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Mbowe lodges appeal over Samia remarks on charges



By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA national chairman Freeman Mbowe and his three co-accused persons in terrorism charges now want the case dropped because of a recent comment made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Lead defence lawyer Peter Kibatala told Kisumu Resident Magistrate's court in a virtual mention of the terrorism-related case that his clients have moved to the High Court with prayers that the president discussed a sub judice matter and that can lead to unfair trial and injustice.

The lawyer told principal resident magistrate Thomas Simba that the comments made in an interview with



Because this court has no jurisdiction over constitutional cases like this, we ask that this matter be taken to the High Court for it to see if the comment interfered with the independence of the judiciary, and thus the case be declared null and void

the BBC could not only influence the case at the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's court where it was being mentioned but also at a superior court where it will later be heard and determined.

"The presidency is a powerful and influential institution. Whatever it says, and the manner in which the comment was made has been interpreted by my clients that they have already been judged," he said.

"There is no way they can get justice; the comment interfered with the independence of the judiciary and hence there is no way this case can proceed—it should be dropped."

"Because this court has no jurisdiction over constitutional cases like this, we ask that this matter be taken to the High Court for it to see if the comment interfered

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday with a delegation from Egypt's Elsewedy Electric Company led by the firm's president and CEO, Ahmed El Sewedy (3rd-L). Photo: State House.

'Tanzania's vaccine move good for EAC prospects'

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has commended Tanzania for embarking on the COVID-19 vaccination drive and cutting testing fees from USD100 to 50, saying the move will boost cross border trade within the East African Community (EAC) zone.

EABC Chief Executive Officer John Kalisa made this observation yesterday when he paid a courtesy call to Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella, affirming that the drive shall attract more tourists and service providers into the country hence boost the resilience and recovery of the tourism sector in particular and

I urge everyone to wear masks, sanitize and vaccinate to be protected from COVID-19

the wider economy. "EAC partner states should provide a stimulus package and fiscal incentives to the tourism sector as the EAC bloc lost \$4.8 billion in international tourism receipts and 2.1 million jobs in the year 2020 due to COVID-19," the business executive urged.

Bank of Tanzania reports indicate that service receipts in the country increased to \$221.3 million in June 2021 compared to \$110.0 million in June 2020.

During the visit, Kalisa presented a donation of 2000 masks to the RC for use by truck drivers, women involved in cross border trade and communities living near the border, explaining that EABC has embarked on a COVID-19 donation campaign to support the EAC partner states to curb the spread of the disease in the region.

"Women who compose over 70-percent of cross-border traders have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 so the government should revamp markets at

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Technical college makes chopper, says car is next

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA Technical College (ATC) has said it will soon unveil a helicopter it has assembled with 70 per cent locally sourced parts, set to be followed by a motor vehicle, following massive investment by the government in the institution's technical capacity.

One of the two brains behind the project, Abdi Mjema, an instructor at the ATC automotive engineering



department, told reporters here yesterday that the copter is designed to be used in rescue operations in hard-to-reach ter-

rains such as mountains.

He said the idea of affordable helicopter was first conceived in October 2015 and work started in January 2016 with a plan to do test flight in 2018. However, this was hindered by some challenges that have since been sorted out.

"The biggest challenge which caused the delay was lack of modern machinery but that has been resolved with

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Opposition: Restore internet while vote counting continues

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S main opposition presidential candidate yesterday called for the internet to be restored after it was cut during Thursday's tightly contested elections.

"We call on Zicta [the communications authority] to immediately unblock the internet so citizens can follow the electoral process and continue with their lives unhindered," Hakainde Hichilema said in a tweet.

The BBC team in Zambia said WhatsApp is still down and Twitter and Facebook intermittently up. People were

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Mbowe lodges appeal over Samia remarks on charges

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with the independence of the judiciary, and thus the case be declared null and void," the advocate intoned.

The prosecution team led by senior state attorney Pius Hilla said they had just received a copy of the intent to move to the higher court and asked the lower court to give them time to peruse the document before responding.

Earlier, Hilla said that the case came up just for mention because witness statements were not ready.

However, the previous Friday when the accused persons were brought to court, the lead state attorney told the court that investigations number 63 of 2020 were complete and the file was with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

He affirmed that witness accounts would be read in the next mention (that is, yesterday) and thereafter the case would proceed to the High Court for hearing.

The court adjourned the matter for two weeks to August 27 when it will come up for mention, ordering that all the accused persons be present in court.

Earlier, Mbowe kept drawing attention of the court that he was not hearing what was being said well because of internet connectivity issues.

Apart from Mbowe, other accused persons are Halfani Hassan, Adam Kasekwa also known as Adamo, and Mohamed Lingwenya.

The four accused persons face a total of six terrorism-related charges allegedly committed on diverse dates and places between May 1 and August 1 2020.

During the first mention on August 6, state attorney Hilla told the court that the first count was allegedly committed between May 1 and August 1 2020, at Aishi Hotel located within Moshi municipality in Kilimanjaro Region, and at different places in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Arusha regions.

He claimed that the accused persons conspired to blow up filling stations to endanger national security and cause alarm.

In the second count, the prosecution alleged that within the same time and at the same places, Mbowe facilitated Halfani, Adamo and Lingwenya financially while aware that the money would be used to commit terrorism.

They would blow up filling stations and gatherings to disrupt political stability, constitutional order, the country's economy and put into disrepute the good name of the United Republic of Tanzania, he told the court.

In the third count, Hilla alleged that Halfani, Adamo and Lingwenya collected money from Mbowe with the intent of using the same to enable blowing up of filling stations and other places of public gathering.

In the fourth charge, the prosecution alleged that on August 5, 2020, Adamo was found in possession of a pistol, Luger brand number A 5340 without a licence.

In the fifth count, Hilla alleged that within the aforesaid period and places, Adamo was found with ammunitions, namely three bullets, without a licence.

In the sixth count, it was alleged that on August 10, 2020, Halfani was found in possession of military uniforms and other items belonging to the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) and the National Service.

Hilla named the items as five trousers, one T-shirt, one raincoat, one jacket, five caps, five overalls, one bag, four badges of corporal rank, four belts, one pair of socks, a sweater, a parachute training bag, a water keg and an AK 47 CCCP knife.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks shortly after visiting the site of the ongoing construction of a Chamwino State House building in Dodoma Region yesterday. PICTA: PMO

Opposition: Restore internet while vote counting continues

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using virtual private networks (VPNs), which allow users to circumvent local restrictions. Election Day passed off largely peacefully, but President Edgar Lungu, who is seeking a second term, said some violence was reported in the north-western province, a stronghold of Hichilema, where two people including a ruling Patriotic Front (PF) party chairman were killed. "I'm also appalled by the amount of mayhem witnessed

in North-Western, some parts of Western, and Southern provinces. Clearly, the elections in these places have not been free and fair," he tweeted, also ordering that troops be reinforced in the three provinces. Meanwhile, vote counting was underway yesterday after a hard-fought general election that saw social media throttled in the capital, and President Lungu sent more troops to three provinces to quell violence. The ballot is expected to be

the tightest stand-off yet between Lungu, 64, and main opposition candidate Hichilema, 59, who is vying for the top job for the sixth time and is backed by an alliance of 10 parties. Thursday's vote presented a test of democracy in the usually peaceful southern African country of more than 17 million people, where rising living costs appear to have diminished support for Lungu, who is accused of growing increasingly iron-fisted since taking office in 2015.

Violence was reported in the North-Western province, a Hichilema stronghold, where two people including a ruling Patriotic Front (PF) party chairman were killed, the president announced late Thursday, blaming his rival's United Party for National Development (UPND) party. Zambia's electoral commission has launched an investigation into the chairman's murder, which the UPND distanced itself from, calling it a "distraction" tactic.



Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, Zanzibar's Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister, shows journalists in Zanzibar yesterday a special electronic card to be issued to each person vaccinated against Covid-19 in the Isles. It costs 20,000/- Photo: Rahma Suleiman

'Tanzania's vaccine move good for EAC prospects'

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border points to help people trade safely amid the pandemic," he suggested.

On his part, the RC commended EABC for stimulating cross-border trade and investment, along with being committed to support the private sector as engine for economic growth, which promises to elevate Arusha as a business and diplomatic hub in the region.

"I urge everyone to wear masks, sanitize and vaccinate to be protected from COVID-19," he said, while the EABC executive highlighted the fact that in 2020 Tanzania exports to Uganda increased by 41 percent to \$772.55 million.

Tanzania has enhanced the facilitation of exports and imports through the port of Dar es Salaam and fast-track ratification of the global Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Protocol, he said.

He stated that back in 2019, the manufacturing value-added percentage to the Gross Domestic Product stood at 16 percent in Uganda, nine percent in Burundi, along with eight percent in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and four percent in South Sudan.

EABC is committed to support industrialization by promoting value addition, strengthen regional value chains and spearheading the Buy East African Build East Africa (BEABEA) campaign, he elaborated, asserting that industries in the region have repurposed their production lines to produce new items such as face masks and sanitizers.

The 2000 masks were donated by A to Z Textile Mills and presented to Zainab Mnjeja, a board member of the Transporters Association of Tanzania - Arusha Chapter and Nurdin Babu, the Longido District Commissioner, he added.

Technical college makes chopper, says car is next

FROM PAGE 1

recent acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment," he said.

Mjema said with all key parts including engine ready, it is assembling processes that are currently going on, with the new test flight set for early next year.

"After this affordable helicopter is done and dusted, our next project will be an electric car," he said.

The college engineer said he and colleagues chose the chopper due to current public needs, as experience shows that whenever there is a distress call in challenging terrain such as mountains, rescue missions are blocked.

"You can recall when Mount Kilimanjaro caught fire (in October 2020) and the government had to hire a helicopter to help extinguish the blaze and the then minister (for Natural Resources and Tourism) said that the country was in need of helicopters for rescue missions," he narrated.

Helicopters are crucial air freight

devices meant to perform special tasks that are hard to operate with regular fixed wing airplanes. Such tasks include rescue, firefighting, medical evacuation, surveillance, anti-poaching operations as well as short domestic trips especially in areas difficult to reach due to poor infrastructures or bad weather conditions, he elaborated.

The idea of affordable helicopter was conceived by two ATC staff Mjema and Adisai Msongole in October 2015 who designed a two seater helicopter at that time.

"The affordable helicopter was chosen over fixed wing aircraft due to limitations of runways and advantages that helicopters possess over fixed wing aircraft," ATC says

on its website.

"The two researchers have two things in mind when researching on an affordable helicopter. The first aim is to come up with a least expensive helicopter in the world (without compromising reliability) and second, to introduce a safety feature not in the current helicopters," the airline advisory intoned.

Commissioner urges business communities to visit Namibia

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

HIGH Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to Tanzania Lebbius Tangeni has urged business communities to visit Namibia and explore economic opportunities found in Africa's west-southern country.

Speaking at a business expo hosted for the business community in Dar es Salaam recently, the envoy said traders play a crucial role for economic development of any nation.

Ambassador Tangeni said the community cannot do anything without having strong business projects, so Namibia is ready to work with them to build the economy of the two countries.

Tangeni informed the stakeholders that he was monitoring the Covid-19 situation and if it comes down or by God willing, completely goes away, he is ready to lead a business delegation to Namibia.

"I will be ready as High Commissioner in Tanzania to lead a business delegation to Namibia so that you can go and see what we can offer to you. Seeing is believing, so you need to come to Namibia and see and decide which areas they want to invest in or do business," he said.

He further urged Tanzanian traders to expand their business to the Republic of Namibia without any problem.

The envoy said they have economic policies which allow people to do business in Namibia after adhering to required conditions.

According to him, companies or individuals are welcomed and allowed to invest in the Africa's south-west country. Namibia ranked the top in Africa having the best roads and 23th globally.

Ambassador Tangeni was recently quoted saying that 'Namibian beef as well as deep sea fishing products, among others, are needed in Tanzania'.

He said despite the fact that Tanzania and Namibia have an excellent political relationship between the two countries, trading is minimal, and there is a great need for them to work hard to strengthen it. In 2019, it was reported that little had come from the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation agreement between the two countries since its establishment in 1999.

The agreement was to foster ties and provide a platform to cooperate in agriculture, trade and industry, tourism, health, education, human resources development, sports and culture.

At the time, then-Tanzanian president John Magufuli, who visited Namibia, said there were only two Namibian investments registered at the Tanzanian investments centre.



Contractors Registration Board (CRB) Vice Chairperson Joseph Tango (3rd-R) congratulates Public Procurement Regulatory Authority systems administrator Fanuel Yengayenga in Morogoro municipality yesterday shortly after a presentation by the latter at a seminar for Tanzanian contractors on online procurement systems. Looking on are CRB training coordinator Neema Fuime (L) and R&D deputy registrar David Jere. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Committee demands special audit on expenditure of development funds in Chamwino, Chemba districts

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Local Authorities Accounts Committee (LAAC) has ordered for special audit on expenditure of development funds in Chamwino and Chemba districts in Dodoma Region.

This follows the committee's tour in the three districts to inspect implementation of various development projects. Committee members toured Mpwapwa, Chamwino and Chemba districts in the region.

The committee's chairperson, Grace Tendega, directed

the National Audit Office of Tanzania (NAOT) to conduct special audit in the specific districts as the committee was not happy with expenditure of funds in some development projects.

She said that in Chemba District, investigations should be carried out in all the development projects implemented from the 2018/2019 to 2019/2020 financial years.

She said special audit will help in getting answers on the fund's expenditure because LAAC members were not satisfied with the implementation of the projects.

"We want the audit to be

conducted to ensure financial discipline in expenditure of public funds as well as productivity in all the projects. We will give our recommendations after the inspection," said the chairperson.

The committee ordered authorities in Chemba District to its own funds from internal revenue collections to complete construction of a dormitory before January 2022 whereas until now it has spent 97m/- on the project.

According to her the dormitory building does not meet the recommended standards and has already developed some cracks.

She the project was co-financed by the central government which provided 80m/-, Chemba District 7m/- and 17m/- was contributed by the residents.

"Despite been given such a huge amount of money, the district has requested for another 23m/- to complete the dormitory building, which means until completion the construction project would have cost 127m/-," said Tendega insisting the remained funds should be sourced within the district revenues.

She added that authorities in the district must also set aside funds to install electricity in

two of the classrooms to enable students to learn during night hours.

Installation of electricity must be completed by December this year," she said.

The committee ordered the district to follow up on the monies (250m/-) that are said to be returned to the Treasury after completion of the 2019/2020 financial year. The funds were part of the 1.5bn/- provided by the government to facilitate construction of a district hospital.

A total of 1.55bn/- have so far been spent on the hospital project, said the committee chairperson.

Tendega noted that seven buildings have been completed by 90 per cent, and that the child and maternal ward buildings are yet to be completed despite the fact that the contractor has been fully paid.

She said in Chamwino District, the special audit should be conducted at dormitory and dining hall construction projects at Mvumi Mission secondary school.

Tendega said construction of the dining hall has spent 100m/-; but its implementation has reached 30 per cent.

"There were payments made to the contractor implementing a project at Mlowo hos-

pital without endorsement of the district executive director (DED). The committee learned that the district's DED has ever visited Mlowo to inspect the project progress implementation," said Tendega.



Despite been given such a huge amount of money, the district has requested for another 23m/-

FARM AFRICA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Farm Africa Tanzania has been working in Tanzania since 1990 as Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under NGO Act with certificate of registration no. I-NGO/0008750. Its long-term objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by developing replicable community based approaches for improving agricultural productivity and sustainable land use in Tanzania.

Farm Africa is an innovative international NGO that reduces poverty in rural eastern Africa by helping farmers grow more, sell more and sell for more: we help farmers to not only boost yields, but also gain access to markets, and add value to their produce. We place a high priority on environmental sustainability and develop approaches that help farmers to improve their yields and incomes without degrading their natural resources.

Farm Africa operates under its global Strategy for the period 2021-2025 with a mission Driving Prosperity Through Agriculture

On 09th August 2021, Farm Africa signed a grant agreement with Oxford Policy Management Limited (OPM) worth GBP 135,106 to implement thirty (30) months Project which will focus on Delivery of Animal Health Products and effects of animal health interventions on the work and lives of smallholder farmers Tanzania.

The project will be implemented Chemba districts in Dodoma region and Mbozi districts in Songwe region. This notice is in compliance with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 GN609 of 19th October 2018.

In case of further information please email:
infotanzania@farmfrica.org

21/04/07/2001



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WWF is seeking to hire a seasonal leader for Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa Initiative for its office in Tanzania, based in Dar es Salaam.

I. Major Functions:

- Provide strategic leadership of the FLR Africa initiative, ensuring effective delivery of its goals and outcomes and alignment with country Strategic Plans (Africa and Europe), the Forest Practice Strategy, other Practice strategies and initiatives and relevant external agendas. Supporting offices to develop and implement ambitious workplans and strategies in each of the nine countries
- Support the technical and scientific development and implementation of FLR Africa, working closely with the nine WWF offices, the Forest Practice and relevant external partners
- Lead the 'global and regional' strands of FLR Africa, including engagement with the AFR100 secretariat, regional policy and business models for FLR at the regional level
- Leading relationships with key internal stakeholders, including senior country and regional staff; implementing team, Forest Practice Core and Leadership Team members, members of other WWF Practices, technical and regional forest focal points, and the Global Lead/Coordinator of the FLR ACAI. Partner with multi-disciplinary teams consisting of WWF staff, national partners, consultants and/or contractors to analyze and adopt innovative approaches to landscape restoration opportunities.
- Develop relationships with key external partners and strengthen WWF's involvement in regional partnerships including specific task forces, engagement with donors and related regional bodies and frameworks on FLR in Africa.
- Develop frameworks and partnerships for scaled-up FLR interventions, catalyzing contributions and implementation of Bonn Challenge, AFR100, climate targets (NDCs) and related finance, and the New York Declaration.
- Provide oversight of initiative technical and financial management including annual work planning, budgeting and reporting
- Identifies and aligns with the core values of the WWF organization: Courage, Integrity, Respect & Collaboration

II. Specific Required Functional Skills

- Advanced degree in forestry/agroforestry, agriculture, business administration, natural resources management, biodiversity conservation or other relevant discipline(s).
- Technical proficiency in forest landscape restoration (FLR), other areas of forestry, the field of forestry, agriculture, natural resource management, international project management or international development.
- Minimum of 8 years of professional experience, including at least 5 years in Africa. Preferable experience in working with FLR.
- Strong experience of leading large complex, multi-country programmes or initiatives.
- Conversant with Bonn Challenge and UN conventions that touch on forestry resources, climate targets (NDCs) and related finance.
- Excellent written and oral skills in English, and proficiency in French would be an asset.

Additional information, including Terms of Reference, can be obtained through web address: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/. Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org by Friday, 27th August 2021 at 4:30 pm. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam or via zoom video conferencing. WWF is an equal opportunity organization.

21/04/07/2001



Tanzania Revenue Authority revenue officer Glory Khahima (3rd-R) elaborates on a point to new taxpayers during a registration campaign in Dar es Salaam's Goba suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

DC counsels leaders to encourage members of the public to join CHF

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

KONGWA District Commissioner, Remidius Emmanuel has called on leaders to encourage citizens to join the improved Community Health Fund (CHF) to be able to access medical treatment.

Emmanuel said this yesterday while launching the distribution of CHF medical cards to residents of Mkoka ward in the district. The beneficiaries are among the 300 identified households living in difficult conditions, and supported by World Vision Tanzania.

He said such an arrangement provides relief to the residents, hence the need for local leaders to sensitize them to register. He called upon other institutions to emulate what World Vision Tanzania is doing by supporting provision of health care services and other development projects.

World Vision Tanzania Acting Co-ordinator for the project in Kongwa District, Zacharia Shigukulu, said the organisation has planned to provide CHF cards to vulnerable communities in its 2021 budget to support the government efforts in improving health care services.

Shigukulu said they are planning to reach 1,800 people, among them, 1,200 are children and 600 adults.

He said the programme will last until 2025.

"We have been implementing this programme in the past years, we are now implementing the five years' third phase-2021-2025 which will cost \$400,000 equivalent to 900m/-."

World Vision Tanzania has been operating in the country for 40 executing its activities in 14 regions - Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Arusha, Dodoma, Morogoro, Singida, Tabora, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Kagera, Kigoma, Dar-es-salaam and Iringa.

Senior medical officer at Mkoka health centre, Juma Budeba said that for period of between June 2020 and July 2021, they have been able to collect 12.8m/- from CHF contributors.

Last week, the government announced to have allocated 15bn/- to pay for health insurance for identified vulnerable Tanzanians as part of efforts to ensure universal health coverage.

Director of Policy and Planning in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Edward Mbanga said since not all Tanzanians are capable of paying for health insurance the government intends to identify them and see how it can assist them to get health insurance.

Govt calls on Tarura to embark on technological research

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government Ummu Mwalimu has directed the Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) to embark on technological researches that will help improve construction of roads in rural areas.

Ummu made the directives here on Thursday during the

official launching of a three-day special meeting to discuss plans for strengthening the road networks in both rural and urban areas.

The meeting brought officials from TARURA country-wide, as well as others from the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government.

The meeting also saw the launching of a new TARURA strategy aimed to ensure that all parts of the country are connected with quality road

infrastructures. The strategy has a motor dubbed "TARURA Opens Roads to Reach the In-accessible Areas."

"The research unit at TARURA should invest heavily in research so as to come up with technologies to construct strong roads in rural areas instead of tarmac roads. Go and conduct studies to see which technology can support the initiative," she said.

She also emphasised on designing low-cost but strong bridges in rural areas so as to

facilitate easy transportation of goods and people.

"I have seen the information which went viral on social media on the 31m/- worth bridge in Mlimba in Morogoro Region, in reality the bridge is a great savour to the people in the area as before its construction, the river has taken a number of people's lives who were killed by...."

She said that there was no need to think of expensive bridges while it is possible to have low-cost bridges that can

serve people for a long time.

The minister however wanted TARURA to implement its projects vigilantly and at required quality for them to last long and produce more benefits to people.

"What the government wants is implementation of the strategies, and as the funds have been allocated enough for the job, we do not expect to hear any excuse. So invest heavily in innovation, we will assess you this year," The minister told TARURA.

She said the government has high expectations from the agency and so it has a huge role to play to open roads in rural areas.

She said that in order to keep her promise to Tanzanians, in this financial year (2021/2022) the budget for TARURA had been hiked, excluding confidence that the agency was at a better position to improve the roads network in the country.

"In this financial year, the government approved about

934.09bn/- for TARURA which is an increase of 449bn/- compared to the 2020/2021 budget," she said.

TARURA chief executive officer (CEO) Eng Victor Seff said as of August 10, this year 395 road maintenance contracts have been signed and 324 are expected to be signed before August 20, this year.

"This is part of the implementation of the 2021/22 fiscal year budget where 934.09bn/- has been set aside for the agency," he said.

DC promises to award plots of land to teachers

By Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

MULEBA District Commissioner (DC) Toba Nguvula has promised to award plots of land to teachers who will work hard to ensure that their schools emerge with best performance in national exams.

According to him, the gifts will be an incentive to promote education standards in the district.

DC Nguvula made the remarks recently during a meeting with ward education officers, heads of primary and secondary schools to set strategies to improve standard of education in the area.

According to him, his first priority is to see the standard of education going up, by increasing not only the number of those passing the exams, but also with promising marks.

He said that investing in ICT was vital to achieve the intended goals in the education sector.

"My office will work tirelessly to support education development; we are going to ensure that both primary and secondary schools have computers for the purpose. An ICT expert has already reported and visited four schools to start with," he said.

He also said that deputy minister for Communication and Technology Eng Kudo Mathew had promised him ten more devices to support learning in schools.

On easing teachers' discontent, he said: "I am directing my officers to establish a special window to hear and solve teachers' complaints and challenges. I want teachers to be served promptly when seeking support from district headquarters, this will enable them to concentrate on teaching rather than travelling and leave pupils unattended," he asserted.

During the meeting, teachers appealed for more infrastructures to be constructed, especially girls dormitories in secondary schools to rescue girls from being assaulted while on the way to and from school.

They also asked for short and long term courses to sharpen their profession, as a good teacher must always be informed with new events and technology.

Muleba District has not yet succeeded in having a public school among ten best schools in final exams performance in the country, both primary and secondary schools



Tanga City Council executive director Sipora Liana speaks at a meeting attended by the city's councillors on Wednesday. Flanking her are Tanga district commissioner Hashim Mgandilwa (R) and the city's mayor, Abdulrahman Shiloo. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Casmir

Winners of AfDB AgriPitch competition help to transform Africa's food system

By Guardian Correspondent

AFRICA is producing a growing number of young entrepreneurs who are adopting new ideas to bring more affordable, quality food from farm to fork.

This year's theme for the International Youth Day was 'Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health', putting the spotlight on the role of young people in achieving the success of such a global effort.

Dr Beth Dunford, Vice President for Agriculture, Human

and Social Development, at the African Development Bank said: "Africa's youth play a key role in scaling up the continent's agricultural production that can transform Africa's food systems. On International Youth Day, we celebrate Africa's next generation 'agripreneurs', whose innovations in agribusiness are helping to feed Africa."

Ikenna Nzewi is one of those agripreneurs. The Nigerian-American is CEO of Releaf, a Nigeria-based smallholder farmer food procurement company focusing on industrializing food

processing in Africa.

Releaf's innovative approach to improving food systems, is to help industrialize Africa by setting up smaller factories that are closer to farmers. It also wants to finance and teach farmers agricultural practices that make their businesses more productive.

"When the logistics costs are really high, you have to pay farmers low prices for their commodities. When you are closer by, you can afford to pay them more," Nzewi said. Releaf's agribusiness plan

won over a panel of judges and investors during the African Development Bank's AgriPitch Competition, where the continent's top agripreneurs vie for a share of \$120,000 in seed funding prizes and a slot in the competition's business development boot camp.

The finalists also receive mentoring and training.

AgriPitch is part of the African Youth Agripreneur Forum, an annual event organized by the bank's Enable Youth program. The Forum instills a culture of innovation and nurturing for

technology-led agribusiness innovations to create jobs and improve youth livelihoods.

Nzewi and Releaf edged out more than 600 other business proposals from 30 countries to be named one of the AgriPitch winners in 2020. Placing first in the "early-start up" category, Releaf took home a \$20,000 prize cheque.

"The grant was very helpful to operationalize our work - we started operations in January. The publicity was helpful for our company. Being able to have more people hear about...how

we are tech-enabled industrialists has been really exciting," Nzewi said.

People have been hearing about Agripitch - open to youth aged 18 to 35 who hold African nationality or citizenship - since its launch in 2017.

Last year's virtual competition drew more than 2,500 applications, compared to approximately 600 applications in the 2019 event, which awarded \$74,000 in prizes.

"The interest is there - as the prize money gets bigger," joked Enable Youth Coordinator Ed-

son Mpyisi, adding that youth are more willing to try out new technologies and innovations.

"We need to think of food and agriculture as a system - not as disjointed issues of poverty or food insecurity. Nutrition, water, good health, the climate, environment, trade, food as a human right - all these are interconnected. The success of young agripreneurs in Africa can help address these important social and economic issues," Mpyisi said.

Africa has the largest share of young people in the world.



Bunda district commissioner Joshua Nassari (C) speaks at Thursday's handing-over of 50 desks to the district's Mariwanda A Primary School by the Tanzania Commercial Bank's Musoma branch manager, Gilbert Haggai (L), witnessed by Hunjari councillor Sumera Kiharata. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Supervise Mbambo-Tukuyu road contractor, govt directs Tanroads

By Guardian Correspondent, Busokelo

WORKS and Transport Deputy Minister, Godfrey Kasekenya has directed Tanroads to closely supervise China Railway 15 Bureau Group Corporation constructing a 18.7 kilometres Mbambo-Tukuyu road project.

The Deputy Minister directed the Chinese contractor to complete construction of the Bujesi-Tukuyu section of the road before November this year.

He gave the directives on Wednesday when he made an inspection visit of the project which will cost 20.46bn/- and instructed the contractors to increase construction equipment to speed up the work.

The deputy minister said the road was important for the economy of Rungwe and Busokelo districts people for transportation of their various farm crops to the market.

He said the government will not extend the contract period due to their taking a long time without completing the project on various excuses including bad weather and

delays in payment of funds.

"I will come here again in October, I want to see the road completed by then as now there should not be any more excuses, as the government has already done its part in paying the contractor all the money they owed us," said Kasekenya.

Rungwe District Commissioner Dr Vincent Anney said the road is important for transportation of various farm crops of farmers including potatoes, bananas and dairy products to the market.

He said the main cause of the delay is that the subcontractor assigned to build the bridge over Mbaka River was working sluggishly.

Earlier in his report, Tanroads Regional Projects Supervisor, Eng Samuel Mwambungu said according to the contract agreement, the project is supposed to be completed by November 14 this year.

He said at first, the government had delayed payments to the contractors, hence he had an excuse for dillydallying, but now they have been fully paid.

Report on DR Congo's EAC 'membership' awaits ministerial decision

By Hudson Kuteesa

THE process of admitting the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the East African Community (EAC) is in advanced stages, and a report on their eligibility to join the six-nation group is now awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers.

This was highlighted recently by Peter Mathuki, the Secretary General of the EAC as he addressed the media on the occasion of his 100 days at the helm of the Tanzania-based secretariat of the re-

gional bloc.

DRC's request to join the bloc took centre stage in February 2021, after the EAC Summit approved their application and later on in June, launched a verification mission to assess its suitability for admission into the Community, in line with the EAC's procedures for admission of new members.

Barely two months later, the verification team has already been to DRC and drafted a report, which is now ready for submission to the Council of Ministers.

The council will deliberate on the report before handing it to the EAC heads of state for final decision, said Mathuki.

He said that DR Congo's joining of the bloc means large market, among other opportunities.

"As we speak, the population of East Africa is already close to almost 180 million people. DRC brings on board close to 80 million more people, and that means that this bloc will have a population of about 300 million people," he said.

"DR Congo gets almost

31 per cent of their imports from other parts of the world - I would say mostly from China, 16 per cent from South Africa, 15 per cent from Zambia, and only 11 per cent from East Africa. With their coming on board to take advantage of the frameworks that we (EAC) have, it is possible this 11 per cent is going to increase four-fold to almost 50 per cent," he added.

He said that as a bloc, they are looking forward to the new member.

"The final decision on the admission of any partner

state is done by the summit, but since the technical team has done a good job, we look forward to DR C joining the community."

DR Congo's admission to the bloc will bring members to seven after Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda and South Sudan.

Under the EAC Treaty, the criteria for the admission of new countries include: acceptance of the Community as set out in the Treaty; adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the

rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice; potential contribution to the strengthening of integration within the East African region, and; geographical proximity to and inter-dependence between it (the foreign country) and the EAC Partner States.

The other criteria for admission of a new member are: establishment and maintenance of a market-driven economy; and; social and economic policies being compatible with those of the Community.

DR Congo's President Félix Tshisekedi put in the request to join the bloc in June 2019, which was soon backed by the government of Rwanda.

DR Congo gets almost 31 per cent of their imports from other parts of the world

Food insecurity is more widespread in SADC member states, says report

By Guardian Reporter

AN estimated 47.6 million people in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states are food insecure, which is a 5.5 per cent increase from last year and 34.3 per cent above the 5-year average.

Child malnutrition is of great concern. Almost 19 million children are stunted in the region, one in every three. Every member state has a prevalence of stunting that is classified as high by World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) recorded a 25 per cent year-on-year increase in the number of people in Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 and above, from 21.8 million to 27.3 million people.

The rise is partly attributable to additional communities being assessed.

The situation in Madagascar has worsened significantly: the number of people food insecure increased by 136 per cent from last year, with 1.31 million people facing IPC Phase 3 and above.

Rural food insecurity will peak between November

2021 and March 2022, by which time many smallholder farming families would have depleted their own food stocks ahead of the next harvest in April 2022.

Food and nutrition insecure communities require urgent assistance in the form of food and cash-based transfers. Social protection programmes and shock-responsive social safety nets must be scaled up, incorporating gender perspectives.

Favourable rainfall led to improved cereal and livestock production over most of the region, with South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe recording maize surpluses.

The above-average rainfall season was coupled with a destructive cyclone season, with five weather systems making landfall. The storms affected over 500,000 people and damaged over 219,000 hectares of farmland.

Some member states also experienced localized prolonged dry spells, including Angola, DRC, Namibia, Madagascar, and Mozambique. Acute malnutrition has worsened markedly in these areas.

Average to above-average cereal production in many Member States is expected to keep staple food prices below 2020 levels.

EAC's Science, Technology and Innovation conference lined up for this October 20-22

By Guardian Reporter

THE second East African Community (EAC) Regional Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) conference is set to be held from October 20th to 22nd, 2021.

Themed: 'The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation in EAC Regional Integration and Socio-Economic Development in the phase of Covid-19 Pandemic', the conference is to provide a platform for information sharing and networking among scientists, technologists, innovators and industrialists from a wide range of sectors including the academia, industry, public and the private sector.

It is geared towards providing a platform for the players in the STI and stakeholders in the EAC and beyond to share their experiences

and results within the knowledge and technology generation, translation and transfer chain.

The event will be held through virtual and face-to-face platforms. The East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), an institution of the EAC based in Kigali, Rwanda, is coordinating the three-day conference in partnership with a regional organizing committee and a regional technical committee.

EASTECO is organizing the second STI Conference with support and in collaboration with stakeholders of STI in the region and globally, including the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA), the African Union Commission (AUC), and Ministries responsible for STI, National Councils/Commissions of Science and Technol-

ogy, among other stakeholders. The conference will stimulate the establishment and strengthening of strategic alliances among stakeholders to promote the generation, dissemination and translation of research findings; building collaborations and networks; and harness partnerships among stakeholders in the region.

The 2021 edition ultimately envisions enhanced sharing of research findings, collaboration and linkages through conference presentations, a ministerial roundtable, exhibitions and publication for regional integration and socioeconomic development.

An Exhibition and Trade fair will also feature at the event where academia, public and private organizations will interact and showcase their services or products.

The Guardian Limited

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Gesso Bajuta, councillor for Endamilai in Mbulu District, briefs journalists on Wednesday on the recent theft of 19 head of cattle in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

New oil palm variety set to alleviate country's edible oil shortage - TARI

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THE Ministry of Agriculture plans to provide education to its extension officers and oil palm farmers in Kigoma Region to enable the crop's cultivation provide the intended benefits to help the country become self-sufficient in edible oil production as well as for export.

The plan, to be implemented by Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) is a result of its research on quality oil palm seed - the Tenera type that showed positive results for increasing the crop's yield from 1.5 tonnes of edible oil per hectare in regard to the old Dula type, to 5 - 6 tonnes per hectare for Tenera.

Responding to requests by oil palm farmers and extension officers TARI Director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said the education has begun to be provided at TARI's Kihinga Centre in Kigoma Region.

He said after TARI researchers and experts completed research that provided the new Tenera oil palm seed whose benefits have been witnessed in just two years, they were now concentrating in educating farmers to adopt the new seed.

At the oil palm farm owned by Onyango George at Maembe Village in Kigoma Dis-

trict, Dr Mkamilo told the farmers one way to reap huge quick benefits from oil palm cultivation is to stop using the hand hoe for weeding, and instead use weed killers, a little bit expensive, but with excellent results.

Earlier the palm oil farmer said he decided to invest in the crop's cultivation by planting 20 acres, and later added 30 more acres after he was attracted by the new Tenera seed.

Kigoma district agriculture officer, Ramadhani Amri thanked TARI for the education provided to them on the crop's cultivation for onward transmission to farmers, as it will help to realise government's goals.



Earlier the palm oil farmer said he decided to invest in the crop's cultivation by planting 20 acres, and later added 30 more acres after he was attracted by the new Tenera seed

Uhuru newspaper has the right to appeal, THRDC says

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

FOLLOWING the suspension of its licence, Uhuru Newspaper has the right to appeal to the minister overseeing the information docket (under section 10(1) of the Media Service Act (MSA)) within thirty days, the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has said.

THRDC national coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa mentioned on Wednesday in a press release that the 14-days suspension decision of the said licence was made by the ministry of informa-

tion, culture, Arts and sport by virtue of section 9(b) of the MSA, 2016 but the statement did not say whether the paramount right to be heard was accorded to the Uhuru Newspaper before a suspension was issued.

He underscored that according to the statement issued by the Director of Information, Uhuru Newspaper's licence has been suspended allegedly for publishing false information against the president of the United Republic of Tanzania, the information published reads "sina wazo kuwania Urais 2025-Samia"

which literally means "I have no plan of running for presidency in 2025-Samia".

Olungurumwa added that this information is alleged to contravene section 50(1) (a),(b) and (c) and section 52(d) and (e) of the MSA,2016 insisting that all these provisions were successfully challenged by THRDC and other organizations at the East African Court of Justice(EACJ) through Reference No 02 of 2017.

"Uhuru Newspaper has been the first Newspaper to be suspended in 2021, however other newspapers were

suspended ever since the enactment of the MSA, 2016 we have witnessed newspapers such as Tanzania Daima Newspaper, Mawio, Mseto, MwanaHalisi, Raia Mwema, Mwananchi and The Citizen being either banned for some time and others have their licence cancelled," he intoned emphasizing that MSA 2016, is just one of the media laws that curtail freedom of expression in Tanzania, other laws include but not limited to: The cybercrimes Act of 2015 and the online content regulations of 2020.

"We think it could be

proper to take legal measures against the author of such information and not suspending the Newspaper from the operations," he mentioned.

"We also urge the government of Tanzania to honour the decision of the East African Court of Justice by taking necessary measures to ensure the MSA complies with the EAC Treaty, remaining reluctant heeding EACJ orders brings a bad image to the country given the fact that Tanzania signed the treaty in good faith," he insisted.

THRDC National Coordinator highlighted that in 2017,

the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) and the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) filed Reference No 02 to the EACJ challenging several provisions of the MSA for contravening the Treaty for the establishment of East African Community (EAC) and the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania.

He also said the case was heard on merit whereby on 28th day of March, the EACJ decided in favour of the petitioners (MCT, LHRC and THRDC) and ordered that the govern-

ment of Tanzania should take all necessary measures to ensure that MA complies with the treaty including amending sections 50 and 52 of the Act.

"The court also went ahead to declare several provisions of the law as going against the EAC Treaty. Much as the government of Tanzania has not appealed against the decisions it has never taken any measure(s) nor amended the law since the promulgation of the judgment in 2019. Hence, the law continues to be used to the detriment of journalists and media owners," he revealed.



Mohamed Mpinga (R), an Arusha-based senior official with an association out to defend the rights of passengers, has a word with commuter bus drivers in Arusha city yesterday on the importance of taking precautions against Covid-19 infections. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Africa's involvement key to climate change success, IPCC report shows

By Special Correspondent

THE Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released the sixth assessment report on the current state of climate change highlighting that human activity resulted in the increase of carbon in the atmosphere and the global surface temperature escalated every year for the past four decades.

The report broke down the impact human-induced climate change has had in every region across the globe.

This further reiterates African Wildlife Foundation's message that the benefits we get from nature diminish as emissions increase. If Africa chooses to increase emissions, it will undercut nature's ability to counteract those increases and further threaten Africa's food and water security, livelihoods, and natural heritage.

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) CEO Kaddu Sebunya stated that: "What this report puts in bold letters is that the battle for climate action requires global solutions because the irreversible impact will be universal. There is a

need for a stronger voice to speak for the voiceless: Africa's wildlife and wild lands. The COVID-19 recovery plans that are under implementation now will lead to climate solutions in the future."

"To prevent a climate crisis, cornerstone actions must be made now. The youth can no longer stay sidelined. It is their future we are all fighting for, and they must join the fight. Most importantly, Africa's contribution to climate change has been the least but, as we chart our economic future, Africa must be central to the global climate solution," he said.

He said AWF is committed to being a champion of Africa's wildlife and wild lands. The foundation will use the strength and power of our voice to ensure that Africa's biodiversity gets the attention it deserves.

He added: "It is our conviction that Africa's future depends on connecting the conservation agenda to the aspirations and mind sets driving change on the continent."

The decisions that Africa makes for development will greatly impact whether the rest of the world will succeed in the fight against climate change.

Malawi govt appeals for more private sector intervention in agriculture

LILONGWE

THE Director of Agricultural Extension Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Dr Jerome Nkhoma, asked private sector players in the agricultural sector to consider implementing interventions aimed at achieving sustainable growth.

Speaking during a farmer field school for extension workers in Zomba, Nkhoma emphasized that the government has developed standards, information and tech-

nologies designed to enable the players in the agricultural sector to reach out to more farmers.

He said there is a need, therefore, that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should fully engage it when implementing their programs.

"We encourage NGOs to enter into agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture so that we can deliver quality services to the communities," said Nkhoma. He said through the farmer field schools, the government is training extension workers on how to implement

different technologies in the agricultural Sector.

Currently, the government is training extension workers under the Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP), which was designed to address both drought and flood emergencies. Technical team member of the MRDRMP, Enock Whayo, described the three-year project as a successor of the Malawi Drought Resilience and Recovery project and the Malawi Flood Emergency programme.

Recently, the Government of

Malawi received an additional funding amounting to US\$80,000,000 for MDRRP and the project was restructured to Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP) in 2020.

MRDRMP activities are designed to address both drought and flood emergencies. The first component of the project is aimed at "improving food security and sustainable livelihoods" and one of the sub-components within this component is climate smart irrigation with a total budget of US\$14,000,000.

The objective of this component is to strengthen the resilience of rural agricultural communities through rehabilitation and reconstruction of irrigation schemes, enhancement of agricultural production and catchment rehabilitation. It aims at strategically completing rehabilitation and construction of selected irrigation schemes for drought-prone areas in line with National Irrigation Master Plan and Investment Framework (2015) and the National Irrigation Policy (2016). At least, seven irrigation schemes covering

690 hectares are targeted for construction and rehabilitation in this project, with 6,000 farmers set to benefit.

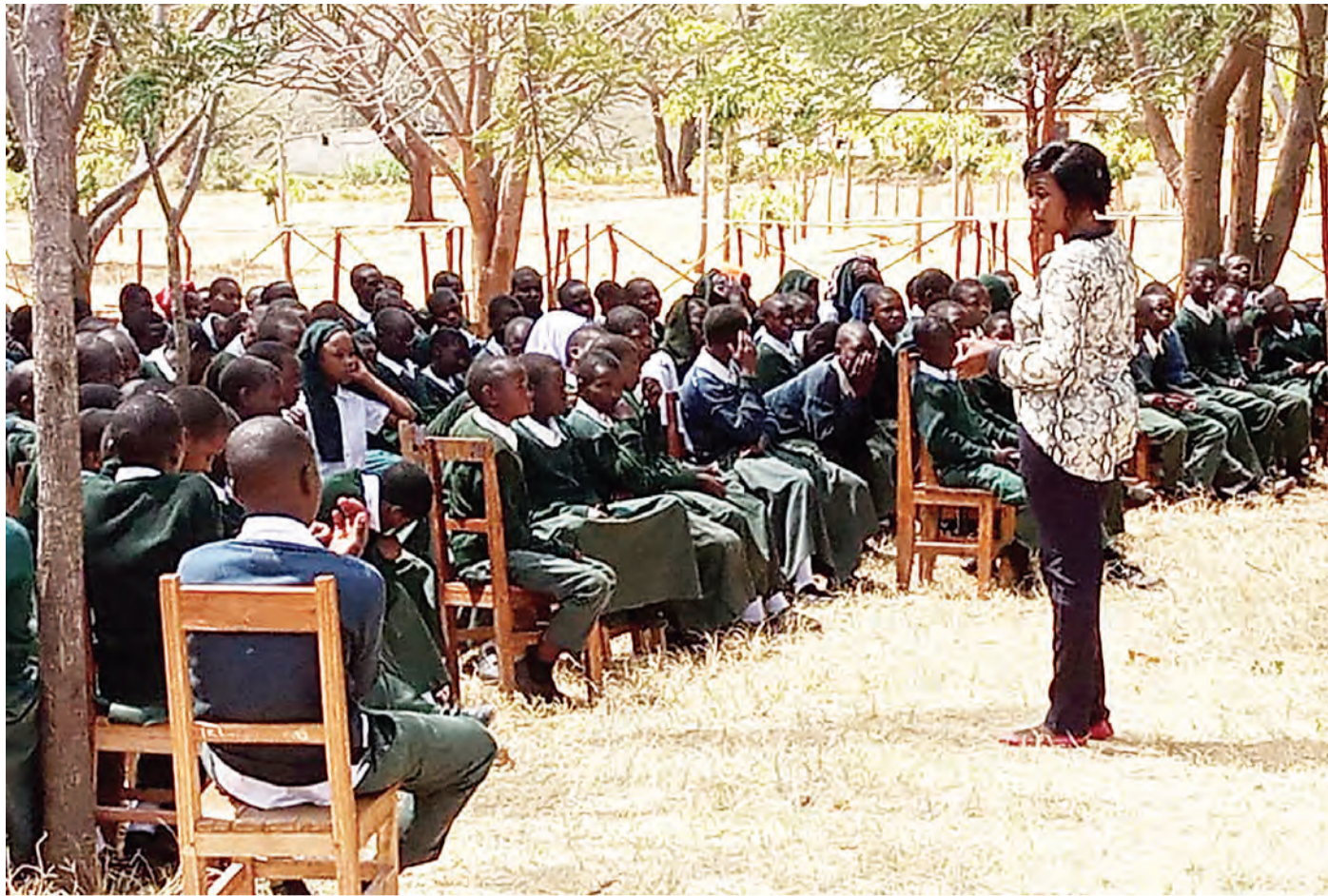
These irrigation schemes are located in Dedza, Balaka, Machinga, Thyolo, Blantyre and Nsanje districts.

The irrigation infrastructure will be used as an enabler to scale up commercial agricultural production of high-value crops, horticulture and market linkages. One way of enhancing productivity and market access will be through increased extension and train-

ing services.

Farmer Field School is one of the extension approaches to be used to close existing knowledge and skills gaps on Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and silviculture practices among the farming community and district extension staff in the project areas.

Nkhoma said the training was therefore organized to train extension workers from the project areas to equip them with knowledge and skills of facilitating Farmer Field Schools within the targeted areas.



Elizabeth Swai, an officer with the Iringa regional police gender and children desk, pictured yesterday briefing secondary school students in Kilolo District on the nature and impact of gender-based violence. The event was organised through the Children with Children (CwC) project implemented by SOS Children's Villages Tanzania in partnership with the government. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Govt to review various laws and policies to create conducive environment for business

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday assured investors that her government was reviewing various laws and policies to create a conducive environment for business and investment in the country.

The president made the remarks when she met and held talks with Ahmed El Sewedy who is head of the Egyptian electric company – 'Elsewedy Electric' in the country's capital – Dodoma.

The president also thanked El Sewedy and assured him that the government will do everything possible to support him in his plans to invest in Tanzania.

During the talks the Egyptian investor told the Head of State that despite being part of companies currently involved in the construction of the Julius Nyerere hydro-power project, the company has also invested in various projects and will continue to do so.

The Egyptian investor said his company is currently involved in installing power generation machines at the dam.

He said in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam the company was constructing a wire factory, transformer and wire manufacturing factory which is expected to be completed in 2021.

He further said the company was in support of the friendly investment environment

which is now being put up by the government saying that there are plans to invest in fertilizer production industries.

El Sewedy said he intends to invest in Standard Gauge Railway saying in the coming two years he will invite more than 50 Egyptian companies to come and explore investment opportunities in the country.



In Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam the company was constructing a wire factory, transformer and wire manufacturing factory which is expected to be completed in 2021

EAC boss roots for coordinated approach among partner states in countering Covid-19 pandemic

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki has called for a coordinated approach among EAC Partner States in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Mathuki called for the harmonization of COVID-19 testing charges and quarantine administrative procedures across the region.

He further pushed for the strengthening of public-private sector cooperation for joint investment in manu-

facturing the COVID-19 vaccines.

The Secretary General, however, noted that there was immense hope in the horizon with all Partner States having embarked on national vaccination drives, adding that more work needs to be done to increase vaccination levels in the region that currently stand at 2% vis-à-vis 70% in other parts of the world.

Dr Mathuki urged East Africans to turn out in large numbers for the jab saying that without vaccination,

people will fear visiting the region and critical service sectors and especially tourism will continue to suffer.

Dr Mathuki said that the EAC should continue pushing for the adoption by Partner States of the EAC Pass, which integrates all EAC Partner States' negative test results for COVID-19 and those already vaccinated to ensure safe and seamless travel across the region.

The SG disclosed that the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee, which has since 2020 been sup-

porting the EAC Partner States through interventions including supporting testing capacity, provision of laboratory supplies, test kits and personal protective equipment, policy guidance and training of key personnel, among other steps, would continue with its work until the pandemic was fully contained.

The EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee for COVID has been steering the regional response activities against the pandemic including coordination of

policy organ meetings and mobilization of resources.

Dr Mathuki was speaking during the SG's First 100 Days Forum that focused on the highlights, challenges and achievements since he assumed office on 27th April, 2021. The forum drew 267 participants including Permanent/Principal Secretaries from EAC Partner States' Ministries of EAC Affairs, Development Partners, Members of the Diplomatic Community, Private Sector, Civil Society, Staff of EAC Organs and Institu-

tions, and the Media.

Dr Mathuki disclosed that he had already held consultations with the members of the Summit of Heads of State to seek their views on how the Community should be run.

"The Heads of State reiterated that the Community should be steered in the spirit of the EAC Treaty that puts emphasis on a people-centred, market driven and private sector led integration process. These, to accelerate regional growth, create wealth and reduce

poverty in the region," he said.

"They further emphasised the need to take the EAC integration to the people at the grassroots, as they are the actual owners of the process," said the Secretary General.

On the Customs Union and Common Market pillars, Dr Mathuki disclosed that the 38th Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI), which was held on 26th May, 2021, had adopted

Mwambe lauds BRELA for improving service provision

By Guardian Correspondent

MINISTER of State, Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Geoffrey Mwambe has applauded the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) for investing heavily in innovative measures to improve service provision.

Mwambe made the statement recently when he visited the agency's pavilion during the Tourism Festival and Trade exhibition which is held in Chato District, Geita Region.

"You are doing a great job in ensuring that you reach stakeholders wherever they are with quality services," he said.

Briefing the minister in the pavilion, BRELA assistant officer- registration, Seleman Seleman said participation of the agency in the exhibition, is part of efforts to reach many traders and work on their challenges.

"Anybody who seeks our services is not compelled to travel miles away to reach our office, registration is done online anywhere he/she is located. But sometimes BRELA officials also follow traders at their working places for instant services," he said.

Seleman urged residents in Geita and nearby areas to visit the exhibitions to get knowledge and immediate services.

Some traders and ordinary participants who visited the pavilion also congratulated BRELA for working on challenges and the way it serves customers.

Haliswa Chobba, a trader from Dar es Salaam said she managed to register a business name at the pavilion where she also managed to get a certificate of registration instantly.

Commenting on payments on annual re-

turns, a participant identified as Jovin Mwambu, said the service would help many people to do registration, urging officials of the agency to visit them regularly.

BRELA served a number of people including traders who visited the pavilion during the whole period of the exhibition. They include trademark license, companies registration, industrial licence, business licence class A, harmonise and update of various company's information online.

The festival to promote tourism and trade exhibition in Chato District was opened by Minister Mwambe early this month and it is expected to end tomorrow (15th August 2021).

Recently Minister Mwambe was quoted calling various staff under his ministry to work professionally, diligently and collaboratively and focus more on educating the public on investment issues to ensure the investment sector is growing in the country while avoiding corrupt practices, as it is against the rules and regulations of the public service.

"Employees should adhere to professional ethics and patriotism, closely support traders and investors and avoid taking bribes," he said.

Mwambe called on government institutions to work together to supervise sustainability of registered companies in the country so as to make them profitable and thus collect enough revenues.

The minister warned some traders who collaborate with government officials to oppress investors who come to invest in Tanzania saying that stern legal measures will be taken against them.



Efforts to rehabilitate Nyamwifa River bridge at Bugunda village in Musoma Rural constituency have begun in earnest, three years after days of pounding rain rendered it impassable, as found by our correspondent yesterday.

UK-donated Covid-19 vaccine doses reach African countries

GENEVA

THE first AstraZeneca doses donated to COVAX by the United Kingdom (UK) will soon arrive in Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda, with Zambia and DRC set to be the first to receive the vaccines.

119,200 doses touched down in Lusaka and 51,840 doses in Kinshasa yesterday. 119,040 doses are due to arrive in Malawi on 14 August, 140,160

doses in Senegal on 15 August, 299,680 doses in Egypt on 16 August, and 299,520 doses are scheduled to touch down in Uganda on 18 August.

The remaining doses will arrive in their recipient countries in the near future.

The shipment of doses is part of a broader pledge to share 100 million jabs with the rest of the world, of which 80 per cent will be through COVAX.

The UK has already donated

approximately 5 million vaccine doses to COVAX and the total number of doses being sent to African countries in this delivery is approximately 3 million.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said: "Three million doses of UK-donated vaccines are now arriving in 11 countries across Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, to help the fight against COVID-19. This is the first batch of 80 million being donated via

COVAX - because we know no one is safe until everyone is safe."

Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said: "The UK is proud to be a major supporter of COVAX and the crucial work it does in getting vaccines to countries that need them most."

The five million doses donated to COVAX are part of our pledge to contribute 100 million vaccines within the next year to help accelerate

global access, and it's fantastic that from today the doses will be making a difference to millions of lives. I am hugely grateful to the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca for producing this vaccine at cost - after all, we are not safe from COVID-19 until the whole world is safe."

CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Dr Seth Berkley said: "The Government of the United Kingdom has been one of global vaccination's strongest

advocates and an early supporter of COVAX. Dose donations play an important part in COVAX's mission, especially now as we wait for deliveries to ramp up aggressively in the weeks to come. These deliveries will have a direct impact on protecting some of the most vulnerable people in the world."

As part of their vaccine donation, UK is also covering the costs of syringes, safety boxes, air freight and other ancillary

costs. The UK support will help COVAX deliver at a time when global supply is still under significant pressure, and these deliveries in Q3 of 2021 are particularly important in meeting urgent needs and protecting vulnerable populations as new variants spread.

It comes after £548 million in UK funding to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (Gavi COVAX AMC) to help COVAX procure doses for 92 lower-income economies.

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 14 AUGUST 2021

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Sub-Saharan Africa's tourism potential merits more tapping

AFRICA boasts most diverse natural and socio-cultural resources which have great potential in terms of tourism revenue. Nevertheless, lack of transparency and poor infrastructure has made the continent lag behind in this sector. A new World Bank report highlights some constraints faced by governments, and also offers solutions to develop and advance the continent's tourism industry.

This first ever World Bank case-study on sub-Saharan Africa's tourism examines this sector comprehensively and recommends sensible, evidence-based tips to release the industry's economic growth potential, so that Africa can compete with other stakeholders across the world.

It showcases how Cape Verde, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania and South Africa can maximise on their wildlife resources within five years only and become global trend-setters. Currently, tourism only contributes 2.8 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa's overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Africa is a sleeping giant that needs to wake up and make good use of the vast resources it has, otherwise it would continue lagging behind as others prosper with their limited opportunities. The secret to success in tourism is proper management.

The World Bank report shows the region's numerous travel successes and advises governments to make alliances with private sector stakeholders at the regional, national and local levels.

Although developing countries still share the minimal ratio of the international tourist flows, their performances are improving at a faster rate than the global average. Currently, tourism provides real potential for the economic and social progress. It

generates valuable foreign currency exchange and government revenues through taxation. It as well could be a major source of employment.

In Tanzania showcases an amalgam of cultures, it is a land where various ethnic groups and religious people are living in harmony with their distinctive cultural practices.

The number of tourists that is coming to see firsthand the majestic natural wonders of Tanzania is blessed with like the Mt Kilimanjaro fall, the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro as well as the man made tourist attraction sites.

The smokeless industry in general and culture tourism in particular are exhibiting an upward spiral in the country.

This could be gauged or figured out from the various fruitful strides being made in the sector.

The country's positive image and improved promotion mechanisms have increased the number of tourists and it has reached more than million.

This sector has been generating billions revenue to the country.

The increment both in the tourists' inflow and spending is attributable to the effective activities exerted in concert with stakeholders.

Above all, peace and stability is a significant factor for this enhancement and effective international and regional conferences the Tanzania hosted so far.

The government should continue enhancing the tourism sector to unleash the potentials of the country's natural, historic, cultural and other attractions in a sustainable and globally competitive manner. All concerned bodies should maximize their efforts in boosting Tanzania's benefit from its untapped tourism potential and resources.

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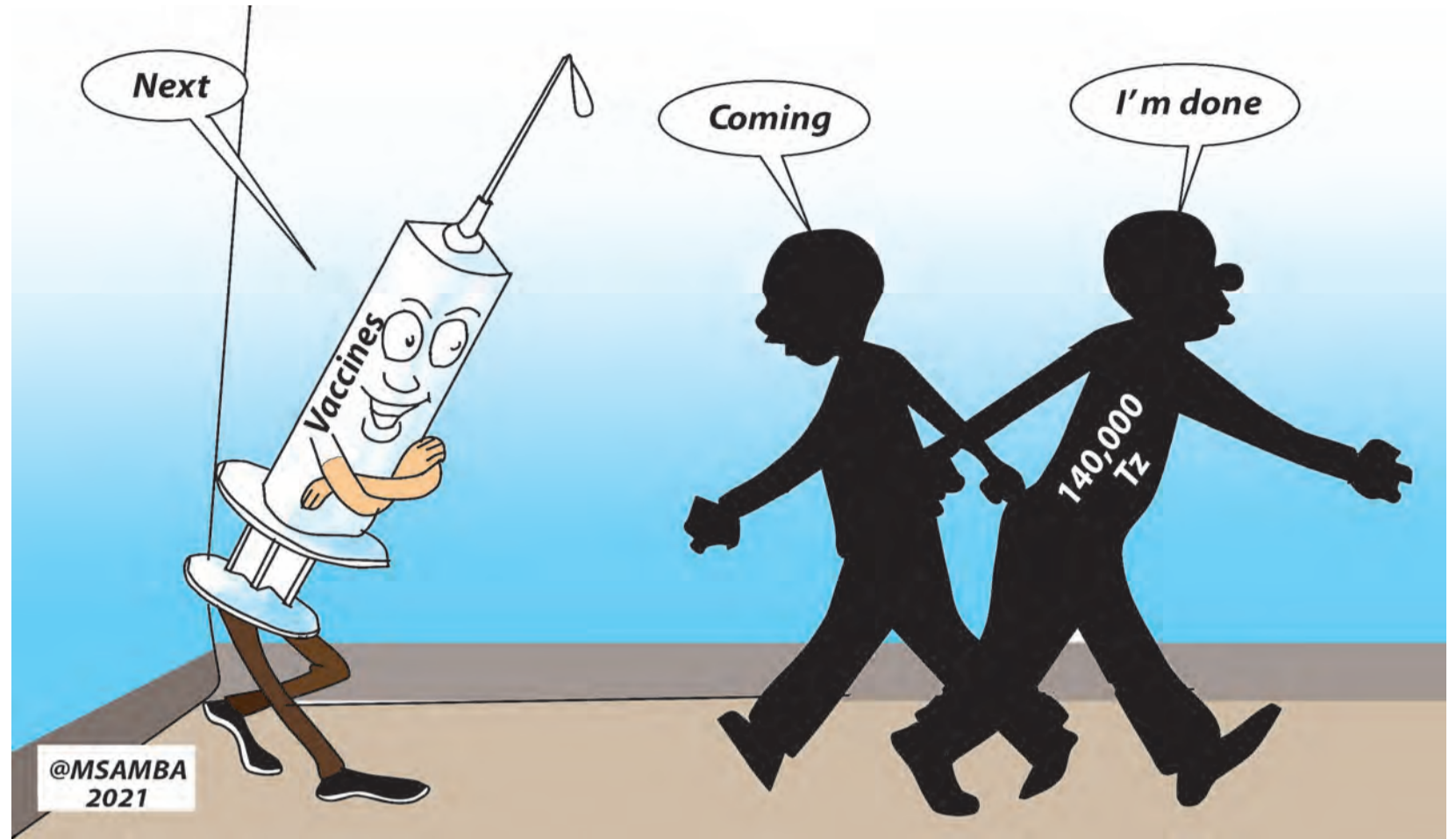
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A minister's plea to bandits and Buhari's all's well posture in UK

By Olabisi Deji-Folatile

NIGERIA is suffering the consequence of being governed by educated illiterates today. The more out-of-school children we have, the more criminals, bandits, terrorists and other criminals we will see tomorrow. And the more half-baked education we provide, the more bad leaders we will produce tomorrow. Nigeria is suffering the consequence of being governed by educated illiterates today. The situation will grow worse, except the few educated ones in government choose to do things differently.

Minister of State for Education, Emeka Nwajiuba, has shown the world Nigeria's helplessness in dealing with the problem of the abduction of students by terrorists often referred to as bandits. Between December 2020 and now, more than 1,000 Nigerian students and school staff have been kidnapped and held for ransom in the North-West region of the country. Over 500 of this figure were abducted in the last three months and the problem shows no sign of abating. Now, Nwajiuba is pleading with bandits to stop targeting schoolchildren. He has also begged them to free the abducted ones in their custody.

He spoke as another set of three students of Bethel Baptist Secondary School in Kaduna, who were part of the 121 kidnapped on July 5, reportedly escaped from their abductors on Tuesday. The students were found by troops at the Kankumi forest general area in the Chikun Local Government Area of the State. So far, seven students have escaped from their abductors - four had earlier done so on Sunday, July 25. This is in addition to the first batch of 28 students that the kidnappers released. Over 80 students of the Bethel school are still in the forest at the moment.

Elated at the news of the students' escape, Nwajiuba said, "This is the kind of news I want to be hearing every day. They should please return our children to us. I am so happy for these parents. So, I am really glad to have these three back and I think we should have all of them back. Please, any kind of help we can get. I appeal to parents to please bear with us."

Yes. This is where we are. Things have degenerated to the level that those who still have conscience among our government functionaries now rejoice over a small number of students who escape from their kidnappers' dens, even when hundreds of them are still in the dens of lions across the thick forests of Nigeria's North-West. As I wrote this article, there are over 300 students who have not been returned to their families. I talk about conscience here because there are some people in government who can look at Nigerians in the face

and tell them that the challenge of the abduction of students has been solved and that the ones in the forests are mere remnants of the handiwork of a defeated foe. After all, that is how they told us that Boko Haram insurgency has been defeated, when terrorists were still hoisting their flags and killing military personnel in the North-East almost on a daily basis.

Even as it is, I am not sure the junior Education Minister will not be reprimanded for talking too much. Aside urging the 'bandits' to leave Nigerian students alone, he also appealed to "whoever talks to them" to help tell them to "leave our schools alone." I don't know why the Minister refused to mention the name of the person who talks to them. We all know him. His name is Sheikh Gumi. He has been the official spokesperson for bandits in Nigeria. The cleric has spoken openly on behalf of the bandits and visited them in their hideouts, with pictures of such visits in the public domain. He has not hidden his relationship with them. So, appealing to him to beg the bandits doesn't seem to be out of place.

Of course, as usual, the Minister tried to defend the Federal Government, saying it was doing as much as it could possibly do. "I know it is disheartening how you feel and I am appealing as one of the Ministers you have put in government that we take responsibility and we are doing the most we can on this matter," he had said. But we all know that this defence is feeble. It is another way of paying lip service to the problem. Anyway, by now, the minister ought to know that the Federal Government's best, apart from being poor, is far from being enough!

It seems this country just loves to go from bad to worse when it comes to poor indices. Kidnapping of students has grown from being an aberration to a lucrative business in our clime. What started as an aberration in Chibok has moved to Dapchi to Kagara to Jingali to Jangebe and so on, without any real form of check. How can criminals abduct over 100 students at once without being apprehended? How do they move these students through trucks or do they trek? Or how do they operate so freely in a country that has 17 security and law enforcement institutions? Yet, none of the gangs has been arrested in the eight mass kidnappings of Nigerian students since December last year.

Our Education Minister has not been the only one begging criminals. It's just that he has expressed his views publicly. Many state gov-

ernors have also been begging criminals to stop kidnapping citizens within their domains. I heard that in one of the peace meetings with the criminal gangs... the leader of the bandits threatened to wreak more havoc and everybody, including the security representatives at the meeting, kept begging for mercy.

A senior analyst with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, Bulama Bukarti, quoted the Deputy Director of Nigeria's intelligence agency, the Department of State Services (DSS) as saying that kidnappers have extorted N2 billion (\$4.9 million) from ordinary Nigerians in the first six months of this year alone. Yet, our leaders prefer to beg criminals than make them pay for their crimes. They would rather subject innocent citizens to unnecessary hardship under the pretence of making the country secure, as witnessed in the ongoing compulsory registration for the National Identification Number. I don't know what they want to achieve with this, when it is obvious that they aren't using the basic technology that is available now to its full advantage. Or what do you make of a country that can't deploy basic technology to track the numbers that kidnappers use to communicate with parents of abducted students, to find their location? I even learnt the people in the North do not have any emergency number to call when attacks are underway and that kidnappers now accept ransom payments through bank transfers!

Our Education Minister has not been the only one begging criminals. It's just that he has expressed his views publicly. Many state governors have also been begging criminals to stop kidnapping citizens within their domains. I heard that in one of the peace meetings with the criminal gangs, which, by the way, had representatives of our security units in attendance, the leader of the bandits threatened to wreak more havoc and everybody, including the security representatives at the meeting, kept begging for mercy. The state governments are saying that they have minimal powers to do anything about physical security, since the security agencies essentially answer to the Federal Government. But the same governors will oppose a review of the Constitution to accommodate state police. Who is deceiving who?

As bad as it is for a government official to display cluelessness and helplessness in the midst of a gargantuan challenge, I think the Minister probably fared better when compared with the lackluster

performance of Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari at the recently concluded global education summit in London, United Kingdom. At least, the Minister acknowledged our problem. The President's outing was something else. Anyone who listened to his contributions at the summit would think Nigeria is an Eldorado, as far as its education sector is concerned.

Hosted by the U.K. and Kenya, the Global Education Summit brought together world leaders to make progress towards Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (quality inclusive education for all children). The centrepiece of the summit was the opportunity for leaders to make five-year pledges to support GPE's work to help transform education systems in up to 90 countries and territories, where 80 per cent of the world's out-of-school children live.

If Nigerian parents truly know the value of education and are already doing their best in this area as the President claimed, why do we still have such a huge figure of out-of-school children in the country? Does it mean that such children don't have parents? Did they just fall from the sky? Why are they not in school? I really don't get the point that the President was making.

While leaders like Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, were forceful and emotional about the challenges confronting the sector, emphasising the urgency required in tackling the problem of the under-served, unreachable, as well as out-of-school children population across the globe, the President of Nigeria, where more than 10 million children are out of school, the highest figure in sub-Saharan Africa, spoke as if Nigeria had no challenge in this sector at all.

On the panel with Buhari were Presidents Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana, Faure Gnassingbe of Togo, Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi. Everyone spoke about the peculiarities of the education sector in their countries. All that our president could tell the world was that Nigerians were acutely aware of the priority of education, and parents were making sacrifices to ensure that their children and wards get educated. He said Nigerians already know that, "You can't succeed outside your educational qualification. So, no Nigerian parent jokes with education, as they are aware that if their children missed the opportunity of being educated, they have missed a lot."

Obstetric fistula still big threat, so war against it must continue

A FISTULA in anatomy is an abnormal connection between two hollow spaces technically, two epithelialised surfaces, such as blood vessels, intestines, or other hollow organs.

Fistulas can result from an infection or inflammation, injury or surgery. Fistulas are sometimes purposefully surgically created as part of a treatment, for example arterio-venous fistulas for hemodialysis.

Treatment for fistula varies depending on the cause and extent of the fistula, but often involves surgical intervention combined with antibiotic therapy.

Globally, every year between 50,000 and 100,000 women are affected by fistula relating to childbirth.^[7]

ACCORDING to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as many as 3,000 Tanzanian women develop obstetric fistula each year, a condition that leaves them incontinent, leaking urine or faeces uncontrollably. As a result, they are often excluded from their families and communities. Obstetric fistula is a childbirth injury caused by prolonged, obstructed labour. It occurs when pressure from the baby's head compresses the mother's soft tissue in the birth canal, which obstructs the blood flow. Without blood, the tissues die and a hole forms between the bladder and the vagina or the rectum and the vagina.

Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) is a Tanzanian health care organization which works to prevent disability, provide affordable medical and rehabilitative services, and aid empowerment of people with disabilities and their families. It also seeks to prevent disability through early identification by strengthening

the maternal and newborn health system throughout Dar es Salaam.

To help remove barriers to treatment, CCBRT covers the cost of all obstetric fistula patients' treatment, accommodation, and meals throughout their course of care. CCBRT also supports six partner hospitals in Tanzania to provide treatment, making fistula care more accessible for all Tanzanian women. Last year, CCBRT and its partner facilities performed 1,012 fistula surgeries.

In the same vein, the government has said plans are underway to ensure specialised clinical services aimed at curbing the increasing number of deaths caused by the pregnancy-related obstetric fistula disease are available right across the country.

The comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care services will be installed in all public health centres. The services will target pregnant women experiencing fatal complications, including severe bleeding, infection, prolonged or obstructed labour, and eclampsia, as well as newborns with asphyxia.

They will be provided with safe blood transfusions, provision of oxytocin and antibiotics, caesarean section surgery, manual removals of the placenta, assisted vaginal delivery, controlled abortions, and resuscitation of newborns.

Although official figures show that roughly 3,000 women suffer from obstetric fistula in the country each year, the number is much lower than the real situation on the ground where most cases go unreported for fear of stigmatisation for patients.

Only 113 of the country's 484 public health centres are providing the treatment services in a comprehensive manner so far.

How South Africa's News24 garnered 31K paying subscribers in nine months

By Neha Gupta

AFTER 21 years of serving South Africa with free journalism, News24, the country's leading journalism group, realised that it could no longer sustain itself on advertising revenue alone - and decided to launch a paywall last year.

Following the decision, it began looking at successful global subscription businesses for inspiration before starting its own. The paywall launched in August 2020 and, by April this year, News24's website had 31,000 paying subscribers.

"These subscribers are only a sliver of our 19.5 million monthly uniques strong reader base, but we are happy with our progress in these nine months," Adriaan Basson, News24's Editor-in-Chief, said at WAN-IFRA's recent Digital Media Africa Conference.

"It's a marathon, not a sprint," he added, echoing the digital-only company's subscription motto, and their commitment to growing the number of paying users over time.

A monthly subscription package is priced at 75 South African Rand (4.39 euros). It gives a reader access to in-depth analysis, opinion, investigative pieces, documentaries and podcasts, premium newsletters and the ability to listen to articles, among other things.

The subscription price also includes access to content from City Press, YOU, DRUM and True Love magazines, all of which are published by Media24, News24's parent company.

Basson said they took several key decisions before launching their paywall after a year of extensive research, one relating to whether it should be "one paywall that fits all".



The Media24 group owns several newspapers, magazines and digital titles. The company realised the importance of economies of scale and, instead of launching a paywall for each individual title, it launched one paywall that covered all its English-language titles.

"The bigger you become, the more subscribers and reader revenue you'll get, the better your journalism becomes, the more people you can employ," he said.

News24's Afrikaans equivalent, Netwerk24, has had a monthly reader subscription service in place since its launch in 2014 and it has 70,000 paying subscribers.

For the financial year 2019-2020, Media24 reported a 2 per cent growth in revenue to R4.8 billion (approximately 282 million euros) and reduced trading loss by 54 per cent to R152 million (approximately 8.9 million euros), year-on-year.

Two: What kind of pay-

wall? After much deliberation and examination of case studies, the company decided on a Freemium paywall.

This meant that 80 per cent of the content on the website, including breaking news and commodity news (which is readily available anywhere) remains free - as is the company's Covid-19 reporting.

The remaining 20 per cent, which included the company's most sought-after in-depth, investigative con-

tent, was put behind the paywall.

"You have visitors to the free sections of your website; they log in and leave information about themselves, their behaviours and their preferences," said Basson.

"Thanks to this data, we can make a better product, invest in journalists and features... There will be people who'd want to subscribe to it, which will attract advertisers," he added.

Three: Slow and fast streams. One of the first things Basson did was divide his newsroom into slow and fast content streams. The company realised that it needed to keep its breaking news up and running to maintain economies of scale, without compromising on the quality of the locked content.

In a bid to split these two different but equally important content streams, the brand invested in appointing people who only work in investigative journalism, feature projects and in-depth content, and a desk that holds command over fast news.

"We want to ensure that none of our journalists feels that their work is less important," said Basson. The company allows journalists access to the backend of the software in place, so that they get first-hand experience at observing and understanding which stories bring maximum conversions. The move has proven successful in motivating the editorial team.

Basson elaborated: "Most of our traffic comprises people who visit the website every day to access the breaking news section. We found that splitting the focus, especially on an editor's level, where the copy is processed, distributed and published, has been very effective."

He further explained that the two teams occasionally get their wires crossed, "but this system has been working fine for the most part".

Then there is the advantage of using artificial intelligence (AI) to help moderate comments. Keeping up and adapting to new technology has posed a few challenges for the News24 team in its subscription journey. However, the company has successfully im-

plemented machine learning and artificial intelligence in its comment section.

This technology carries out sentiment analysis on comments before they are made accessible to a human moderator, and weeds out vile and hateful comments. The journalist-in-charge can then take a call about publishing that comment, depending on their risk appetite.

The final editorial call, of course, still remains with a human employee. "Human intervention and moderation are always necessary for a final go-ahead," said Basson.

Machine learning and artificial intelligence will play a much bigger role in the company's offering to its readers in the immediate future.

A current blueprint places a premium on the need to use the technology for bringing personalised homepages to readers, based on their consumption patterns and interests.

The company boasts 33 newsletters covering an array of topics. Its biggest newsletter, Good Morning South Africa, incorporates a personalised touch, aided by technology, to personalise news for its readers.

A section entitled "News For You", offers readers content that furthers their personalised interests, particularly covering sports and lifestyle.

"We are going to have ethical debates around this in our newsrooms. As editors, we are going to have to critically analyse this technology," Basson said.

He added: "We are learning every day what helps conversions - time, products, interaction with readers. To facilitate the learning, we have regular webinars, podcasts and interactions with our readers to see what works best for them."

News24 will consider switching its paywall to another model as it goes along but for now, with an attractive price point and content offering, the company is still determined to get as many loyal readers as possible and turn them into subscribers.

A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (wan- ifra).

Science-based origin tracing of COVID-19 allows no vicious political manipulation

RECENTLY, a few American politicians are just wild about acting as "virologists." Citing unreliable sources and groundless intelligence information, and fabricating reports based on lies, they are seeking a "presumption of guilt" against other countries and hyping the so-called "lab leak theory," putting on political farces again and again.

This is a desecration of the spirit of science, and a deliberate damage on the joint efforts of the international community to combat COVID-19.

Origin tracing of the novel coronavirus is a serious issue of science, and should be collaboratively studied by global scientists and medical experts. Conclusions must be reached based on facts and scientific evidence.

However, to shift the responsibility of the failure in pandemic control at home and discredit other countries, these U.S. politicians have repeatedly politicized the pandemic, stigmatized other countries and weaponized the origin tracing work.

To achieve their goals, they turned a blind eye to science and common sense, employed the intelligence community to launch origin tracing investigations, and even requested intelligence departments to generate an origin tracing report within 90 days.

Waving a political big stick, they coerced scientists to surrender to their hegemony and bullying practice and then support the "lab leak theory." Such mean practice has seriously disturbed and undermined international cooperation on origin tracing.

Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of The Lancet, noted that the conspiracies about the origins of COVID-19 are spreading like viruses, and may cause impacts as severe as what the pandemic has done.

Some U.S. politicians are sparing no effort to discredit China on origin tracing of COVID-19. However, it's obvious enough that China has not only achieved major strategic results in pandemic control, but also shown its major country responsibility in finding the origins of the virus. China immediately reported to the WHO when the novel coronavirus was first identified in Wuhan, shared genomic sequence information, and conducted origin tracing studies with the or-



ganization.

Since 2020, China has twice invited WHO experts to come to China for origin tracing studies. Earlier this year, a joint expert team comprising leading experts from 10 countries, including the US, the UK, Japan and Australia, conducted a 28-day joint research in China together with their Chinese counterparts.

The expert team jointly analyzed data, went on field trips and carried out in-depth studies. On March 30, the WHO issued a report of the joint research, clarifying that a lab leakage was "extremely unlikely".

However, the science-based conclusion is not satisfying for certain US politicians. Requesting to search for the origins of COVID-19, they are not really look into where the virus came from, but ducking responsibilities and criminalizing other countries.

When they were not able to find evidence and discredit other countries with righteous and science-based approaches, they resorted to "origin tracing terrorism." Washington has always been stigmatizing China since the last administration in the White House started call-

ing COVID-19 the "China virus."

The US also related China and even other Asian countries to the origins of COVID-19, which led to a surging Asian hate in the US, and a few Western countries. As a result, Asians suffered obviously more discrimination, oppression and even personal threats. Such mean practice has aroused broad dissatisfaction and strong opposition from the international society.

Political manipulation will never be supported as it goes against facts, science and justice. On Aug. 2, more than 300 political parties, social organizations and think tanks from some 100 countries and region sent a joint statement to the WHO Secretariat to oppose politicization of origin tracing.

They stressed the international society needs to enhance anti-pandemic cooperation when facing the severe threats against people's lives and health posed by COVID-19, urging the WHO to conduct global studies into the origins of the virus with objective and justifiable approaches.

Origin tracing is important and complicated. It calls for close cooperation of scientists across

the world, as well as joint efforts by all governments and people. The truth will be revealed only with a firm determination to follow science-based attitude and approaches in origin tracing. This is common sense, and a consensus as well.

The virus knows no boundary or race, and is challenging the entire mankind.

Though China was the first to report COVID-19 cases, the virus had emerged in multiple places around the world before the cases occurred in China.

For instance, the National Institute of Health of the US has found evidence proving the existence of the novel coronavirus in five US states as early as December 2019.

The Mayor of Belleville, New Jersey, said he contracted the novel coronavirus in November 2019, over two months before the first confirmed case was reported in the US.

In July 2019, the EVALI, or e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury broke out massively in the US, the symptoms of which were extremely similar to those of COVID-19.

These facts once again proved that origin

tracing is an issue of science, and must be dealt with conscientiously by scientists around the world.

A study into the origins of COVID-19 in the US is also an indispensable part of the global origin tracing work.

At present, the US is facing a severe resurgence of COVID-19 cases, and the numbers of infections and hospitalizations are rising in almost all 50 states.

It proves that political manipulation will only create loopholes for the virus, and countries will be defeated by the virus one by one if beggar-thy-neighbor approaches are adopted. Ignoring science will only make the virus more rampant.

We advise some US politicians to stop manipulating scientific studies with political means, and stop placing private political profits above people's lives and health.

This is not only a basic requirement for origin tracing, but also a lower limit of human conscience.

COVID-19 spike in US ignites new mess in responses

WASHINGTON

THE resurgence of COVID-19 in the United States, driven by the highly contagious Delta variant, is creating a new mess in the country's responses to the once-in-a-century pandemic that is rapidly straining its medical resources and health care system.

NEW MESS

Some U.S. states, including Texas and Florida, are refusing to allow local authorities and school districts to reimpose mask mandates amid surging COVID-19 cases, as some Republican governors continue to push individual responsibilities over government mandate in managing the spread of the disease, which has led to a series of lawsuits.

Judge Clay Jenkins of Texas's populous Dallas County, who's suing Governor Greg Abbott over mask rules, said in a statement earlier this week that the enemy is not each other, but the virus. "We must all do all that we can to protect public health," Jenkins said.

"School districts and government closest to the people should make decisions on how best to keep students and others safe."

In Florida, several school districts are considering mask mandates, as schools are returning from summer break, despite an executive order by Governor Ron DeSantis that leaves it up to parents to decide whether their children wear face coverings on campus.

The governor's office has responded by threatening to withhold the salaries of superintendents and school board members who disregard the order.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams said earlier this week that he feels it is "deeply troubling" that the country is "letting politics get in the way" of protecting public health, especially that of young people.

"As a father, I quite frankly think it's unconscionable. I really do," Adams told "CBS This Morning" during an interview.

U.S. President Joe Biden told reporters at the White House on Tuesday that he doesn't think he could intervene in states that have banned mask mandates but added that his administration was studying the possibility.

DIRE SITUATION

Most states and jurisdictions in the United States are experiencing substantial or high levels of community transmission fueled by the spread of the Delta variant, according to the latest COVID-19 data tracker weekly

review published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The United States is now averaging more than 100,000 new COVID-19 cases a day, the highest since February, with both hospitalizations and deaths going up, figures showed.

The CDC is projecting that a total of 630,000 to 662,000 COVID-19 deaths will be reported by early September in the country.

Several states, including Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oregon, were reported to have had more people hospitalized with COVID-19 than at any other point throughout the public health crisis, while nursing staffs are badly strained.

In the state of Oklahoma, rural hospitals are reportedly having increased difficulty finding places to monitor and treat ICU patients.

"We're in the middle of a bed crisis," Carlos Cabrera, a doctor at a hospital in Shawnee, Oklahoma, told a local news outlet.

"We've tried pretty much every hospital in Oklahoma -- in Oklahoma City and in Tulsa -- there are just no ICU beds." Amid growing concerns about the Delta variant, U.S. officials and health experts have been actively encouraging people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, which the CDC has recently said remains "the best tool" to protect them from the disease, but some media outlets and politicians continue to sow doubt about vaccines in order to appeal to their bases.

U.S. Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Georgia Republican, has recently been suspended from Twitter for sharing misinformation about COVID-19, after posting that the country's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) "should not approve" COVID vaccines. She also falsely claimed that "vaccines are failing and do not reduce the spread of the virus and neither do masks."

A Twitter spokesperson said that Greene's tweet was flagged for misinformation and that her account will be in read-only mode for a week "due to repeated violations."

Tom Frieden, a former CDC director, tweeted that the COVID-19 surge in the United States "is being driven primarily by people who haven't yet been vaccinated."

"For vaccinated people, there is some risk from Delta, but it's vastly lower than for unvaccinated people," Frieden said.

"There are very few vaccinated people who will get severely ill or die from COVID. COVID vaccines aren't perfect, but they are stunningly effective."

More than a dozen large U.S. corporations have re-



A staff member offers a face mask to a man at Chinese Hospital in San Francisco, the United States, Aug. 3, 2021. (Xinhua)

cently announced vaccine mandates for their employees. California has become the first state in the country to require all teachers and school staff to get vaccinated or receive weekly COVID-19 testing.

WHAT WENT WRONG

In his new book, Scott Gottlieb, former FDA commissioner, analyzed how COVID-19 was able to trounce pandemic preparations in the United States. "A system-wide failure across government institutions left the nation blind to the threat, and unable to mount an effective response," an online introduction of the book read.

"We'd prepared for the wrong virus. We failed to identify the contagion early enough and became

overly reliant on costly and sometimes divisive tactics that couldn't fully slow the spread."

"We never considered asymptomatic transmission and we assumed people would follow public health guidance."

Key bureaucracies like the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) were hidebound and outmatched. Weak leadership aggravated these woes," it added.

Rick Bright, former director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services office, said on Wednesday that many lives would have been saved if the federal government "had listened to the science."

"If we had initiated testing, a really robust nationwide testing strategy to tell people where the virus was and tell people who were infected, if we had done more to prepare for the vaccine administration rollout when the vaccine became available, we could have saved hundreds of thousands of lives of our loved ones and relatives and others in our community,"

Bright told CNN during an interview. Frieden urged the United States to learn the lessons of this pandemic and strengthen public health in the country and globally. "If we don't rise to the challenge, we'll continue to be just as vulnerable to the next pandemic," he tweeted. **Xinhua**

Election complications place volatile forks on Lybia roadmap

By Peter Fabricius

THE surge of hope inspired by the remarkable breakthrough in Libya's year-old peace process is starting to fade as negotiations to enable viable elections on 24 December bog down.

Analysts now think that Libyans and the international community became too optimistic – and complacent – after significant milestones were reached. These include the October 2020 ceasefire, a transitional political framework agreement, and the March handover of power from the western government in Tripoli and the rival eastern government in Tobruk to one of national unity.

These were 'astonishing' gains for a country engulfed in civil war since Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown 10 years ago this month, the International Crisis Group says. "The establishment of a unified government, which enjoys the backing of Libya's competing

political groupings, their affiliated military coalitions and their foreign backers, is a historic achievement. It sets the stage for reunification of political and military institutions that have been divided and recurrently battling since 2014."

But since the government of national unity's swearing-in on 15 March, progress has stalled and a stalemate has set in, says Silvia Colombo, Libyan expert at the Istituto Affari Internazionali.

Negotiations have deadlocked mostly over the nature and sequencing – and possibly the delay – of the 24 December elections, and the crucial question of who should be the military's commander in chief. The 1 July deadline has passed without the necessary constitutional amendments and electoral law to be adopted by parliament that would allow for polls to be organised.

As a product of the stalemate and an ominous warning of what could ensue if negotiations aren't revived quickly,

the sinister figure of General Khalifa Haftar has returned to the political stage. Haftar is the military commander of the Libyan National Army – the armed force of the Tobruk government.

After Turkey repelled his military offensive on the previous Tripoli government last year, he seemed to be consigned to history – or at least to the backburner – by the progress towards civilian rule and democracy. But Colombo says he has exploited the stalemate to reinsert himself into the political process over the past few weeks, insisting loudly that the military will never subordinate itself to civilian control.

That option isn't on the negotiation table. The United Nations (UN)-backed roadmap says the three-person Presidency Council that governs alongside the government of national unity should command the military. All the parties in the Libya Political Dialogue Forum approved the roadmap last November. But it is a symptom

of the failing negotiations that Haftar feels confident enough to propound such a heresy.

Another stumbling block is the persistence of foreign forces in the country, despite the November agreement stipulating that they should all have left by now. These include Syrian mercenaries on both sides of the conflict. Turkish military elements that backed the previous Tripoli government are also still present, as is the Russian private military company Wagner – a proxy for Moscow – that backed Haftar and the Tobruk government.

Though the presence of foreign troops is complicating the transition, particularly efforts to unify the country's many military forces, it isn't a deal-breaker, says Tim Eaton, Libya specialist at Chatham House. He and Colombo agree that the main problem remains the stalled arrangements for elections.

The roadmap is silent on several issues. One is whether the 24 December poll should

be a referendum on a draft constitution completed by an elected committee in 2017, with elections later. Alternatively, the polls could be for a new parliament only, which would indirectly elect a president. Or voters could choose both a parliament and a president.

There are plausible cases for all these options. Colombo warns, for example, that without prior institution building, 24 December elections could be destabilising. Eaton cautions that such instability is more likely without measures to ensure that voting is free and fair.

The counterargument is that Libyans are impatient for democracy and should be allowed to choose a new government as soon as possible. This government could then approve a new constitution and address institution-building and reunification.

Whatever the merits of these arguments, many suspect Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dabaiba's government is delay-

ing elections merely so it can remain in office after 24 December. Dabaiba was earlier accused of buying votes from the members of the Libya Political Dialogue Forum, which chose the transitional government.

And Eaton suggests the Speaker of Parliament, Aguila Saleh Issa, also has a personal interest in backing the option of parliament and not the people electing the national president. He and Colombo agree that the international community hasn't thrown enough weight behind the negotiations for viable election arrangements.

Eaton says the UN, in particular, has "dropped the ball." He cites a "catastrophic" recent meeting of the Libya Political Dialogue Forum where Raisedon Zenenga, the Deputy UN Special Envoy, entertained the idea of delaying the 24 December elections – or holding only parliamentary polls. This would violate UN Security Council resolution 2570, which says both parliamentary and presidential elections should

be held on that date, Eaton says. The UN shouldn't have indulged the notion of missing that critical deadline.

However, Moncef Djaziri, Senior Lecturer at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and an expert on Libyan politics believes elections in December would be too early. He recently told the Institute for Security Studies' PSC Report that before elections take place, "One should first rebuild the Libyan state, unify state institutions and try to draw up a consensual constitution." Rebuilding the state would require buy-in from the tribes, the Libya Muslim Brotherhood and other now fractured elements, he says.

But having now set a date for elections, Libyans seem to be stuck with it. Perhaps the greatest danger if they don't vote on 24 December is that this would create a pretext for Haftar to declare that the transitional government has expired, and so try again to seize power by force. **DM**

CAPITAL RADIO

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
05:00-09:00HRS 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

African youth unable to access agri-technologies amidst financing gaps

By Guardian Reporter

ONLY 23 per cent of African youth engaging in agriculture are using any form of agricultural technology due to lack of financing and training, according to a new 11-country survey by Heifer International.

The report, 'The Future of Africa's Agriculture' released on International Youth Day, includes responses from almost 30,000 young Africans and follow-ups with hundreds of farmers and farm organizations.

It points to the need for new investments to stimulate access to innovations that could encourage African youth now turning away from agriculture to reconsider opportunities in the sector—especially given the need to generate jobs and repair food systems battered by the pandemic.

Adesuwa Ifedi, senior vice president for Africa Programs at Heifer International said: "As a continent with a thriving young population, Africa's agricultural sector must provide the investments in agritech innovations that will encourage youth to embrace agriculture-related endeavours, because they are the key to revitalizing Africa's food system."

Ifedi said Africa is not providing the financing or training to ensure its young people have easy access to the same agritech tools—like drone technologies, precision soil sensors and digital farmer services that are transforming food production around the world.

"Youth engagement in agriculture will be essential to recovering from the economic impacts of the pandemic, both to rejuvenate the continent's agri-food system and develop economic opportunities for young Africans," Ifedi said.

The report surveyed 29,900 youths, 299 smallholder farmers and 110 agriculture technology startups, innovation hubs and technology organizations in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The study provides new insights into how the pandemic is affecting African farmers.

Some 40 per cent of agriculture organizations featured in the survey report that they were forced to close at least temporarily due to the pandemic; 38 per cent experienced a reduction in average purchase amount per customer and 36 per cent still do not have the financial capital to grow back their businesses.

But despite the challenges they face, the report also provides a window into the many ways young African entrepreneurs across the continent are developing creative, useful agritech tools and services for smallholder



farmers.

It highlights many young innovators who are boosting farm productivity and profits in Africa via artificial intelligence, remote sensing, geographic information software (GIS), virtual reality, drone technology, application programming interface (API) technology and a variety of precision tools for measuring rainfall, controlling pests and analyzing soil nutrients.

More than half of Africa's ru-

ral population is employed in the agriculture sector.

Young people under the age of 25 account for approximately 60 per cent of Africa's population and a large share of the 1.8 billion people around the world who are between the ages of 10 to 24 years old, according to the United Nations.

Despite current youth migration to urban areas, the report found that young people are still interested in entering the agriculture sector. But they lack

access to finance or training to build businesses that can provide sustainable incomes and rewarding careers.

The report identifies pain-points and critical needs for supporting youth to adopt advanced technologies and build businesses that advance Africa's food security and agri-food systems agenda. It reveals that:

Access to financial capital, capacity building and land will spur youth interest in agriculture. Smallholder farmers will

embrace advanced technologies if the tools are affordable, and they can receive training in how to use them.

Agriculture innovations have a pulling power for every stakeholder in the sector.

They can create opportunities for young people who might otherwise ignore agriculture while sustainably increasing productivity for smallholder farmers, which can improve their livelihood and stimulate growth in the wider economy.

The respondents also affirmed the damaging effect of climate shocks (30%), insects, pests and disease (17%) and technology barriers (14%) on farmer productivity.

WHO to test malaria, arthritis drugs as COVID treatments

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organization (WHO) will test three new drugs as potential treatments for people in hospital with severe COVID-19 as it expands its global trial to 52 countries.

The three treatments - artesunate, imatinib and infliximab - were selected by an independent expert panel for their potential in reducing the risk of death in hospitalised patients. Artesunate is currently used for severe malaria, imatinib for certain cancers, and infliximab for diseases of the immune system such as Crohn's disease and rheuma-

toid arthritis.

"Finding more effective and accessible therapeutics for COVID-19 patients remains a critical need, and WHO is proud to lead this global effort," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. The drugs were donated to the trial by the manufacturers.

The WHO completed the first phase of the so-called Solidarity trials last year, working with countries worldwide to find effective treatments for the novel coronavirus and assess their effect on mortality, no matter how small. The new phase of the trial involves 600 hospitals in 52 countries - 16

more than the initial phase - and thousands of patients.

Four drugs have already been evaluated by the trial with results showing that remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir and interferon had little or no effect on people admitted to hospital with COVID-19.

The expansion of the trial comes as the world battles a new surge in the pandemic, fuelled by the highly transmissible Delta variant. Countries that have not been able to vaccinate a significant proportion of their population have been particularly hard hit.

The WHO has so far recom-

mended only two treatments for COVID-19 - interleukin-6 receptor blockers, recommended last month, and corticosteroids. Trials in the United Kingdom last year found dexamethasone, a cheap and widely available steroid, reduced the risk of death by a third for patients on ventilators.

Countries taking part in the new trials include Canada, Finland, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The three new drugs: Artesunate

Artesunate is produced by Ipca and is currently used to treat malaria. In the Solidarity

trial, it will be administered intravenously for seven days, using the standard dose recommended for the treatment of severe malaria, the WHO said.

Artesunate is a derivative of artemisinin, an antimalarial drug extracted from the herb *Artemisia annua*. Artemisinin and its derivatives have been extensively used in the treatment of malaria and other parasitic diseases for more than 30 years and are regarded as being very safe. The WHO COVID-19 Therapeutics Advisory Group recommended evaluating artesunate's anti-inflammatory properties.

Imatinib

Imatinib is manufactured by Novartis and used to treat certain cancers. The WHO says patients participating in the trial will take the drug orally, once a day, for 14 days. Imatinib is a small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitor formulated as an oral chemotherapy drug. Experimental and early clinical data suggest that imatinib reverses pulmonary capillary leak, while a randomised clinical trial performed in the Netherlands reported that imatinib might confer clinical benefits in patients in hospital with COVID-19.

Produced by Johnson &

Johnson, infliximab is used to treat diseases of the immune system. For the trial, it will be administered intravenously as a single dose, based on the standard dose given to patients with Crohn's Disease over extended periods, the UN agency said.

Infliximab is a TNF alpha inhibitor, a class of biologics that have been approved for the treatment of certain autoimmune inflammatory conditions for more than 20 years. It has shown favourable efficacy and safety in restricting broad spectrum inflammation, including in elderly people who are the most clinically vulnerable to COVID-19.

Pre-school education project to benefit hundreds of children in Dar, Dodoma

By Getrude Mbagu

MORE than 1700 children from marginalized communities in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions are set to benefit from 30 new Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres set to be launched in the country this year.

The first 15 centres will be launched this month and 15 others expected before the end of the year. The construction of the centres is funded by an international-based Yidan Prize Foundation.

Reports confirm that the first five years of a child's life are among the most important developmentally. Early childhood experiences have a profound and lifelong effect on brain development, affecting health, learning, behaviour, and ultimately economic prosperity. Yet in 2015 only 5 per cent of children in Tanzania were enrolled in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres.

In an interview with this paper recently, Susan Bipa, education program manager and acting country director of BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania said through the new ECE centres, children will be able to develop, acquire skills and become better prepared for school.

She said along with the children, thousands of parents and caregivers will also benefit.

"The project is expected to support 877 children in the first 15 centres, 877 parents and 30 caregivers (play leaders). In previous projects,

BRAC Tanzania reached 4,500 children, 4,500 parents, 115 caregivers and trained over 106 government pre-primary teachers on play based learning," he explained.

Bipa said the ECE centres have been capacitated with play labs which are designed to make children participate in early learning activities in learning environments and to develop their cognitive, emotional, linguistic and numerical capabilities. They learn to communicate, socialise and become better prepared for school.

She said play labs in the centres are like nurseries; where children aged three to five attend for three hours every day spending time with play leaders who lead them in singing or rhyming to develop speech and vocabulary, in dancing and games to develop gross motor skills, and in drawing and other art work to develop fine motor skills.

The children also learn about health, mathematics, arts and science.

"Play, often considered the universal language of childhood, develops a joyful foundation for children to be curious, communicative, thoughtful, resilient and intelligent future members of society. BRAC has committed to supporting Tanzania's investment in learning," Bipa said.

She said that the project aims to enable more opportunities for children to develop intellectually and socially/emotionally through meaningful and playful early learn-



ing. According to her, Yidan Prize funds, which BRAC was awarded in 2019, will enable thousands of vulnerable children in Tanzania, Uganda and Bangladesh to access quality education through play-based programs.

Bipa said the general objective of the project is therefore to leverage on knowledge and existing expertise related to early childhood education in order to innovate further and come up with different, high impact and scalable ECD solutions.

"Specifically, in Tanzania, our objective is to strengthen our partnership with the government

as well as to build local capacities on play based ECE. This project also complements the early childhood development efforts of the government by supporting 3-6 years old children in Tanzania to access quality early learning and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

She said since 2016, BRAC has successfully worked with Tanzania's Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to build a national ecosystem supporting nurturing care and the critical development of young children by strengthening

the national ECD curriculum and play based programme delivery.

Many of BRAC's ECD programmes are co-located in government schools to support seamless play based capacity building. The construction of Yidan Prize funded ECE centers commenced in December, 2020.

Since the inception of the ECD work in Tanzania in 2016, BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania has operated in four regions of Tanzania namely Dar-es-salaam, Mbeya, Tanga and Dodoma. The first 40 community based ECE centers were launched in July 2016 in both Dar es Salaam and Mbeya Regions.

"Apart from the new expected play labs funded by Yidan Prize Foundation, we have also launched a total of 115 other Play Labs through the funding support of LEGO Foundation and NORAD," Bupe asserted.

The Yidan Prize funds expand BRAC's work in implementing play based ECD programmes to create and refine high impact, scalable ECD solutions to improve physical, cognitive, psychosocial and learning development.

She said the expected positive outcomes of the Yidan Prize Project include ensuring that children are developmentally on track in physical, cognitive, social and emotional domain; Parents have improved knowledge, attitude and practices towards child rearing as well as teachers to have improved capacity to support children's development.

"Our expectation is to continue to advocate for the play based approach and continue to work closely with the government and other stakeholders to expand our work in more regions as the need for ECE in Tanzania is huge including in Kigoma Refugee communities," she added.

Edward Ma, secretary general of the Yidan Prize Foundation said: "BRAC's play-based early childhood development programmes have a proven track record in cognitive, emotional and physical development in children."

He added that the foundation is pleased to see that the Yidan Prize is being utilised to help scale up their work through the expansion of 30 new Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres in Dodoma and Dar-es-salaam.

Bridging troubled waters: A public-private pipeline can potentially solve South Africa's water crisis

By Zaid Railoun

GLOBALLY, there is an increasing demand for clean water, particularly in water-scarce countries such as South Africa. Shortages are felt across many South African industries as a result of rapid population growth, climate volatility, drought and rising sea levels, which are being accelerated by climate change, water-related pollution risks, inconsistent governance and ageing water infrastructure.

If the current rate of water use continues, the demand is likely to exceed the supply. More than a third of South Africa's supply is lost due to ageing and leaking infrastructure before it can be used. Public infrastructure, particularly at the municipal level, plays an important role in achieving increased levels of economic growth and social upliftment. However, the mismanagement of it and the inability to effectively maintain it could result in economic water scarcity and affect other sectors such as education and health.

The use of public-private partnerships in the water services sector in South Africa is needed to address issues that might be catastrophic for future generations. A public-private partnership is a long-term contract between the public and private sectors that will provide service delivery through which the private sector or party carries the risk and manages the responsibility. But even this must be adapted through investments in institutions and water infrastructure, looking at ways to always make people the priority. This is echoed in the realism of people-first, public-private



Community members fill buckets with water from a communal tap in a village outside Senwabarwana in Limpopo. (File photo)

partnerships, as stated in the webinar series Infrastructure and Financing by David Baxter.

The people-first, public-private partnership approach ensures that out of all stakeholders, "people are on the top". Its focus is on improving the quality of life of the communities, particularly those fighting poverty, by creating local and sustainable employment.

Additionally, this approach aims to eradicate hunger and promote wellbeing, access to water, energy, transport and education for all. It will also support social cohesion.

The people-first, public-private partnerships must expand in scale and speed, with more people having access to better services.

Our hope is for the new National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency to be more transformable and not transactional, as are our other

state-owned enterprises (SOEs) such as Eskom.

The establishment of the agency was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation Address in February 2021. Its strategic intent is to be a well-resourced SOE with appropriate governance structures, to ensure greater efficiency and accountability in the socioeconomic development and management of water resources infrastructure.

It would be prudent for the new agency and the Department of Water and Sanitation to work adjacent to the private sector with organisations such as the South African Water Chamber.

The chamber's vision is to be South Africa's leading water business catalyst and pursue the redistribution of "privilege" through dignified employment and inclusive economic growth enabled by water.

These private and public role players are good potential pathways to build a new holistic, independent water regulator that services and educates people about the value of water. Independent regulation of water would ensure non-politicised management of South Africa's water allocations. Furthermore, it would regulate the pollution of water resources, with the regulator enforcing compliance at all levels - industry, municipalities, farming or SOEs.

As South Africa battles a third wave of Covid-19, and amid the chaos, destruction and looting in recent weeks, it's easy to forget our bogeyman - a catastrophic water crisis with potentially devastating consequences for economic productivity, livelihoods, safety and security.

DM

THE LAW & YOU

Oral evidence must always be direct, not hearsay

By Telesphor Magobe

THE other week we saw that to plead ignorance of the law does not excuse a person from criminal or civil liability. I said it is good to acquaint oneself with the laws one is subject to.

We also saw that since our laws are frequently amended, it is difficult for a lay person to know all of them, including legal technicalities and proceedings.

The following week I suggested that, to be on the safe side, it is good to seek legal representation if you happen to be a party to a legal wrangle that ends up in court.

In the past, it was difficult for low-income earners to hire an advocate largely owing to the inherent legal representation costs.

However, since the enactment of the Legal Aid Act, 2017 (R.E 2019), even a person without sufficient means to enable him or her to access legal services is entitled to legal

representation by order of the court in both civil and criminal proceedings.

Today, we look at hearsay (derivative) evidence. I am sure each one of us is familiar with third party stories narrated to us and we often rely on them to get clues about what is happening in our neighbourhood.

Sometimes a person may narrate an incident as if when it happened, he or she was present while in fact he or she wasn't.

Other times we get contradictory versions of what happened, as we listen to two or more different people. In the circumstances, it is difficult to know the original story because of the different or sometimes contradictory versions we get.

Look at it differently. Suppose you have been at work in town and when driving back home in the evening suddenly a neighbour calls and tells you that a thief had broken into your house and made away with some property.

He tells you further that he just



heard it from other people as he was passing by, but the way they were describing the thief and how he was dressed, the "witness" was able to connect some facts to the extent that he knows the person they were talking about.

He goes to the extent of saying that the person he is talking about has a track record of breaking into people's houses and stealing property there. He then promises to "cooperate",

should he be summoned to stand as a prosecution witness.

When you arrive home, you find that your house has indeed been broken into, some of your property is missing and you are thinking of reporting to a nearby police station for investigation.

Will his evidence be admissible in court? In the legal perspective, what you hear from a third party like in the above story is called hearsay (derivative) evidence, which is inadmissible in court for the simple reason that there is lack of first-hand or direct evidence.

Neither did the person in the story see the thief breaking into the house and stealing some property there nor did the thief confide to him that he was responsible for breaking into the house and stealing property.

But the Law of Evidence Act provides that oral evidence must, in all cases, be direct; that is to say if it refers to a fact which could be seen, it must be the evidence of a witness who says he saw it; if it refers to a fact which

could be heard, it must be the evidence of a witness who says he heard it; if it refers to a fact which could be perceived by any other sense, or in any other manner, it must be the evidence of a witness who says he perceived it by that sense or in that manner; if it refers to an opinion or to the grounds on which that opinion is held, it must be the evidence of the person who holds that opinion or, as the case may be, who holds it on those grounds.

In Jonas Bulai v Republic [2006], the appellant and five others were arraigned in the High Court of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam charged with several offences under the Drugs and Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Drugs Act, 1995 and were convicted and sentenced to ten years in jail.

With the appellants aggrieved by the decision, they successfully lodged an appeal with the Court of Appeal.

One of the grounds advanced was that the learned trial judge erred in law in convicting them by relying on, among other things, hearsay evi-

dence.

Delivering judgment, lead Justice of Appeal Rutakanga on behalf of two other Justices of Appeal on December 10, 2010 concluded that, considering the evidence given, the learned trial judge would have not, in the Court of Appeal's respectful opinion, convicted the appellants at all as the conviction was predicated upon speculation, hearsay and suspicion.

Similarly, in Vumi Liapenda Mushi v Republic [2016], the Court of Appeal said it was evident that what was presented in court as evidence was simply hearsay that did not have evidential value.

Therefore, as a general rule, hearsay evidence lacks probative value and so it cannot be relied on in criminal trial or litigation.

So, never rely on hearsay evidence where you are required to provide direct oral evidence in a court of law.

Telesphor Magobe is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer reachable at tmagobe@gmail.com.

RADIO One

RATIBAYA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



Africa's small-scale businesses look to venture more into plastic management value chain- study

LAGOS

Globally, women and children continue to be the most marginalised, not only in their societies, but also across businesses curated mostly by men.

Exacerbated by the global spread of the deadly, novel Coronavirus, the entire world must now grapple with current economic hardships, and ultimate recoveries that are likely to be shaped by doing business unusually. Businesses are now expected to achieve their business objectives a lot with less resources.

It will be a long way, moreover for the African continent where population vaccinations are still lagging behind most of the world. The majority of the economically affected and excluded across the continent remain women, children and youth, dominantly young women that are still disadvantaged when economic opportunities arise. And a key area of growing opportunity is within plastics management.

When it comes to plastic, we have all heard of the three R's, reduce, reuse, recycle. We have seen major developments across sub-Saharan Africa driving this message. We have also seen not only activists demanding a cleaner environment and a plastics-free oceans economy, but we have also seen businesses coming to the forefront of the challenge, solely to develop solutions that will not only be revenue-driven, but also play a key educational role in engaging communities in keeping our environments safer.

Over the years, largely due to the convenience and rapid rise in industrialisation, plastic has played a key role in creating and sustaining jobs. However, an estimated 80% (15-20 million worldwide) of workers within the recycling sector work as waste pickers. Roles predominantly undertaken by women and children contending with poverty and marginalisation, made even more challenging due to the pandemic. Conditions are precarious and often workers are ill-equipped, have limited - if any - personal protection and can be exposed to dangerous situations.

Due to the growing economic importance of the plastic management value chain, the needs of the sector from both a personal and environmental perspective offer a huge business opportunity, but who is best placed to address this challenge and build the economic value within this sector required across Africa?

Recently we have seen more multinational retail stores discontinuing the use of plastic or discouraging customers from opting for plastic. That is welcomed. What is further welcomed is

that Africa does lead on policy intended to ban plastic usage. Greenpeace Africa, reported in May 2020 that of the continent's "54 states, 34 have either passed a law banning plastics and implemented it or have passed a law with the intention of implementation."

Leading the charge have been countries such as Eritrea, Benin, Uganda, Tanzania, and Senegal. Though these are encouraging and helpful, there is still a need for more to be done in enforcing laws. This has also been challenged by the greater use of plastics as a hygienic tool across Africa to help minimise the spread of Covid-19, and lack of alternative cost-effective and accessible materials to replace plastic usage.

In many African countries, particularly in Nigeria, not only is the informal sector large, it is also a major absorber of labour. In recent times, the informal sector has witnessed rapid growth due to poor economic performance and lack of growth in the formal sector. This shows that the informal sector serves as a reservoir of workers who are readily available for formal employment once the opportunity is provided.

This potentially highlights the importance of the role those small businesses must play within the plastic waste value chain, particularly those anchored by women and youth, due to their significant role within the sector. The solutions are in the value of the so-called circular economy, its impact and how available resources can be used to capitalise on the three R's - reduce, reuse, recycle. But in order to do this effectively small businesses need to understand the importance of adopting innovation practices, business models, better ways to engage with the experience of women and children and keep them safe.

Out of the three notable R's, we really need to educate users that arguably the relevant one may be 'reduce.' However, with the amount of plastics already in the system, polluting our lands and marine environments it is important that small businesses are able to come up with new ways to use that waste plastic sustainably to make decent earnings.

Despite current economic challenges, exacerbated by lack of infrastructure development and investment, the two R's reuse and recycle present some exciting opportunities for new business in transforming plastic into alternative materials (such as bricks or roads) or additional uses tying into the circular economy, to meet the needs of communities. In these instances instance, self-sustainability is key, and the ability to operate in a tough climate to drive a business' purpose.

Job losses force Sh1.3m to terminate saccos' savings

NAIROBI

MORE than 1.3 million Kenyans have stopped making monthly contributions to savings and credit cooperative societies (saccos) in the wake of job cuts that followed the Covid-19 pandemic.

Data from the regulator, the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (Sasra), shows that the number of savers who had stopped making contributions jumped 79.5 percent from 764,472 in 2019 to 1.372 million last year.

Sacco members who are no longer active savers now account for a quarter or 25.09 percent of the 5.4 million total membership compared to 16.95 percent reported in 2019.

The sharp fall in members making monthly savings came in a year when the economy experienced business closures as well as layoffs, pay cuts and unpaid leave, making it a struggle for members to make regular payments to the saccos.

The subdued jobs market also led to mounting loan defaults among the 175 saccos that take deposits and are regulated by Sasra.

"The sharp increase in the dormancy of members may be attributed to the general impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the general economy, resulting in reduced member transactions with their respective DT-Saccos," Sasra said in its annual report for 2020.

Thousands of workers lost jobs last year after Kenya imposed Covid containment measures like travel restrictions and night curfew.

The government is yet to release employment data for the whole of last year, but about 1.72 million workers lost jobs in three months to June on the Covid-19 economic fallout.

Loss of jobs and reduced pay during the pandemic depleted incomes, forcing Kenyans to fall behind on payments of rent, utility bills and now sacco savings.



Sasra chairman John Munuve

Banks have seen a surge in non-performing loans that rose to 14 percent of total loans disbursed by June while Kenya Power sunk into its first loss in 18 years, in part blaming delays in collecting outstanding bills running into billions of shillings.

The 175 saccos were hit with a surge in loan defaults, which increased from Sh25.7 billion in 2019 to Sh39.8 billion last year, reflecting a 54.8 percent rise.

The sacco regulator labels a member dormant once he or she stops making monthly contributions for six months.

Despite the increase in dormant savers, the number of sacco members making regular savings in the 175 firms increased from 4.5 million to 5.4 million

after the regulator licensed three new players, Ushuru, Kimisitu and Acumen.

The total assets within the DT-Sacco system grew to reach Sh627.68 billion in 2020 from Sh556.71 billion recorded in 2019. Total deposits grew by 13.41 percent to Sh431.46 billion in 2020 from Sh380.44 billion.

The mounting defaults are a reflection of the struggles of workers and businesses in an economy recovering from a coronavirus-induced slump.

This has exposed active members to additional burden in a business setting where loans are mostly secured by guarantees and not securities like cars, homes and land.

Industries and other businesses

have cut down on their activities in response to the infectious disease, leading to job cuts and unpaid leave for retained staff as profitable firms move into losses. This has seen workers who had tapped loans on the strength of one's salary default.

Businesses that tapped loans based on their projected cash flows are also struggling to meet the

Industries and other businesses have cut down on their activities in response to the infectious disease, leading to job cuts and unpaid leave for retained staff as profitable firms move into losses. This has seen workers who had tapped loans on the strength of one's salary default.



Kenyatta University campus.

Cash-strapped Kenyatta University sinks into Sh1.3 billion fresh deficit

NAIROBI

KENYATTA University (KU) has dipped into Sh1.3 billion deficit in the year to June, forcing the university to rely on short term loans to finance its operations.

Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu said the university deficit stood at Sh677 million in the year to June 2019.

She said the university is operating under financial difficulties and is relying on costly borrowings which may further worsen

the liquidity problem.

"The university is therefore, technically insolvent and if no urgent positive measures are taken to improve the financial position, it may not be able to meet its mandate in future," Ms Gathungu said in a qualified audit opinion.

The latest audit reveals the deep financial difficulties facing the country's institutions of higher learning.

Public universities have found themselves in deep financial straits blamed on falling student

population, mismanagement and low State funding.

In recent months, a number of universities have had to scrap some courses and close satellite campuses to cut cost of operations.

Ms Gathungu said the deficit that the university recorded in the year under review reduced KU's accumulated surplus from Sh5.84 billion in 2019 to Sh4.5 billion.

"Further, the current liabilities of Sh6.38 billion as at June 30, 2020, exceeded the current as-

sets of Sh1.58 billion resulting in a negative working capital of Sh4.8 billion," Ms Gathungu said in a report tabled in Parliament.

She said the liabilities indicate that the university is likely to be unable to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due. In particular, Ms Gathungu said the university was unable to remit pensions and taxes amounting to Sh3.67 billion, audit fees of Sh8.1 million and other deductions worth Sh342.9 million to the respective beneficiaries.

CHIETA boosts growth for women entrepreneurs in chemical sector

LAGOS

In line with global trends to open more doors for women entrepreneurs and eliminate gender-related biases, the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) is focusing on developing women-led small businesses to encourage their participation in the mainstream economy, particularly within the chemicals sector.

According to the 2020 Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE), women are making progress in South Africa, but challenges persist, and only 19.4% of business owners in South Africa are women. CHIETA's women-focused projects include the CHIETA 12-month Small Business Programme, which upskills women entrepreneurs in business development. The comprehensive programme catered for 49 delegates in Tshwane and Ekurhuleni in 2020, at an investment of over R1.4 million.

Yershen Pillay, CHIETA CEO, says the response to the programme, the uptake by the delegates, and the impact on individual businesses was extremely encouraging. He explains, "We face severe skills shortages

in engineering sectors in this country, which can hinder economic growth. To bridge this gap, we need to see a change in attitudes towards women in engineering - both how they are perceived in industry, and how they themselves view engineering. This course is proving to be a firm steppingstone to business growth in our vibrant chemical engineering sector."

Koketso Mashishi, owner of Haimish skin care products, says she has benefited from several CHIETA support initiatives. "I was part of the University of Johannesburg CHIETA group in 2020 and passed my Small Business Enrichment Programme. CHIETA also enabled me to complete my N2 in Chemical Manufacturing, to achieve my certificate in the SEDA Quality Management Systems course and to attend digital marketing training." Mashishi emphasises that many opportunities have opened for her since joining CHIETA. Looking ahead, she believes that women manufacturers and formulation developers need to provide a platform to train other women interested in participating in the industry.

Dichaba Kubayi, owner of Hygiene cleaning products and services, gives CHIETA credit for valuable training she's received, and for



Displayed products made by the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA)

networking opportunities. She has experienced the misconception that women are not as capable as men at owning and running a business in the chemical sector. She says, "What people need to understand is that it is in a woman's nature to grow and enhance anything we set our minds to - from raising children to building businesses. I do see it as my task to educate people and dispel such misconceptions."

Kubayi believes that women's participation in the chemical industry can be strengthened by bringing more women onto the boards of policy makers and industry leaders, and to generate exposure of the successful women in the sector to the export market, which

will create industry growth.

Sesomo Molapo of Randfontein-based Baroeng Trading Projects, which produces cleaning chemicals, says she benefited from the CHIETA UJ Small Business Enrichment Programme and participation in the SA Chemical Technology Incubator, Chemin. "I learned a lot about managing my business effectively and how to use technology to market it," says Molapo.

Kurhula Mkansi, director of VKM Dynamix, which manufactures detergents and provides cleaning services in Johannesburg and Tzaneen in Limpopo, attended a business management course through CHIETA, which has had a positive impact on

her business. She encourages women considering a career in chemical engineering to take the step, "Run your race, and remember that small steps in the right direction can turn out to be the biggest step of your life."

Pillay has congratulated all the CHIETA Small Business Programme graduates and encouraged industry to make a point of supporting women-owned businesses in the chemical sector. "The fact is, according to a UN Global Compact article, businesses that invest into the importance of gender equality, experience higher productivity, higher return on investment, and higher consumer satisfaction. It's worth it," concludes Pillay.

Major container ports in eastern China witness worsening of congestion after COVID-19 cases

BEIJING

CONGESTION off China's top two container ports Shanghai and Ningbo is worsening following the shutdown of a container terminal in Ningbo where a COVID-19 case was detected this week.

Tighter restrictions to fight China's latest coronavirus outbreak are starting to hit more parts of the economy. The highly transmissible Delta variant has been detected in more than a dozen cities since late July.

The closure of a key terminal at the Ningbo-Zhoushan port on the east coast - the world's third busiest cargo port, which handled about 1.2 billion tonnes in 2020 - reflects China's determination to squash its worst COVID-19 outbreak in months no matter the economic costs.

Forty container vessels were waiting at the outer Zhoushan anchorage on Thursday (Aug 12), up from 30 on Tuesday when a worker at the Meidong container terminal tested positive for COVID-19, data tracked by Refinitiv showed.

The worker was fully vaccinated and it remained unclear how he or she became infected. Chinese port workers are routinely tested for COVID-19.

Meidong terminal has suspended all operations since early Wednesday, while other terminals in Ningbo imposed restrictions limiting the number of people and cargo entering port areas.

Almost 2,000 frontline workers at Ningbo-Zhoushan port have been placed under "closed management" - effectively unable to leave the port - as a result of the infection, Chinese media reported.

Shipping company CMA CGM put out a note on Thursday saying that some vessels will be re-routed to Shanghai or skip port calls at Ningbo. Hapag-Lloyd expects the suspension in Meidong to cause delays in some planned sailings, according to a company statement.

Ports in nearby Shanghai, where many vessels are being re-routed, are seeing the worst congestion in at least three years. About 30 vessels were queuing outside Yangshan port, a key container terminal in Shanghai, Refinitiv data showed.

Ports in eastern China have been resuming operations and clearing backlogs following Typhoon In-Fa, which dented container handling volume by 10 per cent in late July from the same period last year, according to data from China Ports and Harbours Association.

Women in tech on the rise but no let-up in barriers

ACCRA

Despite concerted efforts to narrow the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, major inequalities persist according to UNESCO women account for a mere 28% of those pursuing STEM careers in Sub-Saharan Africa, below the global average of 30%.

On a positive note, South Africa is bucking the trend by producing more female ICT graduates. The country has the highest share of female graduates in Sub-Saharan Africa at 32 per cent, and even more female ICT graduates, at 38%, according to a recent report supporting this positive trajectory are statistics from HyperionDev, South Africa's leading tech education provider, which recorded a 60% increase in female students since the beginning of 2021.

HyperionDev CEO Riaz Moola says that although the number of women in tech is improving in South Africa, there is still much to be done to minimise barriers to entry, inspire girls to take STEM subjects and help young women take advantage of the opportunities that the tech industry offers them.

Giving women a competitive edge is vital, as they were the hardest hit during the first COVID-19 hard lockdown last year. Out of the 2.8 million jobs lost,



two-thirds were women, according to the National Income Dynamics Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM). In the latest survey released earlier this year, although many have recovered their jobs, re-employment rates for men were greater than those for women.

"Considering that the job landscape is constantly evolving in line with the digital economy, it is essential for girls and women to ensure they are educated and upskilled to ensure their jobs are future-proofed, especially in the face of disruptions such as COVID-19," comments Moola.

Despite the progress made towards gender parity, women still

remain critically underrepresented in most STEM fields, both in tertiary education institutions and the workforce.

"It becomes apparent in more informal social settings that there are still fundamentally prejudiced nuances embedded in conversations around women in tech. The underrepresentation of women then equates to a lack of female ICT role models to inspire girls at an age where parental control, peer pressure and self-esteem can heavily influence their career decisions," says Marianne de Vos, Lead Digital Designer at HyperionDev.

Others concur that gender rep-

resentation makes a big difference. Onalerna Mosimege, Software Engineer at HyperionDev, recalls how large and diverse her first-year computer science class was at university. But it didn't stay that way for long. "By my final exam in third year, there were only four girls left," she says. "A lot of my female friends left computer science mostly because they felt as if they were struggling alone."

"While the issues women face in joining the tech industry are numerous and powerful, they're not impossible to overcome," says Moola. As such, he believes there are a number of strategies that schools, businesses, and parents can take to support

girls and women as they pursue their passion and interest in technology.

These include improving female representation in companies, celebrating female role models in tech, such as South African powerhouse Aisha Pandor, co-founder of Sweep South and American Whitney Wolfe Herd, 31-year-old founder of the global dating app Bumble, who was named the world's youngest female self-made billionaire on Forbes's Billionaires List 2021. Subsequently, it is crucial to ensure that the tech industry listens to women's challenges and addresses gender inequality.

Accessible tech education is the future of social upliftment and mobility," asserts Moola. "As coding is an essential language for many 21st century jobs, it is the perfect starting point for women and girls to grow their careers in tech."

"Our coding boot camps give young women a fighting chance to become confident, job-ready developers in mere months rather than years. We have hundreds of proven success stories of students who became professional developers and engineers shortly after graduating," he says. "Our focus on practical work skills and the human touch makes all the difference in helping young women achieve their tech dream and excel in their new career," Moola concludes.

TikTok reinforces privacy controls for teenagers

BRUSSELS

CHINESE-owned short video-sharing app TikTok on Thursday announced stricter privacy controls for teenagers, seeking to address criticism that it has failed to protect children from hidden advertising and inappropriate content.

Owned by China's ByteDance, TikTok has grown rapidly around the world, particularly among teenagers. However a number

of incidents have prompted concerns about its privacy and safety policies.

TikTok said the changes, targeted at users aged 13 to 17 years old, will be rolled out globally over the coming months.

A pop-up will appear asking teenagers under the age of 16 to choose who can watch their videos before they can post them.

"The process of making a TikTok is fun and creative -

choosing music, picking effects, and getting the transitions right - but it is just as important to choose who that video will be shared with," TikTok's head of child safety public policy, Alexandra Evans, and its global head of privacy, Aruna Sharma, said in a blogpost.

Users 16-17 years old can turn on a feature that lets a pop-up appear that allows them to choose who can download their public videos. Downloads

are permanently disabled on content from accounts under the age of 16.

Direct Messaging settings for the accounts of 16 and 17 year olds will be set to "no one". Users can change the option.

TikTok said it will reduce the time period during which under 18s receive push notifications. Those aged 13 to 15 will no longer receive push notifications from 9 p.m. while those aged 16 and 17 from 10 p.m.



Pfizer and Moderna seen reaping billions from booster in COVID-19 vaccine market

NEW YORK

DRUGMAKERS Pfizer Inc., BioNTech and Moderna Inc. expect to recover billions of dollars from COVID-19 booster shots in a market that sees \$6 billion in annual sales of flu vaccines in the coming years, could be a rival, say analysts and healthcare investors.

For several months, companies have said they expect that people who are fully vaccinated will need an additional dose of their vaccines over time to maintain protection and prevent new coronavirus variants.

Now a growing list of governments, including Chile, Germany and Israel, have decided to offer a booster dose to older citizens or those with weakened immune systems in the face of the rapidly spreading delta variant. The UK and the United States, among many others, are expected to fol-

low suit.

Pfizer (PFEN), together with its German partners BioNTech and Moderna (mRNA.o), has invested more than \$60 billion in sales of shots in 2021 and 2022 alone. The agreements include the supply of their initial two doses. Billions of dollars in vaccines as well as potential boosters for wealthy countries.

Going forward, analysts forecast revenue of more than \$6.6 billion for Pfizer/BioNTech Shot and \$7.6 billion for Moderna in 2023, mostly from booster sales. They eventually see the annual market settling at around \$5 billion or more, with additional drugmakers competing for those sales.

Vaccine makers say evidence of reduced antibody levels in people who are vaccinated after six months, as well as rising rates of breakthrough infections in countries affected by the delta variant, support the need for booster shots.



Some early data suggests that the Moderna vaccine, which initially delivers a higher dose, may be more durable than Pfizer's shot, but more research is needed to determine if this vaccine works. Affected by people's age or underlying health.

As a result, it is unclear how many people will need a booster, and how often. The

profit potential of booster shots may be limited by the number of competitors entering the market. In addition, some scientists question whether there is enough evidence that boosters are needed, especially for young, healthy people. The World Health Organization has asked governments to hold off on booster shots until more peo-

ple around the world get their initial dose.

"We don't know what the market forces will be," Moderna president Stephen Hoge said in an interview last week. "At some point, it will become a more traditional market - we will see what is the population at risk, what value we are creating, and the number of products that serve that value.

This will ultimately affect the price."

Pfizer declined to comment for the story. During the company's second-quarter earnings call, executives said they believe a third dose will be necessary 6 to 8 months after vaccination and routinely afterwards.

If COVID-19 boosters are needed regularly among the general population, the market will be similar to the flu shot business, which distributes more than 600 million doses per year. Four competitors divide the US flu market, which is the most lucrative and accounts for nearly half of global revenue, according to Dave Ross, an executive at Sekirus, CSL's flu vaccine unit.

Atlantic Equities analyst Steve Chesney said flu

vaccination rates in developed countries have settled at around 50% of the population, and if widely approved, COVID boosters would follow a similar pattern.

Flu shots cost about \$18 to \$25, according to U.S. government data, and competition has stymied price increases, with producers increasing prices by 4 or 5 percent in 2021.

Pfizer and Moderna may have more pricing power for their boosters, at least initially, until competitors arrive. Pfizer initially charged \$19.50 per dose for its vaccine in the United States and 19.50 euros for the European Union, but has already raised those prices by 24% and 25%, respectively, in subsequent supply deals.

Drumbeat growing louder for BHP to exit petroleum

MELBOURNE

Expectations are growing that BHP Group Ltd will deliver a verdict on the future of its petroleum business at its results next week, as it comes under increasing pressure to cut its fossil fuel footprint.

The world's biggest miner has been facing calls to detail how and when it will exit fossil fuels, with activist investor Market Forces filing a resolution on the topic this week for annual meetings in October and November.

BHP's decision this month to approve \$802 million in development spending on oil projects in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico - just days before a new report that issued dire warnings about human contribution to climate change - has only ratcheted up pressure from some investors.

"It's clear something is brewing," said Simon Mawhinney, Chief Investment Officer at Allan Gray Australia.

BHP declined to comment on market speculation.

Analysts value BHP's petroleum business, made up of assets in Australia, the Gulf of Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Algeria, at \$10 billion to \$17 billion. The division contributed 5% of BHP's underlying earnings of \$14.7 billion in the first half to end-December, compared with 7% for iron ore.

Investors are split on their fit within BHP's portfolio, especially as the company focuses on new economy materials such as copper, nickel and potash.

An exit from petroleum would constitute "a major shift" in BHP's environmental, social and governance (ESG) credentials and overall strategy towards fossil fuels, Morgan Stanley analyst Rahul Anand said in a recent note.

BHP's late-life, mainly low-return energy assets in Australia are seen as particularly ripe for a sale amid high oil and gas prices.

"For BHP, if you look at its Aus-

tralian (energy) assets, if they could exit those in a meaningful way for something approximating value, that would be a good outcome," said Brenton Saunders, a portfolio manager with shareholder Pandal Group.

Credit Suisse and Citi value the Australian energy assets - including the Bass Strait, Northwest Shelf LNG and the Scarborough gas field - at \$3 billion to \$5 billion. Woodside Petroleum Ltd is seen as the most logical buyer as they would boost its free cash flow and increase its stakes in key projects, although not all investors favour such a tie-up given the asset mix and likely need for an equity raising.

Woodside declined to comment.

BHP would also have to take a discount on any sale given some heavy decommissioning liabilities, said Credit Suisse analyst Saul Kavonic, although a sale could boost its ESG rating and attract new shareholders.

"BHP could sell these for discounts but still increase share value through a re-rating on the rest of their business," he said.

Elsewhere, investors say BHP's petroleum assets are more attractive.

The most valuable are its stakes in oil fields in the Gulf of Mexico, valued at \$10.4 billion by Wood Mackenzie, which made up about 25% of the company's 103 million barrels of oil equivalent output the year to June 2021.

"The rest of the portfolio, there are parts that are high growth, high returning. They've done a lot of work on them and shareholders have had to wear some of the bad times. They are good assets," said Pandal Group's Saunders.

BHP is due to deliver its annual results on Tuesday at 0700 GMT.

(Reporting by Melanie Burton and Sonali Paul; editing by Richard Pullin)



ITV

SUNDAY 18 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:00 Movie rpt: Nzowa
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:15 Mizengwe
21:35 Mjue Zaidi
22:15 Bongo Movie: Laana
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin

MONDAY 19 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera News
12:30 Mtego rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Aibu yako rpt
18:15 Mapishi
18:45 Kesho leo
19:00 Afya ya Jamii
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

TUESDAY 20 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo

8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Jungu kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afya ya jamii
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 DWT: Kesho leo rpt
13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Yu wapi
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Uchumi na biashara
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu
21:40 Chetu ni chetu
22:30 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 Chetu ni chetu
23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mjue Zaidi
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Shamba lulu
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mjue Zaidi
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Shamba lulu
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mjue Zaidi
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Shamba lulu
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mjue Zaidi
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Shamba lulu
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo

23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

THURSDAY 22 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue sheria rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu
13:55 Habari za saa
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi rpt
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Habari za saa
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

FRIDAY 23 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Jagina rpt
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisilam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto

23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

SATURDAY 24 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Mtego
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Jumong
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Art and lifestyle
21:30 ITV TOP 10
22:10 Isidingo rpt
00:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 25 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:40 Movie rpt: Laana
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:15 Mizengwe
21:35 Mjue Zaidi
22:15 Bongo Movie: Who's Back
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin

CAPITAL

Sat 17 April

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n'about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00B usiness edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death

17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Korean Drama: Iris
21:00 Out n'About
21:30 Movie: Grindstone Road (tape no:5593)
23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 18 April

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love
15:15 Aibu yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama: Iris
21:00 Shift
21:15 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 19 April

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

Tues 20 April

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Jagina rpt
20:00 Series: Beats of Love



The North West Shelf gas project as seen in Burrup at the Pilbarra region in Western Australia

WORLD

Slowest vaccination makes Japan G-7's worst economic performer

By Bloomberg

IT seems like Japan's big recovery is always a quarter away.

That dynamic is playing out again ahead of gross domestic product figures due Monday. Economists expect Japan to have just managed to eke out growth in the three months through June, but the more robust recovery they once saw for this summer now looks certain to be delayed.

The slowest vaccine drive among the Group of Seven nations is a key reason. With infections rising to record levels in recent days and the government's fourth state of emergency already extended to the end of August, the bounce in consumer spending that analysts had been forecasting will have to wait even longer.

Ongoing restrictions to curb the virus, needed because only about a third of Japan's population has been vaccinated, has earned Japan the dubious distinction of being the only G-7 economy to have its growth outlook for this year cut by the International Monetary Fund.

In recent days, a Delta-driven wave of the virus has pushed Japan's daily caseload to double previous peaks, but the reality isn't quite as bad as it may look.

Although the number of people in serious condition is rising, there have been far fewer deaths so far than during earlier waves because the vast majority of Japan's seniors have now gotten their shots. The country of 125 million people had nine virus-related fatalities Wednesday, compared with more than 360 in the US, where a smaller percent-



A student receives a shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine by Tokyo Fire Department staff at the Tokyo Vaccination Center at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo on Aug 2, 2021. (AP)

age of people 65 and over are fully vaccinated, despite a higher rate across all age groups.

Still, Japan is caught in a kind of stalemate in its fight with the virus. With each new declaration of emergency, people are paying less and less attention. Foot traffic at train stations is up and many bars and restaurants are openly flouting government requests to close early.

The result is that consumer spending has leveled out and the country is likely to have averted recession, but the recovery is stuck on hold until the virus can be brought to heel. It's a typical outcome for Japan's economy: not disastrous, but not marvelous, either.

With calls for caution losing their effectiveness, it seems Japan's government is simply counting on the shots to change the picture. Prime Minister Yoshihide

Suga is aiming to get 40 percent of the country vaccinated by the end of the month, but analysts say shoppers won't start to splash out until the country achieves a much higher rate.

Economist Harumi Taguchi at IHS Markit expects consumption to clearly recover only when 60 percent of the population is fully vaccinated, sometime in October or November, she estimates.

"We will see pent-up demand come out clearly in the fourth quarter," Taguchi said. "The problem is that the government hasn't given a clear signal about what vaccination rate will enable what specific economic activities to resume. So people don't see the incentive to get vaccinated." *Agencies*

Russia to maintain foreign policy course after parliamentary election – Lavrov

SAMBEK SETTLEMENT

MOSCOW will continue to pursue a foreign policy aimed at creating external conditions for domestic development after September's election to the State Duma (the lower house of parliament), Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday at a meeting with civil society members at the Sambek Heights Museum Complex dedicated to the Great Patriotic War.

"The core interests of our country require us to resist [Western] provocations and follow our own path for decades and centuries to come. It is a policy that our people chose and it will evolve after the election campaign comes to an end in September," he pointed out.

According to Lavrov, the main goal of Russia's foreign policy is to create the best external conditions for the country's domestic development, improve the welfare of its people and protect the rights of Russian nationals and businesses on the international stage. "We have every reason to make our foreign policy reflect the goals that we have," the Russian top diplomat added.

The State Duma elections are scheduled for the Unified Election Day, September 19, 2021. Voting will last three days, from September 17 to 19.

In addition, nine Russian constituent entities will hold direct elections of regional heads and 39 regions will elect regional assemblies. In three more regions, top officials will be elected by legislative assemblies. Lavrov's name was put on the United Russia party's election list at President Vladimir Putin's initiative.

Agencies

Israel to offer COVID-19 booster shots to people under 60, says PM

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Thursday instructed health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to prepare to offer a third coronavirus vaccine booster for some age groups under 60 next week, according to a statement from Bennett's office.

Bennett (pictured) and Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz were briefed by CEOs of Israel's four HMOs on their vaccination efforts. The prime minister told the HMOs' directors that they need to "prepare to expand the range of ages for the third inoculation next week."

He reiterated the government's effort to halt the resurging coronavirus outbreak without imposing more economically and socially destructive lockdowns.

"Our goal has been and remains fighting the Delta strain without destructive harm to the economy to the extent possible," he said, adding that "in order to meet this task, the vaccination effort is the supreme tool."

Nachman Ash, director-general of the Health Ministry, told Ynet news site that the ministry is looking into lowering the age for the booster shot to people over 40.

On Aug 1, Israel launched a campaign to administer a third booster dose of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine to people aged over 60. The shot is being offered to 60-year-old people who have received the second shot at least five months ago.

The roll out began although health regulatory authorities in the United States and the European Union have not yet approved the third booster dose.

About 58 percent of the country's 9 million population has been double-vaccinated, most of it with the Pfizer vaccine. According to the Health Ministry, new infections in Israel have reached 5,946 cases on Thursday, with 421 of them being in serious condition.

Agencies

Significant progress has been made in Somalia's political situation - UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS

THE top UN envoy in Somalia, James Swan, on Thursday told the Security Council that significant progress has been made in the political situation in the Horn of Africa country.

"I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made" since the signing of the May 27 Electoral Implementation Agreement between Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble and leaders of the federal member states, Swan told the Council meeting on the situation in Somalia.

"The prime minister has demonstrated strong leadership and initiative in moving the process forward. The National Consultative Council, which includes the prime minister and the federal member state leaders, has held regular meetings and dialogue on key issues related to the implementation of the agreement," the envoy said.

Xinhua

Vice-minister: Origin of virus 'can only be found by scientists'

BY ZHANG YUNBI

VICE-FOREIGN Minister Ma Zhaoxu has elaborated on Beijing's latest four-point position on novel coronavirus origin-tracing efforts, stating objection to any move that politicizes the issue, betrays the China-WHO joint research report or skips the consent of the surveyed countries.

Tracing the origin of the novel coronavirus is a scientific issue, and the animal source of the virus and the way it spreads to human beings "can only be found by scientists" so as to better guard against future risks and protect the life and health of all mankind, Ma said.

"No country is entitled to ignore (human) lives for its own political self-interest, to politicize scientific issues, and to smear and attack other countries," Ma said, making the remark at a briefing held in Beijing on Friday for foreign diplomats based in China.

The conclusions and advice offered by the China-WHO joint research report in March have been recognized by the international community and the scientific community, and it "must be respected and implemented by all parties, including the WHO Secretariat", Ma said.

"The future global origin-tracing work should, and can only, be carried out on the basis of this report" rather than starting all over again on a different path, he said.

China has always supported and will actively participate in the scientific origin tracing, and China is implementing and will continue to implement the relevant work advice from the joint research report, he added.

"We oppose origin tracing being driven by political manipulation, violating WHO resolutions or overturning the China-WHO joint origin-tracing research report. And what we support is origin tracing



This Sept 16, 2020 shows Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu delivering a speech at a virtual Vision China event titled "Shaping our Future Together: Poverty Eradication & Peaceful Development". (File photo)

based on science," he said.

The WHO is led by its member states, and given the great importance of origin tracing work, the global origin tracing efforts should be and must be led by the member states, Ma noted.

He pointed out that the

WHO Secretariat should fully consult with member states on the global origin-tracing work plan, including the mechanism for follow-ups, and fully respect the views of member states.

In particular, the origin-tracing plan for the countries

involved should be formulated in consultation with them, Ma added.

Only to this end can effective cooperation be carried out, and this is also clearly part of a WHO General Assembly resolution, he said.

Xinhua

Moon orders probe into S. Korea navy sexual harassment claims

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in yesterday ordered an investigation into the apparent suicide of a navy sergeant who had reported being sexually harassed by her supervisor, the second such case involving the military in recent months.

"I don't know how to convey my condolences to the bereaved family," Moon said, according to presidential spokeswoman Park Kyung-mee, as he tasked the Ministry of National Defense with the investigation.

Defense Minister Suh Wook apologized to the woman's fam-

ily and the public, adding that his ministry would fully disclose its findings.

The female navy sergeant was found dead in her quarters on Thursday, the defense ministry said. She had reported being sexually harassed by her boss in a restaurant in late May, the ministry added, without providing details of the alleged offence.

The sergeant notified a superior at the time but did not officially report the incident until last week, when she directly advised a commanding officer.

Her death comes after the suicide of an Air Force master sergeant in May, who had ac-



South Korean President Moon Jae-in

used a colleague of sexual abuse, sparked a national outcry that forced the Air Force chief to resign.

The man charged in that case

pled guilty on Friday to forcefully molesting the woman in March as they were returning to their base in a car after dinner in the western city of Seosan.

In his first hearing at a military court, the man denied claims of blackmail, Yonhap news agency reported.

South Korea has in recent years been hit by a rash of sex crimes against women and children, including hidden-camera offences, "revenge porn" and online networks that blackmail women and underage girls into sharing sexual and sometimes violent images of themselves.

Six crimes have also been reported in the military, which is one of the largest in the world with over 600,000 troops. Service in the military is mandatory for all able-bodied men.

Agencies

FOOD safety concerns the life and health of every one of us. Building better its food safety system and enhancing food safety regulation, China has constantly improved its capability to ensure the safety of foodstuffs at every link from farmland to the tables of the Chinese people.

As of this July, China had released 1,366 national standards on food safety that cover over 20,000 indexes.

These standards set detailed specification on raw materials, supplements, appearance, nutrition, additives and microorganisms of food, offering fundamental institutional guarantee for food safety.

Last year, 2.31 percent of food

China speeds up cultivation of skilled workers to meet surging demand

products failed to meet safety standards in spot checks, which is basically equal to the figure in 2019. It indicated a stable momentum of growing food safety. Qualification rate of agricultural products have been maintained above 97 percent for six years in a row.

Relevant departments have further enhanced law enforcement in key fields and links concerning food security.

In November 2020, the State Administration for Market Regulation, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security jointly

launched a special law enforcement campaign to crack down on counterfeit food in rural areas.

As of July 15, market regulation departments have dealt with 104,000 relevant illegal cases and seized 2,766 tonnes of illegal products. The law enforcement campaign has forcefully purified the rural food market.

On March 18 this year, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, as well as the State Administration for Market Regulation and the National Bureau of Statistics unveiled 18 new professions, including food safety manager.

To ensure that food producers and business operators fulfill their responsibilities, local authorities in China are currently working on food traceability mechanisms that make the sources and distribution of food products traceable.

East China's Zhejiang province recently launched a closed-loop management system for food traceability, which monitors the whole industrial chain of food products from farmland to workshops and markets.

Customers can learn the processing, quality check result and spot check result of food products by

simply scanning the QR codes on product packages. Once problems are found, food regulation departments will locate merchants responsible with the traceability system so as to protect the rights and interests of customers.

Fujian province in southeast China has launched a traceability platform that is connected with traceability systems of agriculture and rural affairs department, ocean and fisheries department, market regulation department, customs, as well as enterprises, associations and third-party organizations.

The platform is joined by 161,200

food producers and business operators.

To prevent possible risks of COVID-19 control brought by imported cold-chain products, China has set up a national traceability and management platform for imported cold-chain food, which is connected to data platforms of the country's 31 provincial level regions.

By April this year, 13,896 tonnes of COVID-19 contaminated food had been discovered. It is reported that the State Administration for Market Regulation will guide local authorities to develop their own traceability systems, and weave a network of food traceability that covers the whole country.

People's Daily

Sputnik V proves its highest safety, efficacy, head of RDIF says

MOSCOW

THE Sputnik V vaccine has proven its highest safety and efficacy over the year since its official certification, Head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev stated on Wednesday.

"During the year following initial authorization Sputnik V vaccine has proven its highest safety and efficacy as confirmed by the real world vaccination data from leading countries," the Fund's press service quoted him as saying.

The RDIF noted that the data obtained during mass vaccinations with Sputnik V in Argentina, Bahrain, Hungary, Mexico, Russia, Serbia, the Philippines and the UAE demonstrated the absence of serious adverse events, including myocarditis or cerebral venous thrombosis.

Additionally, in those countries where multiple vaccines are used simultaneously, the Russian vaccine has demonstrated one of the best safety and efficacy parameters, the press service emphasized.

Sputnik V was certified in Russia on August 11, 2020, becoming the first officially registered vaccine against coronavirus worldwide.

It became the first preparation on the adenoviral platform developed using the unique heterogeneous boosting ("vaccine cocktail") approach.

Thanks to the use of two different vectors for the vaccine's two components, a stronger and more durable immune response is achieved.

To date, Sputnik V has been certified in 69 countries with the total population surpassing 3.7 bln people.

Child among 6 killed in mass shooting in Plymouth, England

SIX people, including a child, were killed in a mass shooting in the city of Plymouth in southwest England on Thursday evening, in an incident described by the British Home Secretary as "shocking".

Two females and three males, including the suspect, died from gunshot wounds at the scene of the incident, the Devon and Cornwall Police said in a statement. Another female died a short time later in hospital, the police added.

One of the people killed was a child under 10 years old, Luke Pollard, a local lawmaker from the opposition Labour Party, said in a tweet.

Police had earlier described the shooting as a "serious firearms incident" and said the situation was contained. The police added that the incident was not related to terrorism.

The United Kingdom has one of the lowest gun homicide rates in the world, and mass shootings are rare. This was the first mass shooting in the country for 11 years.

Sharron Turner, 57, who lives behind the scene of the shooting, was quoted by The Times newspaper as saying that a gunman had "kicked in" the front door of a semi-detached house before shooting a mother and her daughter. Turner said she had been told that the man, who was dressed in black and grey, was armed with a semi-automatic weapon.

After the attack, the gunman escaped through a park behind the house and shot two dog walkers, The Times reported.

"The incident in Plymouth is shocking and my thoughts are with those affected," Home Secretary Priti Patel said on Twitter.

Devon and Cornwall Police said they were called to the Keyham area of the city at 6.10 pm on Thursday.

"Investigations are continuing into the incident and disruption to the road network in the Keyham area will remain throughout the night," the police said.

The South Western Ambulance Service earlier said it had responded to the incident with a significant number of resources, including Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART), multiple ambulances, air ambulances, multiple doctors and senior paramedics. **Agencies**

US sending troops to Kabul airport to support embassy drawdown

WASHINGTON

THE United States said on Thursday that it will deploy thousands of troops to Kabul airport to support embassy staff drawdown as the security situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate.

"We are further reducing our civilian footprint in Kabul, in light of the evolving security situation. We expect to draw down to a core diplomatic presence in Afghanistan in the coming weeks," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in a daily briefing.

"In order to facilitate this reduction, the Department of Defense will temporarily deploy additional personnel to Hamid Karzai international airport," he added.

He said that the embassy remains open, and the United States plans to continue diplomatic work in the country. Earlier in the day, the embassy urged Americans to leave the country immediately.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin earlier had phone calls with Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to coordinate the plan.

Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby told reporters that three infantry battalions, about 3,000 troops, will be deployed to Kabul airport within 24 to 48 hours.

In addition, around 1,000 personnel of a joint U.S. Army and Air Force support team will be sent to Qatar to facilitate the processing of Afghan applicants for Special Immigrant Visas (SIV).

An infantry brigade combat team will arrive in Kuwait next week in case additional forces are needed. "This is a temporary mission with a narrow focus," said Kirby, calling the move "a prudent thing to do given the rapidly deteriorating security situation in and around Kabul." **Xinhua**

China hits human rights milestone in achieving moderate prosperity

BEIJING

CHINA has hit another milestone in human rights as all-round moderate prosperity is achieved in the country with a population about one-fifth of the world's total, a white paper said Thursday.

China's realization of all-round moderate prosperity, as declared in July, represents comprehensive progress in ensuring universal human rights in China, and a new contribution to the world's human rights cause, the document issued by the State Council Information Office said.

Under the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership, the Chinese people "completed the historic transformation from poverty to secure access to food and clothing, to a decent life, and finally to moderate prosperity," read the white paper titled "Moderate Prosperity in All Respects: Another Milestone Achieved in China's Human Rights."

The goal of achieving moderate prosperity, articulated by China as it started reform and opening up some four decades ago, demonstrated the country's concern for improving the people's wellbeing and commitment to promoting human rights, it said.

Moderate prosperity in China, according to the document, is evident in all respects: a buoyant economy, political democracy, a flourishing culture, social equity, and healthy ecosystems; balanced development between urban and rural areas to the benefit of all the people; and high respect for and comprehensive protection of human rights.

"China's approach and experience have provided a distinctive path forward for human progress," read the white paper.

It explored the topics by examining the facts and figures in various aspects, including ending extreme poverty and securing the people's right to an adequate standard of living, putting life above all else in fighting COVID-19, ensuring equitable and accessible health services, improving the environment, protecting civil and political rights, and promoting social equity.

HIGHLIGHTS

"Poverty is the biggest obstacle to human rights," said the white paper. By eliminating extreme poverty China has won the biggest and toughest battle against poverty in human history, to the benefit of the largest number of people.

The document noted that by the end of 2020, by China's current poverty threshold, all of the 99 million rural poor, had emerged from poverty.

On COVID-19, it highlighted that China has put the people's interests first, adopted thorough, rigorous



Medical workers take swab samples from residents for COVID-19 nucleic acid testing in Zhangjiajie, central China's Hunan Province, Aug. 4, 2021. (Xinhua)

and effective prevention and control measures, and turned the tide in the battle against the virus. "China did everything possible to treat all patients," read the white paper.

Across central China's Hubei Province, more than 3,000 COVID-19 patients over the age of 80, including seven centenarians, were cured, with many of them brought back to life from the verge of death, it noted.

Other key figures and facts laid out in the white paper concerning China's progress in advancing human rights are as follows: The number of medical and health institutions in China increased from 170,000 in 1978 to over 1 million in 2020.

The average life expectancy in China rose from 67.8 years in 1981 to 77.3 years in 2019. Maternal mortality dropped from 43.2 per 100,000 in 2002 to 16.9 per 100,000 in 2020.

From 1978 to 2020, the country's per capita GDP increased from 385 yuan to 72,000 yuan. In 2020, the average per capita disposable income was 32,189 yuan.

China's forest coverage rose from 12.7 percent in the early 1970s to 23 percent in 2020. The proportion of female students in junior colleges and universities rose from 24.1 percent in 1978 to 51.7 percent in 2019.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The route to all-round moderate prosperity coincides with comprehensive progress in human rights in China, according to the white paper. "The right to subsistence comes first among all human rights," it said, calling visible progress in securing basic needs and remarkable improvements in living standards the nat-

ural results of realizing all-round moderate prosperity. "All-round moderate prosperity means all the people enjoy human rights," the white paper added. In the process of creating this society,

China has built a system guaranteeing social equity with equal opportunities, equal rules and equal rights, in which all can participate in, contribute to, and enjoy development, it said.

In summing up China's experience in promoting human rights in the process, the document highlighted that China has applied the principle of universality of human rights in China's context, and taken a people-centered approach to human rights.

China has taken protecting the rights to subsistence and development as the primary task and has been promoting human rights through development, with a happy life for the people as the ultimate goal, it said.

"There is no end to improving human rights. Moderate prosperity is a new starting point on China's quest for human rights," the white paper said, vowing that China will make a greater contribution to global human rights. **Xinhua**

Migrating elephant herd in SW China's Yunnan heads home after long trek

BY WAN YU

ON the evening of August 8, 14 wild elephants which had been migrating northward in southwest China's Yunnan province crossed the Yuanjiang River safely and continued to head south, according to a press conference held recently in Kunming city, capital city of Yunnan.

The elephant herd is now in a wood near Honghe subdistrict, Yuanjiang county, Yuxi city of Yunnan, which is 26 kilometers away from Mojiang county, Pu'er city of the province.

This means that all the original 15 Asian elephants heading north, including one male separated from the herd that was returned to their original habitat in a nature reserve in Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture on July 7, have been on their way home.

According to Wan Yong, who heads the headquarters in charge of monitoring the migrating elephants, these elephants left their original habitat in March 2020.

In July 2020, the herd entered Pu'er city. Then on April 16, 2021, they wandered into Yuanjiang county, Yuxi city of Yunnan.

Since then, the herd has trekked more than 1,300 kilometers and over 110 days through eight county-level regions under Yuxi city, Hani and Yi autonomous prefecture and Kunming city of Yunnan.

In response to the migrating elephants, Yunnan has evacuated residents and promoted claims settlement regarding relevant damages while monitoring the elephants, making efforts to ensure the safety of both residents along the route as well as the animals.

As of August 8, Yunnan province had dispatched over 25,000 police officers and relevant staff members, deployed 973 drones and over 15,000 vehicles to monitor and guide the migrating elephants.

Meanwhile, the province had evacuated more than 150,000 residents to avoid conflicts between them and the migrating elephant herd and provided nearly 180 tons of food for the herd, pointed out Wan, who is also head of the forestry and grassland bureau of Yunnan.

Wildlife public liability insurance companies had received 1,501 cases



Migrating wild elephants roam into villages in southwest China's Yunnan province. (File photo)

of declaration of losses caused by the migrating elephants, and assessed the losses at about 5.13 million yuan (about \$790,548). They have completed 939 claims and redeemed insurance premiums of over 2.16 million yuan, advancing insurance work in an orderly manner.

In just a few days, staff members of the headquarters in charge of monitoring the migrating elephants walked along the 76-kilometer-riverway of the Yuanjiang River and finally found the best route for the elephant herd to cross the river based on its location and the potential risks and dangers in river-crossing.

They decided to guide the elephant herd to an old bridge near the Yuanjiang entrance toll station of Kunming-Mohan Expressway, helping them overcome the biggest obstacle on their way back south, according to Yang Yingyong, who has been in charge of safety precautions and emergency response for the migrating elephants in Yuxi city.

Although the elephant herd has crossed the Yuanjiang River safely, relevant safety precautions and emergency response work will continue until the elephants enter their habitat in Mojiang county, where they will be put under regular management by Pu'er city and Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture, Wan noted.

The population of Asian elephants in Yunnan has grown to over 300 from about 150 in 1978. As of the end of 2020, the home

ranges of Asian elephants have expanded to 55 townships in 11 county-level regions of three cities and prefectures of Yunnan, many are outside the nature reserve.

"Next, we will gather pace in building a national park for Asian elephants and improving their habitats, striving to enable human beings and elephants to live together in harmony," Wan said.

Since the beginning of the migration, many experts and technicians in wildlife, information communication, and other fields have joined the efforts to protect the herd and local residents and help with the migration.

They have conducted research while applying research findings in their work, and preserved massive data from scientific research, monitoring and early warning, and emergency response in the whole process, said Chen Fei, director of the Asian elephant research center under the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China as well as a member of the expert team established for the migrating elephants.

The headquarters have creatively and gently intervened in the migration by predicting the elephants' migration routes, conducting security control, and attracting them with food, which can be helpful for alleviating "human-elephant conflict" and even "human-animal conflict" in the future, Chen pointed out.

People's Daily

South Sudan's rival factions agree to cease hostilities after clashes

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's rival opposition factions on Thursday agreed to cease hostilities following deadly clashes last week that left 34 soldiers dead on both sides near the Sudan border.



Puok Both Baluang, director of Information and Public Relations for Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-In-Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) led by First Vice President Riek Machar that clashed with the breakaway faction led by Simon Gatwech Dual, said both sides have agreed to cease hostilities.

The move follows clashes last week at Magen in the Sudan border between troops loyal to Machar (pictured) and his former chief of staff Dual that left 34 soldiers dead.

The fighting followed the recent declaration by senior officers of SPLA-IO led by Dual deposing Machar from the leadership of SPLM/A-IO while accusing him of nepotism and lacking strong leadership.

The breakaway faction also blamed Machar for weakening the hand of the former rebel movement in the coalition government.

"The breakaway group from the SPLA-IO calling themselves Kitguang declaration called Machar twice; they held two phone call discussions. Gen. Johnson Olony is the one who initiated it; he informed Machar about his group's acceptance for a ceasefire," said Baluang in Juba, capital of South Sudan.

"The discussion was conducted in an amicable atmosphere, Machar told Olony that there is a need to resolve the differences on the incident (clashes) that happened in Magen in Upper Nile state in a peaceful manner."

He disclosed that Machar and Olony also agreed to immediately send the Commissioner of Panyikang County to the County headquarters to assume his duties, adding that SPLM/A-IO is ready to resolve the matter in a peaceful manner.

"The two agreed to send Mustafa Gai, the Commissioner of Panyikang County to his headquarters so that he can assure the people that peace is there, they say they will maintain the communication," said Baluang.

"As SPLM/A-IO, we believe discussion in a peaceful manner is the only way to address our differences."

The SPLM/A-IO waged more than six years of rebellion since December 2013 against President Salva Kiir before signing the 2018 revitalized peace deal in Ethiopia to end the conflict.

Years of conflict in the youngest nation killed tens of thousands and displaced more than 2 million people both internally and externally.



Uganda's Express FC attacker, Erick Kambale (C), heads past Zanzibar's KMKM defenders as the two outfits locked horns in 2021 CECAFA Kagame Cup's last four stage fixture, played in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Express FC to face Nyasa Big Bullets FC in CECAFA Kagame Cup final

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MALAWI'S Nyasa Big Bullets FC will now face Uganda's Express FC in the 2021 CECAFA Kagame Cup final in Dar es Salaam today, in the two clubs' second meeting this year's edition.

Nyasa Big Bullets FC, which also leads the Malawi Premier League, started the regional tournament on a low note, notching a 1-1 draw with Tanzania's Yanga.

The hosts went 1-0 up following Nyasa Big Bullets FC defender's own goal, the visitors leveled matters via a spot-kick taken by the experienced attacker, Chiukepo Msowoya.

The Malawian club picked the same results against Express FC before posting a 2-0 victory over South Sudan side, Atilaba FC, in the last Group A match to sail through to the semi-finals.

On Wednesday night, the Malawi Premier League entity beat Tanzania's Azam FC 4-2 in a tense post-match penalty shootout to make it to the final.

The exciting last four stage's match's normal time had ended in a four-goal thriller at the Azam Complex, and spot-kicks had to settle the game.

The penalty shootout came after the two teams could not be separated in 30 minutes of extra time following a 2-2 draw in normal time.

Nyasa Big Bullets FC, Malawi's most followed and supported team, has finally proved its worth.

The semi-final match was graced by the CAF Secretary General, Véron Mosenko-Omba, as well as CECAFA

and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia.

The CAF president, Patrice Motsepe, will watch the final between Express FC and Nyasa Big Bullets FC.

Motsepe will first have a meeting with all 11 FA presidents within the CECAFA region.

Express FC, known as the 'The Red Eagles', qualified for the final with a 2-1 win against Zanzibar's KMKM at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday evening.

Express Football Club is now 90 minutes away from lifting the 2021 CECAFA Kagame Cup trophy.

Upon that rich background, the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) has promised \$25,000 should Express FC win the trophy.

The federation's statement said: "FUFA will reward Express Football Club with USD25,000 if they win the 2021 CECAFA Kagame Cup in Tanzania."

This money is meant for all of Express FC's 21 players in camp in Tanzania and four officials.

Among the officials to benefit is the leader of the delegation, the head coach, assistant coach, and goalkeeping coach.

It should be noted that FUFA also made the same promise to KCCA Football Club in 2019 during the tournament held in Kigali, Rwanda.

The federation fulfilled the promise when KCCA FC triumphed in the tournament.

The 2020 edition was not held because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Praise to marathoner Simbu who gave Tanzania half an hour on 2021 Olympics limelight

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

REACTIONS to how countries performed in the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics, otherwise known as Tokyo 2020, have been varied and, disturbing in some regards.

Reports in international media show how athletes were received as heroes when landing in Entebbe and driving through Kampala in Uganda, while there was a half-hearted presence and public awareness as athletes touched down in Nairobi, while it was more understandable that reception was lackluster in Dar es Salaam.

Yet there were two athletes, Failuna Matanga in women long-distance running, and Alphonse Simbu in the men's marathon that put us in the picture, and as we had only three athletes in the Games, that wasn't at all a disheartening performance.

An online biographer says Alphonse Felix Simbu is a Tanzanian long-distance runner who specializes in the marathon, noting that he competed in the marathon event at the 2015 World Championships in Athletics in Beijing, competed for Tanzania at the 2016 Summer Olympics in the men's marathon where he finished fifth with a time of 2:11:15.

Five years later he came seventh, and, at 29 years of age, it is even discernible that he may be past his peak, and just as fifth place finishing was great, seventh was no mean feat either, and even with one performance of that sort, Tanzania was not eclipsed in the Tokyo Games.

We could say with minimal assertiveness that the marathon is still flicking among our youths.

What was most memorable about the performance of the Singida lad born February 14, 1992, was the fact that the marathon is filmed in extenso, from start to finish, as athletes grapple with the elements and their stock of energy, figuring how to spend limited energy over 42 kilometers of a grueling run.

While the outer marathon is there for all to see, the inner



Alphonse Simbu

marathon is invisible and is the mark of resilience or lack of it that determines the outcome.

In this year's marathon event, Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya simply has no competitor around, winning the race not with plenty of energy to spare, but far ahead of chasers.

As the camera was trained on the leader and the chasing pack, there was ample time for the fans to see Simbu hold to his ground for most of the period in the run, at times engaging in a close contest with Suguru Osako, who is just under a year older to him (born 23 May 1991) and is at home in the Japanese long-distance event, being conducted in his home city.

He has collected medals in the 10,000 meters event in various competitions in the past decade,

and like Simbu, he would distinctly be preparing for retirement.

It isn't a field with plenty of top-class talent, as even Kipchoge was repeating an Olympic feat, not a new runner starting to hit glittering headlines, they have more world-class runners but face shortages as well.

Native East African talent was visible under a variety of flags like Belgium, Sweden, or others in the marathon as it was the case elsewhere, where some Tanzanian-born talented swimmers were making headlines during the past decade in university events in the United States.

Tanzania has a few top-class athletes competing under different flags, one of whom (a lady) won medals for Germany in a

previous international competition, and Yusuf Poulsen appears for Denmark in football, and once asked to be allowed to play for Taifa Stars and was denied the chance.

Yet the Poulsen family name is very much part of us in several sporting and entertainment events; citizenship laws remain rather pointed, for once.

What was surprising was how a section of the opinion, instead of celebrating Simbu coming seventh in a world event without pair, and thus bringing the country to the map of athletics imagination even with a bare presence in the Games, chose to sulk over Kenya's performance.

People ask surprisingly unrealistic questions as to why our athletes can't (really, didn't) beat the Kenyans, and left at that level it is as if nationalities are competing.

If one would hazard a response, it is that we have continually drifted from the ability to prepare athletes as Tanzanian society is nutritionally poorer in the past three decades than it was earlier, in which case routine incomes enable our neighbours to prepare athletes and we fail to do it.

The runner has remained consistent across two Olympics, coming fifth in the first and seventh in the second, and with the Suguru Osako step by step contention in this year's event, he must have been hugely followed by the host country fans, if for the wrong reasons.

They were ardently praying he slackens in his step and the home champion, apart from someone else at slot number six in the final minutes, is assured of a better finishing.

Osako did not come too near the top three as he finished fifth, Simbu's previous slot five years ago; comparing their facilitation for competition, we should all give a bug up for our Olympian.

Will Simba SC be a threat after Chama, Miquissone departure?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NO better team in the world has ever been successful by selling its best players.

There is absolutely none, all of the best teams have had a tradition of preventing their best players from leaving.

For more than 20 years, Spain's FC Barcelona had Lionel Messi. For more than nine years, Spain's other football big guns, Real Madrid, did not allow Cristiano Ronaldo to leave.

It is the basis of all of the best teams. That is the quality of a great outfit.

Midfielders, Clatous Chama and Luis Miquissone, are highly expected to part ways with Tanzania's soccer giants, Simba SC.

Chama is reportedly featuring in training at his new team, RS Berkane of Morocco, while Miquissone awaits Egypt soccer's main transfer period.

Selling and buying players is, all over the world, business but are Simba SC fans ready for this?

Chama has been a very important player at Simba. He can be likened to either Ronaldinho Gaucho in the latter's prime at Barcelona or Zinedine Zidane at Real Madrid.

Miquissone is equally a key foreign professional at Simba. One can compare the midfielder to France's Kylian Mbappe.

It is true that football is a business but, are Simba SC fans and members ready to see their outfit's two promi-



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

nent footballers leave at the same time?

Simba SC has not yet officially announced the two footballers' exit but the duo is expected to leave the outfit.

It is just a matter of time before the official announcement on the sale Miquissone and Chama comes out.

Is Simba SC ready for the football business? Simba SC once had Mbwana Samatta as the outfit's hero, albeit for a short time, but he was sold and the fans calmed down.

Simba SC once had a hero, Ugandan Emmanuel Okwi, and he was sold and the fans calmed down.

Times have changed. Simba

SC has changed and the players' market business has changed as well.

If an outfit can buy a player for \$100,000, in case a team wants that player after two seasons for \$500,000, if the club refuses to take that sum of money it will be a serious problem for it, especially once the player flops.

If a side does not sell a player, such a side does not know the football business. There is just one big problem, finding a replacement for such a player.

There is nothing harder in football than signing footballers. Registration has its rules but no one is sure of another player coming to do well once one of the key players is sold.

Simba SC could even bring Mbappe as a replacement for Miquissone and he could not perform, football is ruthless at times.

Simba SC could even bring in Harry Kane and he could end up failing to prove his worth.

That is how signings can disappoint. That is one of the challenges the game faces.

The football business is forcing Simba SC to sell its players depending on the time the side needs to reinforce.

Simba SC is currently experiencing what could be termed gambling.

No one knows if Simba SC will either swim or drown in this deep ocean.

Selling Chama and Miquissone is not a problem, finding their replacements is a daunting task.

We have always said football is big business but is Simba SC ready for that business?

Losing Chama and Miquissone next season stands to be a big test for Simba SC.

Simba SC, however, has been very aggressive when it comes to registration.

I do not doubt at all the competence that the squad's former Chief Executive Officer, Crescentius Magori, and Board of Directors' member, Zacharia Hanspope, have shown when it comes to roping in players.

After reaching the CAF Champions League's quarterfinals twice in the last four years, Simba needed more energy to go to the semi-finals but not by selling Chama and Miquissone.

These are the best players in the squad, who need to team up with equally competent performers.

Simba SC had to add more new footballers to achieve the goal but, that is what the football business is all about. The habit of big fish swallowing small ones is right there in football.

It is very difficult for our teams and our players to reject such a tempting offer like the one pre-

sented by Al Ahly.

Egypt's football big guns are likened to Real Madrid. It is very difficult for our clubs to reject an offer from the North African sides.

Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria have made great strides in football, ranging from infrastructure to players' salaries. The real meaning of money is there.

The real meaning of football is there. I have no problem with Simba SC selling its key players, I have doubts about the alternative players to be registered. Yes, this is a football business. It is football culture, players will only be sold.

Simba has clinched Mainland Tanzania Premier League top honour on four occasions.

It was not a coincidence. Simba has had an excellent team. The Msimbazi Street outfit has had excellent players.

But in the absence of Miquissone and Chama, Simba SC will be affected performance-wise.

Simba SC should play its card well in the registration of new footballers.

I look at Simba's closest rivals in Tanzania, Yanga and Azam FC, and I see they are gearing up for the new season.

Pressure on Poch to deliver with PSG 'galacticos' after Messi arrival

PARIS

LIONEL Messi's arrival at Paris Saint-Germain has left the club with the most frightening front line in the sport, but now coach Mauricio Pochettino is under pressure to deliver the glory on the pitch that their Qatari owners covet more than anything.

That means winning the Champions League, a competition in which PSG have reached the final and then the semi-finals in the last two seasons.

It also, of course, means reclaiming the French title after Lille beat them to it last season -- how could a team containing Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe not win Ligue 1?

"We don't hide that it's our objective," PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi said at Messi's unveiling when asked about the Champions League.

However, he later told sports daily L'Equipe "it is not an obligation", despite the arrival of the six-time Ballon d'Or winner on a reported salary of 35 million euros (\$41m) a year.

"We have a great team, but we have not won anything yet," he added.

PSG quickly emerged as the only obvious destination for Messi after the collapse of his new deal with Barcelona, and the player himself admitted the presence of Pochettino on the bench helped sway him.

"Once the negotiations started I spoke with him. I have known him for a long time," he said of Pochettino, who like Messi is Argentinian and started his career at Newell's Old Boys in the city of Rosario.

"The fact he is from Argentina means there is a closeness. I chose to come to Paris because of the technical staff and the squad that's here."

Messi and Neymar, old pals from Barcelona, are delighted to team up again but there is speculation that Mbappe -- with just a year left on his contract -- is not happy about having to share even more of the limelight.

PSG do not want to let him go though, and Pochettino will have to ensure that fielding that all-star front three, as well as Angel di Maria, does not overly imbalance the team.

That is why PSG's other summer signings are crucial.

The arrival of Georginio Wijnaldum from Liverpool adds much-needed quality in midfield alongside Marco Verratti, while Achraf Hakimi was just what they required at right-back.

Sergio Ramos and Gianluigi Donnarumma are luxury options in defence and in goal.

PSG won their opening game of the league season 2-1 at Troyes last weekend and now host Strasbourg on Saturday, when Messi is set to be paraded before the crowd.

The Argentine, who has not had a pre-season to speak of, will have to wait a while yet for his debut.

It also remains to be seen if Neymar will feature this weekend following his late return to pre-season training after playing for Brazil in the Copa America.

AFP

Messi joins crypto craze as gets part of PSG fee in fan tokens

MIAMI

SOCCER star Lionel Messi's signing on fee at Paris St Germain includes some of the French club's cryptocurrency fan tokens, in the latest big name endorsement of new digital assets.

The Argentine, 34, left Spanish side Barcelona and signed a two-year contract with Qatari-owned Paris St Germain (PSG), with an option for a third year, on Tuesday.

Confirming an exclusive Reuters report, PSG said on Thursday the tokens were included in his "welcome package," which media reports have estimated at 25-30 million euros (\$29-35 million). The club did not disclose the proportion of tokens in the package, but said the amount was "significant".

Fan tokens are a type of cryptocurrency that allow holders to vote on mostly minor decisions related to their clubs. Among clubs to launch tokens this year are English Premier League champions Manchester City and Italy's AC Milan. Messi's former club Barcelona launched one last year.

The tokens are increasingly seen by clubs as a source of new revenue and Socios.com, which provide the tokens for PSG and other top clubs, says tokens have generated nearly \$200 million for its partner clubs in 2021, with PSG already seeing revenue from the Messi deal.

Like bitcoin and other digital currencies, fan tokens can be traded on exchanges. They also share in common with other cryptocurrencies a tendency for wild price swings, leading some regulators to issue warnings to investors about digital assets.

Still, several high profile business and entertainment figures have backed crypto assets, with Tesla boss Elon Musk, Twitter founder Jack Dorsey and rapper Jay-Z among those to have shown support for bitcoin.

PSG said there had been high volume of trading in its fan tokens after reports that Messi was set to join the club.

Trading volumes exceeded \$1.2 billion in the days preceding the arrival of the six-times winner of the Ballon d'Or world's best soccer player award, it said.

REUTERS

Why Chelsea brought Lukaku back to the Bridge

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

DESTINY is calling for Romelu Lukaku. The 28-year-old has completed a sensational return to Chelsea from Internazionale in a deal that fell just short of breaking the British transfer record for the second time in as many weeks, after Manchester City's £100 million signing of Jack Grealish.

The financial effects of COVID-19 have polarised clubs in terms of their power in the transfer market. Chelsea, backed by the billionaire owner Roman Abramovich and operating with a shrewd and ruthless recruitment strategy, are well placed to exploit the vulnerabilities of teams like Inter.

The Nerazzurri ended an 11-year wait for the Serie A title last season, yet owners Suning have held discussions to sell the club as they face the twin threats of reduced income resulting from the pandemic and an instruction from Chinese President Xi Jinping demanding overseas investors refocus their ambitions domestically. Inter had already transferred defender Achraf Hakimi to Paris Saint-Germain for €70m, and have now lost Lukaku, who became the leading star in Serie A after scoring 44 goals in 63 starts.

The fan backlash is already underway with Inter supporters furiously opposed to his departure. Protests are putting pressure on a beleaguered board.

As ESPN had previously reported, the Blues were weighing up their options after having two bids rejected but a pivotal factor has been Lukaku subsequently informing the Inter hierarchy he would like to leave if a suitable bid arrived.

So why did Lukaku want to join Chelsea? The answer lies, at least in part, in finally getting the chance to emulate one of his all-time heroes: Didier Drogba.

When Lukaku signed for Chelsea from Anderlecht for £18m in 2011, backroom staff arranged for the promising, but raw, 18-year-old to sit next to Drogba in the changing room at Cobham.

There were obvious similarities given their powerful physiques and comparable playing styles: robust centre-forwards capable of bullying defenders into submission. But Lukaku came to admire Drogba as much for the adversity he overcame earlier in his career.

Drogba admitted in his autobiography "Commitment" that he thought about leaving Chelsea towards the end of his second season at the club, in 2005-06, having felt misunderstood and underappreciated as he acclimatised to English football. He was written off in some quarters as a blunt instrument, derided by others as a diver for going to ground too easily.

Yet by the time Lukaku arrived in west London five years later, Drogba had cemented his legendary status as one of



Romelu Lukaku signed for Chelsea a decade ago, and on Thursday sealed his return to Stamford Bridge. (Agencies)

the Premier League's all-time greats. Lukaku couldn't get a game, watching on from the sidelines as the Ivory Coast international earned sporting im-

porting Thursday's confirmation with a tweet five days earlier with a picture of Lukaku and the words: "He's coming home." It feels as though the time is right for both Lukaku and Chelsea.

Drogba scored 164 goals in 381

ultimately he grew tired of English football in a way Drogba had threatened to.

Aside from Costa, Olivier Giroud has performed an admirable supporting role in recent seasons, but Fernando Torres, Alvaro Mo-



mortality by scoring the winning penalty against Bayern Munich to deliver Chelsea's maiden Champions League trophy with what appeared to be his last kick for the club.

It was a fairytale finale that led Lukaku to describe Drogba a few years later as his "icon," even though that storyline came at the expense of his own. Chelsea preferred to bring Drogba back as a veteran for a second spell at the club in 2014 rather than entrust Lukaku with the responsibility of leading the line.

Lukaku made just 15 appearances for Chelsea and was instead loaned out to West Bromwich Albion and then Everton, who paid a then-club record £28m for his services in 2015. Drogba finished his career with one Champions League crown, four Premier Leagues, four FA Cups, three League Cups and one Turkish Super Lig title with Galatasaray in addition to 66 goals from 106 international appearances, an Ivory Coast record.

Sources have told ESPN that the pair are still regularly in touch, sharing advice and experiences that have led Lukaku to a point where he feels ready to prove himself in English football all over again. Drogba cannot wait either, pre-

paring to return to Chelsea. Only Frank Lampard (211), Bobby Tambling (202) and Kerry Dixon (193) have more. He became a fearsome centre-forward, capable of winning games on his own, aligning sublime technique and intelligence to awesome power and aerial prowess. He was so often, quite simply, unplayable.

Chelsea have largely found him irreplaceable, but not for the want of trying. It is estimated that club have spent in the region of £230m on forwards since he ended his first eight-year stay in 2012. A dozen or so have tried to fill Drogba's shoes but perhaps only one has come close.

Diego Costa, a £32m signing from Atletico Madrid in 2014, spent three years at the club during which they won the Premier League title twice, chiefly because of his 52 goals in 89 games. Costa's antagonistic style -- 31 yellow cards in 120 appearances only scratches the surface of how he scratched others -- won him few fans outside Stamford Bridge, and

rata, Michy Batshuayi, Loic Remy and Demba Ba all fell badly short just as loan moves for Radamel Falcao, Gonzalo Higuain and Alexandre Pato yielded few dividends. Timo Werner has threatened to join that list after a profligate first season in England, hence why Lukaku has been recruited.

Sources have told ESPN that Chelsea's primary target was Erling Haaland, but Borussia Dortmund are reluctant to part with the 21-year-old prodigy this summer, and there is a widespread acknowledgment that the Blues urgently need a 20-goal striker to challenge for the Premier League title.

There were doubts whether Lukaku could be that man when he last played in England. Few would bet against him now.

Lukaku almost joined Chelsea in 2017 when it became clear he had outgrown Everton. Jose Mourinho's presence at Manchester United was a significant factor in his decision to move to Old Trafford, but sources claim of

greater importance was Chelsea's reluctance to pay Lukaku's agent, Mino Raiola, a huge fee.

His two years at United were mixed. A blistering start -- 11 of his 42 goals for the club, or 26%, came in his first two months there -- gave way to indifferent form that led to questions over his application and conditioning.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer replaced Mourinho in December 2018 and set about assembling a squad that truly wanted to play for United. He decided they were better off without Lukaku, who found himself at Inter in 2019 facing the task of proving himself all over again.

He began that task by shedding weight. Lukaku lost around 3 kilograms within a month of arriving at the San Siro after manager Antonio Conte told him to follow the Bresaola diet, which focuses on an intake of white meat and vegetables.

He has dramatically improved his link-up play, something Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel admits his team are lacking following Giroud's departure to AC Milan.

"With the exit of Olivier Giroud from the type of players [we have], we could use a player used to play with their back to goals whose strength is to keep possession from long balls so we can add this direct style of play to our portfolio, and this is the characteristic of player that is not Tammy [Abraham], Timo

or Kai [Havertz]," the Blues boss said earlier this month. "This is a profile we don't have in the squad and could be useful, but not for any cost and not hectic or in panic as no matter what happens we will be competitive."

Lukaku has matured into a complete centre-forward, albeit one Chelsea have had to pay top dollar for, likely with little resale value. His all-time record of 251 goals in 508 appearances at club level and 64 in 98 for Belgium is a pedigree that few can match but, perhaps more significantly, he feels ready to be considered among the best in the world.

"When they talk about [Robert] Lewandowski, [Karim] Benzema, [Luis] Suarez, [Harry] Kane, they would say it's world-class level, and with me it's always about being in good form," Lukaku said during Euro 2020. "In the last two years I think I have shown it's not just good form. I belong with that group. I am at that level."

Drogba would surely approve.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Why Chelsea brought Lukaku back to the Bridge

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Foreign sides to face off in 2021 CECAFA Kagame Cup final today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FOREIGN outfits at this year's CECAFA Kagame Cup, Nyasa Big Bullets FC of Malawi, and Express FC of Uganda said they are ready for this afternoon's final at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

To reach the final, Express FC beat Zanzibar's KMKM SC 2-1 while Nyasa Big Bullets FC beat Mainland Tanzania's Azam FC 4-2 in post-match penalties of the semi-finals.

The winning team will take home \$30 000 while runners-up will pocket \$20 000.

In a monitored TV interview, Nyasa Big Bullets FC assistant coach Peter Mponda said they are ready to be the first Malawian side to win the tournament in recent history.

He said it will not be easy but they are well prepared for the final.

"It will not be easy to beat Express FC, they are a good side but we are well prepared and ready for the final, we want to take the cup to Malawi, I'm confident we will achieve that," he said.

He said the good news is that both are visitors, the situation which will make the field equal.

Mponda also said the fact that they drew 1-1 the last time they met in the tournament gives him confidence that they will do well.

"This is the second time that we are facing them in this tournament, in the first game we draw one-all, we have a good picture of them and we know how to approach them," he said.

The probable lineup for Nyasa Big Bullets FC in today's final is made up of keeper, Ernest Kakobwe, defenders Eric Kaonga, Miracle Gabeya, Gomezgani Chirwa, Nixon Nyasulu, Babatunde Adepoju, Chimango Kaira, Chimwemwe Idana, Ben Manyozo, Bright Munthali, McFarlen Mgwira.

Express FC head coach, Wasswa Bbosa, said his players are ready for the final, adding the morale in his side's camp is high.

"The good thing is that the morale in our camp is very high, we are looking forward to emerging the winners and take the cup home but that does not mean we underestimate our opponents, we respect them, they are a good side with good players," he said.

Express FC probable lineup: Joel Mutakubwa, Enock Walusimbi, Arthur Kiggundu, Issa Lumu, Murushid Juuko, John Byamukama, Mahad Yaya, Martin Kizza, Eric Kambale, Ivan Mayanja, Joseph Akandwanaho.

According to CAF online, the president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Patrice Motsepe, will watch the final.

Motsepe arrived in the country yesterday and met the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, in Dodoma.

The CAF president will thereafter attend the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA), he will speak to the presidents and secretaries from the different Members Associations from the zone.

The CAF president is expected together with Tanzania's Prime Minister to talk about football in Tanzania, the CECAFA region, and Africa.

They will also discuss the CAF Pan African Schools Football Championship which is yet to be launched in the region.

Motsepe announced the inter-school competition project in Africa in April this year in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

CAF Secretary General, Veron Mosengo-Omba, who is already in Tanzania and watched one of the semi-final matches at the ongoing CECAFA Kagame Cup, will also be in attendance.

Simba SC sells midfielder to Moroccan outfit



Clatous Chama

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA SC's Zambian midfielder, Clatous Chama, has signed for a Moroccan side, RS Berkane.

Ezekiel Kamwaga, Acting Head of Information and Communication Department at Simba SC, confirmed the development yesterday, but he could not issue more details on the deal.

He said the Moroccan side approached his side with a very attractive offer which the club could have not resisted.

The official disclosed: "It is true, our player Clatous Chama has joined RS Berkane of Morocco."

He noted: "The deal which the Moroccan side offered was mouthwatering. We could not resist it."

"It is also good to the player, we have let him join the club for his betterment, we thank him for his services at

our club," he said.

On Thursday evening, social media was awash with posts of the Zambian player training with the Moroccan club, which is coached by experienced tactician, Florent Ibenge.

Ibenge was formerly the head coach at AS Vita Club of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Chama has been influential to Simba SC's success in the past three years.

The skilful offensive midfielder has helped the club win the Mainland Premier League's top honour four times in a row.

Many soccer lovers in Tanzania feel Chama's departure from Msimbazi Street-based side is a big blow to the outfit.

Simba SC is geared to defend the Mainland Premier League's silverware for the fifth time in a row and also reach the finals of the CAF

Champions League.

Renaissance Sportive de Berkane is a Moroccan sports club based in Berkane, Morocco.

The club's football team is currently playing in the First Division of Moroccan championship, 'Botola'.

The club finished in second place in the Botola 2 in the 2011/12 season, which led to the promotion to the First Division.

The RS Berkane regained

its spot in the first Moroccan Division in 2012, under the presidency of Fouzi Lekjaa, who ran the club since 2009.

In 2018, RS Berkane won its first-ever title, the Moroccan Throne Cup.

Berkane has been making steady progress over the years, culminating with their first continental silverware.

After their CAF Confederation Cup campaign ended at the quarterfinal stage in 2018, they went further in 2019 and lost the final to Egypt's Zamalek.

In 2020, Renaissance Sportive de Berkane won CAF Confederation Cup, clinching their first continental title in their history.

The club beat Egyptians, Pyramids, Ifi0 in the final game at Moulay Abdellah Stadium in Rabat.

In the semi-final, which was played at Moulay Abdellah Stadium in Rabat, RS Berkane beat country-mates, Hassania d'Agadir, 2ñ1.

The two goals of the qualified team were 20th and 61st minutes penalty kicks scored by the same player, Mohamed Aziz.

The CAF Confederation Cup title won by Renaissance Sportive de Berkane is the seventh of its kind for Moroccan football and the fifth if the new format of the competition is being considered.

Twiga Stars set for 2021 COSAFA Women Championship

By Correspondent Nas-

sir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national women's football team, Twiga Stars, has been put in Group B of the COSAFA Women Championship that will be staged in Nelson Mandela Bay in South Africa from September 15-26.

Three teams from the Council of East and Central African Football Associations (CECAFA), Uganda, Tanzania, and South Sudan, will participate in the 2021 COSAFA Women Championship which will take place next month.

Tanzania will be returning for the second year in a row, they played in the showpiece in 2020, cruising to a 1-0 win over Zimbabwe.

Twiga Stars went on to suffer a 1-0 loss to Botswana in the group stage and exited the showdown.



Tanzania's senior national women's football team, Twiga Stars.

Group B contains last season's runners-up, Botswana, 2011 winners Zimbabwe, and guest nations Tanzania and South Sudan, and it is another pool that will be hard to call.

Hosts and defending champions, South Africa, alias 'Banyana Banyana', have been drawn in a tricky pool.

Banyana Banyana, who have won the last

four championships, will take on Angola, Malawi, and Mozambique in Group A, with only the top team guaranteed a place in the semi-finals.

Group C is headed by 2019 finalists, Zambia, who have been so close to winning the tournament in the past but remain without success, as well as Namibia, Eswatini, and another guest nation, Uganda, who were

an 11th-hour entry after the Comoros Islands withdrew late.

The top teams in each pool advance, as does the best-placed runner-up, so it will be all to play for in what has become a hugely successful and entertaining tournament on the African football calendar.

This year's competition will take on additional significance as it

comes just a month before the start of the qualifiers for the 2022 Africa Women's Cup of Nations that are scheduled to begin in October, providing competing sides with the chance to fine-tune their plans for their bid to reach the continental showpiece.

That Women's Cup of Nations will supply the African representatives for the 2023 FIFA Wom-

en's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, and so in many ways the journey for teams to that global showpiece starts with the COSAFA Women's Championship.

The competition will be played under strict COVID-19 protocols, which include a bio-secure bubble for all teams and officials involved.

Matches will, unfortunately, be played behind closed doors, as was the case in 2020, but fans will be able to follow all the action with every game streamed live on www.cosafa.tv.

Supporters can also get news and tournament information on www.cosafa.com, starting from now and up until the final of the competition on September 26.

Group A: South Africa, Angola, Malawi, and Mozambique

Group B: Botswana, Tanzania, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe

Group C: Zambia, Namibia, Eswatini, and Uganda

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHAT WORD IS ALWAYS
SPELLED INCORRECTLY IN
THE DICTIONARY?

INCORRECTLY!

