengthening and building consensus and road mapping for provision of adult education in the country.

Speaking at celebrations to mark 50 years of adult education in Tanzania in June this year, Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa said adult learning and education is a cross-cutting issue that needs collaboration from different actors, governmental and non-governmental, to redefine the scope and target group for adult education programmes.

He highlighted the need to strengthen ALE training programmes in colleges and institutions, including the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA), that are meeting the needs of the labour market, and to ensure that ALE programmes are implemented, managed and monitored sufficiently down to district level.



The current roles and responsibilities are unpacked, new relationships structure may have to be considered



Pedestrians risk endangering their lives by crossing a Mbezi Mwisho section of Morogoro Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday instead of using the overhead bridge (R) meant to forestall needless traffic accidents. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has appointed former Chief Justice of Tanzania Mohammed Chande Othman as the chancellor of the Ardhi University (ARU).

She has also appointed Prof Elisante ole Gabriel as chief executive officer of the Tanzania Judiciary. He replaces Mathias Kabundunguru who has retired.

According to the statement from

Former Chief Justice appointed Chancellor of Ardhi University

the Directorate of Presidential Communications availed to the media yesterday, Prof Ole Gabriel will be sworn in on August 21, at the State House in Dar es Salaam.

Prior to the appointment, Prof Ole Gabriel was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of

Livestock and Fisheries.

Chande held the position as Chief Justice for six years (from 28 December 2010 to 18 January 2017) after serving as both a High Court and Appeal Court Judge.

"The new Judiciary director will be sworn in along with

three new ambassadors; Lt Gen. Yakub Hassan Mohammed as ambassador of Tanzania in Turkey; Thabit Kombo to serve as ambassador in Italia and Elsie Sia as ambassador of Tanzania in the United States (US)," read part of the statement.

Ruvuma Region yields 326,497 tonnes surplus maize in FY 2020/2021

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Region produced 326,497 tonnes of surplus maize in FY 2020/21 out of 816,242 tonnes produced.

This was revealed here on Monday by Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge when launching the season's maize market for Songea Zone at Mgazini Village in Songea District, and added that in the same period farmers cultivated a total of 276,488 hectares.

"This is a four per cent increase over 2019/20 production when 787,321 was produced," said the RC.

He said the region has the ability to sell the surplus maize within and outside the country and hailed the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) for its decision to purchase some of the surplus maize.

Brig Gen Ibuge said during Phase One of the buying season there will be nine markets in the entire region whose locations aim to make easy for farmers to sell their maize sell without incurring great transport cost.

He said the 32,000-tonne allocation set by NFRA for purchase of Ruvuma Region maize was small compared to the huge production volume by farmers, and appealed to the Agriculture Ministry through NFRA to work together to expand the maize markets to enable farmers to continue producing surplus maize.

He called on other buyers countrywide to come to Ruvuma to buy the grain to reduce the surplus to be used in areas with food shortage.

Earlier, NFRA Songea Zone Manager Ramadhani Nondo said in general the agency expects to buy 165,000 tonnes of maize from Songea Zone during FY 2020/21 whereas it was supposed to buy only 32,000 tonnes.

Nondo said the maize will be bought at 500/- per kilo at Ruhuwiko NFRA centre while for other centres the price will be 470/- per kilo.

He cited the Zone's nine buying centres as Namtumbo Town, Namabengo, Mgazini, Magagura, Mpitimbi, Mbinga Town, Kigonsera and NFRA Zonal offices at Ruhuwiko.

For his part, Ruvuma Region CCM Chairman Odo Mwisho appealed to the government to increase quantity of the maize it is planning to buy, saying there was a danger for farmers to sell only a small quantity of their harvests compared to what they have produced.

He added that if the farmers will not be assured of reliable markets they will continue to incur losses every year thereby discouraging them to cultivate the crop.



He cited the Zone's nine buying centres as Namtumbo Town, Namabengo, Mgazini, Magagura, Mpitimbi, Mbinga Town, Kigonsera and NFRA Zonal offices at Ruhuwiko.



Some of the students from Tumaini University - Dar es Salaam College (TUDARCo), St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) and the University of Dar es Salaam School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJM-C-UDSM) who have just reported for two-month media attachment at The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers have a feel of the practical aspects of print media practice. Correspondent Sabato Kasika caught up with them yesterday afternoon in the daily papers' newsroom in Dar es Salaam, some under the mentorship of Romana Mallya (2nd-L, nearest to camera), a senior journalist with Nipashe.

Govt spends 1.15bn/- on renovation of seven regional reference libraries

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE Education, Science and Technology ministry has made major innovations to seven regional libraries in the country spending more than 1.15bn/- in its strategies to revolutionise the education sector.

It has said it will make sure library services reaches the district level.

This was disclosed here on

Monday by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, prof James Mdoe stressing that the government will strengthen the country's education sector.

Prof Mdoe said Tanzania Library Services Board (TLSB) was faced with many challenges hence the government dished out the 1.15bn /- lifeline.

"We began renovation to seven regional offices and Iringa was one

of them, needing 200m/- but we managed to provide 150m/- for the library repairs as its condition was pathetic," he said

He called on library workers in the country to increase creativity in their work performance and revert to Tanzanians former reading culture.

For his part, TLS Managing Director, Mboni Ruzegeza thanked

the ministry for providing funds for innovation of libraries in the country.

He named the libraries that underwent renovations as including those for Iringa Bukoba, Rukwa Kilimanjaro, Tabora, Kigoma and Morogoro regions.

He added that they plan to spend 2bn/- for 43 online libraries, 22 in regions and 19 in districts.

African Development Bank leads on climate finance, says UN report

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has been distinguished as the only large development bank that spent more on climate finance to enable communities to adjust to the inevitability of climate change.

The AfDB crossed the threshold of committing 32 per cent of its facilities to climate financing and edging toward achieving 40 per cent, its peers like the European Investment Bank is still at 11 per cent.

This was affirmed by the United Nations Climate Panel Report that was put together by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is titled "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis," which addressed the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system and climate change, bringing together the latest advances in climate science, and combining multiple lines of evidence from paleoclimate, observations, process

understanding, and global and regional climate simulations.

The report stated unequivocal that "human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land" and triggered "widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere that have occurred."

The AfDB doubled its climate finance commitments for the period 2020-2025, projecting to commit \$25 billion on climate finance.

The President of the AfDB Group,

Dr Akinwumi Adesina, said that the bank is on course to achieve its target of allocating 40 per cent of its funding to climate finance by 2020, a year ahead. The bank's commitment on the target, the highest among all multilateral development banks, has progressed steadily from nine per cent in 2016 to 28 per cent in 2017 and 32 per cent in 2018.

"The required level of financing is only feasible with the direct involvement of the entire financial sector," said Adesina. "Consequently,

the bank launched the African Financial Alliance for Climate Change (AFAC) to link all stock exchanges, pension and sovereign wealth funds, central banks and other financial institutions of Africa to mobilize and incentivise the shift of their portfolios towards low carbon and climate resilient investments."

The IPCC report said that the European Investment Bank spent 11 per cent of its climate finance for poorer countries on adaptation

that year. It said: "Climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes."

The report warned societies of the need to be ready for heat waves by creating public health infrastructure to cope with those who become ill and urged regions to rethink urban planning and development to steer communities away from high-risk zones, such as wildfire spots.



Finta INU director Fidel Ntanyinya (R) briefs Mbeya regional commissioner Juma Homera (next to him) on gold refining. This was when members of the region's security committee and the CCM political committee visited the firm's factory in Chunya District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY

EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DATE FOR INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO INVEST ON 56 ACRES OF LAND AT KURASINI "SHIMO LA UDONGO" ALONGSIDE KILWA ROAD IN DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA.

Please refer to the above captioned matter,

This is to notify the Public and all prospective bidders that the deadline for submission of invitation for expression of interest to invest on 56 acres of land at Kurasini "Shimo la Udongo" alongside Kilwa road in Dar es salaam Tanzania has been extended from 19th of August to 02nd of September, 2021 at 10:00am.

We regret for any inconvenience caused.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY (EPZA)

Office :BWM-SEZ, Plot No. 1081 -Mabibo External, Mandela Road, Head Office, P.O. BOX 12112
Dar es Salaam, Tel: +255222925058-60 Fax : + 255222925061, Email: info@epza.go.tz, Website: www.epza.go.tz
All correspondence should be addressed to the Director General

Chunya District gold processors complain over high power costs

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

GOLD processing investors in Makongolosi Town in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have complained over the high electricity cost for operating their activities saying it is unfriendly to their investments.

They also claim they are forced to connect power through own cost including buying of transformers, cables from the power utility, TANESCO.

They aired their complaints on Monday this week during the joint visit by the Regional Defence and Security Committee and CCM's Political Committee to inspect various development projects in the district.

One of the investors, Fidel Ntanyinya, owner of FINTA INU Company said in addition to the high power bills they pay, the service is not reliable due to frequent power cuts.

"Whenever there is a power cut we are forced to use generators that increases operation costs, there was a time during the construction of the Chunya-Makongolosi road when they were shifting power poles, causing long periods of power outages, we incurred huge operation expenses," said Ntanyinya.

He said they depend on loans from financial institutions including the NMB bank but the problem is that many areas of land have not been formalised, hence they lack title deeds, hence owners thereof are denied bank loans.

For his part, the representative of Kindai elution company, Nazar Haydar said they pay more than 8.5m/- for electricity each month saying that is unprofitable.

In addition, he said they had to incur 40m/- as cost for connecting power to their premises including the purchase of a transformer and other items.

He said the plants has hired a

big number of youth who were originally jobless but due to high power cost, they sometimes think of laying off some of them.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera called on Chunya Tanesco manager or his representative to provide answers to these complaints but neither of them was present during the visit.

In the circumstances he directed the Chunya District Tanesco Manager to explain why he was not present during the visit while he was pre-informed about it.

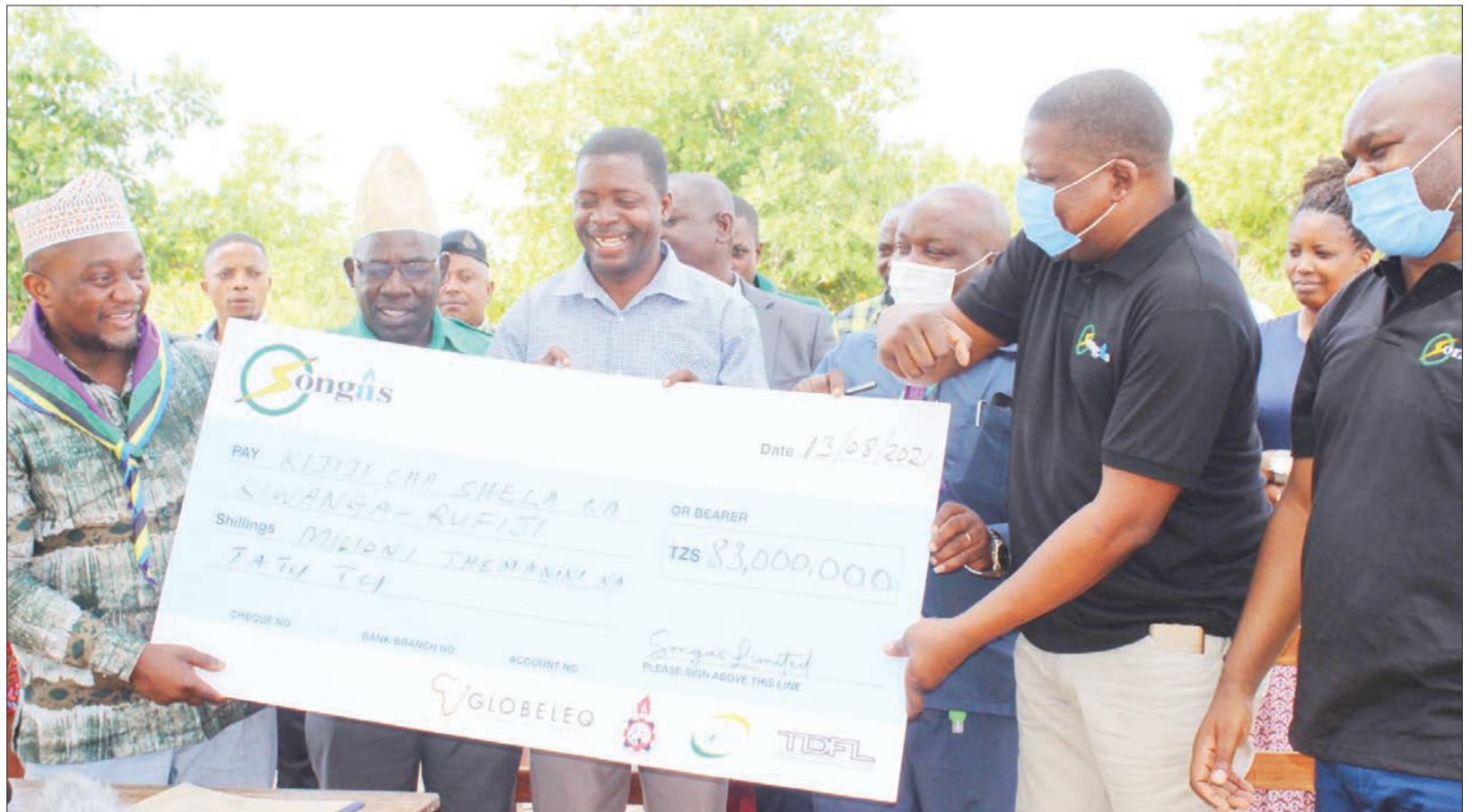
He said if investors' complaints are not solved in time it will cause some of them to move to other areas, thereby denying the government of its much needed revenue.

Nonetheless, he called on the investors to work together with the government to control smuggling of minerals.

For his part, Chunya District Commissioner said the district collects more than 300 kilos of gold produced in its various mining areas.



He said the plants has hired a big number of youth who were originally jobless but due to high power cost, they sometimes think of laying off some of them



Mohammed Mchengerwa (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) and Rufiji legislator, receives a dummy cheque for 83m/- from Songas socio-economic development manager Nicodemus Chipakapaka (2nd-R) last week in support for the construction and renovation of seven classrooms in Rufiji District's Shela and Kiwanga villages. The company has since 2004 pumped 4.8bn/- billion into the implementation of various projects in communities living near the gas pipeline. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Construction of Phase II of TAEC's lab in Arusha now 85 pct complete

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

CONSTRUCTION of Phase II of Changamano Laboratory for the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) in Arusha is now 85 per cent complete taking into consideration of radiation safety and prevention.

The remarks were made here on Monday by the TAEC Services Director Edgar Mbagani during the tour of the construction site in company of reporters, the

visit that was organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

He explained that the project was split into two phases whereby the first phase involved four laboratories now in operation, whose work begun in 2017 costing 2.3bn/-.

He said after completion of the project they entered into second agreement with Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) valued at 10.4bn/- of which the government has already dished out 6.1bn/-.

"The Phase II project is now 85 per cent complete and will have eight modern laboratories as well as learning centre for radiation safety and prevention," he said.

He said the Commission has been given the responsibility to supervise the control of radiation safety and protection, to develop and research on nuclear technology in the country and thereafter advising the government.

He said the radiation has many benefits in hospitals as it is the

technology used to detect various diseases, treatment of cancer diseases and others.

In regard to the mining of uranium, he said: "We are well organised on the uranium issue as we have adequate equipment for control of the mineral soon after it is mined."

For his part, TAEC Head of radiation Control services, Yesaya Sungita said at airports there are radio-active x-Ray equipment for scanning luggage.



Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (R), Zanzibar's Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday receiving a consignment of medicinal supplies worth 120m/- from the Consulate General of China in Zanzibar, Zhang Zhisheng, in support from the government of China. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Special Correspondent

AN invasive weed could escalate the spread of malaria in East Africa after scientists found new evidence that it creates a favourable breeding ground for female mosquitoes, which transmit malaria.

In a study published in Scientific Reports last month, researchers found that the plant popularly known as "famine weed" releases chemicals called terpene from its roots that have a "distinct blend of mosquito-attractive fragrances".

"This weed which is generally known to be toxic to both humans and livestock is readily ingested by malaria mosquitoes for sugars as a source of energy and it also tolerates its key toxin called parthenin," says Baldwin Torto, a co-author

Invasive weed could fuel malaria transmission in African countries

of the study and head of the behavioural and chemical ecology unit, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), Kenya.

He adds that as adult female mosquitoes feed on the weed known scientifically as Parthenium hysterophorus, they acquire sugars, a vital energy resource for flight to find a mate for reproduction, and seek humans to bite for a blood meal required for developing their eggs.

Torto said that female adult mosquitoes emerging from breeding sites contaminated with

famine weed chemicals live a week longer than normal, increasing their likelihood to transmit the malaria parasite.

Researchers assessed whether gravid (pregnant) female mosquitoes would prefer to lay their eggs in distilled water or water treated with a blend of terpenes extracted from famine weed roots. The weed that thrives in warmer climates is a native of north-east Mexico and is endemic in America. "Gravid females were more attracted to lay eggs in the root exudate-treated water... than in the distilled water control," the study

says.

Eunice Anyango Owino, a medical entomologist at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Nairobi, Kenya, says that this weed could be considered as "the most destructive" globally.

"The findings that it favours the breeding of malaria-transmitting mosquito has only exacerbated the already bad situation considering that malaria remains a major cause of mortality and morbidity, especially in children below five years old and pregnant women," she explains.

New partnership to help Africa in making COVID-19 vaccines

By Special Correspondent, Cape Town

AFRICA'S covid-19 vaccine delivery and access could improve by 2022 as Biovac, a South Africa-based biopharmaceutical company, is set to handle Pfizer and BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine manufacturing and distribution for African countries.

Though Biovac is only doing fill and finish, Pfizer and BioNTech said that they are in continuous conversations with the African Union on ways to expand fair and equitable access to the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine and will continue to look for the best pathways to distribute their doses across the continent.

Fill and finish is a manufacturing process often used by third parties that have contracts with companies with patents to fill vials with medicines and finish their packaging for distribution.

The availability of Covid-19 vaccines in Africa has been a challenge since vaccination against the disease began globally in December last year, with the continent having just 1.58 per cent of its population completing their Covid-19 vaccinations as of last week (4 August), according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pfizer and BioNTech announced the signing of a letter of intent with Biovac last month (21 July) to boost the production of Covid-19 vaccines on the continent. Biovac is expected to begin the manufacture of finished doses in 2022 and produce at least 100 million doses annually solely for Africa, the statement indicating the letter of intent shows.

"What we [Africa] want is to ultimately do the entire manufacturing. Though we [Africa] are only doing fill and finish now, it is also an absolutely critical step," says Willem Hanekom, a clinician scientist and director at Africa Health Research Institute, South Africa.

Keymanthri Moodley, a distinguished professor at the Department of Medicine at the

University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, adds: "This will speed up vaccine delivery and improve access considerably. South Africa and a few other African countries could potentially manufacture vaccines from scratch but there is a need for technology transfer and capacity development."

Benjamin Kagina, a senior researcher and vaccinologist at South Africa-based Vaccines for Africa, says, fill and finish stages are as important as the initial stages.

"There is a huge emphasis on the quality control checks of this process. Pfizer is using about 20 manufacturers for 'fill and finish' globally in three continents, and Biovac is one of these. The only one in Africa so this is worth celebrating as all vaccines coming out of Biovac will be for the Africa region," he says.

Kagina explains that this move means that there could be increased production capacity, which translates to more vaccine doses available to South Africa and the rest of Africa.

"This is a very good news as we currently have very limited vaccines access in the country and the continent. To South Africa, it shows the big pharma has confidence in the technical and scientific capacity of South Africa. This confidence will hopefully grow to involve other types of vaccines," he adds.



South Africa and a few other African countries could potentially manufacture vaccines from scratch but there is a need for technology transfer and capacity development

AfDB grants funding assistance to African renewables subsector

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) has secured financial close for the concessional investment which has been provided by The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa.

Over a five-year period, blended finance of USD 50 million is expected to make available recovery funds and relief for energy access companies, giving them much-needed capital following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The concessional loan agreements have been secured with London investor and fund manager Lion's Head Global Partners, and impact investment management companies Triple Jump and Social Investment Managers and Advisors.

AfDB's board of directors approved The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa's USD 20 million concessional loan for the establishment of the Covid-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform in December last year.

Triple Jump's head of sustainable energy Jan-Henrik Kuhlmann said in a statement that the platform has come "at a critical moment for early-stage energy access companies affected by Covid-19 and allows the Energy Entrepreneurs Growth Fund to continue releasing flexible capital into the sector at a time when risk capital is increasingly scarce".

Harry Guinness, Off-Grid Energy Access Fund's managing director, also noted: "African markets have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19 due to lack of infrastructure, macro vulnerabilities especially in terms of currency and credit shocks and increasing global protectionism."

The platform's aim is to help provide financial assistance to companies focusing on the commercialisation of solar

home systems, green mini-grids, clean cooking and various other renewable energy services.

Explaining the impact of Covid-19 on African businesses, Social Investment Managers and Advisors' CEO and managing partner Asad Mahmood said: "Many small businesses have suffered seriously during the Covid-19 crisis. AfDB's relief efforts are market-driven and flexible and will help to leverage existing funds to ultimately assist energy distribution business in Africa."

Adding to this, Joao Duarte Cunha, division manager for renewable energy at AfDB, highlighted: "The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is jeopardising the immense progress that has been achieved over the last decade in electrification through off-grid technologies across Africa."

The has attracted investments totalling USD 34.7 billion in the last 10 years, with South Africa, Morocco and Egypt leading the way, a Linklaters report stated in May.

Last month, Clifford Chance and Linklaters acted for the lenders on the structuring and financing of a large West African Biomass Power Plant

The has attracted investments totalling USD 34.7 billion in the last 10 years, with South Africa, Morocco and Egypt leading the way, a Linklaters report stated in May



Mbinga Town Council executive director Grace Quintine (4th-L) cuts ribbon to launch an NBC Bank 'Wakala Plus' main agency office in Mbinga at the weekend. Looking on are NBC head of retail banking Elibariki Masuke (4th-R), agent Agasto James (3rd-R) and other NBC officials. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

NBC expands its wings in Mbinga District

By Guardian Reporter

NBC Bank has launched a main agency branch dubbed; 'Wakala Plus' at Mama Madaba area in Mbinga District, Ruvuma Region, in a new drive to bring financial services closer to people.

The agency branch has been launched under the on-going bank's initiative to transform lives, business of majority of Tanzanians by bringing more services closer to them.

Speaking during the launching event here, District executive director (DED) Grace Quintine said

the initiative shows how NBC is committed to serve its customers in a more efficient and quick manner so as to promote financial inclusion.

Quintine hailed the bank for spotting the opportunities in the district which are produced through various economic activities.

She also commended NBC for donating 240 iron sheets, 120 bags of cement and 30kg of roofing nails to support construction of classrooms at Nazareth Primary School in the district. "We really appreciate your support and initiatives to ensure that our people are reached with quick financial services. This should

be emulated by others if we want to promote financial inclusion in the district and the country at large," she said.

Elibariki Masuke, NBC director of retail banking said the launch of the Wakala Plus in Mbinga was part of the bank's initiative to expand and bring closer banking services to people.

"Through agency banking, NBC will make customers get financial services in their closest areas. The Wakala Plus compliments the government's goals of bringing quality services to people," he said. Prior to the launch of the branch,

the bank provided special training to entrepreneurs so as to enable them to operate their businesses more profitably.

"The seminars also meant to educate leaders of Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) on various services issued by the bank including importance of insurance and funds collection and expenditure record keeping," Masuke said.

The NBC Wakala Plus office owner, Agasto James also commended the bank for the opportunity which he believe is going to improve his business and income.



Ruvuma regional commissioner Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge (L) cuts ribbon at Mgzini village on Monday to launch a Songea zone maize crop market. Photo: Correspondent Gideon Mwakanosya

S. Africa produces first Covid-19 test kit

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa has started manufacturing rapid Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test kits in an effort to stop relying on imports and improve the country's competitiveness, said Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande.

In a statement he said CapeBio, a local biotechnology company, has started manufacturing the PCR test kits with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

(CSIR).

According to the minister, this would make it easier for the country and African continent to speedily access test kits which they were importing.

"This latest development is part of a concerted effort by the department and its partners to build local capabilities to respond to viruses like Covid-19," Nzimande said.

"Ensuring that diagnostics, vaccines are locally manufactured means that South Africa need not

depend on foreign imports of life saving products. This is crucial, as the Covid19 pandemic has shown how difficult it is for the developing world to compete with richer nations for access to such products."

CapeBio CEO Daniel Ndima said they are happy that the test kits have been approved by the regulator South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA).

"This is a massive achievement in the national response to the pandemic and a significant

milestone for our country.

"We will be able to assist the nation and Africa by alleviating our reliance on imports that are normally associated with high costs and long lead times," said Ndima.

He added that they have started industrial-scale manufacturing of the test kits and the first batches will be available for the local market before the end of this month.

In the near future, they will be producing 5,000 kits a day with each kit providing for 1,000 tests.

Boosting safe treatment of neglected tropical diseases

By Special Correspondent

A manual designed to help health workers to better administer and manage the safety of people who benefit from free medicines for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) has been published by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The manual, "Safety in administering medicines for neglected tropical diseases", provides practical tools including training modules and job aids to further improve the planning, preparation and monitoring of safe administration of medicines mainly to treat the 5 NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy and also for diseases that require individual case management.

"The manual does not make new recommendations, but aims to consolidate and emphasize the critical aspects of WHO's existing guidance on the safe and efficacious administration of medicines to more than a billion people a year," said Dr Denise Mupfasoni, Technical Officer, WHO Department of Control of NTDs.

"It is intended to improve the work of programme managers, public health workers, community drug distributors, regional and country office staff, nongovernmental organizations, and other implementing partners and donors who support such activities."

Although the manual can be used as a standalone reference document, it should be employed in conjunction with its accompanying training modules, which provide practical instruction, as well as the annexed aide-memoires.

"The safety of people receiving medicines to treat and eliminate NTDs is a primary concern for WHO," said Dr Jonathan King, Team Lead, Community and Primary Care Based Interventions, Department of Control of NTDs. "This manual supports broader visions of Universal Health Coverage and the NTD road map for 2030 through

the promotion of safe, high-quality, people-centred interventions available to all persons affected by NTDs."

Medicines for NTDs, mainly donated by pharmaceutical companies, are manufactured under stringent regulatory authority guidelines or are prequalified by WHO. To ensure their safe administration, WHO has already published formal and informal guidance, including on the management of serious adverse events.

"Acceptance of, participation in, and success of NTD treatment campaigns rely on the trust of those ingesting the medicines" said Dr David Addiss, Director, Focus Area for Compassion and Ethics, Task Force for Global Health who was part of the team that drafted the document. "Ensuring safety is critical, both for medicines given to individuals during mass treatment programmes and for those administered in clinical settings to patients who require individual management of diseases"

Large-scale treatment campaigns against NTDs, supported by diverse partners and stakeholders, have treated more than 1 billion people annually over the past 5 years. The NTD road map for 2030 aims to foster a "culture of safety" and recommends a continuous cycle of assessing current practices in administering medicines and attending to individual and systemic safety gaps.

Safety is embedded in all aspects of NTD programmes, including training; supervision; supply and management of medicines; individual treatment and large-scale treatment campaigns; communication with communities; programme monitoring; and prompt investigation and reporting of serious adverse events.

Safety-related goals, objectives and activities should be articulated in the NTD master plans of all countries.

Donating blood is an act of clear human kindness

TODAY in the developed world, most blood donors are unpaid volunteers who donate blood for a community supply. In some countries, established supplies are limited and donors usually give blood when family or friends need a transfusion (directed donation). Many donors donate for several reasons, such as a form of charity, general awareness regarding the demand for blood, increased confidence in oneself, helping a personal friend or relative, and social pressure. Despite the many reasons that people donate, not enough potential donors actively donate.

However, this is reversed during disasters when blood donations increase, often creating an excess supply that will have to be later discarded. However, in countries that allow paid donation some people are paid, and in some cases there are incentives other than money such as paid time off from work. People can also have blood drawn for their own future use (autologous donation). Donating is relatively safe, but some donors have bruising where the needle is inserted or may feel faint.

Potential donors are evaluated for anything that might make their blood unsafe to use. The screening includes testing for diseases that can be transmitted by a blood transfusion, including HIV and viral hepatitis. The donor must also answer questions about medical history and take a short physical examination to make sure the donation is not hazardous to his or her health. How often a donor can donate varies from days to months based on what component they donate and the laws of the country where the donation takes place. For example, in the United States, donors must wait 56 days (eight weeks)

between whole-blood donations but only seven days between platelet apheresis donations and twice per seven-day period in plasmapheresis.

The amount of blood drawn and the methods vary. The collection can be done manually or with automated equipment that takes only specific components of the blood. Most of the components of blood used for transfusions have a short shelf life, and maintaining a constant supply is a persistent problem. This has led to some increased interest in autotransfusion, whereby a patient's blood is salvaged during surgery for continuous reinfusion—or alternatively, is “self-donated” prior to when it will be needed.

The theme of this year's World Blood Donor Day was 'Blood connects us all'. It focuses on thanking blood donors and highlights the dimension of “sharing” and “connection” between blood donors and patients. In addition, the adopted slogan “Share life, give blood”, aims to draw attention to the roles that voluntary donation systems play in encouraging people to care for one another and promote community cohesion.

There had been campaigns aiming to highlight stories of people whose lives have been saved through blood donation, to motivate regular blood donors to continue giving blood, and motivate people in good health who have never given blood to begin doing so, particularly young people.

Every year, on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day. The event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure the quality, safety and availability of blood and blood products for patients in need.

Let Global Mosquito Day boost resolve to free humankind from malaria menace

ON the 20 August of 1897, Sir Ronald Ross discovered that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. Since then, we've followed its devastating effect. In fact, it's said to have killed half the people that ever lived - 54 billion people. Despite huge progress in the fight against our deadliest enemy, global efforts have now stalled and, for the first time, we're seeing malaria rising in the highest burden countries. We can't let this happen. Together, we can be the generation that ends malaria for good.

World Mosquito Day was first established in 1897, when the link between mosquitoes and malaria transmission was discovered by Sir Ronald Ross. It aims to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented, as well as fundraising for research into the cure of malaria. It is also a salute to the groundbreaking work of Sir Ross and scientists who have followed him.

World Mosquito Day, observed annually on 20 August, is a commemoration of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. Ross is responsible for the annual observance, having declared shortly after his discovery that the day should be known as World Mosquito Day in the future.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine holds Mosquito Day celebrations every year, including events such as parties and exhibitions, a tradition dating back to as early as the 1930s.

It aims to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented, as well as fundraising for research into the cure of malaria. It

is also a salute to the groundbreaking work of Sir Ross and scientists who have followed him.

Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite. It's a preventable and curable disease but unfortunately, it threatens the lives of millions of people around the world. Do all mosquitoes transmit malaria? No. Only the infected female anopheles are able to transmit malaria to humans.

How does a mosquito transmit malaria? Can one mosquito bite cause malaria? An infected mosquito can transmit malaria to a human just by biting. If a malaria-carrying mosquito bites you, the parasite will be released into your bloodstream infecting your body.

Do mosquitoes bite in the day? When are mosquitoes most active? Mosquitoes don't usually bite in the day. They are most active at dusk and at night. However, it's important to be protected during the whole day!

How many people die each year of malaria? Latest data shows that 435,000 people died from malaria in 2017. But there're 219 million cases of malaria worldwide every year.

How many countries have cases of malaria?

Malaria is found in more than 100 countries, mainly in tropical areas of the world. However, approximately 70 per cent of the world's malaria burden is concentrated in 11 countries: 10 on the African continent, and India. While malaria is not found in the UK, it can be diagnosed in travellers who return to the UK from endemic countries.

If you're travelling to a malaria risk area, it's crucial that you protect yourself against the disease. Take your malaria tablets, use mosquito repellent and always sleep under a mosquito net.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

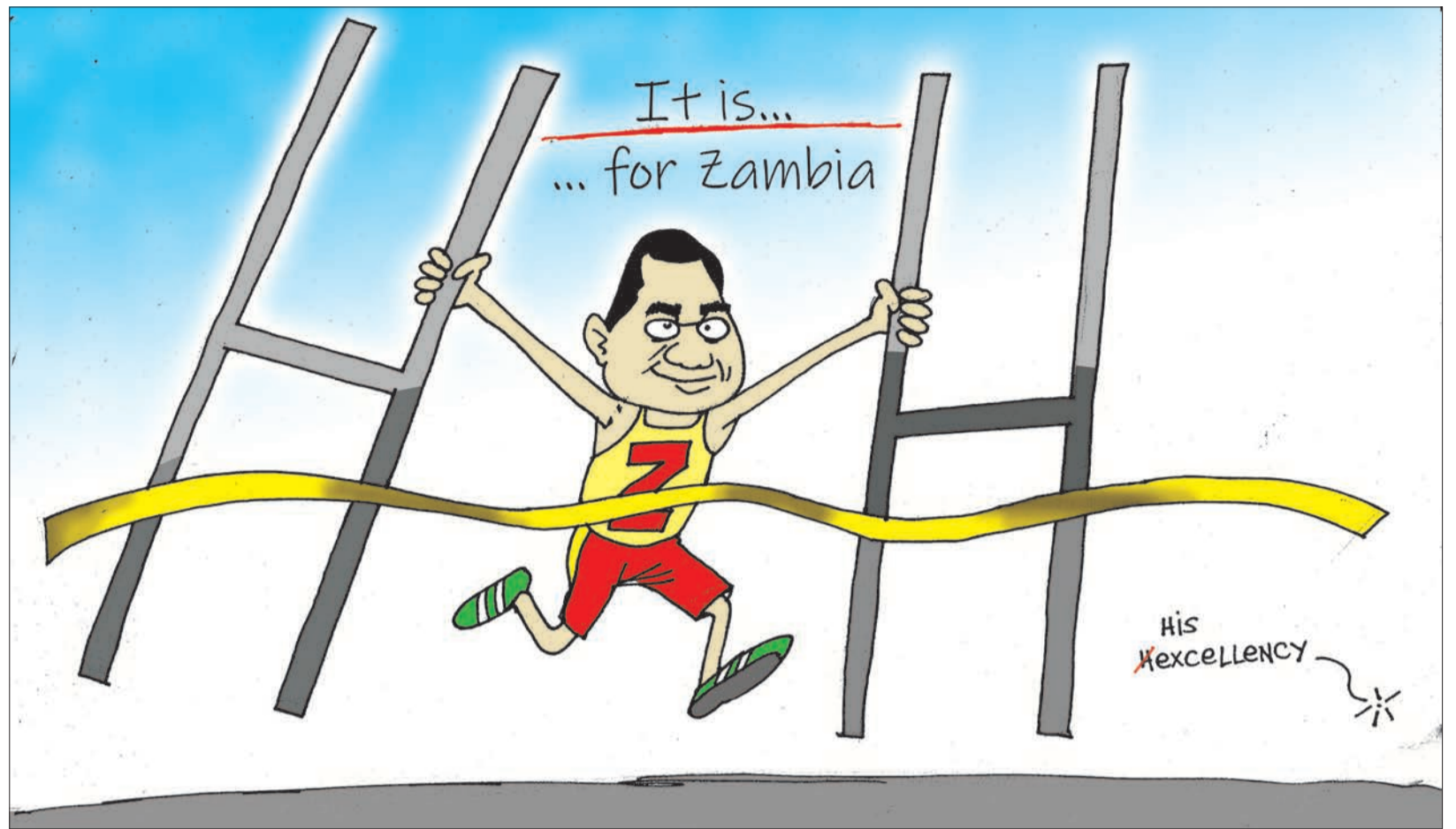
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We needed change in President Ramaphosa's cabinet reshuffle, instead we got the same faces in new places

By Sibusiso Ngilwa

ALTHOUGH most people are inclined to believe that the reshuffle is a momentous occasion, it is actually the events of this week that carry more significance for our country.

Commentators and pundits have already weighed in on the significance or lack thereof of the latest reconfiguration of President Cyril Ramaphosa's Cabinet - his first in 26 months. But despite the appointment of new ministers and the swapping of ministerial chairs, the reality is that in the end Ramaphosa effectively fired one minister, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, who had led the Department of Defence and Military Veterans.

In a sea of mediocrity and incompetence in some cases, South Africans can be forgiven for having hoped for more changes and an injection of new blood into the executive. Instead it's a case of more of the same.

In a tweet, national coordinator of the ANC Youth League Task Team Nonceba Mhlauli lamented the lack of youth representation in the Cabinet. "The lack of inclusion of young people in the National Executive is (a) serious cause for concern ... there's literally no one below the age 35 in the National Executive!" she wrote.

She was not the only one disappointed.

By Special Correspondent

THE Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) recently announced the seizure of huge wildlife products including elephant tusks and other endangered species. And in Lagos, among some wealthy people, no party is complete without a display and barbecue of some protected animals, as seen in some trending videos on social media. It should worry the authorities that our country is fast becoming a huge jungle. In fact, Nigeria has officially assumed the hub for illicit trade in wildlife, and the recent fad of serving endangered animals as delicacies at parties has enraged the nation's environment communities.

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) has identified pythons and crocodiles as being endangered species as they are also widely eaten. In March this year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stated that there is pressure on Nigerian wildlife, with pangolins, forest elephants and other endangered species, traded both domestically and internationally. According to

While we now have new ministers in Finance, Health and in the Presidency, these vacancies came about as a result of resignations in the first two cases and the death of Jackson Mthembu in the third case.

How Ayanda Dlodlo is still a minister remains a mystery. After a shambolic tenure at State Security, she has now been given the responsibility of looking after the important ministry of Public Service and Administration.

But even more bizarre is how Minister of Police Bheki Cele remained unscathed in all the changes. To better understand the changes one need not look any further than the political interests of the president and also his need to appease the various factions within the ANC.

Another question that the Cabinet reshuffle raises is whether Ramaphosa made the changes as part of the political pageantry that precedes his appearance before the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, led by deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo, this week - Ramaphosa appears before the commission on 11 and 12 August. But at the same time he had no choice as he was embarrassed by the recent unrest and rampant looting in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Gauteng. His government's ineptitude was exposed.

Enough about the reshuffle. Although most people are inclined to believe that the reshuffle is a

momentous occasion, it is actually the events of this week that carry more significance for our country.

It is unprecedented that a president of a country appears before a commission of inquiry in the same week that his predecessor, Jacob Zuma, is in court for corruption. At the same time, the suspended ANC Secretary-General Ace Magashule will be appearing in the Bloemfontein High Court in the R235-million Free State asbestos corruption case.

All this will be happening this week and what it symbolises is that we still have a strong judiciary and institutions of democracy in this country. A lot may be wrong with our country, but we have to acknowledge that we are doing something right.

As South Africans we are always quick to find fault with what we have and with what we don't have. But it is important to reflect on this moment and its meaning. Granted, the decay of our social fibre and the disrespect for the rule of law, as we saw during the looting and vigilante killings in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, are a bigger threat to our democracy and its stability.

Also it makes no point to have a strong judiciary if we have weak police and an incompetent Parliament. Democracy rests on three pillars - the judiciary, the legislature and the executive - and all three need to be strengthened if our democracy is to thrive.

As things stand, it is only the judiciary that is flexing its constitutionally endowed strength. Government remains weak while Parliament is still recovering from years of the erosion of its capacity to hold the executive to account.

But more worrying is the loss of Thandi Modise as the Speaker of the National Assembly. Very few in the opposition benches would disagree with the view that her leadership gave credibility to the national legislature, which had been hollowed out by years of political manipulation during Zuma's term.

Lack of trust in the government and its institutions is commonplace the world over. But in our instance, if Ramaphosa is to succeed in cleaning up the image of government, it will not depend on a Cabinet reshuffle.

Rather he has to make sure that law-enforcement agencies get to the bottom of unearthing the shadowy figures behind the unrest that cost our economy R50-billion.

That not much progress has been made in this case - despite the arrests of a few loudmouths - is worrying. While we accept that our government was caught unawares by the extent of the turmoil, that they still do not know who was behind it is telling of how ineffective our law enforcement agencies are.

The sooner the so-called instigators are found and prosecuted, the better for our country.

Otherwise, we will have nothing to celebrate.

Combating crime against wildlife

The UN agency, animals are hunted for their bushmeat/barbeque at choice parties and body parts, such as is done with pangolin scales and elephant ivory tusks.

There appears to be geographic consolidation of trafficking routes across several markets, with Nigeria emerging as a key source/transit country for many shipments of protected species and products. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Elephant Trade Information System to COP17 places Nigeria the second most prominent ivory exporting country in West Africa, functioning as a major hub for ivory from Central Africa and, increasingly, from East Africa. UNODC's World Wildlife Crime Report (WWCR) 2020, found that, in 2019 alone, at least 51 tonnes of pangolin scales seized globally originated from Nigerian ports, compared to only two tonnes in 2015. More than half of all seizures of pangolin scales worldwide were traced to Nigeria in 2019. Despite a global decline in trafficking in

ivory since 2011, Nigeria has been identified in a growing number of incidents as part of the illegal trade chain.

The January 2021 seizure at the Apapa Ports by the Nigeria Customs Service of 20 feet container containing the remains of various endangered species further buttresses these findings in the WWCR 2020. The container included 2,772 pieces of elephant tusks of different shapes weighing about 4,752kg; 162 sacks of pangolin scales weighing 5,329kg; 5kg of rhino horns, dried and fresh animal bones; 103 kg of skulls suspected to be of lions and other wild cats; and 76 pieces of timber (semi processed and processed).

Obviously concerned about this ugly development, the federal government requested UNODC's support for interventions to tackle wildlife crime, including the conduct of a corruption risk assessment (CRA) for the wildlife and forestry sectors. Consequently, UNODC in partnership with the relevant national ministries, departments

and agencies is undertaking a series of activities to facilitate corruption risk assessments and the development of corresponding corruption risk mitigation strategies for Nigeria's wildlife and forest sectors. This intervention is being funded by the European Union through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).

This commitment has seen the UNODC supporting both the wildlife and forest sectors in Nigeria, and the first phase of the CRA focuses on the wildlife sector, the Nigeria Customs Service and the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), as the two main agencies with a mandate to counter illegal wildlife trade in Nigeria. These events, no doubt, have been instrumental to the recent successes the NCS has achieved. However, the federal government needs to strengthen the Federal Ministry of Environment, the NESREA, and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC).

Digitisation boosts mechanised farming among Kenyan farmers

NAKURU

WHEN 33-year-old Kimani Mwaniki, an Irish potato farmer in Elburgon, Nakuru County in Kenya's Rift Valley, heard about a farmer's virtual school, he didn't hesitate to enrol. He was keen to learn how the programme will enable him to get higher crop yields for his market in the capital city Nairobi and elsewhere.

For years, the young farmer had been relying on the occasional visit of an agricultural extension officer for information about best practices on his five-acre land, but not anymore.

Now, armed with a smartphone, Mwaniki can connect with experts and farmers like him across the county for information about the right seeds, when to plant them and how to tend to his crops. It also tells him about the right machinery, where to find it and how to use it.

He says through the virtual school, he has been able to find the right machinery to prepare his land at a low cost.

The virtual school programme is supported by Nakuru Agri Call, an intervention of the County Government of Nakuru. It seeks to empower some 3,000 smallholder farmers in the area with information about competitive farming practices, including mechanisation, appropriate land preparation, seed sourcing, crop care and post-harvest management.

Just by logging in to Facebook and Twitter on the Nakuru Agri Call page, farmers get tips about soil analysis, collecting soil samples for analysis, and sending their samples for analysis. Users can also find farming tips on the school's WhatsApp page.

The program's focus is on mechanisation. Officials say it is set to spur smallholder farmers like Kimani to engage in agribusiness and improve their livelihoods while shoring up rural economies dependent on agriculture.

In the effort to reduce the usually high cost of production, every planting season, Irish potato farmers can use the platform to request government-owned equipment for preparing their land at a nominal fee.

Kimani is among the farmers who have requested a tractor and a chisel plough through the virtual school to prepare his land to grow



Kimani Mwaniki, an Irish potato farmer in Elburgon, Kenya tends to his crop after preparing land using a chisel plough and tractor that he acquired using AMS.

Irish potatoes.

He says with the help of the school, he has learnt that the plough is better than the traditional disc plough that he and other farmers in his neighbourhood have been using for many years.

The chisel plough, he says, makes the recommended raised seedbeds without damaging the soil structure like the conventional hoe and the disc plough, which turn the fragile soil in a manner that leads to rapid moisture loss and erosion during heavy rains leading to reduced productivity of the soil.

He says a chisel plough is an efficient tool for eliminating weeds, thus helpful to farmers looking to minimise labour and time on crop production from planting to maturity.

Mwaniki says with just Kenya Shillings (Ksh.2, 800), around USD 28, a farmer can request a tractor and the plough to prepare an acre compared to the Ksh 5,000 (around USD 50) used to hire a disc plough and a tractor for an acre. He hopes to increase his yield from the current 50 to 60 bags an acre.

He commends the Nakuru County government's Agriculture Mechanization Service (AMS) for easing

the burden on farmers, saying with reduced costs of production, smallholder farmers can expand their margins of profit, create wealth and jobs.

The program has also enabled smallholder farmer's access hay, wheat harvesting equipment and maize shelling machines to minimise post-harvest losses, which farmers say eat into their returns.

The Agricultural Mechanization Service Manager, Stephen Waitaha, says the scheme encourages the adoption of technology and mechanised farming among smallholder farmers to improve production and quality of their produce.

He says besides providing mechanisation services to smallholder farmers, the program aims to train farmers on the right choices of agricultural equipment and how to use them for better yield.

Waitaha says the County Government has bought equipment valued at KShs 25 million (USD 250 000) for distribution to small-scale farmer groups in the first phase of the Agriculture Mechanization Services project.

At a time when concerns about soil conservation are mounting, Waitaha is advising farmers to use

the service for appropriate ploughing practices that protect the integrity of their soil.

He observes that with increased mechanisation, more youth are anticipated to practice agriculture and create jobs while ensuring the country's food and nutrition security agenda.

However, he says the equipment available is not adequate with the rising uptake of machinery among farmers. He says more equipment will enable the service to expand its coverage and enable more smallholder farmers to improve their yield and livelihoods by mechanisation.

Mwaniki, like other smallholder farmers, is hoping to leverage the programme for better livelihoods. He hopes that the programme, through public-private partnerships, will expand the internet coverage in agriculturally productive areas to enable more farmers to tap into it.

The role of digitisation in enhancing mechanisation is earning accolades from various stakeholders in Kenya's agriculture sector. According to Harriet Tergat, Digitization and Communications Lead, Farm to Market Alliance in Kenya

(FtMA-Kenya), an alliance of Kenyan agri-focused organisations that supports mechanisation through digitisation, the technology is transforming agriculture. She says it has brought efficiency, decreased production and operations costs, optimisation, and transparency.

"The technology can be replicated elsewhere in Africa in boosting the agricultural sector, given the continent's very young population, fast spread of ICTs due to improved infrastructure such as high ownership smartphones and internet connectivity. Digitisation is an enabler, not an end of its own," she says.

Harriet adds that through digitisation, transformation in the agricultural sector has brought about increased access to mechanisation services, which has brought about an increase in productivity and a decrease in production costs.

Harriet explains that the Farm to Market Alliance works with partners using a mobile phone application to connect tractor owners to smallholder farmers in need of tractor services. "Hello Tractor is like the Uber for tractors. Through this partnership, necessary mechanisation services have been availed to 11,327 smallholder farmers and 3,800 acres serviced," she observes.

In addition to the benefits digitisation brings to smallholder farmers, notes Harriet, it also opens up new opportunities for self-employment for the youth who work as Hello Tractor agents and earn commissions for every transaction they facilitate through the application.

Indeed, a study by Food Sustainability Index, global research on nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and food waste, developed by the Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition Foundation (BCFN) and the Economist Intelligence Unit, indicates that digitisation is a boon to agriculture in Africa. According to the study, emerging digital tools contribute to efficiency and sustainability of better farm yields.

Dubbed 'Fixing Food 2018: Best Practices towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the study analysed social, economic and environmental aspects of food sustainability. It looked at the nexus between the key challenges like access to food, healthy and sustainable diets, and responsible food production and distribution.

The study collected data from 67 countries worldwide to high-

light best practices and areas for improvement concerning food and the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Rwanda ranks high in the use of sustainable practices like agricultural water because it utilises renewable sources.

Other than Rwanda and Kenya, the report states technology is contributing to sustainable agriculture in countries like Mozambique and Tanzania, for instance, via the Connected Farmer Alliance—a TechnoServe which is using mobile technology to connect farmers to multinational agribusinesses and facilitate payments, thus improving productivity, incomes, and resilience of small-scale farmers.

Still, in the case of Kenya, the level of uptake is set to grow fast. In February this year, at the launch of the five mechanisation hubs in Nakuru County, the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, Immaculate Maina, said through the program the County Government had supported five registered farmer groups to the tune of Kshs 20 million (USD 200 000).

For Mwaniki, planting season was often a headache. He was often caught alongside other farmers in a mad rush for equipment as they prepared their land for sowing, but this is no longer the case.

Demand for harrows, planters and other farm machinery was high, meaning that farmers had to wait longer, slowing down planting in time for the rains.

"When every person wanted to have their farm planted, it became hectic since we had to wait for days to get access to a plough and other farm machinery. The costs of hiring the machinery were also prohibitive," he says.

With the future of farming resting with the emerging small-scale and middle-class farmers, he says there is an urgent need to empower this group to ensure food security.

Mwaniki indicates that since he enrolled in the AMS program last year, his potato yields per acre had increased by over 50 percent. In contrast, costs of tilling and weeding through the use of modern machinery had dropped significantly.

"The equipment makes it possible for me to undertake more than one activity in the farm, thus saving the long-term costs and improving productivity," he observes.

IPS

Here is how we can keep women safe from sexual violence

BISLAMABAD

THE past weeks have been quite traumatic for the women of Pakistan. Recently, a young woman named Noor Mukadam was murdered and beheaded by her alleged partner in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital city. A few weeks ago, the prime minister's statement on rape erroneously construed the crime as being the fault of the victim.

The domestic violence bill aimed at protecting women was sent to an all-male religious council for review. Additionally, a horrific video surfaced on social media where a group of so-called moral policing men harassing and assaulting a young woman.

These alarming incidents contribute to why Pakistan stands 153 out of 156 countries in the 2021 Global Gender Gap Report. Pakistan is among those countries where 70% of women and girls experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime by their intimate partners and 93% of women experience some form of sexual violence in public places in their lifetime.

Every other woman in Pakistan experience sexual violence at least once in her lifetime. Some like Noor Mukadam have lost their lives in the process.

Sexual harassment and sexual assaults are one of the biggest issues in Pakistan. This epidemic is spread from the streets and markets, all the way to the workplace – and in some cases even the home. Pakistan's government had in 2020 passed a praiseworthy anti-rape legislation that mandates legal proceedings in such cases to be completed within 04 months. However, not



implementation, it will serve no purpose.

Sadly, Pakistan's culture often makes a woman's chastity a matter of the whole society's honour. As a direct consequence of this warped worldview, most Pakistani women are still reluctant to report domestic violence, sexual assault or harassment cases.

A cultural shift is slow and at times it seems to be reversing in with the rise of extremist and ultra-religious thought strains in the society. Paki-

stan's official statistics show that at least 11 cases of rape are reported in country every day. However, conviction rate for rape remains at markedly low 0.3%.

All too often in our country, moral policing societies link sexual assault with clothing or a woman's behavior. We must stop blaming women for sexual violence and start reforming the men who commit such violence.

I know firsthand how nonsensical it is to blame women's clothes for men's behavior. Once a man groped

me in public while I was waiting for my parent's arrival from the Hajj pilgrim at the airport. I was wearing head covering over a fully covered dress and I felt traumatized and humiliated by his actions.

So, when I hear the premium of Pakistan – or for that matter any men around me – speaking on rape and sexual assault as being somehow linked to wearing inappropriate clothing, I know from my core that this is wrong. It doesn't matter what we wear, it still occurs.

Victim blaming is not new, of course. People often blame sexual assaults on women's clothing or behavior and even their education, irrespective of cultures, countries or places. Since the beginning of time, women have been portrayed as the temptress, the ones who lured man out of the comforts of heaven.

Many people claim that sexual assault happens to women who make bad choices, who step out in the dangerous world without precautions. But this is a myth which has been

debunked many times through various evidence based studies. Yet time and again, we hear statements blaming women's dresses for the violence they suffer.

The real problem which apparently was missed by such views is the widespread culture of impunity, low conviction rates for sexual crimes, women's fear of reporting the crime and obscuration of social attitudes. Across the world, sexual violence is very difficult for women to address.

Victims are often blamed for "provoking" the sexual abuse with their behavior or dress. Reporting sexual harassment and assault can mean that the victim is labelled as a person of "loose morals" or as "a liar".

When these myths are endorsed from a position of power, like in the case of Pakistan's premier, it kicks you in the gut unlike other victim blaming one might hear. A leader sets the tone for the country and him perpetuating victim-blaming myths is extremely harmful.

Most government and non-government campaigns for the safety of women revolve around how women should protect themselves. There is a fundamental flaw in this approach. We need to re-think and re-assess it and focus on how to stop the harassing behavior irrespective of how women dress or act.

Rather than women, it is men who need to be educated to be non-violent. Good men need to not let criminal men hide behind their silence. Educational campaigns and societal views need a profound shift. At schools and at homes, young boys and men need to be educated to know the importance of consent, non-violence and of treating women as equal human beings.

There should also be a sex offender registry for countries like Pakistan and efforts to shame and name the perpetrators and not the victims. States need to take clear stance against rape and sexual harassment rather than having vague notions of honor we need solid policies and implementation to stop the violence. Only then women can be protected and feel safe as equal citizens. **Agencies**

Risking no lives, China's anti-virus approach shows nation's priority

BEIJING

THE daily increase of China's locally confirmed COVID-19 infections fell to single digits on Monday, with only six cases reported, showing the efficacy of the country's targeted and intensive control measures following the resurgence from the highly contagious Delta variant.

Three locally confirmed cases were each reported Monday in east China's Jiangsu Province, where the recent Delta outbreak first emerged in mid-July, and the central province of Hubei, hit hard by COVID-19 last year.

During the resurgence, the daily increase of locally transmitted confirmed cases jumped to 108 on Aug. 9. A total of 18 provincial-level regions had reported local infections as of Aug. 12, and no deaths were reported, said figures released by the National Health Commission.

Strict, scientific, and swift measures have been implemented in affected areas since July, highlighting the country's principle of putting people's lives first. With massive nucleic acid testing, accelerated vaccination, closed-loop management, and travel restrictions in place, China has seen an apparent downward trend in new locally transmitted COVID-19 cases.

FRONTLINE WORKERS

Medics, disease control and prevention workers, police officers, community workers, and volunteers countrywide went all out in the frontlines to battle the virus.

Jiangsu mobilized more than 4,000 medical workers and thousands of volunteers and community workers to deter the spread of the virus. Meanwhile, Yangzhou City, the latest hotspot for the new infections in Jiangsu, launched multiple rounds of massive nucleic acid testings.

As of Sunday, Jiangsu reported 802 locally confirmed cases, including 235 cases in Nanjing, the provincial capital, and 552 cases in Yangzhou. According to statistics, patients aged under 14 accounted for 10.1 percent, with the youngest four months old. Elderly patients accounted for 32.7 percent, with the eldest patient aged 91.

Yangzhou reported six and three locally confirmed cases on Sunday and Monday, respectively, according to the provincial health commission.

"The new cases are mostly concentrated in the group under control measures, indicating that the spread of the virus is under control to some extent," said Zhang Jinhong, deputy head of the Jiangsu Provincial Health Commission.

The province mobilized more than 3,000 medical workers to help with massive nucleic acid testings in Yangzhou, with a permanent population of 4.55 million.

"We spared no effort to treat every patient," said Yang Yi, an intensive care expert with Zhongda Hospital of Southeast University in Nanjing. Yang added that some critically ill patients were getting better with the introduction of ventilators or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machines.

has staged a strong rebound, having grown 2.3 percent last year amid the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. Owing to the low comparison base and its consolidating recovery, the country's economy expanded 12.7 percent year on year in the first half of 2021.

According to Wu, although the current Delta variant is highly contagious, its overall impact on China's economy may be more limited, because China is now experienced in containing the spread of the virus and can better coordinate control measures and economic development.

Wuhan, the capital of Hubei, also reported new local infections among several migrant workers. Within five days, over 11.28 million residents in the megacity had been tested thanks to the efforts of over 28,000 medical workers in more than 2,800 sampling sites, the municipal government said.

"We worked in the laboratory around the clock to ensure reliable and timely test results," said Shao Lihua, director of the PCR laboratory of the KingMed Diagnostics in Wuhan. His department tested up to 28,000 nucleic acid samples in a single day.

Having experienced the epidemic outbreak last year, Shao said what impressed him most was that the country regards protecting people and their lives as

its top priority.

Wuhan organized 21 medical experts covering respiratory, critical medicine, infection, iconography, and other disciplines, to provide tailored treatment for all COVID-19 patients, said Huang Chaolin, director of Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital.

In Changsha, capital of Hunan Province, community workers provided door-to-door nucleic acid testing and disinfection services in neighborhoods under closed-off management. Volunteers delivered living necessities and medicine for residents every day. On Aug. 13, the city cleared its medium and high-risk areas.

PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACHES

Zhangjiajie, a popular tourist destination in Hunan Province, recently registered a new cluster of infections. Local authorities provided free accommodation and food for stranded visitors and arranged medical staff to conduct nucleic acid tests for tourists at hotels.

A psychological medical team provided mental health consulting to residents, tourists, and medical workers.

The province also organized experts in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) to develop customized treatment programs for severe cases, moderate cases, mild ones, and asymptomatic carriers, respectively.

Since the outbreak, Yangzhou has established a rapid response mechanism and introduced relief measures for socially disadvantaged groups. The city had given living allowances totaling 3.7 million yuan (about 572,000 U.S. dollars) to 5,013 households as of Aug. 10.

The city also provided daily necessities and living subsidies to people in difficulties, especially persons with disabilities and children.

On Sunday, the first five patients were discharged from Yangzhou No.3 People's Hospital. They were transferred to another hospital for 14 days of recovery observation before returning to their communities.

"I am happy to see patients who are better and discharged from the hospital. It has greatly improved



A medical worker is seen at a "Falcon" air-inflated testing lab for nucleic acid testing at Yangzhou International Exhibition Center in Yangzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, Aug. 14, 2021. Xinhua

our confidence in the fight against the epidemic," said Shu Yusheng, president of Northern Jiangsu People's Hospital in Yangzhou.

"The nutrition recipe, mental health counseling, and rehabilitation training make us feel relieved. We have confidence in full recovery

soon," said an asymptomatic patient who received rehabilitation treatment in Changde City, Hunan. ■



Tourist Zhang Maodi from Shanghai exercises in his room at a quarantine hotel in Wulingyuan District of Zhangjiajie, central China's Hunan Province, Aug. 8, 2021. Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Women in mining: We refuse to be ordinary, in a world of extra-ordinaries - Josephine

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) like many forward thinking companies have made it a priority to maintain best practices in human capital as they navigate the challenges emerging from the maturing Tanzanian labour market, by selecting the best candidates purely on merit and

without gender limitations. The Company has strong non-discrimination policies and values the diversity of its workforce which enables it to actively invest in initiatives that promote women at the workplace. One of these initiatives by GGML is sponsoring its female employees to participate in the Female Future Programme administered by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), that prepares them to take up leadership roles within and outside the Company.

Young girls today begin life's journey with great dreams, but most often in some instances culture

distinguishes these flames of optimism steering women to stick to the traditional roles of homemaker and mother. Consequently, this chips away at a young woman's self-belief with most living their lives not knowing their true worth.

Today, attitudes are changing, and gender is not seen as the obstacle it once was, preventing women from pursuing their dreams.

The key drivers for success today are determined by aptitude, commitment, hard work, dedication and a "can do" attitude. Josephine Kimambo and Shadya Jamali are amongst the few women in the mining industry, forming part of Geita Gold Mining Limited's Health, Safety, Environment and Training (HSE&T) Department.

They both live by the mantra that "an ordinary life in an extraordinary world is boring and unfulfilled." Believing that everyone is unique and can leave a legacy has proved from their perspective that gender is not a barrier as long as they know the



Josephine Kimambo (L) and Shadya Jamali are proud to be amongst the few women who work in the mining industry in Tanzania.

purpose of their existence. Josephine Kimambo, currently a senior officer, joined GGML in 2012 as a graduate trainee under the undergraduate recruitment programme.

After successfully completing the program in 2014, Josephine secured employment and took up the role of waste and chemical officer and has enjoyed every minute of her time working at GGML. Josephine believes that everyone is an author to their story and has the power to make this story a positive or negative one. Everyone decides whether they will settle for being ordinary or not. "Anyone can be extraordinary as long as they are committed to self-improvement and personal development." "Working in mining as a woman isn't as hard as it is perceived. It is a good working environment; this is because the company adheres to international standards and has experts who continue to enhance our knowledge.

There are a lot of opportunities to grow, but only if one decides to concentrate their efforts in whatever they are doing. I would like to encourage other women working at GGML and those who wish to join the mining industry to refuse to be ordinary and refrain from making excuses for who they are," said Josephine.

Another member of the HSE&T Department and Josephine's colleague is Environment Officer, Shadya Jamali. She encourages women to ignore the misplaced perceptions of working in the mining industry and should dispel any self-doubt in order to succeed in forging a career in the industry.

"To my dear women who are paralyzed by insecurities or overwhelmed by the odds, please don't let fear stop you because the greatest obstacle in life is fear.

As a woman who works in a male dominated field, I understand how challenging the environment could be as we encounter many hurdles, but we must not accept defeat easily.

Women have a number of potential roles to play in bringing changes in their areas and we should get rid of utopian beliefs that women are only mothers and not workers. Women can do both and even more than their male counterparts", said Shadya.

AGRF launches Agribusiness Deal Room in Abuja

By Special Correspondent

IN a bid to take practical actions and share lessons that will move African agriculture forward, the Agribusiness Dealroom of the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Summit 2021 has been officially launched in Abuja.

This came against the backdrop of the UN Food Systems Summit (UN FSS) in New York where world leaders convene to

review the progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably the eradication of hunger and poverty.

The workshop, which is titled, "Strengthening and Sustaining Resilient Food Systems in Nigeria", will bring together leaders from various agricultural organisations, private sector companies and farmer groups to share ideas, initiatives and investments for the

trans-formation of Africa's food systems.

Minister of Trade and Investment, Otunba Niya Adebayo, while speaking at the launch, expressed the commitment of the ministry towards participating fully in the 2021 AGRF Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme, "Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems."

Represented by his Special Assistant, Collins Omokaro, Adebayo said Nigeria is very open for business, adding that the ministry is presenting opportunities in the palm oil and cassava subsectors.

He said, "there are also many opportunities for Micro, Small and Mediumsized Enterprises (MSMEs) to participate in the Deal room, which could introduce them to assets for the growth of their business."

The Agribusiness Deal room Lead at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Mumbi Maina, charged investors to engage so as to capitalise on opportunities in the Dealroom.

Also, Country Director, Heifer International Nigeria, Rufus Idiris, said events such as the AGRF Summit and its Agribusiness Dealroom are important for bridging the gaps in Africa's food systems.

"We need SMEs to come up with ideas that will make agriculture more productive and more competitive. The government can help by developing policies and infra-structure that make the cost of production competitive," he said.

Furthermore, a Senior Manager at Sahel Consulting, Agbara Chinedu, said, "as an SME, you need to understand and target your pitch to the kind of investor you want. Next is for you to pre-

pare a pitch deck that should be straightforward and simple, and must include the problem being addressed, its solution, size of the market, your team and track record.

The AGRF is the premier forum for African agriculture, bringing together stakeholders in the agricultural landscape to take practical actions and share lessons that will move African agriculture forward.

More funding to improve migrant repatriation and re-integration in Horn of Africa

By Special Correspondent, Djibouti

NEW funding from the European Union (EU) will help the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and partners accelerate assisted voluntary return and reintegration of vulnerable and stranded migrants in the Horn of Africa, a region with some of the world's busiest and most perilous migration routes.

"The top-up funding will enable the programme to further solidify the last four years of collaborative efforts and learning by partners and IOM towards setting new standards for migrant protection and reintegration," said Mitsue Pembroke, the deputy regional coordinator of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa (EU-IOM Joint Initiative).

The latest funding of EUR 5.95 million raises the total allocation to the EU-IOM Joint Initiative to EUR 64.7 million.

So far this year, 99 migrants have died in the Horn of Africa, while at least another 30 Ethiopian migrants perished in a shipwreck off the coast of Yemen in July, according to IOM's Missing Migrants Project which tracks migrant deaths, including refugees and asylum-seekers who cannot be accounted for along migration routes worldwide.

The new funding also will enable capacity building for government and other partners and boost migration data collection and analysis to support evidence-based programming. Information and awareness raising will also be supported.

The Horn of Africa has three major international migratory routes - 'the Eastern Route' to the Arabian Peninsula, and in particular Saudi Arabia, through either Obock in Djibouti or Bosaso in Somalia; 'the Northern Route' through Sudan towards northern Africa and Europe; and 'the Southern Route' towards the southern part of the continent, in particular South Africa.

The Eastern Route accounts for the largest number of irregular movements and fatalities in the region.

Ethiopian men make up 72 per cent of migrant arrivals on the coasts of Yemen, according to IOM's report A Region on the Move 2020, but many unaccompanied migrant children (UMCs) are also making the dangerous journey. The proportion of UMCs rose from 6 per cent in 2019 to 9 per cent in 2020.



Distressed migrants in Obock, Djibouti are taken to IOM's migration response centre for more care

Overall, 71 per cent of all migrating children along the 'Eastern Route' in 2020 were UMCs, compared to 46 per cent in 2019.

Apart from dangerous sea crossings, dehydration from walking in desert conditions in Djibouti and Somalia is another risk factor.

Since March 2017, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative has supported more than 7,000 migrants in transit and destination countries across the region with life-saving assistance, enabling them to return safely and with dignity to their countries of origin.

Nearly 9,000 returning migrants have

been helped to resume their lives in their communities of origin in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, as well as in Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. Assistance has included the establishment of 42 community projects, with an overall target population of 216,000.

The EU-IOM Joint Initiative has also allowed the secondment of migration specialists to the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

In addition, funding has gone to support a network of one-stop centres, located at key points along the major migration routes, that provide vulnerable

and stranded migrants with shelter, food, personal hygiene products, in addition to health and psychosocial assistance.

Launched in December 2016 with the support of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the programme brings together 26 African countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad region, the Horn of Africa, and North Africa, along with the European Union and the International Organization for Migration, around the goal of ensuring that migration is safer, more informed and better governed for both migrants and their communities.

IGAD signs \$3 million bank grant to fight pest invasion

By Special Correspondent

THE Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has signed a three-year, \$3 million grant with the World Bank to set up an Inter-Regional Platform for the sustainable management of desert locusts and other trans-boundary pests.

The grant is part of the World Bank's Emergency Locust Response Programme Phase 3 and is expected to run until August 2024.

The overall goal of the Platform is to strengthen synergies, sustained management and control of desert locusts and other trans-boundary pests in the IGAD region.

The platform will be extended not only to IGAD member states, but to all countries affected by the desert locusts and other trans-boundary pests.

Operationalisation of the platform will be conducted in partnership with the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC).

Key deliverables under the grant include: Guidelines for national preparedness plans for desert locust invasion to support IGAD member states; support member states to finalise their national preparedness plans and development of a regional preparedness plan agreed with the member states; development and dissemination of knowledge management and communication products targeting member states, donors, and other stakeholders.

Poor sales at slated Namibian elephant auction

BRATISLAVA

A HEAVILY criticised Namibian government sale of elephants has attracted only a third of its expected sales as government officials admit that an international outcry when the plans were announced may have put buyers off.

The plan, announced last year, to sell 170 elephants to local and overseas buyers via auction met with widespread condemnation from conservationists and more than 100,000 people signed an online petition against it.

The Namibian government had said the sales would strike a balance between the conservation of elephants and management of the risks of human-elephant conflict - a claim conservationists have questioned.

But despite the relative lack of success - only 57 were bought - the government has not ruled out another auction in future and conservationists are worried about the fate of the elephants sold, but also the future of the endangered species in Namibia and the rest of Africa.

Mark Hiley of National Park Rescue, a non-governmental organisation that saves African Parks from closure, told IPS: "With only a third of Namibia's wild elephant sale finding buyers, it's clear that the international outcry and worldwide media has scared off some of the usual suspects, limiting the damage to Namibia's fast-disappearing natural heritage."

"Under the guise of benefitting communities, African politicians are exaggerating their remaining stocks and taking the cash from immoral foreign powers for selling off their natural heritage. But until the millions of angry tweets turn into meaningful compensation for protecting these shared world assets, their destruction is inevitable."

According to the Namibian government, the country's elephant population has grown in recent decades, rising from around 7,500 in 1995 to

24,000 in 2019.

It had touted the auction as a way to reduce overpopulation and problems caused by it.

In an official statement passed to IPS, the Environment Ministry said the purpose of the auction had been to "reduce elephant numbers in specific areas to minimize human-elephant conflict which has become persistent" and had led to loss of life and disruption to people's livelihoods.

It added that the money from the exports - the auction raised 5.9 million Namibian dollars (around USD 537 000) - would be reinvested in wildlife conservation in the country, "particularly... for human wildlife conflict management..."

However, some conservation groups have suggested the actual population size is much smaller than the government claims, at around 6 000. They say as much as 80% of the government's quoted figure is 'trans-boundary' elephants moving between Namibia, Angola, Zambia, and Botswana.

This has raised doubts over the stated purpose of the sales.

"Having only a third of the elephants sold is better than all of them being sold, but there's still no justification for selling them at all," Dr Keith Lindsay, a conservation biologist and project manager with the Environment & Development Group (EDG) in Oxford, told IPS.

"If there are problems with human-elephant conflict, auctioning off elephants are not the only solution. Elephants can be captured and moved somewhere else in their range, for example, and there are very good examples of human-elephant cohabitation in other countries," he said.

Rachel Mackenna of the UK-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) told IPS: "There is absolutely no evidence to support the notion that exporting a number of elephants will help with human-elephant conflict."

"Mitigation for human-elephant



Namibian elephants in Etosha. Poor sales at Namibian elephant auction, but future auctions could go ahead.

conflict requires a strategic and sustained approach and there are good examples of where this has been successful which requires political will and funding. Selling a couple of elephants to generate revenue - for what? human-elephant conflict mitigation initiatives? - is not a fix."

Lack of transparency was cited as a serious concern by conservationists when the auction was first announced, coming soon after a scandal over bribes paid for Namibian fishing rights that led to the arrest of the Ministers of Justice and Fisheries. Both are in jail awaiting trial.

And there remains a worrying paucity of details about the sale even now, said Lindsay, pointing out that the government has not revealed who has bought the animals, nor where exactly they will be taken from.

Officials have said that the elephants which have been sold will be captured and removed from their current habitats. It has said that 42 of

the pachyderms will be exported to international destinations - but has not said where - and that the other 15 will remain in Namibia under private ownership, but not given further details.

Before the auction, the government had identified four areas in the country from where any sold elephants would be taken. But it has not said which of these areas the 57 sold animals will come from.

"Where are these animals going to?" said Lindsay. "We don't know. There is no detail. There has been no transparency at all in this. Also, where will these elephants be taken from? If you take them from certain areas the impact on the elephant population could be devastating."

"And if these animals end up in a captive situation that will be a life of misery for them. Of course, this is all speculation, we're just guessing because we don't know any of the details."

Meanwhile, the government has

suggested it will push on with another auction of the remaining elephants.

Environment Ministry spokesperson Romeo Muyunda told international media that in future the government "may run another auction if the situation dictates".

Regardless of whether one is held or not, groups working on elephant conservation say they are resigned to an increasingly bleak future for the animals in Namibia and other countries too.

"The Namibian government, along with the governments of Botswana and Zimbabwe, want to commodify elephants. They appear to see the animals' commercialisation as a means of conservation," said Lindsay.

He added: "If Namibia exports live elephants, it could embolden other countries to do the same."

Mackenna, agreed adding: "For years, the other Southern African countries with CITES Appendix II-listed elephants (Botswana, South

Africa, Zimbabwe) have been attempting to revive the international ivory trade, which has been prohibited since 1989, claiming they have too many elephants and ivory trade is a means to keep populations in check and generate revenue for conservation.

"CITES parties have roundly and repeatedly rejected these bids, showing how there is very little international appetite for ivory trade. Indeed, the vast majority of countries recognise the links between poaching, trafficking, and trade but Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe have become increasingly vocal in their intentions to circumvent CITES and their international commitments to elephant conservation so if they do not get permission to trade their ivory stockpiles, they may well start exploring live elephant trade."

Others say the international community must do more to help secure pachyderms' future, even offering financial incentives to African nations to preserve them.

Hiley said: "Compared to their population 100 years ago, just 5% of elephants survive today and they were finally declared officially endangered in March 2021. Their contribution to ecosystems, tourism, carbon capture, and more, likely values each elephant at seven-figures. But instead of harnessing this value and acting as the custodians of wildlife for future generations, governments are focussed on the short-term, flogging them off to the horrific zoo industry for peanuts."

"The plight of Africa's last elephants is no different to that of Brazil's last rainforests; poor nations will always exploit the shared world assets which fall within their borders, until the world provides compensation for protecting them. Where are the short-term donors to help us halt these crimes against nature, until a global environment fund can finally safeguard our planet?"

IPS

America's disastrous legacy in Afghanistan

BEIJING

AFGHANISTAN was the ultimate nation building mission ... and we had a moral obligation to leave behind something better," wrote former U.S. President George W. Bush in his memoir, introspecting on the motives for ordering the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

As the United States pulls out, 20 years of what Washington called "nation building" is crumbling before the eyes of the world.

And death, bloodshed and a tremendous humanitarian tragedy are what the United States has truly left behind in Afghanistan, which is vividly exemplified by some Afghans who fell to death from a U.S. military plane rushing to leave. Since entering Afghanistan, U.S. troops have caused more than 30,000 civilian deaths, injured more than 60,000 and turned 11 million people into refugees.

According to official figures, just in 2019, at least 6,825 drone strikes took

place in Afghanistan, and 7,423 bombs and other munitions were dropped on the land, an average of 20 bombs a day.

With U.S. bombs blasting all around, peace and stability have long been a goal far beyond the reach of ordinary Afghans.

The 20-year-long U.S. war in Afghanistan abounds with heartrending tragedies of ordinary Afghan families.

One of them was a deadly U.S. airstrike on an Afghan hospital run by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in 2015.

Though around 40 civilians were killed in what the MSF called "a war crime," the Pentagon downplayed the severity of its felony by claiming that the deadly attack was "caused primarily by human error."

On March 5, 2020, the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) ruled that its prosecutor could open an investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Afghan war since May



2003, including those committed by members of the U.S. armed forces and the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), such as alleged attacks against hospitals and other non-military targets, civilian casualties by drones, abuse of prisoners and torture.

In a move typical of U.S. hegemony and bullying, Washington then blocked the financial assets of certain ICC staff and imposed visa restrictions on them and their immediate family members as retaliation.

To justify Washington's economic and legal offensive, then U.S. Attorney General William Barr claimed that the measures "are an important first step in holding the ICC accountable for exceeding its mandate and violating the sovereignty of the United States."

The tragic irony is that the United States, a country that least respects the sovereignty of other states, wanted to use sovereignty as a pretext to block an independent investigation by the ICC into its war crimes.

Two decades ago, the United States roared into Afghanistan in the name of fighting terrorism.

If they could have limited their focus on the claimed target, the atrocities this Asian nation has suffered from over the decades might not have been that horrifying.

And yet Washington's imperial hubris has overwhelmed its rationality, and the Afghan people have paid a monumental price.

"The United States exposed Afghans to prolonged harm in order to defend America from another terrorist attack," Carter Malkasian, a historian who once served as a senior advisor to the U.S. military commander in Afghanistan, wrote in his book The American War in Afghanistan.

The United States may have chosen to leave on its own terms, yet the unspeakable atrocities it has perpetrated against the country and its people will be indelibly imprinted on the mind of people across the world.

Xinhua

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI 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 YALIVOMO 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 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAJIKI 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO 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 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAJIKI 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHIEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO 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 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAJIKI 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO 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 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAJIKI 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - KISWAHILI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTA WA MAGOMA 13:10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHIEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:00 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMIKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

100 register with Kamal cashews nuts processing industrialisation project

By Guardian Reporter

SOME 100 Tanzanian entrepreneurs have registered with Kamal Group's project to train and provide them with simple cashew nut processing machinery through a concessional loan scheme involving banks to enable them add value to the commodity before supplying markets.

Kamal Group Chairman, Gagan Gupta told the entrepreneurs he met in Dar es Salaam yesterday that they will now undergo a special training that will culminate into owning small-medium scale cashew nut processing plants at the conglomerate's Zinga Industrial Park in Baagmooyo.

"Today's event is basically a soft launch of the programme that we announced in January this year. We have managed to attract more than 100 aspiring Tanzanian entrepreneurs but there is still room for those who want to join," Gupta said.

Kamal Group's programme seeks to create hundreds of small-medium scale cashew nut processing plants in an effort to help speed up the government's industrialization agenda while adding value to commodities before exporting them to the global market.

Available data shows that more than 90 percent of Tanzania's cashew nuts are exported in raw form, thereby depriving the country of jobs and foreign



Kamal Group chairman Gagan Gupta addresses to over 100 entrepreneurs in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him is human resources manager Emma Mwema. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

earnings that would have been obtained through value addition.

Gracing the event, a member of the board of directors for Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Silvestry Koka said the initiative is a good move in as far as building a formidable business community is concerned.

"This initiative has what it takes to propel inclusive growth among members of the business

community and that was why I had to travel all the way from Dodoma to come and attend this event," Koka who doubles as lawmaker for Kibaha Urban, said.

Koka who also chairs TPSF's corporate cluster, said it is encouraging that Kamal Group's initiative has come at a time when the private sector's apex body is spearheading dialogue on local content policy as a way to estab-

lish a strong private sector in the country.

Through the project, Kamal Group will allocate the 100 entrepreneurs with land, buildings and machinery, valued at a total cost of 84.6m/- to allow them start processing cashew nuts while paying only 16.92m/-, an equivalent of 20 percent of the cost, as seed capital to qualify for the project. Officials from banks that are supporting the project

also attended yesterday's event. The banks will provide the 67.68m/- balance to cover the cashew nut processing plants' costs at affordable interest rates.

In return, each of the entrepreneurs will be able to make up to 37.8m/- per annum in profits which they will use to service their loans. The amount in profits will go up to over 60m/- per year after completion of payment of the bank loan in a period of four years.

"It has always been my belief that growing the economy is not about having few people with money but it is about creating an environment where Tanzanians become entrepreneurs and industrialist so they can make money and contribute to growth," the Kamal Group Chairman added.

Food and Agriculture Organisation figures show that India, along with Brazil and Vietnam are the leading cashew nut producers in the world. However, with its rich history in cashew trade, India remains an important global exporter of cashew nuts, at times accounting for up to 70 percent of the global market.

The major importers are the United States, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom. The driving force behind India's success, are thousands of small-medium scale cashew nut processing units which are mostly located in the State of Kerala.

OPTIMISM

Kabanga Nickel to recruit thousands once operations start this year

By Geoffrey Nangai, TUDAR-Co

TEMBO Nickel Corporation, a joint venture company between Kabanga Nickel and the government will employ over 900 people directly while another 1,000 will get jobs indirectly upon commencement of the locat-

ed Ngara District of Kagera Region.

The bulk of the employees will be people from surrounding communities. "Priority will be given to locals from communities surrounding the project," said Tembo Nickel Country Manager, Benedict Busunzu.

In January this year, Kaban-

ga Nickel signed a binding framework agreement with the government to extract nickel deposits in an investment targeting to export the mineral to the global market hence earn the country hard currency.

Busunzu said that preparations for the commencement of operations are at

advanced stage and the company is simply awaiting a special mining license from Ministry of Minerals to start production as the investor has already submitted the project's comprehensive work plan to the ministry for necessary action.

"I cannot comment on when the special mining li-

cence will be issued because I think the ministry is in a better position to explain on progress made on the process but what I can tell you is that the necessary documents have been submitted as requested by the Ministry of Minerals," Busunzu added.

He noted that the company is currently putting in place

the necessary infrastructure to support the project that includes accommodation camps for staff, water power supply and roads to serve the mine. "On top of that we are in the process of engaging local communities to ensure that they tap into opportunities that will be created when the project finally commenc-

es," he stated.

Tembo Nickel will undertake mining operations, and will process nickel with copper and cobalt products - two of the key ingredients used in electric vehicle (EV) batteries manufacturing. Economic benefits realized from the project will be shared between the two shareholders.



Minerals minister, Dotto Biteko.

COVID-19

KQ spending Sh0.5m daily on four idle planes

NAIROBI

KENYA Airways is spending close to Sh500,000 daily on maintenance of four idle aircraft parked at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), underlining the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the airline's business.

The national carrier says it spends an average of Sh465,000 a day or Sh14 million monthly to maintain two Embraers and two Boeing 737s that are currently on storage after it cut down on its routes since resuming international flights in August last year.

"We are spending on average approximately \$128,000 (Sh14 million) per month to support the various storage-related maintenance activities... These are direct maintenance costs for the ones that are not in use," said Kenya Airways. Keeping planes on the ground is a common tactic by airlines keen on cutting costs during low business.

A significant drop in travel led

to the grounding of approximately two-thirds of the global airline fleet at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic in April 2020, estimates by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) show.

Although travel has since resumed on key international and regional routes, passenger numbers remain low due to public health safety restrictions - forcing airlines KQ to keep part of their fleet grounded to limit costs.

KQ has currently grounded two Embraer and two Boeing 737 because of limited capacity on key routes while one of its Boeing 787 Dreamliner planes is out undergoing heavy maintenance commonly referred to as C Checks in aviation parlance.

The Kenyan national carrier has a fleet of 36 aircraft, 19 of which it wholly owns while the rest are leased. Embraer makes up the bulk of its fleet with 15 aircraft. The medium-range Embraer planes are mainly used for routes within Africa. KQ

also uses them on the local routes to Kisumu and Mombasa. African routes generate the bulk of the revenue that KQ earns every year as it remains the largest market for the carrier.

"It is, however, important to note that even though most aircraft are in use, our utilisation per day is still low, at approximately 60 percent compared to pre-Covid times," KQ said in emailed responses to Business Daily queries.

The airline says it is currently operating on 40 international and two domestic routes. "The frequencies that we are operating to these destinations are very low, at about 35 percent of the frequencies we used to operate pre-Covid" the airline said.

KQ is under pressure to steady its financials after its net loss for the financial year ended December 2020 nearly tripled to Sh36.2 billion on account of Covid-19 disruptions - the worst ever in the history of the airline.

APPRECIATIONS

Zambia Eurobonds surge after landslide victory for Lungu's rival

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S Eurobonds surged the most in more than a year after opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema's shock landslide victory in the nation's presidential election. Hichilema beat incumbent President Edgar Lungu by almost 1 million votes, the biggest margin of victory in a quarter century, in the August 12 race that had been expected to be closely contested.

The margin of victory provides Hichilema with a strong mandate to take on reforms needed to revive an economy wrecked by years of overspending that culminated in the nation becoming Africa's first pandemic-era sovereign defaulter in November. Annual inflation is at the highest in two decades at nearly 25%, and the economy is forecast to only narrowly avoid a second consecutive contraction this year.

The president-elect will also need to reach a deal with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout, and repair relations



Zambian president-elect Hakainde Hichilema.

with copper miners operating in Zambia, Africa's second-biggest producer of the metal.

Zambia's \$1 billion of Eurobonds due in 2024 jumped 8.3% to 72.55 cents on the

dollar by 9:30 a.m. in London, the biggest gain since June 2020. The kwacha surged 7.7% to 19.3150 per dollar, the most since November 2015, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. As far as Hichilema is con-

cerned, "there is absolutely nothing to celebrate," Gary Nkombo, the UPND's elections chairman told reporters. "This country has got a lot of challenges."

Bailout deal

Hichilema, 59, said he plans to seal a bailout from the IMF as soon as it is technically possible and initiate debt-restructuring talks. The businessman and cattle rancher plans to achieve an economic growth rate of more than 10% within five years, mainly by growing the mining, agriculture, construction and manufacturing industries.

Known as HH, Hichilema has an economics degree as well as an MBA from the University of Birmingham in the UK. He unsuccessfully contested the nation's previous five presidential elections, and was jailed for four months on treason charges in 2017 after his convoy of vehicles refused to make way for Lungu's. Lungu, who won power in 2015, said at the weekend the election was tainted because of violence in three prov-

inces where Hichilema performed the best. He's yet to concede defeat.

Zambia stands out in the region, having changed governments democratically twice since the late Kenneth Kaunda's rule ended in 1991. The Patriotic Front won power in 2011 under Michael Sata's leadership, and Lungu was elected in 2015 following Sata's death while in office.

Near-record prices for copper, which accounts for more than 70% of Zambia's export earnings, will boost Zambia's coffers. Another plus is a \$1.3 billion transfer from the IMF due this month - separate to the talks Zambia's in with the fund for a similar amount - that will almost double the nation's foreign-exchange reserves.

To conclude program talks with the Washington-based lender, which will anchor negotiations with external creditors including holders of the nation's \$3 billion Eurobonds, Zambia's government may need to cut energy and farm subsidies that have depleted government accounts in recent

RELIEF

Shanta Gold receives 9.8bn/- from TRA as refund in Q2 of 2021

By Guardian Reporter

LONDON Stock Exchange (AIM) listed Shanta Gold Limited which operates New Luika Gold Mine in Chunya District of Mbeya Region has confirmed receiving US\$4.2 million (over 9.7bn/-) in value added tax (VAT) returns from Tanzania Revenue Authority during the first half of this year.

Shanta Gold Plc's CEO, Eric Zurrin said in the first half report that softer production for the period also meant that revenues were slightly reduced. "But we are pleased to confirm that we have received US\$4.2 million in VAT offsets as we work

with the Tanzanian government to clear the outstanding balance," Zurrin said.

He pointed out that the company has a strong future across portfolio of assets in Tanzania and Kenya, with near term production at Singida and exploration upside in New Luika and West Kenya where everything is on track to fulfilling an ambition of becoming a mid-tier gold producer in Africa.

"We've had some real exploration success at Shanta Gold during 2021 leading to the positive five-year outlook that we've outlined this morning transforming us to a 110,000+ ounces gold producer by 2023," the



Shanta Gold's CEO Eric Zurrin

Shanta Gold CEO added.

Zurrin however revealed that his management is disappointed because the year's production guid-

ance will be reduced to between 60,000 - 65,000 ounces. "Whilst this is partly due to a deferral of ounces to 2022 onwards, it is not the

outcome we hoped for this year," he explained.

Among the highlights of the report include Singida Mine construc-

tion progressing with tenders for key infrastructure ongoing; US\$1.7 m paid towards manufacture of the crushing circuit, which is progressing ahead of schedule; manufacture of the ball mill now underway; pre-stripping which commenced in July; and bush clearance around construction being completed.

On New Luika Mine, the half year report stated that assay results received from the Luika deposit added 76,461 ounces of new Indicated resources grading 7.97 grams per ton; and underground drilling at the Bauhinia Creek East Area 1 target which also generated positive results.

Other highlights also included; reduction of gross debt to US\$0.8m compared against US\$1.1m in the first quarter; repayment of convertible loan notes and debt facility with Exim Bank; having net cash of US\$24.1m compared to US\$31.0m during the first quarter; and gold production of 14,201 ounces compared to 14,641oz in the first quarter due to lower than anticipated grades from underground mining.

COUNSEL

Youth urged to leverage innovation to tap opportunities in agriculture

KIGALI

THE youth have been urged to explore the numerous opportunities in the agriculture sector, and tackle challenges that it faces using innovative solutions.

During a virtual celebration of International Youth Day, organized by Better Future Generations (BFG), a local NGO on August 15, over 50 youth participants from 12 countries were ad-

vised to aspire to create jobs in agriculture rather than waiting for white collar employment.

The celebration was held under the theme of "Transforming Food System: Youth innovation for human and planetary Health." Jackson Muheto, the founder and Chairperson of the NGO, told the youth to bring innovative solutions to agriculture challenges, since most of the population are farmers.

"It's time for young people to venture into agriculture and create our own jobs and hire others, rather than looking at themselves as seekers of jobs. It requires passion, commitment and willingness to be successful in this sector," he added.

Clemence Akamariya, one of the participants, while sharing her experience in the agriculture sector, said that after graduating in agriculture, she decided

to move from Kigali City to go to the countryside in Gicumbi District where she delved into professional farming.

She told her fellow youth that this is a decision she has never regretted. "Agriculture has changed my life, that's why I advise my fellow young people to join agriculture because it is the best place to invest," she added.

Norman Mugisha, the founder of Afri-Farmers Market, a social enter-

prise that links rural farmers to markets for their produce, said that after completing his master's degree abroad, he resolved to join agriculture, rejecting different job offers.

"There are millions of opportunities in the agriculture sector that young people should explore. Let us not despise agriculture because it is one of the essential sectors, Covid proved that," he added.

"The youth should not look down on agriculture, but they have

to see the challenges which the sector faces and then think of innovative solutions to tackle them. That is the best way of creating reliable jobs."

One of the participants, Pierre Popice, from Cameroon, said that in his country agriculture is the most important thing because eating is one of the basic needs of every person. He encouraged the youth to engage in professional farming because it has an international market.

The International Youth Day was endorsed on December 17, 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly, after the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth.

It was first celebrated on August 12, 2000, and since then the day has been used to educate society, mobilize the youth in politics, and manage resources to address global problems.



Young Rwandan farmers take pineapples to the market in Kigali.

DIGITISATION

Bank of Ghana plans e-cedi rollout come this September

ACCRA

THE Bank of Ghana (BoG) has partnered with Munich-based global security technology group Giesecke+Devrient (G+D) to pilot e-cedi, the African country's planned central bank digital currency, in September.

The digital Cedi, or 'e-Cedi', is intended to complement and serve as a digital alternative to physical cash and facilitate payments without a bank account, contract, or smartphone. First Deputy Governor of BoG, Maxwell Opoku-Afari, confirmed the plan and claimed that once completed and if successful, Ghana would be the first in Sub-Saharan Africa to do so.

BoG is understood to have engaged several prospective solution provider partners since 2019 before opting to partner with G+D. G+D says it was selected as the solution provider partner of choice for the development and test of the CBDC.

The company cites it has more than 160 years of experience in the payment landscape including run-

ning scaled systems and offering products like banknotes, smart cards, payment cards, wearables, ID systems, security technologies.

A spokesperson for the company said, "G+D has been working in the field of retail CBDC for several years, and has shaped the thinking surrounding CBDC in specific areas. G+D has advised numerous central banks worldwide on CBDC, conducted user surveys, and executed CBDC projects together with central banks on four different continents. Beside the Pilot project with Bank of Ghana that was publicly announced, it is also public knowledge that Bank of Thailand chose G+D to develop a retail CBDC prototype."

G+D would not disclose any details about further CBDC projects they are working on in parts of Africa due to confidentiality agreements.

According to the Bank for International Settlement, over 85% of central banks are now exploring issuing their own CBDCs which are somewhat a digital version and represent the equivalent of their respective countries' fiat currencies.

PROFIT

BoFinet's three-year strategy pays off Botswana

BOTSWANA Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) has ended its three-year strategy on a positive note posting P37-million profit after tax for the year 2019/20. Ratsela Mooketsi, BoFiNet Board Chairman said the strategy crafted in 2017 delivered several positives for the parastatal, ICT sector and the economy.

"We were very optimistic and so desirous of success in delivering on our mandate and breaking new grounds," said Mooketsi, adding that BoFiNet has been without government's subventions for operational costs, over the past three years. Despite financial sustainability, BoFiNet says the country's connectivity challenges and expectations on the company still remain high.

Under the strategy BoFiNet affirmed and finalised plans for the

development of a datacentre, developed a commercial strategy and has completed a regional market feasibility study and commenced deployment of Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) in Gaborone.

Buoyed by the company's trajectory, CEO Mabua Lesego Mabua said the company has embarked on a new five-year blueprint UNLEASH 2025 Strategy. "We are now ready to respond to the intensified calls from the government and stakeholders at large for the telecommunications industry as a whole to gear up and advance the country towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)."

"As we were about to conclude the development of our new strategy, UNLEASH 2025, new developments around the globe associated with the coronavirus, were taking

place at an unprecedented pace. With these developments, we have had to be awake to the need to embark on adaptation of our products and services, not only for us as a business but as the country's key enabler of other stakeholders and players in the telecommunications sector."

Currently BoFiNet has connected Botswana to the rest of the world through the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSy) and West Africa Cable System (WACS) links with capacity entitlements of 206Gbps and 191Gbps respectively.

Meanwhile, since separating from the then Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC), BoFiNet has grown from an initial asset base of P1-billion in 2015 to the current asset base of P1.9 billion.



BoFiNet CEO Mabua Lesego.

REFORMS

Peru's leftist regime and big miners work on plan to tap copper riches

LA PAZ

PERU'S new socialist government is working with the mining industry on a new approach to community relations and red tape to unlock more of the country's huge mineral wealth.

The minister's conciliatory and pragmatic tone may further ease fears stoked by talk in the election campaign of greater state intervention in natural resources that would stifle investment and future output.

Tense relations between mining projects and often isolated rural communities combined with slow permitting have hampered progress in the industry.

"We recognise that the state has not been present, that the best way forward is direct, with information exchange, so that there are no distortions," Merino said.

"The president has already said it: projects with social profitability go, those that do not have social profitability simply do not," Merino said.

Castillo's administration is studying a proposal to lift taxes and leave more of the mining windfall in the country, although that still needs to go through different government departments and an opposition-led congress.

The message to companies is that the mining ministry will ensure clear rules and act as mediator and facilitator to streamline "this bureaucratic tangle," he said.



Peru's Energy and Mines minister, Ivan Merino

are done well and we are not an obstacle."

At some stage, the Peruvian state could play a more active role in strategic sectors and may even be a shareholder in some projects, he said, but the priority is bringing order to processes and requests that languish for more than a year.

Regarding the Camisea gas fields, which Castillo vowed to nationalize during the campaign, the government is looking into whether its perceptions are supported by data.

ration," the minister said.

The government has received expressions of confidence as it holds talks with commodity industry leaders. A sign of the trust is that some companies have just paid back taxes.

COMPETITIVE

Cardano's ADA is now world's third largest cryptocurrency

NEW YORK

A little-known digital token linked to the Cardano blockchain has just become the third-largest virtual currency in the world as network developers look to ride the boom in decentralised finance.

With the so-called ADA cryptocurrency jumping around 50% over the past week alone, optimism is rising that new technological enhancements will allow smart contracts on Cardano by its announced goal of 12 September.

In a rally met with scepticism by some big industry names, the ADA token now has a market value of more than US\$69-billion – bigger than all rivals except Bitcoin and Ether, according to tracker CoinGecko.

"The Cardano aficionados have been awaiting – some impatiently – for what seems like an eternity for some news on smart contracts," said Antoni Trenchev, managing partner and co-founder of crypto lender Nexo.

The virtual coin has climbed despite scepticism about its utility from some prominent cryptocurrency commentators. For instance, Galaxy Digital CEO Mike Novogratz posted on Twitter on Sunday that "I spoke to 20 of the smartest people I know in the space, and zero of them saw Cardano having traction" with developers.

"Most people outside crypto have never even heard of Cardano – yet here it is with a market cap" that tops many S&P 500 index constituents, Trenchev said.

Recent rallies in Bitcoin, ether, ADA and other tokens helped the cryptocurrency market vault past \$2-trillion in value over the weekend for the first time since May, when the famously volatile sector succumbed to a rout.



Cardano cryptocurrency.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE table with columns for Day, Time, Program Name, and Channel. Includes sections for SATURDAY 7 AUGUST, SUNDAY 8 August, MONDAY 9 Aug, TUESDAY 10 Aug, WEDNESDAY 11 Aug, THURSDAY 12 Aug, FRIDAY 13 Aug, and CAPITAL/Sun 09 Aug.

WORLD

China ready to work with US on Afghanistan 'soft landing' - Wang

By Bloomberg

BEIJING stands ready to communicate with Washington for a "soft landing" to the upheaval in Afghanistan, China's top diplomat Wang Yi told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday.

The objective is to prevent the country from a new civil war or humanitarian disaster, or a return to being a hotbed and haven for terrorism.

The purpose is to encourage Afghanistan to establish a broad and inclusive political structure that suits its own national conditions, Wang, the Chinese state councillor and foreign minister, said in a phone conversation with Blinken at the latter's request.

The hasty US withdrawal from Afghanistan has caused "severely adverse" conditions in the situation there and it would not be responsible of the US if it continues to create new problems, rather than playing a constructive role in peace and reconstruction by helping Kabul maintain stability and prevent disturbances, Wang noted.

The facts on the ground have proved once again that a regime cannot stand without the support of the people, and that attempting to solve problems with military power will only add up to the problems. "The lessons in this regard

deserve serious reflection," Wang said, according to a readout from the Chinese side.

In the phone call, Blinken said that the Taliban should announce a clean break with extremism, opt for an orderly transfer of power and establish an inclusive government. He also said he expected China will play an important role to that end.

The top US diplomat expressed appreciation for China's participation in the Doha meeting on the Afghan issue, noting that the situation in Afghanistan is entering a crucial stage.

Special envoys and representatives from China, Russia, Pakistan, the US and the United Nations, as well as other regional countries and international organizations, held talks in Doha last week, calling on the warring Afghan parties to expedite the peace process, and reach a political settlement and comprehensive cease-fire as quickly as possible, according to earlier media reports.

The United States recognizes that the future of Afghanistan should be decided by the Afghan people, Blinken said, as he called on the Taliban to ensure the safety of all those who wish to leave the country.

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said Blinken and Wang talked about "developments in Afghanistan,



Taliban fighters are seen on a military vehicle in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, Aug 16, 2021. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

including the security situation and our respective efforts to bring US and PRC citizens to safety".

Blinken's outreach came as the United States has been attempting to evacuate its forces and diplomats from a country that was plunged into disarray as the Taliban swept across the land where the US sent troops 20 years ago to oust them.

US President Joe Biden on Monday admitted that the collapse of the Afghan government occurred "more quickly" than his administration anticipated, while a day before the Taliban said the war in Afghanistan has ended and they will soon declare the establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

As the global challenges and urgent regional hotspot issues keep emerging, China and the US, both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and important participants in the contemporary international system, should have coordination and cooperation as the world expects, Wang said.

There exist ideological, social system, historical and cultural differences between China and the US, and either side

cannot remodel the other, Wang said, adding that the only right way for the two powers is to seek peaceful coexistence on the planet on the basis of mutual respect.

In the phone call, Blinken said it is very important for the United States and China to maintain communications on major international and regional issues.

The changes of the situation in Afghanistan have once again underlined the importance of the US and China cooperating on regional security issues in a constructive and pragmatic fashion, he said.

Blinken said he agreed that it is a common goal for the US and China to realize peaceful coexistence, adding that he hoped both sides will seek and carry out cooperation, according to the readout from the Chinese side.

As to "obvious" differences between the two sides, they can be gradually resolved in a constructive way in the days to come, Blinken noted.

Agencies

China to provide more policy, funding support for SMEs

BEIJING

CHINA is mulling a new round of policies to further the support for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and driven by the policies, bank loans, capital markets and many other funds are expected to move faster into these enterprises to help them ease capital pressure. -- More policies on the way

At a recent meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), it was proposed that a reasonable and abundant liquidity shall be maintained while adopting a prudent monetary policy, so as to support the continuous recovery of SMEs and indus-

tries facing difficulties. Specific deployments have already begun.

At its work meeting for the second half of 2021, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) required financial institutions to add support for key fields and weak links, involving small-land micro-sized enterprises (SMEs), agriculture, rural areas and farmers, manufacturing, etc..

The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) also expressed to continue to improve financial services for SMEs at its work meeting for the second half.

The Ministry of Finance of China has announced to solve related problems existing in the implementation of

specific policies based on the needs of enterprises facing difficulties in development, so as to stimulate the vitality of market entities and promote stable and high-quality economic growth.

At the local level, many regions have revealed new plans on supporting SMEs.

Chinese capital city Beijing on August 4 unveiled a three-year (2021-2023) action plan to help private SMEs to expand funds and reduce costs, improve assessment on commercial banks for their services to SMEs, and urge commercial banks to increase inclusive loans for SMEs, with that of the Beijing branches of the five large state-owned banks of China, namely the

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the Agricultural Bank of China, the Bank of China, the China Construction Bank, and the Bank of Communications, each growing by no less than 30 percent in 2021.

The Financial Department of Shaanxi Province in northwest China on August 6 allocated 20 million yuan in advance to support 12 financial institutions, including the Shaanxi Branch of the China Construction Bank, to lower lending rates for SMEs. Southwest China's Yunnan Province recently proposed that by means of funding, purchase services, incentives, and so on, special funds for the development of SMEs should

be used to help these firms to transform and upgrade business, innovate technology, and expand market, and to support the building of public services and financing services systems for SMEs. -- Funds from multi-channels expected

With a series of policy arrangements, multiple funds have accelerated to flow in to help SMEs overcome financial pressure and difficulties.

Vice Finance Minister Xu Hongcai said recently that since the beginning of this year, the financial departments have further optimized and implemented the tax and fee reduction policies to help market entities regain their vitality.

Agencies

New Zealand's PM locks down nation over single virus case

PHNOM PENH

NEW ZEALAND'S Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern put the nation under strict lockdown yesterday after one new case of the coronavirus was reported in its largest city of Auckland, the country's first in six months.

All of New Zealand will be in lockdown for three days from Wednesday while Auckland and Coromandel, a coastal town that the infected person had also spent time in, will be in lockdown for seven days.

Imposing its toughest level 4 lockdown rules, schools, offices and all businesses will be shut down and only essential ser-

vices will be operational.

"The best thing we can do to get out of this as quickly as we can is to go hard," Ardern told a news conference.

"We have made the decision on the basis that it is better to start high and go down levels rather than to go low, not contain the virus and see it move quickly," she said.

Ardern said authorities were assuming the new case was a Delta variant infection although this has not been confirmed. There may be other cases, she said.

The last reported community case of COVID-19 in New Zealand was in February.



New Zealand has followed a go-hard-and-early strategy that has helped it virtually eliminate COVID-19 domestically,

allowing people to live without restrictions although its international borders remain largely closed.

The country has reported about 2,500 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 26 related deaths.

Earlier New Zealand officials said they are investigating the new case of COVID-19, prompting some investors to pare bets on an interest-rate increase from the central bank.

The case was identified early Tuesday afternoon, the Ministry of Health said in an emailed statement. A link between the case and the border or managed isolation is yet to be estab-

lished, it said. It made no comment on whether the case is the delta variant. The last case of community transmission was in February.

The case comes on the eve of the Reserve Bank's review of the official cash rate, with the majority of economists forecasting a quarter percentage point hike in response to an overheating economy. An outbreak of the highly infectious delta strain of the virus could alter the economic outlook. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has said the country should expect a swift lockdown response if there were signs that delta had got into the community.

European leaders point fingers at the US after fall of Kabul

BY BLOOMBERG

EUROPEAN leaders struggled to mask their frustration with President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw the last US soldiers from Afghanistan and sought to distance themselves from the dramatic scenes unfolding across the war-torn country.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters Monday night that the NATO mission in Afghanistan was "fundamentally dependent" on the US while French President Emmanuel Macron stressed that the Taliban took Kabul from the US-trained forces that Biden had backed in just "a matter of hours, with no resistance."

"Nobody wants Afghanistan, once again, to be a breeding ground for terror," UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Sunday, hours after the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country. "It's fair to say the US decision to pull out has accelerated things."

As members of NATO, the UK, France and Germany took part in the US-led coalition that toppled the Taliban after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and maintained thousands of soldiers in Afghanistan for most of the last two decades to forge stability and train the Afghan army. They didn't offer meaningful opposition to Donald Trump's plan to end the US presence in the country, nor to Biden's promise to follow through with it.

Yet after the militant group seized control of Kabul much faster than anyone predicted, the European leaders are now faced with the further unraveling of a key country in a volatile region that threatens a humanitarian and refugee crisis. Their challenge is to deflect blame without antagonizing Biden.

"This is an extremely bitter development. Bitter, dramatic, terrible -- especially of course for the people in Afghanistan," Merkel said in Berlin. "We all made the wrong assessment."

Earlier on Monday at Kabul's international airport, thousands of people rushed to try and leave the country. Though Taliban leaders are trying to portray a moderate stance, the fundamentalist group is talking about declaring a new "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" and there are reports it's already curtailing the rights of women.

Johnson, who is chairing the Group of Seven industrialized nations this year, plans to hold a virtual summit of leaders to discuss the situation. He spoke with Macron on Monday and they agreed to work on a joint United Nations Security Council resolution.

In his address, the French leader stressed the need for a common stance -- on recognizing any future Afghan government and to prevent the kind of migration crisis that crippled the bloc in 2015. And he said he'd do everything he can to ensure Russia, the US and Europe respond with one voice. There isn't much they can do now, though, to alter what's happening on the ground.

The unexpected turn of events raises pressure on Macron ahead of April's presidential election, in which he's widely expected to seek a new mandate. It comes just weeks after he announced plans to cut the number of French troops in Africa's Sahel region by about half, as he pushes ahead with plans to scale back his country's largest and most expensive overseas operation.

In Germany, Merkel's CDU-led bloc is in a tight race to retain control of Europe's largest economy in elections in September and can ill afford echoes of issues that drove voters away in the past.

It wasn't just European leaders arguing that the unfolding chaos isn't their fault.

Nigeria's Buhari signs historic oil overhaul bill into law

ABUJA/LAGOS

NIGERIAN President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law an oil overhaul bill that has been in the works for nearly two decades, a presidential spokesman said on Monday.

The package overhauls nearly every aspect of the country's oil and gas production. The legislature cleared it for his signature last month.

The bill has been in the works since the early 2000s, but the sensitivity of potential changes affecting Nigeria's key source of revenue and foreign exchange has undermined all previous attempts at an overhaul.

Major fuel marketers and other observers had been alarmed by a provision that they said could give Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, an effective monopoly on fuel sales in Nigeria while the communities where oil and gas is produced had pressed for a larger share of oil money.

Analysts say the bill's approval this year was essential to attracting a shrinking pool of capital for fossil fuel development.

Amendments to the package allowed a series of concessions for oil companies to lure investment. *Xinhua*

Hopes for quake survivors dwindle as storm lashes Haiti

LES CAYES

HEAVY rains lashed Haiti yesterday night, complicating rescue efforts and drenching thousands left homeless by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 1,419 people, as hopes dimmed for survivors.

Tropical Depression Grace churned over the regions of southwest Haiti worst-hit by Saturday's quake of magnitude 7.2, whipping devastated towns with high winds and torrential rains, causing flooding in at least one area.

The earthquake brought down

tens of thousands of buildings in the poorest country in the Americas, which is still recovering from a major quake 11 years ago that killed more than 200,000 people.

The latest disaster comes just over a month after Haiti was plunged into political turmoil by the assassination of President Jovenel Moise on July 7.

Several major hospitals were severely damaged, hampering humanitarian efforts, as were the focal points of many shattered communities, such as churches and schools.

Haitian authorities said on Monday that 1,419 deaths had been con-

firmed, with some 6,900 people injured.

As hopes began to dim of finding significant numbers of survivors among the wreckage, the storm impeded rescuers in the seaside city of Les Cayes, about 150 km west of the capital Port-au-Prince, which bore the brunt of the quake.

The storm is expected to dump up to 15 inches of water on parts of Haiti, creating a risk of flash floods, according to the US National Hurricane Centre.

Rescue workers from across Haiti were digging alongside residents

through the rubble on Monday evening in a bid to reach bodies, though few voiced hope of finding anyone alive. A smell of dust and decomposing bodies permeated the air.

"We came from all over to help: from the north, from Port-au-Prince, from everywhere," said Maria Fleurant, a firefighter from northern Haiti.

As heavy rain began to fall, emergency workers pulled a blood-stained pillow from under the rubble, followed by the corpse of a three-year-old boy who appeared to have died in his sleep during the

earthquake. Shortly after, as the rain intensified, the workers left.

Toll expected to rise

With about 37,312 houses destroyed by the quake, according to Haitian authorities, and many of those still unexcavated, the death toll is expected to rise.

Vital Jaenkendy, who watched as a bulldozer shifted rubble from his collapsed apartment building, said eight residents had died and four were missing.

Jaenkendy and others have been sleeping under a tarpaulin on a dirt

road nearby, and were hunkering down for the rains.

"When the storm comes, we'll take shelter in car ports of the houses nearby, just until it passes, and then we'll return to our place in the road," he said.

Doctors in battled makeshift tents outside hospitals to save the lives of hundreds of injured, including young children and the elderly.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was sworn in less than a month ago after Moise's assassination, vowed to disburse humanitarian aid better than in the wake of the 2010 quake.

Across China: More expats in China receive COVID-19 vaccines

CHONGQING

USAMA Kalim, a 28-year-old doctoral student from Pakistan, felt relieved after he knew his brother in the home country had received a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine supplied by China.

"I was inoculated in July. The university organized voluntary vaccination for students," said Usama Kalim from Southwest University in China's Chongqing Municipality.

"We brothers have both administered Chinese vaccines although we are in different countries," he said. Usama Kalim is also a young director and has made many documentaries about China.

Recently, a batch of COVID-19 vaccines provided by China through the COVAX facility has arrived in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"The assistance of Chinese vaccines is a 'timely rain' for the Pakistani people," he said.

Sarata Keira, a Guinean student who has been studying at Southwest University for two years, said that she feels quite good after she was vaccinated recently.

"Guinea and China have close cooperation. As the COVID-19 pandemic is still raging worldwide, China has extended a helping hand to my motherland, which was very helpful to us," Sarata Keira said.

Like Usama Kalim and Sarata Keira, up to now, 50 percent of the overseas students in the university have been vaccinated, said Liu Meng, Party chief of the university's International College.

In order to protect foreigners working, living and studying in China and build an effective immune barrier to the greatest extent, China has included the eligible age group among foreigners in the country into the scope of inoculation with domestic vaccines.

According to a recent report by the People's Daily, more than 350,000 expatriates have been vaccinated with more than 600,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines in China.

As of Aug. 4, China had provided 770 million doses of vaccines to more than 100 countries and international organizations, ranking first in the world.

As the recent resurgence of the highly contagious COVID-19 Delta variant has caused a surging number of infections worldwide, Usama Kalim said the international community should put aside prejudice, make concerted efforts, and strengthen cooperation to overcome the pandemic at an early date.

Xinhua

US to ship first of 500 million shots pledged by Biden at G7

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden's administration is sending 488,370 Pfizer Inc COVID-19 vaccine doses to Rwanda, including the first shipments that are part of a pledge he made at a Group of Seven summit to donate 500 million doses worldwide.

The US will ship the doses this week to Rwanda through COVAX, the global vaccine sharing initiative, according to an official familiar with the plan.

The shipment includes 188,730 doses that are the first installment under an agreement Biden struck at the G7 meeting, and another 300,000 from surplus US government supplies, which the US has been shipping off steadily.

Biden announced the 500 million pledge at the G7 alongside Pfizer Chief Executive Officer Albert Bourla. It made up the bulk of 613 million new doses pledged by those nations in a bid to narrow a wide gap between wealthy and developing nations on vaccine access.

The US will ship 200 million of the doses pledged at the summit by the end of this year, and the remaining 300 million by June of 2022, according to Jeff Zients, who serves as Biden's COVID-19 response coordinator. "Everything is on schedule there," Zients said at a briefing this month.

Separately, the US government is poised to offer coronavirus booster shots as soon as next month, with the country facing a renewed wave of infections fueled by the delta variant.

Biden administration officials are finalizing a plan expected to recommend booster shots eight months after people received their second dose, according to two people familiar with the deliberations who asked not to be identified. The plan is not yet finalized but an announcement could come as soon as this week, they said.

If adopted, the plan could mean booster shots would start as early as September. The proposal would be subject to authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration, the people said.

The administration would offer a third dose of the Pfizer Inc or Moderna Inc vaccine, depending on what the patient previously received, the people said.

The plan was reported earlier by the New York Times. The vast majority of people in the US received Pfizer or Moderna shots.

Agencies



A vocational nurse administers the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a mobile vaccine clinic hosted by Mothers in Action and operated by the Los Angeles County of Public Health on July 16, 2021 in Los Angeles, California. (AFP)

China strengthens well-focused cross-cyclical adjustments to keep major economic indicators within proper range

BEIJING

THE State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang on Monday required effective policy implementation and strengthening of cross-cyclical adjustments in light of the new situations in economic operation, to keep major economic indicators within an appropriate range.

Since mid-to-late July, extreme weather and the consequent severe flooding have hit multiple areas of the country, and new COVID-19 cases have been identified in several provinces. Commodity prices have been hovering at a high level, and the international economic situation is intricate and complex.

"The recent new uncertainties should be duly noted, such as sporadic COVID-19 cases in multiple places, extreme weather calamities, and shifting world expectations on the economic front," Li said. "Judging from the current situation, the underlying economic trend has not changed. We remain confident that we are able to keep up the momentum and undertake effective cross-cyclical adjustments."

Continued, solid efforts are required for COVID-19 containment, flood control, disaster relief, and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. All regions must strictly fulfill their responsibilities and rigorously implement all measures needed in COVID-19 preparedness and response.

Early warning and emergency response to floods and other disasters will be intensified. Greater support will be provided to accelerate recovery and reconstruction in disaster-stricken areas. Faster progress will be made in replanting or shifting to other crops, restoring farmlands and facilities damaged by the flood, and improving urban flood control and drainage facilities.

"The regular epidemic response mechanism will be improved to guard against infections in key links in particular. In the meantime, disaster relief and post-disaster reconstruction should be accelerated. Appropriate arrangements will be made to help the disaster-stricken populations and fully meet their basic living needs, and efforts made in advance to keep people in the north safe and warm throughout the winter," Li said.



Premier Li Keqiang

Job security will remain a high priority. The government will facilitate market-oriented job creation by the non-public sector, and enhance employment assistance and services for key populations such as college students, migrant workers and people in difficulty, to help ensure people's income and livelihood through stable employment.

"Last year's experience shows that sustaining fairly sufficient employment helps generate wealth, keep market vibrant and maintain social stability. We must continue to put employment high on our agenda and see that all assistance and support policies are fully delivered," Li said.

Dedicated efforts will be made to help market entities overcome difficulties. The government must fully deliver the tax and fee cuts already introduced and curb arbitrary charges. Guidance will be provided to financial institutions for effective use of the

capital freed up from the required reserve ratio cuts to strengthen financial services for smaller businesses.

"Micro, small and medium-sized firms, especially those in the services sector, are still faced with serious difficulties," Li said. "Tax and fee cuts introduced earlier this year must be fully delivered, and financial support provided on an ongoing basis. Supporting market entities is to secure employment."

Market supply and prices will be kept stable. Response plans for the price rise of raw materials will be improved and implemented. Domestic production will be scaled up to an appropriate level, reserves will be distributed in a well-calibrated manner, and regulation of key commodity markets will be better coordinated.

The mechanism to secure the provision of daily necessities will continue to be implemented to ensure sufficient market supply.

All regions and government departments are required to follow closely the changes and trends in economic development and optimize their policy mix.

The steady recovery of consumption will be promoted. Local government special bonds will be well harnessed to spur greater effective investment.

More effective opening-up steps will be taken to keep foreign trade and investment stable. Policy coordination and communication will be enhanced to shore up the confidence of market entities and maintain steady economic performance.

Xinhua

Uganda resumes airing lessons as schools remain closed amid COVID-19

KAMPALA

UGANDA on Monday resumed airing lessons on radio for upper primary and secondary school levels as schools in the country remain closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The lessons airing on different stations across the country are expected to run through September, according to a statement from the ministry of education.

"Parents and guardians are, therefore, requested to support the learners with radio sets and to also allow them time to tune in to the various radio stations in order to attend the lessons," the ministry said.

Aisha Namaganda, a parent in the central district of Wakiso, said she had bought a small radio set for her daughter to enable her to attend Senior One lessons.

"She is ready but the problem is that where she has not understood, she will not be able to interact with the teacher," Namaganda told Xinhua in an interview. She added that some subjects might not be easily understood through radio.

Joseph Tusiime, a primary school teacher from the western district of Kyenjojo, told Xinhua by telephone that learners in urban centers are in a better position to benefit from the radio lessons.

"This is planting time and children have to go with their parents in the farms. So it might not be easy to wait for lessons," Tusiime said.

"Those in trading centers will follow the lessons since they have all the time."

Those with educated parents will also benefit from the lessons as they will support the learners," he added. Schools were

closed in May following a spike in COVID-19 cases.

The education ministry has said it is working with the health ministry to ensure that learners who are 18 years old and above as well as teachers are vaccinated.

The country also said it would import vaccines to inoculate children aged between 12 and 18 years old.

China can arrange an open and safe Winter Olympics: Veikko Halonen

"CHINA has shown the way how to handle an epidemic. Tight rules for daily life have been proved the right strategy to ensure a quick comeback to normal social and economic life in China. Based on the experiences, China will arrange an open and safe Winter Olympics," Veikko Halonen, the CEO of Vuokatti Olympic Training Center told People's Daily in a recent written interview.

Halonen was very impressed by Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games. "I have never seen such solid and coherent will and effort to organize a sport event."

I still remember the scene when Finnish Olympic team came back home from Beijing in 2008. They praised Beijing Olympics as one of the best games in Olympic history."

From his point of view, with great efforts and enthusiasm, the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games will again be "extraordinary and excellent". "It seems that the coming Olympics are an event of whole people, not only an issue of limited number of athletes", he added.

Beijing 2022 is committed to its mission of hosting "green, inclusive, open and clean" Olympic Winter Games. The Organising Committee's initiatives include sustainable management of venues, low carbon programmes and sustainable sourcing.

Halonen appreciated China's efforts on ecological protection and stressed that sustainability is one of the most important issues all over the world.

Halonen has visited the venues and stadiums used at Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games. Now China has transformed the National Aquatics Centre, colloquially known as the "Water Cube", into an "Ice Cube" for the coming Olympic Games.

Wukesong Sports Centre, a former stadium for basketball, has been transformed into a stadium for ice hockey. It is the first venue in China which can be used for the two professional sports events after simple transformation.

"I was very impressed when I had the chance to see how Beijing is reconstructing the previous steel factory, Shougang Park site, into a place of sports and leisure." He stressed that all these changes manifest China's implementation of the green Olympics



Chinese and Finnish para-athletes were competing in Vuokatti Olympic Training Center. File Photo

and its responsibility for environmental protection.

Beijing 2022's vision of giving 300 million people in China access to winter sports has already been visible.

Halonen shared a similar period of history in Finland with People's Daily: "50 years ago, Finland decided to encourage its people to go in for winter sports. We announced a campaign 'Kansanhiihto' ('Nation's ski' in English).

That campaign was going on for years, and people were so proud if they got many 'Nation's ski' textile marks in his/her ski jacket."

He believes that China's vision of promoting 300 million people to be winter sports lovers will certainly be realized, and it will also facilitate the cooperation between Finland and China extending from Olympic games to mass sports, sports industry and other fields.

The cooperation between Finland and China in fields of winter sport games is getting much closer in recent years.

During the China Finland Year of Winter Sports in 2019, the two countries held more than 60 celebrating events, boosting the development speed of winter sports industry in both countries. Halonen said it was great experience to take part in these events.

Vuokatti Sport Olympic Training Center lies in the northern part of Finland, attracting lots of Chinese athletes coming for competing and training every year. Halonen has been personally following the training of Chinese athletes and para-athletes: "Chinese teams are well-organized, and they have clear rules of training and daily programs. I am sure that China will improve its global status in winter sports."

This year, Chinese Lunar New Year began on February 12. Halonen shared a photo of four bottles of soy sauces made in China on his Facebook account that day.

As a food and cooking lover, he was very happy to receive the gift from his Chinese colleague.

"In recent years, my Chinese friends and colleagues have briefed me on many Chinese traditions and conventions. China, Chinese athletes and Chinese sports organization leaders have opened a wonderful window for me to the new culture."

He believed that the upcoming Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games will also be a precious chance for the world to learn more about China, and "the mutual trust and cooperation between Finland and China will surely continue to rise in sports fields."

People's Daily

Malaysian lawmakers to submit PM choice amid political crisis

KUALA LUMPUR



THE speaker of Malaysia's parliament has asked lawmakers to each submit a letter stating their choice of the next prime minister after Muhyiddin Yassin stepped down this week.

Muhyiddin (pictured) resigned on Monday with no obvious successor as the Southeast Asian nation battles a COVID-19 surge and an economic slump. He cited lack of parliamentary support, but will stay on as caretaker until a new government is formed.

The constitutional monarch, King Al-Sultan Abdullah, who met leaders of political parties on Tuesday, had previously ruled out elections because of the pandemic, saying he would appoint a prime minister he believed likely to command a majority.

In line with a decree by the king, the lawmakers have until 4 pm (0800 GMT) on Wednesday to send the letters to the palace, parliament speaker Azhar Azizan Harun said.

"I am giving a notice to you to present one declaration letter that clearly states one lawmaker that has your confidence to become the ninth prime minister," he said in the notice to lawmakers seen by Reuters.

The letters may be sent by facsimile, email or on the online messaging service WhatsApp, he added, saying there would be no in-person submission at the palace because of COVID-19 risks.

Last year, when then premier Mahathir Mohamad quit unexpectedly, the king met all 222 members of parliament to seek their choices for the next leader. After a week of discussions, he picked Muhyiddin.

At present, no lawmaker has a clear majority in parliament. The opposition bloc and Malaysia's biggest party are split on support for their prime ministerial candidates.

The ringgit currency stabilized on Tuesday after falling to a one-year low a day earlier. The benchmark stock index gained 1 percent following some losses on Monday.

Malaysia has been in a state of political flux since widespread graft accusations led to the 2018 election defeat of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), which had governed for more than 60 years since independence.

The Mahathir-led alliance brought the opposition to power for the first time, but it collapsed from infighting.

Muhyiddin put together a coalition with political parties that were defeated in the 2018 polls, including UMNO.

But that alliance was also fragile, and a constant tussle with UMNO, which balked at playing second fiddle, prompted Muhyiddin's resignation after just 17 months in office.

Agencies

SPORT



Aga Khan SC's Riziki Kisetu poses for a picture with the best player of the match prize he lifted when his squad faced Caravans Cricket Club in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50 overs' semi-final held in the city last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

Aga Khan SC cricketers progress to Kazim Nasser Memorial League final

By Guardian Reporter

AGA Khan SC cricketers have progressed to this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50 Overs' final with a 34-run victory over Caravans Cricket Club in the semi-final played in the city on Sunday.

The showdown final will thus see Aga Khan SC confront Aces Cricket Club that emerged victorious in the first semi-final, which saw the team lock horns with Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) on August 8.

Aces Cricket Club cruised to a seven-wicket win over SKLPSC in the semi-final.

In the Sunday semi-final, which was held at Leaders Club, Aga Khan SC cricketers were put in to bat first and were skittled for 166 runs in the duel, which was reduced to 29 overs because of rain.

Caravans Cricket Club won the toss and elected to bowl and, in the third over, they got the wicket of Aga Khan SC's experienced all-rounder, Abhik Patwa.

Patwa, who had opened the innings, was sent back to the pavilion with two runs to his name.

Dhruvit Mehta, slotted in at number three, joined the other opener, Arshaan Jasani, and Mehta got out in the 11th over, with Aga Khan SC reaching 42 runs for two wickets.

Aga Khan SC's experienced player, Riziki Kisetu, one of the cricketers placed at the top of the batting unit, stepped at the crease and registered 21 runs.

The clash had to be stopped for some time because of the downpour, Kisetu got his hands on the bat in the 16th over once the match resumed.

The semi-finalists, as a result, resorted to participating in the reduced over-game due to the loss of game time.

The approach turned out to be an

advantage to Caravans Cricket Club that took the crease second.

Aga Khan SC kept losing wickets and finally the cricketers were all out for 166 runs in the 30th over.

The tie's target was revised to 177 runs as per the Duckworth-Lewis system, a system used when the games are interrupted by rain.

Caravans Cricket Club then resumed the chase and the game was an advantage to outfit, unfortunately, the cricketers did not utilize it.

The club's chase never took off well as the cricketers were reduced to seven runs for three wickets, with Kisetu and Harsheed Chohan toppling the tree.

Caravans Cricket Club's experienced cricketers, Jitin Singh and Kassim Nassor, did put up a 49-run partnership, only to see Nassor being caught plumb off Aga Khan SC's Aahil Jasani's bowling.

Nassor returned to the pavilion with an individual score of 20 runs.

The senior performer was soon joined by his partner Singh at the latter's score of 38 runs, with his team 99 runs away from the target.

Much as Caravans Cricket Club's other experienced players, Hamisi Abdallah, Nandakishan Pottachira, and Nasibu Kelvin Mapunda, did try hard to chase down the runs, they could live up to expectations.

In the end, youthful cricketer, Johnson Nyambo, who was recruited by the team because of his bowling prowess, did try to push for his outfit's win.

Nyambo, who ended with an individual highest score of 24 runs, was the last batsman out in Caravans Cricket Club's batting unit.

Aga Khan SC's Kisetu was adjudged the semi-final's best player for the best bowling figures he recorded.

The experienced spinner ended his bowling spell with three wickets in six overs, fellow bowler, Alhaj Sadick, took two wickets in six overs.

Kisetu was presented with a cash prize and the best player of the match's jersey, proudly sponsored by Unimoni Company.

SPORTS

Azam FC, Yanga, Simba SC pleased with 12 foreign players' quota

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE decision by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Executive Committee to adopt the rule of increasing the number of foreign players in Mainland Premier League's outfits from 10 to 12 has brought great joy to football officials in the country.

In a statement issued by TFF Director of Legal, Media, and Marketing, Boniface Wambura, the code has been approved by the federation's Executive Committee which met during the weekend.

The newly introduced regulation has allowed eight foreign players to play for Premier League clubs in one game.

Wambura revealed: "The issue of foreign players is one of the rules that has been improved and approved where we have allowed teams to register no more than 12 foreign players."

The TFF official stated: "Also this rule has been further improved and requires teams to use eight foreign players in one match, where we usually know one match involves 18 players on the pitch with those on the bench."

"It is, therefore, the team's choice to start all eight in a match or fewer, and the rest should remain on the bench," he noted.

TFF Tournament Director, Salum Madadi, further clarified the matter, saying: "The matter was discussed jointly with the leaders of the participating Premier League teams, the Executive Committee was tasked with processing and approving it and the committee has already done so by allowing 12 foreign players, with eight involved in one game and the principle will come into effect next season."



Simba SC's Acting Head of Information and Communication Department, Ezekiel Kamwaga.

The decision has been welcomed by Simba, Yanga, and Azam FC, which are alleged to have requested the increase, believing it will help them make their presence in continental club tournaments felt.

Thabit Zakaria, Azam FC Information Officer, said: "We have received it with joy. Azam FC and Premier League need a lot of good players who will bring a lot

of competition and we have few competent natives."

Zakaria noted: "For example, it is not easy for every club to have such a good local goalkeeper like Aishi Mantula, so an increase will help fill the gaps."

Yanga Information Officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said: "It's a good thing, it gives us a chance to get different options in the matches we play, we are in continental competition so we have to have a lot of good players so that we can compete and win."

Simba SC's Acting Head of Information and Communication Department, Ezekiel Kamwaga, revealed: "This is inevitable for a team like Simba that needs to compete with fellow African champions, through this, we can see local players' potential."



Mnazi Mmoja Secondary School's students take part in basketball training at JMK Youth Park in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tanzania set to commemorate World Boxing Day

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA is, at the end of this month, set to join the rest of the world in celebrating World Boxing Day.

Open Boxing Federation of Tanzania (OBFT)'s secretary-general, Lukelo Wililo, noted the celebrations will be held on August 27 at a venue to be announced later. Wililo noted the day will be commemorated under the slogan 'we are the face of boxing', and there are many activities that will be held on the day.

The OBFT official mentioned some of the activities as presentations of

awards to the best boxers of the year and stakeholders, who have contributed to the success of boxing in the year.

There will also be shadow boxing between old and current boxers.

"We will join the rest of the world to celebrate World Boxing Day, there will be a lot of activities but more details will be announced later," he said.

World Boxing Day is held on July 22 but International Boxing Association (AIBA) rescheduled the day to August 27 to connect with the 1974 World Boxing Championships which was held in Havana, Cuba from August 17-30.

Eleven boxing champions were crowned in the showpiece, with the hosts topping the medals' list.

This is the third time that World Boxing Day is being celebrated.

It originates from Russia in 1917, having been founded by Umar Kremlev, who was the secretary-general of the Russia Boxing Federation. In 2019, AIBA recognized it and it is now celebrated all over the world annually. Meanwhile, OBFT has announced that preparations for National Club Championships, slated for October this year at National Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam, are going on well.

POEM: Strong Mother

By Pauline Julius, SJMC

I HAD a dream, it had everything I wanted. I was able to wish all that I thought I wanted to do at the moment.

But one day that dream became a reality. And the reality was nothing I wished for.

It was better. I came out in a unique world where nobody could imagine a person who loved being with something new.

As I grew up sucking her breast, the total stranger watched over me, loved me, and always wished the best for me.

I didn't know her. But at least I was learning. I watched her fetch water from the farthest distances, struggled by herself, cooked for me while we were both passing

through the hardest points of life in the face of the earth.

I couldn't have done anything without her.

In the trenches of Ordovician valleys, she went to fetch food and water for me.

And most surprisingly is that she would hide me in the safest places so that no animal could bite me.

We have been through a lot of torment that the world would cry if they saw us.

Amid the greatest dim-out, she walked with me so we could find a place to sleep for the night, and in the morning, we would wander like cows for food and 'pasture'.

I watched the government take all the things we had just because she was a

woman.

She wept in grief and nobody seemed to listen to her. We still wandered in search of everything.

I watched the powerful kill her in pain for no reason. She pleaded though no one could listen to her.

Tears ran down her eyes like a never-dry river. That has been my greatest heartbreak and everlasting suffering.

The pain is more than that of aching cancer.

That stranger of a woman was my mother.

In my grown-up ages, the greatest promise I made to myself is to respect all women and honour them.

And I carry that discipline forever.

“

World Boxing Day is held on July 22 but International Boxing Association (AIBA) rescheduled the day to August 27 to connect with the 1974 World Boxing Championships which was held in Havana, Cuba from August 17-30.

Laporta fumes as Barca debt rises to €1.35bn

BARCELONA

BARCELONA president Joan Laporta has revealed that the club's debt now totals €1.35 billion while defending his management from criticism by predecessor Josep Maria Bartomeu, describing an open letter published by Bartomeu last week as "full of lies."

Laporta -- who took over at Barca in March after winning elections that followed Bartomeu's resignation in October 2020 -- has had to deal with a series of off-the-pitch crises as the club has struggled with financial problems worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

"As of March 21, 2021, the debt was €1.35bn," Laporta said in a news conference on Monday.

"Bartomeu was plugging holes in the short term and mortgaging the club in the long term. That leaves us a dramatic inheritance."

"To the initial debt of €617m you have to add €389m on players, €90m in litigation, €79m in advance television rights and €56m from the 'Espai Barca' project. In total, it's €1.35bn."

Lionel Messi joined Paris Saint-Germain last week in a move Laporta described as "sad, but necessary," after Barca were unable to register a new contract for the forward within the club's strict LaLiga-imposed salary cap.

Only Gerard Pique's acceptance of a last-minute pay cut allowed Barca to field new signings Memphis Depay and Eric Garcia in the league this weekend.

"We're happy we resolved it with Pique and we're hugely grateful," Laporta said. "Some players are more than just players. Pique is a club man who loves Barca above all. He's seen that we're in a difficult situation and he's done something that deserves praise."

Pique -- speaking after scoring the opening goal in Barca's 4-2 win over Real Sociedad on Sunday -- had said that fellow captains Sergio Busquets, Sergi Roberto and Jordi Alba were also willing to accept wage reductions.

"The negotiations are going well, and they're behaving extraordinarily," Laporta said on Monday.

"I understand the players,

they've already had a wage cut and now they're being asked to make another effort, no-one likes that. ... We're trying to sort out the captains first, and then the rest of the squad."

Laporta laid the blame for Barcelona's wage bill -- which he said had reached an unsustainable 103% of the club's income -- at the previous board of directors, led by Bartomeu.

"It isn't true that the salaries rose to be able to compete with the 'state clubs' [referring to PSG and Manchester City] and the Premier League," he said.

"They spent the €220m from the Neymar deal disproportionately and at light speed. That is when the salaries shot up. We'll have to change the model and invest in [Barcelona's academy] La Masia, making more proportionate investments with more sporting logic."

Last week, Bartomeu wrote an open letter -- published by Spanish news agency EFE -- in which he defended his administration and criticised Laporta's running of the club.

"I have read [the letter] carefully and it is full of lies," Laporta said. "It is an effort to justify unjustifiable management. It is an exercise in desperation, that looks to take advantage of a moment of unrest among Barcelona fans."

"They say they are not responsible for the 2019-20 accounts, but they are responsible until March 17, 2021. The numbers are [Bartomeu's] board's responsibility. Nobody will escape from that."

Barcelona have commissioned a "due diligence" audit to assess the club's financial condition and management, which Laporta said was due to be completed next month.

"The due diligence process will be laid out in September and then we'll establish where responsibility lies," he said.

"Some issues like 'Barcagate' are already being looked at by the courts. ... It is too soon to say. First we have to ascertain what liabilities there are. I can't say if we will take legal action."

(Agencies)

Super League rebels back in European club group

MADRID

NINE of the teams that were part of the ill-fated launch of a breakaway Super League have been welcomed back into the decision-making organisation overseeing the European club game.

Six English clubs -- Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham -- will be members of European Club Association (ECA) again, along with AC Milan, Inter Milan and Atletico Madrid.

But Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus are refusing to give up on the largely closed breakaway competition to launch a rival to the Champions League, prolonging the rift with UEFA and their European counterparts.

All 12 founding Super League clubs quit the ECA in April when they reneged on previous commitments to UEFA to launch the Super League. The nine now reintegrated into the ECA collapsed the project when they abandoned the Super League amid a backlash from governing bodies and supporters -- particularly in England.

The ECA is now chaired by Nasser Al-Khelaifi, the president of Paris Saint-Germain, who never signed up to the Super League that collapsed inside 48 hours. The ECA said there was "an exhaustive process of re-engagement by the clubs and re-assessment" before its executive board allowed them to withdraw their previous resignations.

"The ECA executive board took into consideration the clubs' ac-

knowledge that the so-called European Super League project was not in the interests of the wider football community and their publicly communicated decisions to abandon said ESL project completely," the ECA said in a statement on Monday.

"The ECA board also acknowledged the clubs' stated willingness to engage actively with ECA in its collective mission to develop European club football -- in the open and transparent interests of all, not the few."

The nine former rebel clubs have already agreed to a financial settlement with UEFA, accepting fines as an acknowledgment of wrongdoing for trying to split from existing competition structures. They made a combined payment of €15 million (\$18m) and will give up 5% of revenue for one season playing in Europe.

In a move to prevent them deploying the Super League threat again, the clubs have also agreed to be fined €100m if they seek again to play in an unauthorised competition or €50m if they breach any other commitments to UEFA as part of the settlement.

Despite lacking the backing of their biggest European counterparts, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus are still pursuing legal action to challenge what they called "UEFA's monopolistic position over European football."

They hope the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg will rule in their favor and permit the concept of a Super League not run by UEFA to be explored by teams.

Giving up salary to help the team: Why Pique is Barcelona's leader on and off the pitch

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

NO one could have imagined that when Barcelona played their first competitive match for nearly 17 years without Lionel Messi as a first-team squad member, they could produce something as remarkable as almost anything the Argentine magician routinely produced at Camp Nou?

OK, the quality of the goal -- Memphis Depay assisting Gerard Pique's headed opener against Real Sociedad was good -- but not earth-shatteringly so.

But the fact that during the week preceding the match, Pique -- a hard-headed, shrewd businessman -- had renounced a sum close to 50% of his salary over the next three years so that the club he loves could meet La Liga's FFP regulations and be allowed to register Depay, plus Eric Garcia and Rey Manaj, made the goal something beyond historic.

Try unique -- try transcendental.

Think of it. Pique makes a gesture that, in pure financial terms, is probably unequalled in the history of professional football so that the Dutchman was not only registered with LaLiga, but could play against the Txuri-urdin on Barca's first night shorn of Messi's genius. Then, with some sort of universal karma, Depay lofts the ball right into the path of Pique's run so that he can smash the ball past Remiro in La Real's goal. Hollywood would have dismissed it as too unlikely, too saccharine.

Earlier, during the warm-up, the Catalan had been greeted by a roar which was disproportionate to there only being around 30,000 fans in the house. They saw him as a "saviour," and his goal duly prompted chants of "Pique President!" throughout what was, ultimately, a comfortable 4-2 victory in the Blaugrana's season opener.

If you're reading this, Gerard: what about it? We've had a player-coach and a player-manager, but no elite club since Barcelona's foundation well over a century ago has ever had a player-president. Fancy it?

Anyway, what those chanting for Pique's immediate presidency certainly didn't know was how Pique's initiative began, how well thought out it was, or how much it had cost him.

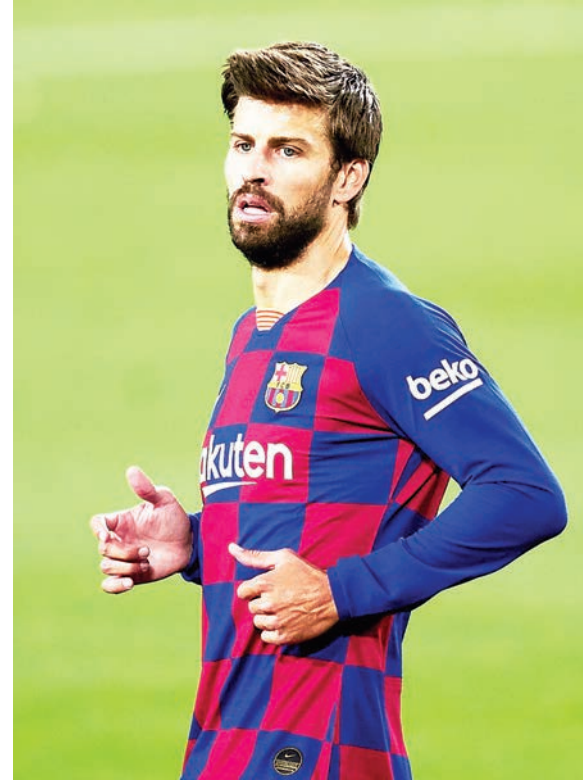
These are turbulent times at the Camp Nou, and while we all have our sources, it's tougher to obtain firm information when every single employee is swimming harder than they ever have in order to keep above the aggressive tide of debt. However, if I read the runes correctly, the "investment" Pique has made to keep his club on the rails is twofold.

Some salary deferral -- which means to say he'll be paid it, but significantly later -- is move to give Barcelona immediate relief on what they owe. But also, crucially, he's forsaking a sum of money (I mean, giving it up completely, folks), which is a significant eight-figure sum across three years. But I'm led to understand, too, that this president without the office has also foregone the bonuses and incentives which are de rigueur in any high-profile sports employment contract. Meaning that if, by some miracle, Barcelona won the Champions League and/or LaLiga in the next couple of seasons, then gifting away the "add-ons" in his contract pertaining to team and personal performance, would mean Pique is giving up an even greater eight-figure amount of money he was due.

You are, of course, free to form your own opinion. Some, sadly, will be dismissive. Yes, Pique's already rich; yes, too, his partner, Shakira, is also fabulously wealthy. But across all the many rich men or women I've met, two of the most unifying factors are that no matter how much money they have, "it's never enough." The other is that even those who are wealthy and philanthropic usually view giving back money they've negotiated, and believe they've earned, with the same enthusiasm as Dracula regarded stakes, garlic and daylight.

If you're incapable of appreciating this as a hugely significant, shrewd and probably unique gesture, then you should leave the debate.

After Sunday's match, Pique ensured the (long) on-pitch interview wasn't much about him, his goal or his salary gift-back and instead defended his fellow captains and their willingness to follow suit. (He also didn't



Gerard Pique

waste time on finger-pointing at the "men in suits.") His conclusion is that unless everyone at the club is rowing in the same direction immediately, then FC Barcelona will run aground. And messily so.

When Jordi Alba later talked about Pique having been ahead of the curve on giving up salary so that Barcelona could once again operate normally (in the immediate short term), he used the phrase "timing."

The truth is that Pique was ahead of the curve because renouncing a large eight-figure sum was his idea -- not the club's. He took the initiative. Over the past three weeks, Pique has been planning, canvassing opinions from those he most respects, crunching numbers and calculating the risk/reward/consequence equation.

The first platform of his initiative had to do with personal ambition and personal satisfaction. The 34-year-old Catalan long ago decided that he had no desire for an experiment in another foreign team, having played for Manchester United between 2004 and 2008. Barcelona, the city, was home, and his family felt -- just like Leo Messi, his wife and kids did before him -- when they received the club's shocking news. Leaving was unpalatable.

More than that, Barca felt like "his" club.

Late on Sunday night, Pique released a little video clip of him as a four-year-old, in the company of his grandparents, politely requesting Ronald Koeman's autograph. It was taken about two years after Koeman scored the club's first European Cup Final-winning goal. There's vast context for Pique's love of his club, but that was the most recent historic reference. Anyway, having long since decided that he now fancied playing for Barcelona until he was 37, a central factor in his thinking over these three weeks was a determination not to coast. Pique wanted to win.

If you've watched or listened to him closely, it will already have been crystal-clear that it's not the playing itself that inspires him. It's competing, competing hard, challenging himself, risking defeat but craving victory. These are the same things that inspired his investment in FC Andorra (he's the owner and majority shareholder) and his purchase of tennis' Davis Cup (with his friend and business partner Hiroshi Mikitani). On a smaller scale, the same thing that inspires Pique's fascination with poker.

For Barcelona to be more competitive, particularly without Messi, it was imperative that Depay and Garcia (each of whom performed excellently against La Real) weren't left sitting on the sidelines until January, when player registration re-opened in Spain.

In gifting a multimillion-euro sum back to the club, Pique was investing in his team's ability to compete and joust for trophies.

That makes his daring move seem more logical, right? But be truthful. In an identical situation, how much of what was contractually yours, by right, would you have dared to forego? €10m or €20m? Less? More? Nothing? Be honest.

We are talking about a guy who's pretty obsessed with the NBA. Pique computed the fact that a couple of great "leader-players" in recent NBA history, capable of forcing mind-blowing, epoch-making personal deals, who ceded (just a little) to their franchise because forcing as much salary as they could have would have left their squad less competitive and less likely to win.

Think of LeBron James and the Miami Heat in 2010, if you like.

Pique injected another, often bitter-tasting, element into his salary-reduction planning: realism. He talked to his parents, his partner and his highly experienced, highly regarded representative and friend of 20 years, Arturo Canales. While many of them, conditioned over many years to fight for and protect sizeable contracts, presented him with doubts and advice against his move, they also played devil's advocates.

Football, as a business, is pitiless, has very little memory or loyalty, and the karma of good acts being rewarded in kind is for the naive or the extremely fortunate. And several voices reminded Pique that he was investing in an, as-yet, untested Barcelona board. Would they intelligently and honestly use the windfall he (and, in due course, the other captains) were gifting them? The consensus was that this was unproven.

A few months ago, Pique decided, calculating all the medical advice, to avoid surgery on a damaged interior knee ligament so that he could return more quickly last season instead of this, and help his team. A calculated risk, but a risk nevertheless. Ultimately, there was some reward in that while both the Champions League and LaLiga slipped away, he lifted his 36th trophy when he and the rest of Koeman's side won the Copa Del Rey. But who's to say how long his knee will continue to respect the rigours of relentless top flight football?

Hopefully he plays and continues to earn until the age of 37, but there are no guarantees.

Equally, a couple of bad games, a few bad results and one or two (accurate or inaccurate) media stories, and who's to say that some or all of those who were chanting "Pique Presidente" on Sunday night won't be booing him and the rest of those who've made economic sacrifices instead? This was discussed, factored in and accepted.

(We are, remember, talking about the club that promised Eric Abidal a contract extension as soon as he fought back from cancer and began to play first team football, only to then usher him straight out the back door. We're also talking about a president in Laporta who, when Pique was a youth-team prospect fighting for his contractual rights, was part of an administration that froze the player out of playing weekly football and helped force him out the door, aged 16, when Manchester United pipped Arsene Wenger to Pique's signature.)

None of this is to paint Pique as a saint. He isn't; he knows it and anyone who's on "Planet Pique" understands his fierce temper, his mulish stubbornness to say precisely what he wants, sometimes regardless of consequences. But this is a significant football man who's just produced a remarkable initiative that's worth stopping to consider and understand. You can bet your bottom dollar (or 20 million of them) that some top European players and agents are utterly horrified by what's happened.

In many ways, Pique reminds me of his former manager at Manchester United, Sir Alex Ferguson. Ferguson always knew that across his brilliant career, his innate ability to confront threatening problems, game them out in his mind and then fearlessly attack them having done actuarial calculations about possible consequences, consistently set him ahead of his most voracious domestic rival managers.

Pique has that, too. This is also the kid who, many years ago, revealed to the late Michael Robinson, that, as bored young teenagers, he and Cesc Fabregas used to nip down to the Barceloneta beachfront and pinch petrol caps off parked cars. This is also the guy who, on graduating from high school, partied with fellow alumni on a boat owned by the parents of one of his friends.

High spirits being what they are, and the parents being unaware of the impromptu party, the sizeable yacht was unmoored, revved up and heading out to sea when the coast guards intervened. I make no comment about the ring leaders, but if you address the subject of this column as Rear Admiral Pique, he'll know why.

I'd also be a liar if I didn't admit, again, that I was part Pique's most infamous "goal-net clipping" after the 2010 World Cup final, deep in the bowels of Johannesburg's Soccer City stadium. A rude, objectionable employee was lying about where the match nets were hidden and not only denying Spain's centre-half the chance to snip 'n save even a tiny section, but sneering at him too.

"Right, Graham: I'll punch him, you grab those nets and we'll make a run for it" suggested the man who, 35 minutes earlier, had lifted Spain's first-ever World Cup in front of a global TV audience of billions. In one of the few demonstrably wise decisions of my life, I persuaded Gerard that negotiations were better than pugilism.

These negotiations, over the past three weeks, have been complex, interesting and unique and on Sunday night, they yielded spectacular consequences.

Many moons ago, interviewed by a Catalan radio journalist, Pique let slip the idea that one day, he expected to become President at Camp Nou, but recent business adventures were beginning, in my opinion, to suggest his ambition had changed its gaze. It felt like esports, tennis, social media expansion, blockchain-supported fantasy football investment, film and documentary-making might all be starting to make his future-vision macro, not micro.

Today, I'm not so sure. I think the prospect of running the club he loves still drives him. Pique, don't forget, was directly responsible for bringing over €250m of Rakuten sponsorship to FC Barcelona -- remarkable. If he indeed becomes FC Barcelona president, I'd imagine that will be some considerable time in the future -- and against the advice of most of his close confidants. Yet the recent evidence shows he's likely to do a far better job than (between them) Sandro Rosell, Josep Maria Bartomeu or this version of Joan Laporta have been capable.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Giving up salary to help the team: Why Pique is Barcelona's leader on and off the pitch



Tanzanian junior athletes put their skills to show in a recent National Junior Championship, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Samatta now urged to step up performance at Fenerbahce

By Correspondent Ismail Tano



TANZANIA'S international striker, Mbwana Samatta, has been warned that he has to work hard if he seeks to nail a place in Fenerbahce's starting lineup in this season's Turkish Premier League, known as 'Supa League'.

Samatta (pictured) currently wears jersey number 15 that was previously worn by Henri Bienvenu, former Cameroon senior national team striker that turned out for Fenerbahce for two years.

The Cameroonian, in his last season at Fenerbahce, wore jersey number 15.

Butterball Tom, a Turkish sports fan, noted: "It's true that the number 15 jersey is not lucky for Fenerbahce, but that will not make Samatta fail to do well."

Tom revealed: "He could be the first player to do well with that number, he should be more committed this season."

For Samatta, jersey number 15 has a good history for the striker. Samatta wore the same number DR Congo's TP Mazembe and did well.

It was however different for Bienvenu, he was not lucky with the number and that is why he could not excel whilst donning the kit with the number at the Turkish outfit after returning to the club from a loan stint at Spain's Real Zaragoza.

And it is reported that even before Bienvenu wore that number in his final season, Volkan Babacan, Fenerbahce's keeper in the 2012/13 season, was as well unlucky with that number, the shot-stopper ended up spinning the bench before being sacked.

After Bienvenu's departure, several players continued to use the number, including midfielder, Uygur Zeybek, and central defender, Serdar Aziz, and none of them were straightened out.

Zeybek ended up playing just two games again for four minutes, at least his teammate, Aziz, was getting a chance to play once in a while but later had to change that number and now he uses number four and he is aging.

When Aziz dropped the number 15 jersey, goalkeeper, Harun Tekin, who is the second choice, took the jersey number.

Altay Bayindir is Fenerbahce's number one goalkeeper. Samatta has taken jersey number 15.

The outfit's second choice keeper, Tekin, has, in seven friendly games, scored one goal.

Initially, Samatta was wearing jersey number 10 which had to be handed over to Mesut Ozil.

Ozil, a German national of Turkish descent, joined Fenerbahce from England's Arsenal where in his final days he did not get a chance to play.

Ozil is also a friend of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Samatta was wearing jersey number 10 when he was playing for Belgium's Genk and he wore jersey number 20 when he moved to Aston Villa of England.

Kamwaga now dismisses rumours about resignation from Simba SC



Simba SC's Acting Head of Information and Communication Department, Ezekiel Kamwaga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's Acting Head of Information and Communication Department, Ezekiel Kamwaga, yesterday dismissed rumours about his resignation from the post, saying it is not at all true.

"Not at all. Not at all," Kamwaga told reporters when he was asked if he had resigned.

"There is no truth in the rumours," Kamwaga, who was appointed on an interim basis after the resignation of Haji Manara last month, asserted.

On Monday evening, social media was awash with reports of the resignation of Kamwaga over alleged disagreements with his bosses.

Kamwaga termed the reports circulating on social media as fake news.

He stated: "I am still the Acting Head of Simba's Information and Communication Department, if those reports were true I would not be here to respond to you in my capacity."

Kamwaga disclosed: "I don't know, I am surprised that those who have been reporting the news did not get in touch before going ahead with the story."

"I wish he had called me but unfortunately we are in a world where the biggest challenge is fake news. I am a victim of fake news."

"Simba wanted to hand me a long-term deal but I thought I would accomplish everything within two months. It's just two months and I don't intend to extend it."

The Simba SC official moreover disclosed: "Right full-back, Israel Patrick Mwenda, has joined our squad from Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC on a three-year deal."

"Mwenda had a good run last season at KMC FC, a situation that led to him attracting the attention of our outfit's technical bench under head coach Didier Gomes."

Mwenda was part of the national U-17 football squad, Serengeti Boys, which played in the 2017 U-17 African Cup of Nations in Gabon.

He has graduated into a full Tanzanian international, as he recently got a call-up for the senior national squad, Taifa Stars, coached by Kim Poulsen.

He scored a free-kick goal in Taifa Stars' 2-0 victory over Malawi in an international friendly played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in June.

He becomes the fifth player to be announced by Simba SC after midfielder Peter Banda from Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets FC, striker Yusuph Mhulu from Kagera Sugar, Malawian winger Duncan Nyoni, winger Ousmane Sakho and defender Henock Inonga Baka from DC Motema Pembe.

Mwenda, who played for Mwanza's Alliance FC before joining KMC FC last season, is part of the Simba SC squad that is in Morocco for a two-week pre-season camp ahead of the 2021/22 campaign.

Tanzania misses out on World U-20 Athletics Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will not be part of participating countries in the World U-20 Athletics Championships which gets underway today in Nairobi, Kenya.

Athletics Tanzania (AT)'s head of the technical panel, Michael Washa, said local junior athletes failed to meet the showpiece's qualifying conditions set by World Athletics.

He said the conditions, which the country athletes failed to meet, include reaching qualifying time at events that are recognized by the world athletics body.

Washa revealed: "The country's junior athletes will not compete at the World U-20 Athletics Championships, which gets underway on Wednesday (today) in Kenya, we did not qualify for the event."

The AT official disclosed: "You know one of the qualifying conditions is that athletes should earn qualifications at venues which have electric timing, we have that gadget at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium but we don't have people who can operate it."

"The last time we hosted the East Africa Junior Athletics Championships, the gadget was used but it was operated by Chinese nationals," he said. He could not mention the number of junior athletes, who could have represented the country at the championships.

The World U-20 Athletics Championships was initially planned to kick off yesterday but it was pushed back to today and it is set to come to an end on Sunday.

Kenya Sports Cabinet Secretary, Amina Mohammed, was reported to have said all necessary preparations for the showpiece have been finalized.

"We are more than ready for the World U-20 Athletics Championships, and this will give us an advantage because it has opened more opportunities for us to host major events in the future," she said.

The world athletics governing body says the event offers unprecedented opportunities for young promising athletes to move on to the senior World Championships and Olympic stages.

It says many athletes, who will represent their countries at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon, United States of America (USA) in 2022, Budapest 2023, and Paris Olympics in 2024, will be products of this year's World U-20 Championships.

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

WEDNESDAY

- 11:00 DADAZ LIVE
- 12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
- 13:30 Kali Za Wana
- 14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
- 14:30 Bongo Hits
- 15:00 Funguka
- 15:30 Nirvana (r)
- 16:00 Skonga (r)
- 16:30 #HASHTAG
- 17:00 5SELEKT
- 17:55 Kurasa
- 18:00 eNewz
- 18:30 Music/Soap
- 19:00 EATV SAA 1
- 19:45 MJADALA
- 20:00 DADAZ (r)
- 21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1

Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

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- 06:00 Supa Breakfast
- 10:00 MAMAMIA
- 12:00 Kipenga Xtra
- 13:00 Planet Bongo
- 16:00 EA Drive
- 20:00 Kipenga
- 21:00 The Cruise

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Flexibles by David Chikoko

