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TANZANIA

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# Govt revamping rules on shelters

## CCM projects landslide win ahead of the October poll

By Henry Mwangonde, Chato

CCM has presented an assessment of the first ten days of campaigns which it said has assured the ruling party of emerging victorious at 85 per cent of the vote if the poll was held yesterday.

Publicity and Ideology Secretary Humphrey Polepole told journalists at a press conference in Chato yesterday that the turnout and response that the party was getting during the ten days of campaigns had engendered confidence of a landslide victory in the polls late next month.

He said CCM was conducting a strategic campaign in which it has dispersed top party cadres countrywide, with running mate Samia Suluhu Hassan, and ex-president Jakaya Kikwete who is in the southern regions.

Others are ex-prime minister Mizengo Pinda and the Speaker of Parliament, Job Ndogai among others who are canvassing for votes in various parts of the country. "We are stronger this time than ever."

**“We are stronger this time than ever. Even before the campaigns we were looking for 60-percent of votes due to the number of voters that we have and we are assured we have this number”**

Even before the campaigns we were looking for 60- percent of votes due to the number of voters that we have and we are assured we have this number," he said.

He elaborated that in the last five years CCM has managed to build a strong network of party cadres who are an asset. They are doing a great job ahead of the coming general election, he declared.

This assessment comes after the completion of the first ten days of campaigns which the CCM presidential candidate began in Dodoma.

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Morogoro residents listen to Chadema presidential candidate Tundu Lissu addressing a campaign rally yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

**T**HE Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children yesterday unveiled new regulations to guide establishment and running of shelters for vulnerable groups aimed at enhancing security and quality of service to beneficiaries.

Speaking here yesterday, Permanent Secretary (Community Development) Dr John Jingu said the new guidelines cover the establishment and operation of homes for the elderly and homeless as well as safe houses for victims of abuses and human trafficking.

He said the introduction of the new regulations comes as a result of private entities such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), religious organizations and even individuals proliferated in offering the crucial services.

"The regulations ban running these shelters to be run as businesses. They must be established and run as service with the recipients benefiting and not operators," he said.

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**Quality social security service is crucial for prosperity of any nation. If these services are weak, the nation cannot claim to be strong**

## NEC: Only permitted CSOs to educate voters on polls

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) yesterday warned unauthorized civil society organisations (CSOs) against engaging in voter education.

NEC Legal Officer Richard Lugomela said here that only organizations that reached out to it and issued with written permission are allowed to conduct civic education ahead of the general election late next month.

Thus, any CSO caught conducting civic education in any part of the country without a written permit from the election management body risks legal action including deregistration.

"Unauthorized CSOs are not allowed



**Unauthorized CSOs are not allowed to do anything that comes out as voter education with regard to this year's general election. Those found doing so will be in trouble because it is a criminal offence**

to do anything that comes out as voter education with regard to this year's

general election. Those found doing so will be in trouble because it is a criminal offence," he asserted.

Organizations with NEC permission are not allowed to partner with unauthorized counterparts as that will constitute a breach of the law, he specified.

He warned CSOs conducting joint sessions of voter education or subcontracting other organizations upcountry to do the same not to fall into the trap of working with unlicensed outfits.

He said the commission began engaging stakeholders including non-governmental and religious

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## Mark Bomani, co-author of Articles of Union, dies at 88

By Ani Jozeni

ONE of the principal builders of the country's institutions and policy set up, former Attorney General Mark Bomani (pictured), has ended his earthly journey at the age of 88. His departure thins out even further the crop of memories of what happened in the early



years of independence, but fortunately he had at various occasions found time to detail his experiences and key recollections, and a wealth of it is found especially on social media. He was a key person of designing laws and policy formalization during the first phase presidency under the Father of the Nation.

It is difficult to say where he particularly left his mark as his principal assignments and initiatives were not broadcast aloud for everyone to hear and take note of his role in that event. Where his name was repeatedly cited as provider of important advice, especially

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### SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

**FACT 2** For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

**FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



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## Govt revamping rules on shelters

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Thus, henceforth, no kind of fees or contribution shall be charged on residents of homes for senior citizens, rehabilitation centres for children in behavioural difficulties, safe houses for victims of gender based violence such as female genital mutilation, rape, child pregnancy as well as those rescued from domestic abuse and human trafficking.

Also, those wishing to establish such centres will be scrutinized and if approved, given the dos and don'ts to abide by, failure of which will attract penalties including closure of the facility.

"Let me use this opportunity to alert those who are offering this crucial service and those who want to do the same to read these regulations first to avoid being on the wrong side of the law," he cautioned.

He said a recent study showed that with more organizations and individuals setting up social security service centres, if not properly supervised from establishment to operation, it could attract profiteers in what should remain purely a service.

For instance, while the government operates 17 homes for the elderly, private operators run 18 facilities for seniors and the needy, apart from multiple shelters for victims of a range of abuses.

"Quality social security service is crucial for prosperity of any nation. If these services are weak, the nation cannot claim to be strong," he asserted.

Dr Jingu said the guidelines also make clear distinctions of roles of social workers and community development officers, a line that was previously blurred. This will help not only for workers understand their duties better but social welfare colleges see how to improve their curricula, he stated.

Speaking at the event, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Chief of Mission in Tanzania, Dr Qasim Sufi said the regulations have come at an apt moment due to increased incidents of human rights abuse, including trafficking in persons.

"Unsuspecting and vulnerable victims are trafficked from villages to the cities with the promise of a job but they end up in abuse. There are also victims of gender based violence and child abuse. All these need shelters for protection and rehabilitation but the facilities must be safe and with quality service," he said.

Data from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) says on global estimates of forced labour as covering 20.9m women, men and children who are trapped in jobs into which they were coerced or deceived and which they cannot leave.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Permanent Secretary Dr John Jingu (3rd R) cuts ribbon to highlight government guidelines focused on improvement of social development in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NEC: Only permitted CSOs to educate voters on polls

FROM PAGE 1

organisations in February this year on the provision of civic education.

He said it recognizes the importance of their engagement in the election process in ensuring accountability, transparency and fairness.

Addressing a stakeholders' meeting at that time, the Director of Elections, Dr Wilson Charles said stakeholders' involvement in the exercise enhances public trust and confidence throughout the process.

Speaking in Dodoma last month, the NEC Vice Chairman, Judge (rtd) Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk warned that

authorised CSO should not engage in politics while providing civic education.

The groups are not allowed to visit political parties' offices or attend public rallies, and failure to abide by the set regulations will see them being deprived of those functions, he reiterated.

The meeting brought together 245 authorised CSOs from the Mainland and seven from the Isles, where the top commission official said voter education is important in helping the public know why they have to vote and the function should not be linked with any political party.



United Kingdom High Commissioner to Tanzania David Concar (3rd R) and Governor of Bank of Tanzania Dr. Yamungu Kayandabila (4th L) talk to Ministry of Finance and Planning head of departments, embassy officials in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the farewell ceremony of workers of Finance and Planning ministry who are going for studies in the UK. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## CCM projects landslide win ahead of the October poll

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Dr John Magufuli addressed rallies in Geita region lately, where he promised that if re-elected he will provide licenses and set up special mining zones for artisanal miners so that they are not disturbed as it is often the case at present.

Speaking during a rally at Kalangalala grounds the president said he will work on improving the lives of small scale miners by providing them with loans, technology and training.

Artisanal miners sold 337,482 kilogrammes of gold worth 22.5bn/- in 2016, with the government receiving 1.2bn/- in royalties, he affirmed.

## Mark Bomani, co-author of Articles of Union, dies at 88

FROM PAGE 1

with the Mining Commission during the fourth phase presidency, that was well after he had completed his major contributions. For those unfamiliar with that period, Mark Bomani was slightly in the shadow of individuals like Joseph Warioba whom he preceded as Attorney General, or Pius Msekwa, a party insider who provided outlines of key changes in 1965 and 1977.

The late Bomani was a participant in drawing up the Articles of Union, specifying in what manner and by what institutional formulas Tanganyika and Zanzibar were to be united, and appropriate institutions therein. By the time this structure was being put into question by activists in the background events to the removal by the party cen-

tral committee of Isles President Aboud Jumbe, few could remember Mark Bomani by that time. In due course we also heard that the government - either Mwalimu or for that matter Bomani - similarly consulted progressive Ugandan barrister, the late Prof Dan Wadada Nabudere, to draw up the Articles.

To get an impression of the circumstances and assignments that were given to the then Deputy Attorney General right from 1963 after Tanganyika became a republic, one sees an item on social media, the late Bomani recollecting how he was assigned by the president to seek a chief justice from abroad. He visited various countries interviewing barristers and senior judiciary officials and finally brought up Telford Georges from Trinidad and Tobago. His mark on the Tanzanian

judiciary is comparable with the mark left by another Caribbean intellectual who worked here starting around 1968 to mid-1974, Dr Walter Rodney from Guyana.

One spectacular event that is also given by those who were party to recollections by the late Bomani is the manner in which a family crisis broke out in 1968 when as AG, Mark was pivotal in drafting new legislation on cooperative societies. The narration says that when he got wind of it, his elder brother Paul who was a cabinet minister though not responsible for cooperative unions, wished to resign. So there was an intense discussion between two individuals at a family level touching on the very solidity not of their family but cohesion in TANU and in the government. Eventually Paul accepted Mark's plea

not to resign but help to bring to a 'soft landing' the changes in the cooperative movement, and not surprisingly there were considerable cabinet changes in the early 1970s. Paul was an even more crucial associate of President Nyerere than was his young brother, becoming Minister for Finance from 1962 to 1965 and then Minister for Economic Affairs and Development Planning from 1965 to 1970. He then served as Minister for Commerce and Industry from 1970 to 1972; he was then shifted to diplomacy.

Even then he was given a crucial station where the progressive Tanzanian government needed an able and articulate spokesman, as envoy to the United States. His younger brother Mark in 1971 had a difficult assignment, or say a troubling one, that of conducting the

treason trial, where the star state witness was a member of the South African liberation movement, PAC leader Potlako Leballo. Mark Bomani had served for ten years as Attorney General and wished for other challenges in life, as the United Nations started an Institute for Namibia and he was appointed to lead it in 1976. At its independence, Bomani spent a year or so as an adviser and returned home in 1992. He then started another career as top adviser.

In sum it is difficult to find individuals who have been involved in upper levels of the government for as many years as the late Mark Bomani, owing to his diligence and lack of formal ambition. He was prodded by some people to pick up forms for nomination as CCM presidential candidate in 1995 but

never really became a politician. From the social media recollections and on the basis of impressions of the first phase period, his candidacy for nomination was the hope of a breadth of liberals within CCM, who weren't sure of ex-prime minister John Malecela's ideological outlook as he was an ardent radical in his younger days in the cabinet as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. While zonal politics weren't markedly at issue in the 1995 nomination, the recollection says Bomani's followers were agast at his coming fourth and being eliminated. Aware that all was not well in what could emerge as a vast camp of dissatisfaction within CCM, Mwalimu invited Bomani to his residence, asking him to take it kindly. He agreed and calm returned.



Former Ubungo MP Saed Kubenea in tears during a press conference in Arusha yesterday. He was released on 14m/-cash bail in Arusha District court. He is facing two charges including money laundering. Right is his lawyer Shecky Mfinanga and left is ACT Wazalendo Arusha region chairperson Mwahiga Chogga. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

## Study hard, Dr Kayandabila tells five UK post-graduate scholarship beneficiaries

By Guardian Reporter

FIVE employees from the Ministry of Finance and Planning have been awarded one-year UK post-graduate scholarship making a total of 20 staff who had benefited from the scheme.

It's a five-year scholarship scheme funded by UK Aid, which kicked off in 2017.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the scholarship awarding ceremony, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Tanzania Dr Yamungu Kayandabila urged the beneficiaries to study diligently to make better contribution in building the nation.

He set out the importance for Tanzania of continuing to build the expertise of public servants and, in line with the UK's approach to partnership with Tanzania, highlighting the value of this scheme in helping Tanzania to own and manage its own development process.

Dr Kayandabila said: "UK education is among the best in the world. Our staff comes back after graduation showing improved performance and as a result some have been allocated more important responsibilities."

British High Commissioner David Concar highlighted that the scheme which is now in its fourth year "was a testament to the strong partnership between Tanzania and the United Kingdom."

He noted that the UK and Tanzania

share strong bilateral relationships and this had evolved into a robust partnership.

Following completion of the postgraduate course, staff will return to serve in the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

One of the scholars Alfa Temu said: "This scholarship will help me develop my professional and leadership skills which in turn will help me contribute to the development of the nation."

The beneficiaries of the programme will travel to the UK this September to begin their post graduate studies funded by the UK Government.

The Scholarship Scheme is funded by UK Aid and is part of a broader UK programme supporting the Government of Tanzania to strengthen macro-fiscal management, improve public financial management systems and increase domestic revenue.

The UK scholarship scheme, which was introduced three years ago provide a room for five employees in the ministry of Finance and Planning to go for a one year master's degree course in the UK.

Under the scholarship agreement, at least five employees at the ministry will go for study in the UK for five years consecutively.

The scholarship scheme aims at building a professional, dynamic and skilled cadre in order to address the increasing complexity in economic and fiscal policy as well as public financial management.

## PS directs TEMESA to ensure maintenance of all the passenger ferries across the country

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of works, Transport and Communications, Eng Elius Mwakalinga has directed the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) to ensure maintenance of all the passenger ferries.

The PS was speaking at the official opening of TEMESA

Workers Council general meeting in the country's capital-Dodoma, yesterday.

He said there are reports that most of the ferries operating at different parts of the country have technical faults, but the agency has been delaying to repair them.

"You shouldn't put people's lives at risks, these ferries needs to be checked frequently to ensure the safety of travellers. I was informed that the MV

Misungwi in Mwanza and MV Pangani in Tanga Region are not functioning properly; I want them repaired as soon as possible", said the Permanent Secretary.

He however challenged them to install electronic payment systems to enhance revenue collections. He said the agency is currently losing a lot of money due to manual payments.

PS Mwakalinga noted that

the MV Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam is one of the operating ferries which generates a good income, but sometimes the monies end up in individual's pockets.

"With the electronic payment systems you are likely to boost your revenues; the digital payment methods should be applicable at all the ferries across the country", he said adding the government is finalizing processes to install the digital payment systems at all the TEMESA workshops.

He said that with the electronic pay-

ment systems, the government can also monitor TEMESA collections. He said the systems to be installed resemble the ones fixed at a number of weighing in motion scales along the major roads.

He urged leaders of the worker's council to be in the frontline in fighting corruption as well as taking measures against dishonest employees. He said there have been incidences where some unscrupulous individuals forge receipts to hike prices of purchased spear parts.

He also directed the leaders to work on complaints by some workers who claim to have worked with the agency for a long period, but have not been paid. He said there are also complaints on delayed salary payments.

PS Makalinga said: "The matter should be discussed and resolved on time; you must find out why some employees are paid and others not. There shouldn't be double standard in treating your workers."

Meanwhile, TEMESA Worker's Council Chairman, Japhet Maselle

said that in the 2019/2020 financial year, the agency implemented a number of projects including construction of parking slots and purchasing of passenger ferries.

He said the projects are at different implementation stages.

Maselle said they have completed construction of the MV Ilemela which is now offering services in Lake Victoria. He added that in this fiscal year the agency plans to repair the MV Tege-meo, MV Musoma, MV Nyerere and MV Kilombero II.

## TCRA suspends operations of Wasafi FM

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) yesterday suspended operations of Wasafi FM radio for seven days after it aired contents using abusive languages through 'The Switch' and 'Mashamsham' programmes.

According to TRCA, Wasafi FM has been barred from airing any of its programmes effective September 11th 2020 and apologizes to the public for violating the rules and regulations governing broadcasting services in the country.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TRCA Director General, Eng James Kilaba said that failure by the radio station to apologize to the public and suspend its programmes would lead into the regulator taking further stringent measures against Wasafi FM.

The DG noted that in their programmes, the broadcasters violated

Section 11 (l), (c) and (d) of The Electronic and Postal Communications Regulations.

He said the law requires broadcasters to adhere to regulations governing the sector when airing programmes as well as avoiding abusive languages.

Eng Kilaba called upon other media houses to make sure they don't violate any of the laws when executing their duties. Last month, TCRA suspended the operations of Clouds Television and Clouds FM for seven days for announcing some election statistics, which had not been approved by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

The stations aired results that showed that certain Members of Parliament aspirants had sailed through unopposed after their rivals failed to meet nomination criteria in certain constituencies.

Eng Kilaba directed the stations not to run any programme, but instead run apology to the general public for violating the rules.



**The stations aired results that showed that certain Members of Parliament aspirants had sailed through unopposed after their rivals failed to meet nomination criteria in certain constituencies.**



Kisongo division officer Paulo Kitereki talks to Lendkinya villagers meeting in Arusha Region yesterday. Photo: Woinde Shizza

## Ex-Premier Sumaye calls on political parties to promote peace and harmony

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

FORMER Prime Minister, Frederick Sumaye, has called on the government and political parties to take stern actions against candidates making intimidating statements during the ongoing campaigns ahead of the forthcoming general election.

Sumaye was speaking yesterday during an exclusive interview with this paper where he insisted on political parties' candidates to promote peace in the country and avoid making statements which threatens the prevailing peace.

"Those who wants to bring violence during elections should firstly be dealt with by their political parties. Failure to control them will lead into

the government taking charge", said Sumaye without mentioning any of the candidates who have so far issued intimidating statements.

Sumaye who has been silent since his return to the ruling CCM from Chama Cha Demokrasi na Maendeleo (Chadema) also urged citizens to punish such candidates by not voting for them. He called upon voters to make sure they

give their votes to candidates who are likely to bring them development changes.

"We do not need aspirants who want to cause chaos in our country just because they are seeking powers in the government. Candidates using abusive languages do not qualify to be leaders", said the former Premier.

According to him, it is the responsibility of all Tanzanians

to protect the country's peace. He warned that instigating chaos may lead to disruption of peace, a situation which may take time to regain it back

He insisted that during elections campaigns, aspirants in various posts should concentrate in promoting their parties election manifestos as well as telling the people on what exactly they are going to do after being elected.

He said it si the people who will choose to elect certain candidates due to their policies. Sumaye said that Tanzania is the only country in the African regions that have been conducting peaceful and democratic elections.

"A leader should concentrate in bringing development changes to the people and not violence; political parties which encourage people to en-

gage in chaotic acts shouldn't be voted into powers", he said.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) announced October 28 as the date for the country's presidential election.

The electoral body said that election campaigns would run from August 26 to October 27. During the elections, registered voters will also vote to elect members of parliament and local councils.

## ACT-Wazalendo miss out guarantors in Shinyanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

ACT-Wazalendo party in Shinyanga Urban constituency has said that it hasn't approved candidates in nine wards in the constituency as the aspirants failed to get enough guarantors.

ACT-Wazalendo secretary in Shinyanga Saimoni Ntugu said the constituency has 17 wards, where the party has filed councillors candidates in eight wards.

In an interview with this paper, Ntugu said that ACT Wazalendo will campaign and support their fellow opposition candidates so as to win.

"We failed to place our candidates in the wards due to the lack of sponsors, but we have representatives in eight wards, this has provided room for our fellow candidates from opposition to have more support and win," he said.

He named the wards which have ACT-Wazalendo's candidates as Ndembezi, Ngokolo, Mwawaza, Kambarage, Ndala, Masekelo, Kitangili and Chamaguha.

"The wards which do not have ACT-Wazalendo candidates are

Mwamalili, Mjini, Kizumbi, Kolan-doto, Oldshinyanga, Lubaga, Chibe, Ibinzamata and Ibadakuli," he added. Ntugu said that their party's policy allows them to vote for their fellow opposition candidates in the campaigns, where their only goal is to remove the ruling party CCM from power.

For his part, the parliamentary candidate for Shinyanga Urban Godwin Makomba promised residents that if elected as a Member of Parliament he will eliminate land disputes, build a health centre as well as a strong road infrastructure in the Ndembezi ward.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) announced October 28 as the date for the country's presidential election.

The electoral body said that election campaigns would run from August 26 to October 27.

During the elections, registered voters will also vote to elect members of parliament and local councillors.

According to the NEC, about 29 million Tanzanians have registered to vote in this year's election, compared to some 23 million voters registered in 2015.



Kigogo resident in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region get out in style after the home was swept away by floods during the rainy season. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## National Museum investors urged to adhere to govt laws, regulations

By Guardian Reporter

INVESTORS in the National Museum of Tanzania areas have been urged to adhere to the government laws, regulations in their operations to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

The National Museum of Tanzania Director General, Dr Noel Lwoga made the remark at the Village Museum in Dar es Salaam during the inspection of development projects and investment opportunities available at the museum

Dr Lwoga said investors at the museum centres ought to adhere to their signed contracts including paying government taxes on time so that they can generate income from their investments and contribute to the country economic development.

He said the National Museum of Tanzania will ensure that all areas with investment opportunity are effectively used to generate income for the institution prosperity and the country development.

"We visited Village Museum to-

day to inspect investment opportunities and investors operating at the museum," he said.

Dr Lwoga said conservation of natural and cultural heritage is expensive and therefore all the opportunities available to conserve should be adequately used for the benefit of the institution and the national at large.

He urged museum directors and in charges to ensure that contracts and other necessary documents of their areas are effectively managed in accordance with the government laws and

regulations.

The National Museum Director General called upon all who would like to invest or use museum services in the museum centres, which are all over the country to do so. The services includes conference facilities, theatre, open space with beautiful gardens, libraries and space for restaurants in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Songea museums.

The National Museum has seven centres including Village Museum and Museum and House of Culture in Dar es Sa-

laam, Natural History Museum and Arusha Declaration Museum in Arusha, Maji Maji Museum and Dr Rashid Mfaume Kawawa Museum in Songea and Mwl Julius Kambarage Nyerere Museum in Butiama. The National Museum of Tanzania administer over 90 historical sites all over the country including the Mikindani Historical site in Mtwara.

At the Village Museum, the National Museum Director General visited traditional food restaurant, investment opportunities areas for Conference hall,

Tanzania Artists Building, forest reserve and electronic money withdraw machine centre (ATM).

On his side the Village Museum Director, Dr Gwakisa Kamatula commended the Director General for his visit and that he will ensure that all laws and regulations regarding investments at the village would be effectively observed.

He also commended the government efforts under the Five Phase Government led by Hon Dr John Pombe Magufuli to contain corona virus that had

adversely effects to the tourism sector.

"I would like to commend the government efforts against corona pandemic. Today our museum are safe for local and foreign visitors who are now coming in good numbers," he said.

He called upon people to come and visit Village Museum so that they learn natural and cultural heritage of the country.

"We are here keeping history of our customs and cultural heritage of different Tanzanian ethnic groups. People can bring their

## Draft on gender mainstreaming guidelines in the pipeline - govt

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has prepared a draft on gender mainstreaming guidelines for public service which will among other things provide strategies for inclusion of gender issues at work places and create a good environment for different groups in state institutions.

The guidelines are also expected to promote and improve the working morale among public servants, said Permanent Secretary in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance Dr Francis Michael.

He was speaking in Dodoma during a two days meeting which brought together directors from all the ministries to discuss and give opinions on how to improve the draft guidelines.

Dr Michael urged employers that the proposal for the transfer of power should consider gender and given greater importance in its implementation, including ensuring that women have the opportunity to be included in training programs to build working capacity.

Apart from agreeing to the proposal which stressed on the need that women be given priority in leadership positions and to create an enabling environment in the performance of their workplace responsibilities, Dr. Michael stressed the importance of making the draft to favor all groups and enable them to carry out their responsibilities effectively in the public Service.

He also urged leaders in the Public Service to ensure that they identify talented staff from various groups and develop these talents, as well as looking on how to set up childcare facilities in public office buildings so that a breastfeeding employee can use his or her time effectively in fulfilling responsibilities. For his part, assistant director of Social Services in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), Leila Mavika, said that unlike the 2010 Manual, this revised draft focuses on gender issues and human resource management.



A tractor harvester millet as captured in Kondo District, Dodoma Region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Police embark on school buses inspection to keep children safe

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

POLICE in Kilimanjaro Region have embarked on school buses inspection, checking that they're up to code to keep children safe.

The exercise is carried out in all districts of Kilimanjaro Region--Mwanga, Rombo, Same, Moshi rural, Moshi Municipal, Hai and Siha.

Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Zauda Mohammed said that the exercise is for safety reasons and started two weeks ago, when most of school children were on short vacation.

"Since we started we've covered 180 school buses the number which is higher as compared to last year, where we inspected 150 buses," the regional traffic boss said

Last year, according to RTO Mohammed, all school buses that were found with mechanical hitches were removed out of service, and released after undergoing mechanical services.

"We have already contacted all school owners to bring their school buses for inspection for the safety of the pupils and students who used them in their daily transportation,"

she said.

She further cautioned all school bus owners to obey road safety regulations for safety transportation of their pupils and students.

The RTO noted that the exercise also aims at reducing road accidents, cautioning reckless drivers.

"My appeal to all school and college owners is to bring all their school buses for mechanical inspection for the sustainable safety of their children."

Apart from inspecting school buses she further explained, they have also a special meeting to the school

buses' drivers and students/pupils matrons/patrons aims at creating awareness on road regulations, road safety for sustainable road safety of the school children and other road uses.

"Apart from inspecting school vehicles in Kilimanjaro region, we had also a capacity building training on road regulations and road safety to the school drivers as well as pupils and students matrons and patrons for sustainable road safety of the school children and other road uses," Kilimanjaro RTO, Zauda Mo-

hammedi elaborated.

Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Operations Officer, Inspector Peter Mizambwa said: "Since we started working in close cooperation with school owners, the situation has improved as we're now bring to them frequently their school vehicles for inspections for sustainable safety of the pupils and students who are using them."

"We are very glad to see that school owners are now bringing to our mechanic unit their school vehicles for inspection friendly, the cooperation which is vital for sustainable road

safety for the users," Mizambwa explained.

Commenting on the exercise, one of the school owner, the Eden Garden Schools owner, Peter Nayar whose vehicles were inspected said that: "We are concerned with safety as well. And it's certainly not ok with me to have things out of inspection. And that's why we're working diligently with the state police to get those remedied."

Nayar says every mechanical problem identified in his vehicle will be fixed soon for the safety of their pupils and students.

# Educate the public on government's development plans, journalists told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

JOURNALISTS in the country have been called upon to help educate the public on the government development plans and policies as many people seem unaware of some of the plans aimed at boosting people's livelihood.

The call was made here by the

Dodoma Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Kessy Maduka, noting that key programmes like the Production Social Safety Net (PSSN) implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is not known to some people.

He said while there are few with negative notion about the programme, it is one of the

government initiatives that has helped change lives of poor people in the country.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of a two-day capacity building seminar for journalists in Dodoma, Kessy said the government is doing a lot of things to improve provision of services to people.

He added through TASAF,

many households have improved their living standard, children attend schools as access to health services has also increased.

"Journalist have important role to educate the public on the government development plans and policies, helping them to understand what the government is doing and refrain from no-

tions about such funds," he said. The seminar was organised by TASAF to help familiarise journalists with what the fund has done, success and challenges in implementing the programme. It brought together journalists from Dodoma, Iringa, Singida and Shinyanga regions.

TASAF's Executive Director, Ladislaus Mwamanga said

about 800,000 households are expected to benefit from the programme in the new phase. He said after the elections, more stakeholders including local authority leaders, members of parliament, among others who will in turn educate the public about the programme.

According to Mwamanga, PSSN has a lot of success as in

the first phase (2000-2005 when about 72bn/- was spent on 1,704 development projects in four councils in Tanzania mainland and 10 districts in Zanzibar.

He added that second phase (2005-2013) saw some 126 councils from mainland and ten districts in Zanzibar where 430bn/- was spent on some 12,347 projects.

## 21-year-old complains of being abandoned by parents due to his disability

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Boniface Mwanjela (21), a Mbeya resident who is disabled has complained to his parents for abandoning him due to his disability.

Boniface who has disabilities in his legs and arms and cannot express himself properly needs great attention for one to understand him.

Speaking to this paper, the youth, who is a Form 3 student at Iyunga Secondary School in the city said both his parents were alive but neither of them takes care for him and he lives through assistance from good Samaritans.

He said he was born in Ikuti area in Iyunga Ward but later his parents divorced while he was a small child hence he went to live with his mother in Iwambi Ward where he never stayed long after his mother left him to her step sister who also later moved to Chunya.

He said his father sold away the house they were living in, hence as for now he has no place to stay, and lives in rented rooms especially during closure of schools.

He said after seeing he does not re-

ceive any assistance from his parents it became difficult to study in peace which made him do badly in his lessons and failed in his Form II examinations in 2018, which almost made him commit suicide by taking poison.

He appealed to good Samaritans for assistance in building a house for him to do away with renting rooms, adding that he stands to live in much hardship when he completes Form IV.

Speaking to this paper, Boniface's father Lington Mwanjela confessed for abandoning his son for a long time on explanation that he was away in Dodoma in search of work but recently he returned to Mbeya.

He also admitted to have sold the house in which he was living with Boniface's mother due to his wife's leaving him, adding that it also pains him to see his son live in difficult environment.

He said he likes to help him but abject poverty makes him fail to help his son.

He said he has plans to apologise to him for abandoning him, and admitted he does not know where Boniface lives.



He said his father sold away the house they were living in, hence as for now he has no place to stay, and lives in rented rooms especially during closure of schools.



Works, Transport and Communication Permanent Secretary Elius Mwakalinga addresses Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency workers council in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# More women in Mufindi now speak openly on GBV issues

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

MORE women in Mufindi District are now speaking openly about gender based violence (GBV), thanks to a two months campaign implemented by the UN women in partnership with the government and Unilever Tanzania.

Data from UN Women indicates that two in every three women have experienced different cases of GBV. The campaign which has been implemented from August this year is expected to end in September.

One of the women, Victoria Mbelwa (28) who has been married to her husband for seven years said: "I was bitten by my husband for cooking food without salt, it was just a mistake, but he couldn't understand and knocked me on the floor; I had a lip injury, I had cuts to both outside and inside my upper lip".

Victoria who lives at Igoda village in Mufindi District, Iringa Region is among the women who have decided to open-up on GBV to encourage other women to publicly share their stories.

"There are many women experiencing various types of violence but they fear sharing their stories because they believe that making

them public would embarrass their husbands," she said.

Stella Nziku, a victim of psychological and economic violence said that after her husband died some years back, his brothers chased her from the house and grabbed all the left properties including tree plantations.

"They did not consider my life after my husband's death, I had four children and they all depend on me to provide for their daily requirements. I had to go back to my mother's house and started a small business," said Nziku.

The most common acts of violence against women in rural areas include sexual harassment, physical violence, harmful traditional practices, (early marriages, emotional, psychological and economic violence.

Immaculate Malile, (28) explained how she was raped by her spouse after divorce.

"My husband is a woman beater, she used to beat me almost every day. I took the matter to the village leaders, but he continued with the habit until when I decided to leave him," said Malile.

She said that one Sunday afternoon when she was going to see her father at a nearby village; she met

her ex-husband, who immediately pulled her down in the middle of a maize plantation and raped her.

"After a few weeks, I realized that I was pregnant; I later gave birth to a baby girl, but the father does not provide any support," she claimed.

UN women Programme Manager, Lucy Tesha said they have changed their approach in addressing GBV matters whereas they are now encouraging women to come out and share their stories. She said they provide education to the community on the impacts of gender-based violence.

"You can get help from the social welfare department by only sharing your experience. You shouldn't be suffering in silence," she said adding that UN Women in collaboration with Unilever Tanzania and the government will provide legal assistance to all the GBV victims in Mufindi.

Mufindi District Social Welfare Officer, Sechelela Daga said the campaign has been an eye and ear opener to so many victims. She said women have responded well to the campaign with most asking for the toll-free number so that they can report any types of violence happening in their areas.



Cereals and mixed crops board director general Dr. Aslem Mushi talks to Ngarenairobi wheat farmers in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi



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- Support in building a robust compliance culture based on ethical standards of behavior and thus contributing to effective corporate governance.
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The management reserves the rights of shortlisting and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

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Email: [hrm.tanzania@bankofbaroda.com](mailto:hrm.tanzania@bankofbaroda.com), Website: [www.bankofbaroda.tz.com](http://www.bankofbaroda.tz.com)

## More entrepreneurs turning to agriculture

By Lydia Sospeter, TUDARCO

OMARI Ramadhani, a 46-year-old tailor living in Mwenge Mlalakua area in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam shares his story on how he has engaged in sewing business for over 20 years but now planning to invest in agriculture.

According to him, despite reaping big from the activity for the last 20 years, he is no longer making profits due to challenges facing the tailoring business which include economic hardships which leads to lack of customers.

In an interview with The Guardian early this week, Ramadhani said that he has decided to change his direction and invest in rice farming where he thinks will enable him earn more and thus be able to provide for his family.

"I have a wife and two sons to take care of, but as days go on, I don't earn anything from tailoring, so after thinking much I saw it better I invest my efforts in the farm, I have started by cultivating rice and I will extend to other crops as years go on," he said.

Ramadhani said: "I started this work (tailoring) since 1996 until now, 2020 about 24 years now, it is not a bad job, but because my responsibilities and needs have increased I have decided to put my energy on another income generating activity, I will however continue doing tailoring as my part time job," he said.

He went on to say that he has a lot of experience in the profession and is one of his favorite works in life because it

adds to his creativity in the art. Speaking to this newspaper he said the task is not easy because there are many challenges facing small entrepreneurs, for his side he said the biggest challenges he faced was from the time theft occurred in 2006 in his office.

"I was robbed in 2006 where I grew up doing my sewing activities, they stole my sewing machine and customer's clothes including some I did not finish sewing, after that I did not have a place to work so it led me to do my business in front of my house until now," she said.

Ramadhani said that despite all these challenges, his business helps him to earn a living like buying food, clothing and to take care of his family.

The tailor further said that he does not have further plans for his career due to the economic hardship challenges insisting that he will base much on agriculture.

He said that one of the reasons which makes the majority of tailors fail to improve and benefit more from the business is lack of enough capital and up to date skills.

"As I put much my efforts in agriculture so as to cater for my children's needs such as schools fees, I will also continue with my tailoring activity so as to earn some extra cash, in the toiling business, we also have a group which we work together but the challenge is accessing loans, if we will be supported with enough capital, we will be able to improve and increase innovation in our work," Ramadhani said.



Omary Ramadhan at work in Mwenge- Mlalakuwa suburb on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Lydia Sospeter - TUDARCO

## Bagamoyo parliamentary candidate on CCM ticket promises to construct a VETA college

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

CCM Parliamentary seat candidate for Bagamoyo constituency Muharami Mkenge has appealed to voters to elect him promising to construct a Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) college to impart youth with necessary expertise to work in established industries.

Mkenge assured the residents that he has already shared the

idea with CCM presidential candidate running mate, Samia Suluhu Hassan during her campaign rally in Bagamoyo last week.

He was speaking yesterday during a rally at the Mgonela grounds in Dundwa ward. He said the demand for skilled youth will increase in coming years following the ongoing construction of factories in the District.

"I presented the idea to the Vice President last week, I am

optimistic that with the VETA college in our constituency, more youth will be employed in the new industries," said Mkenge adding apart from constructing the college, he will make sure the road from Makofia to Sunguvuni is construct at tarmac level to make it passable throughout the year.

Former Bagamoyo MP, Dr Shukur Kawambwa called upon the residents to vote for Mkenge in the coming October 28th Gen-

eral Election insisting to have confidence with him. He said the candidate has the leadership ability and capable of managing development projects. CCM Chairman in Bagamoyo District, Abdul Sharifu urged the residents to ensure all the votes are given to President John Magufuli who is seeking re-election for another five-year term as well as parliamentary councillorship seat aspirants.

Some course offered by VETA

include, electrical installation, carpentry and joinery, masonry and bricklaying, plumbing and pipefitting, tailoring, leather and canvas goods, agro-mechanics welding and fabrication, domestic electrical installation, computer applications, basic driving, installation of solar and sizing, motor rewinding, industrial electrical installation, decoration, carpentry and joinery, entrepreneurship and customer care, aluminium profile and glass work,

motor vehicle mechanics and several others.

In July this year, when inaugurating the Ileje District VETA College, Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako said the government plans to finalise the construction of VETA colleges in all regions and districts in the country by 2025.

She said to reach that goal the government through her ministry continues to allocate funds for the construction of the colleges

that are in various stages of construction, whilst in some regions they are already complete. She said in the fiscal year 2019/20, the government set aside over 40bn/- for the construction of VETA colleges in 25 districts.

Prof Ndalichako called upon parents and guardians to take their youth to the colleges already built to acquire skills that will enable them get employment or in self-employment by establishing small factories.

## Morogoro pastoralists demand establishment of land use plans

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MAASAI livestock keepers in Mela village, Mvomero District in Morogoro Region have submitted proposals to their traditional leaders demanding for establishment of land use plans which will see them having special areas for grazing.

They claimed that lack of village land use plans at the village has resulted into failure to plant grasses for grazing during the draught season.

They raised their concerns when a team of experts from the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and he Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) visited the village to see how the Maasai livestock keepers conduct grazing activities as well as management of animal pastures and diseases.

Helena Mwalimu, a pastoralist from Mela village said that they are currently facing challenges of animal pastures following the ending of the rain season in May this year. She said the continued dry weather poses risks to the animals because there are no special pastures prepared for the animals during the draught period.

Mwalimu noted that despite availability of the better land use plans, the village government has yet allocated land for growing animal grasses. She said the situation has been forcing them to move from one area to another in search of animal pastures.

"We have requested our leaders to allocate special land for growing animal grasses; this will help us to feed our cattle without moving to different places. We reached the decision after agricultural experts advised us to allocate the pasture lands to be used during dry seasons," she said. Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) Project Coordinator, Yohana Haule said they have initiated programmes to support farmers and livestock keepers whereas extension officers have been passing at their areas and assist them in finding solutions to the challenges they face.

"We aim at assisting farmers to practice sustainable agriculture; we also assist livestock keepers to make sure they conduct grazing activities in a way that doesn't destruct the environment," said Haule noting they have been working closely with agricultural experts from SUA.

Last month, the Director General of the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) Dr Stephen Nindi, said the government is working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to enhance the use of village land use guidelines to reduce the human-wildlife conflicts in communities surrounding national parks.

He said the village land use plan guidelines prepared by NLUPC is meant to address sectoral land management statutory requirements and engage civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in protection of biodiversity ecosystem as well as improvement of human conditions to control destruction of biodiversity.



Director General of World Vegetable Centre Tanzania chapter Tengeru in Arusha region Dr Gabriel Rugalema (L) has a word with Tanzania Horticultural Association director Jackline Mkini moments after a visit at the centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## PCCB, Kibiti DC's office rescue 44,054,040m/- belonging to Mwambao and Ruaruke AMCOS

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibiti

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in collaboration with the office of Kibiti District Commissioner in Coast Region have saved 44,054,040m/- belonging to Mwambao and Ruaruke Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS).

The money are from cashew nut sales for the 2019/2020 season, said Kibiti District Commissioner, Gulam Kifu when briefing the journalists on what the anti-corruption body has done to recover the farmers monies.

He claimed that farmer sold their cashew nut to a buyer-RV EXPORT Company during an auction on Jan-

uary 24 January 2020.

Kifu said that the buyer collected a total of 157,591 kilogrammes of the crop whereas he later on exported some 71,845 kilogrammes leaving 85,746 kilos in the warehouse.

"My office received complaints from farmers who were not paid; I decided to involve PCCB in investigating the matter where we discovered that the buyer had paid the monies to the Coast Region Cooperative Union (CORECU). We met on August 28th this year and ordered CORECU to make payments to all unpaid farmers within 14 days", said the District Commissioner adding that CORECU officials had paid some of the funds to non-involved farmers.

CORECU has already complied with the directives by paying 44,054,040m/- to all unpaid farmers, he said.

The DC added that his office has been making follow up on cashew nut sales since November 2019 whereas it has until today saved 300,920,780m/- which have been paid to farmers.

He called upon AMCOS and CORECU to be truthful when executing their duties especially supervising cashew nut sales. He said it was important that farmers receive all their payments as soon as sale their cashew nuts because they spent a lot on agricultural inputs. He also urged local and international buyers to follow all

the procedures and regulations governing the industry to ensure a win-win situation between them and farmers.

"The anti-corruption body would like seeing fairness in the cashew nut business, there should be no one to complain throughout the process," said the DC adding that President John Magufuli would like seeing farmers benefiting from their hard work.

PCCB Commander in Kibiti District, Anna Shine said they received complaints from leaders of the two AMCOS claiming that some cashew nut farmers have not been paid by the buyer since January this year. She said farmers informed us they have also reported

the matter to the office of the District Commissioner.

"The buyer exported some of the cashews and left the consignment here claiming to have experienced transport challenges due to poor roads, but farmers had agreed to deduct 80/- in each of the sold kilogrammes of cashew nut as part of contribution to transport logistics," she said noting that after the remained consignment was shipped, CORECU did not pay the farmers until they reported the matter to PCCB.

She called upon farmers in Kibiti District to make use of the PCCB office in their areas since it has so far helped many farmers to get their monies.



Magufuli Green Team patron Frederick Mumbuli (L) inspires Kilombero market business community in Arusha region to come out in big numbers to vote during the forthcoming General Election. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

## Government warns fraudulent business people against illegally producing entrepreneurship IDs

By Guardian Correspondent, Hanang

THE government has warned some dishonest business people who are illegally producing the entrepreneurship Identification cards (IDs), insisting to take stern measures against them.

Hanang District Commissioner, Ghaib Lingo said this on Thursday when speaking to traders at the Katesh town where he insisted on traders to pay government taxes. He was concerned that making the traders' IDs illegally deny the government revenues.

According to Lingo, timely payment of government taxes would boost development through improvement of social services such as health, education and infrastructures.

"So I urge you my brothers and sisters to be patriotic and fear God because these governments come from God, make sure you respect them by paying your taxes without hurdles, because when you do the dirty games and tricks, you are forcing the government to use extra power to deal with you, a move which will affect you badly," he said.

The District Commissioner also acknowledged that the Identification Cards (IDs) used by petty traders will continue to be improved so as to eliminate the challenges that exist on the IDs.

Lingo added that, traders with raw sales of less than 4m/- need to have the IDs, although the IDs will continue to be improved as they carry various challenges including lack of photographs and names. "As authorities, we will continue ensur-

ing that traders work smoothly as President John Magufuli wants to see petty traders are given the IDs and work without any harassment, on his behalf the institutions that collect other taxes should make sure that they do not interfere with our president's instructions," he added.

Rose Kamili, a trader and farmer commended the district commissioner for bringing the traders together and making them know each other but urged authorities to support the group especially in finding more reliable markets of onions.

Kamili however said that the onion crop is currently doing well by having a fair price of 100,000/- to 200,000/- per sack and he is confident that Hanang District Council will benefit by getting the revenue from the crop.

Another trader, Leodiger Asenga urged the government to continue working closely with farmers by improving infrastructures and markets.

In December 2018, President Magufuli directed RCs to issue the IDs to petty traders so that TRA could identify them and stop harassing them since they will be recognized by the government.

The 20,000/- worth ID cards which are renewable annually are given to traders running a business with a maximum profit turnaround of 4m/-.

He noted that the move will broaden the country's tax base which by that time stood at just 12.8 per cent against a population of over 50 million. Kenya's tax base stood at 18.5 percent against a population of 40 million and Rwanda, which has 11 million people, has a tax base of 15.8 percent.

## UNESCO empowers adolescent girls and young women through education

By Special Correspondent

UNESCO leads the implementation of a five year Joint Programme (JP) on Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education in collaboration with government, UNFPA and UN Women, and funded by Ko-

rea International Cooperation Agency KOICA.

To date the programme has had an impact on the lives of adolescent girls and young women. The programme focuses on the impact of Safe Space-TUSEME youth clubs; guidance and counseling services for in-school adolescent

boys and girls; skills training / economic empowerment for out of school young women; and the role of communities including parents in promotion of girls' education.

The project is implemented in four districts Kasulu, Mkoani, Sengerema and Ngorongoro. However, the videos were shot

in Sengerema and Mkoani districts.

To date 112 Safe Space-TUSEME youth clubs provided platforms for peer-led activities on life skills namely leadership, communication, self-confidence and determination.

Through the peer-led activities, students are now empowered to speak out on issues hindering their education. The entrepreneurship skills acquired

facilitated the establishment of school canteens and barbershops as income generating activities, which helps meet the needs of most vulnerable girls, such as sanitary wear, within the target schools.

There has been increased access to literacy and non-formal education for out-of-school adolescent girls and young women through training of out-

of-school adolescent girls and young women to acquire literacy, numeracy, and life skills including ICT-based literacy and numeracy using tablets. The training modules consist of basic literacy, mathematical operations, communicating in English and Swahili, life skills, sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, gender equality, entrepreneurship and financial management

skills, environmental and civic and human rights education.

Learners who did not have basic literacy and numeracy developed confidence by learning how to read and write. Young women who run small businesses like selling fruits, vegetables, doughnuts and milk tea applied better communication skills in their businesses, leading to boosted sales.

## Mbarali DC appeals for peace and tranquility during elections period

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

MBARALI District Commissioner in Mbeya Region Reuben Mfune has appealed to religious leaders, politicians, elders and election supervisors to preach for peace during the election period.

Mfune issued the appeal yesterday when speaking to the leaders at a joint meeting on how to ensure the maintenance of peace during the period.

He said they are in good position to ensure the maintenance of peace as they have many followers behind them.

"Even though we mobilize people to participate in the election process to elect leaders of their choice via the ballot box on October 28 this year, but also we must mobilize for peace for our people to ensure the polls are conducted peacefully," he said.

He said prayers are the main pillar that will help the nation to conduct peaceful elections just as it was during the Covid-19 period.

He appealed to all candidates in various elective posts to abide by the laws and procedures governing election campaigns to ensure civility in regard to the language they use in the election campaigns, adding that whoever will be found violating them would be

dealt with accordingly.

The District's Executive Director, who is the district's Returning Officer, Kivuna Msangi said a total of four candidates out of five who satisfied NEC's conditions for parliamentary seats, and 54 out of 55 candidates for council seats are fighting for the positions.

The District's Legal Officer, who is the Assistant Returning Officer Jackline Ngaiza said all candidates including the parties they come from should respect the country's Constitution, election laws and its regulations and election ethics.



**The District's Executive Director, who is the district's Returning Officer, Kivuna Msangi said a total of four candidates out of five who satisfied NEC's conditions for parliamentary seats, and 54 out of 55 candidates for council seats are fighting for the positions**



CCM supporters display photographs of their candidates at Kawe round about in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Zanzibar govt to engage more stakeholders in efforts to scale up health service delivery

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ZANZIBAR government is working to engage more health stakeholders so as to enable them support efforts and thus scale up health service delivery in the country.

Dr Jamala Taib, director-general in the Zanzibar Ministry of Health made the remarks here when handing over certificates of quality performance to health facilities and assessors.

He said that the strategic plan came after baseline as-

essment findings, (phase one) which was conducted by the PharmAccess International - Tanzania that identified the gaps and responsible persons.

Dr Taib said that the baseline assessment showed that most of the health centers fall into level 1 noting that concerted efforts are needed to improve the qualities.

According to the safecare certificate levels, level one, means the quality of the services provided is likely to fluctuate and there is a risk of unsafe

situations.

He noted that depending on the facility's performance, it will be awarded a certificate of improvement, ranging from level - I (very modest quality) to level - V (high quality).

The safecare standards cover the full range of medical to non-medical aspects of care; from primary health care unit (PHCU) as well as large district hospitals.

He said in the assessment, 25 facilities in Zanzibar and 20 facilities in Pemba were as-

sessed while seven assessors were trained of which four were from Zanzibar and three in Pemba.

"After the baseline assessment, our next step is to involve more stakeholders to join hand efforts made by PharmAccess International to support facilities to implement a quality improvement process," he said.

The project director reminded health staff not to be discouraged from the findings but to work out on the identi-

fied gaps so as to improve the quality of services.

The Safecare project director at PharmAccess International - Tanzania Dr Peter Risha said among the key implementations was training of ministry of health assessors and facilities.

He said that others are supporting facilities to use digital tools to improve quality is a very important step to be re-

considered. The project director added that the next step will be con-

tinuing with capacity building at the ministry level.

He said with safecare, health-care providers gain insight in identified gaps and challenges and plan a stepwise approach towards higher quality.

He described that phase II of the training assessment will follow including aligning and integrating the process with the ongoing ministry of health digitisation strategy.

Also expand the enrollment of facilities in Infection Prevention Control (IPC) self-as-

essment.

"Best human practice management is one of the big gaps noted in many facilities during the baseline assessment. Therefore, continuing to build their capacity is very important," he recommended.

"Information on how to address quality gaps in technical, financial support, and innovative quality improvement platforms help facilities progress along a quality improvement trajectory in achievable and measurable steps," he added.

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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Investment profiles yes, but fast growing consumer markets matter

**T**ANZANIAN Ambassador to China Mbelwa Kairuki has lately welcomed Chinese investors to put up ventures in the country's manufacturing sector, saying returns are guaranteed thanks to an improved investment climate and a ready market. There was plenty of truth in that assertion but with goods flooding shops from everywhere, asserting ready markets is brave, even without a Covid-19 consumption gap. This invitation was made at the 2020 Xiamen International Investment and Trade Symposium just recently.

At present among most large economies, China is the one that reputedly has the widest investment platform, and no wonder the envoy sought for Chinese companies and any other investors across the world to feel free to try out opportunities available in Tanzania. It is true as Ambassador Kairuki underlined that the country has abundant investment opportunities mostly yet to be tapped. Noticeably as well, he underlined Tanzania's investment environment as offering a predictable, transparent and reliable long-term proposition. Quite often investors look for more than marginal viability but long term growth.

Anyone who has been following trends in the supermarket business will be aware how a stretch of such investments have tended to fold up in the past few years, starting with the South African supermarket chain Shoprite, and then the Kenyan firm Uchumi (and one or two others). There was an expansive retail outlets strategy for all sorts of produce, but experience showed that outside basic utilities for domestic use, luxury goods are hard to market, so durables shelves remained dormant. Hand carried baskets are sufficient in supermarkets, whereas in advanced economies people need trolleys to push their

goods.

There is a 1959 formulation that stages of economic growth in the industrial period are take off stage, the drive to maturity, followed by the age of high mass consumption. Owing to throwing away the colonial models that focused on private ownership though local people were largely excluded, to focus on the state sector, Africa has spent 60 years without having an industrial stage middle class, or a drive to 'high mass consumption.' When all we need are basic utilities, imports from China or elsewhere will be adequate, scarcely their setting foot to start all sorts of industries, as they can't easily export them to their countries.

It can't be said that those who are conducting polls campaigns at the moment are debating how to grow the local market rapidly, as the policy platform is still focused on how we serve different categories of the population. There are critical needs of health, education and infrastructure and these relate directly to the way in which natural resources are properly administered so as to benefit the country. It is difficult to add superlative agenda to these primary concerns, in which case issues of fast growth remain relatively mild.

Perhaps it is from this sort of experience that the policy agenda moves from one stage to another, as earlier on it was dominated by issues of equality especially at the gender level, and progressively some people are taking note of the fact that private consumer ability has declined. But they do so more or less in seeking a trade off with the public infrastructure and expanding a whole range of social services, so their message scarcely gets across. It is shouted down by enthusiastic crowds seeing changes on the ground - but admittedly, these questions will have to be answered at a later stage, as the economy grows.

## Unlocking the potential of South-South cooperation

12 SEPTEMBER every year is United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (SSC). South-South cooperation (SSC) is a term historically used by policymakers and academics to describe the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries, also known as countries of the Global South. The Global South is making increasingly significant contributions to global development. The economic and geopolitical relevance of many countries has grown. In the past, south-south cooperation focused on sharing knowledge and building capacities, but the countries of the Global South and new financial institutions have recently also become increasingly active in development finance.

The formation of SSC can be traced to the Asian-African conference that took place in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955 which is also known as the Bandung Conference. The conference has been largely regarded as a milestone for SSC cooperation. Indonesia's president at that time, Sukarno, referred to it as "the first intercontinental conference of coloured peoples in the history of mankind." President Sukarno also famously remarked at the conference that "Now we are free, sovereign, and independent. We are again masters in our own house. We do not need to go to other continents to confer."

Each country supported the continuation of decolonisation efforts happening in both Africa and Asia at the time. In 1978, the United Nations established the Unit for South-South Cooperation to promote South-South trade and collaboration within its agencies.

However, the idea of South-South cooperation only started to influence the field of development in the late 1990s.

In 2009 about 49 head of states from Africa attended. South-South cooperation has been successful in decreasing dependence on the aid programmes of developed countries and in creating a shift in the international balance of power.

The leaders of South American and

African countries hope that this cooperation will bring a new world order and counter the existing Western dominance socially, economically and politically. Late president Hugo Chávez saw the formation of this cooperation as the "beginning of the salvation of [the] people," and as a major anti-imperialism movement. Like President Hugo Chávez, the ex-Libyan Leader Muammar al-Gaddafi was also very critical of the Western dominance of the "third world" nations.

One of the key goals of the cooperation is to strengthen and improve economic ties. Some of the areas which these "southern" nations look forward to improving further include joint investment in energy and oil, and a common bank. Among other regional trade agreements which were reached during the 2009 summit was Venezuela signing an oil agreement with South Africa and a memorandum of understanding with Sierra Leone to form a joint mining company.

One challenge for South-South cooperation has been the lack of sufficient capital to start a South-South bank as an alternative to the IMF and the World Bank. At the sixth summit of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), in July 2014, the five partners approved the establishment of the New Development Bank (or BRICS Development Bank), with a primary focus on lending for infrastructure projects.

Countries are also co-operating in science, technology and innovation on a bilateral basis to develop infrastructure and diversify the economy.

Increasingly, countries of the South are fostering cooperation in science and technology through regional or international centres. Africa has considerably expanded its networks of centres of excellence since the turn of the century. Examples are the Bio-Innovate network based in Kenya, which focuses on improving agricultural techniques and developing agro-processing.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

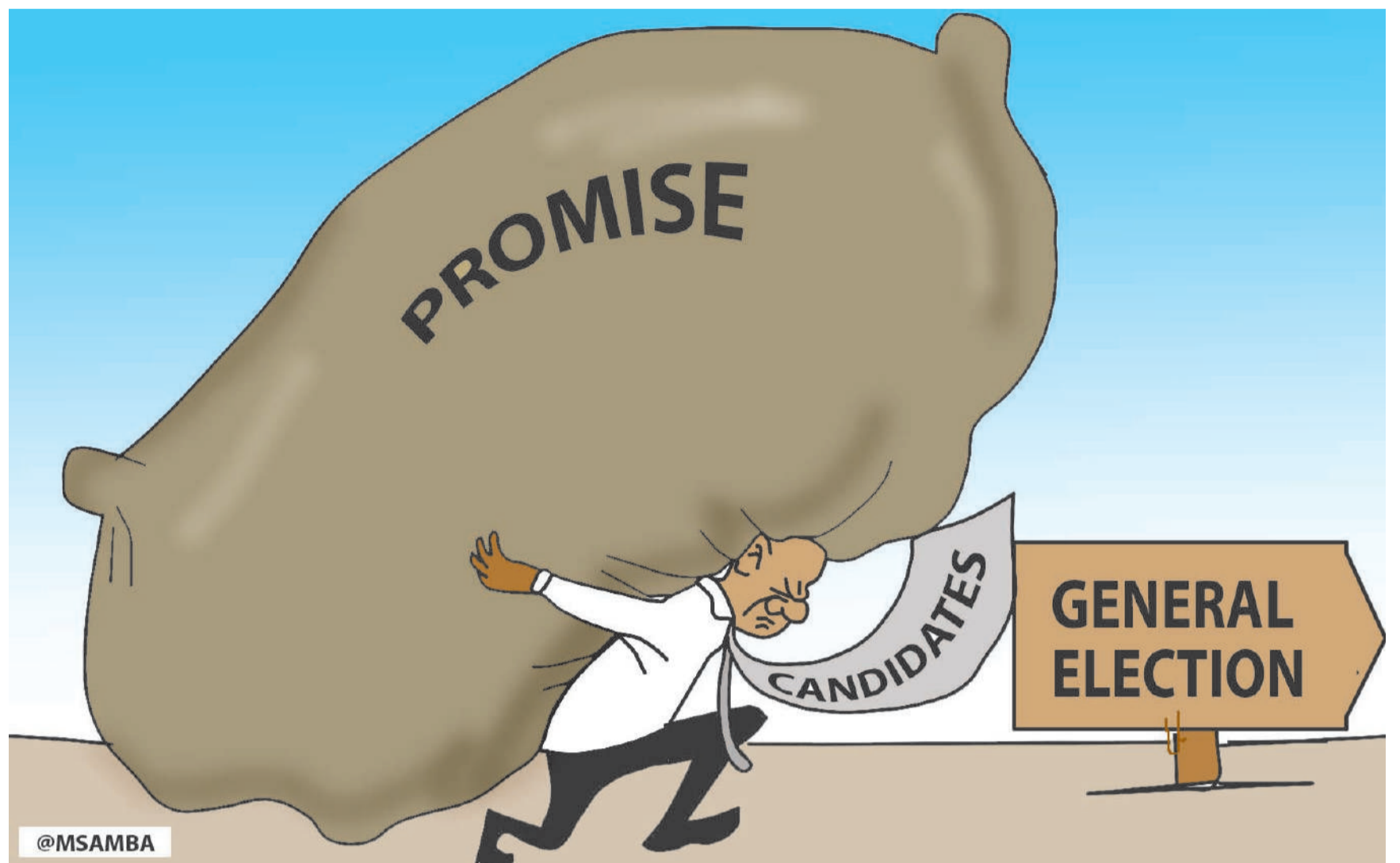
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
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## How strong infrastructure governance can end waste in public investment



By Gerd Schwartz, Manal Fouad,

Torben Hansen, and Geneviève Verdier

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on people, firms, and economies all over the world. While countries have ramped up public lifelines to individuals and firms they will face enormous challenges to recover from the pandemic, amidst low economic activity and unprecedented levels of debt.

Public infrastructure investment will play a key role in the recovery. But with resources tight, governments need to spend taxpayer money wisely on the right projects. For this, countries need good infrastructure governance - strong institutions and frameworks to plan, allocate, and implement quality public infrastructure.

Countries waste on average about 1/3 of their infrastructure spending due to inefficiencies.

Our new book addresses how countries can design good infrastructure governance. All too often, public investment results in expensive and poor-quality infrastructure with limited benefits for people and the economy. It tends to involve projects that are large, long-term, and complex - all fertile ground for corruption,

delays, and cost overruns. Strong infrastructure governance is key to cutting this waste.

Our analysis shows that, on average, countries waste about 1/3 of their infrastructure spending due to inefficiencies. The loss can surpass a staggering 50 percent in low-income countries. Unlocking this potential should play an important role as countries recover from the pandemic. The good news is that efficiency losses and wasteful spending in infrastructure are not inevitable. Our estimates show that over half of these losses could be made up through better infrastructure governance.

A bridge to the future

The economic recovery from COVID-19 presents a unique opportunity for countries to build a bridge to the future through well-designed and well-implemented public infrastructure.

Done right, public investment to stimulate weak aggregate demand can help boost more inclusive growth, reduce inequalities, and create economic opportunities for all. Investment in health systems, digital and environmentally-conscious infrastructure can improve people's lives, connect markets, and improve the resilience of countries to climate change and future pandemics.

Countries will also need to increase public investment to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while advanced economies need to tackle aging infrastructure like roads, bridges, and healthcare systems.

But every dollar spent has to count, and when spending more on infrastructure, countries also need to spend better and smarter to get the most bang for the buck.

Drawing on the Fund's analytical and capacity development work, including the Public Investment Management Assessments carried out in more than 60 countries, our book provides a roadmap for countries to move from "aspiration to action" to achieve quality infrastructure outcomes and reap the full economic and social dividends from public investment.

The book highlights the foundation of strong infrastructure governance and includes innovative practices in key areas. We give examples on how to control corruption in infrastructure projects, how to mitigate and manage fiscal risks, integrate planning and budgeting, and adopt sound practices early in the public investment cycle, as well as during project appraisal and selection, an area in which many countries tend to fall short.

Chile, for example, has developed a comprehensive infrastructure governance system that has generated cost-savings. And in Korea, a national one-stop shop for public procurement, has brought improvements in the transparency and integrity of the public procurement system.

The book also covers emerging areas in infrastructure governance such as the importance of maintaining and managing public infrastructure assets and building resilience against climate change. South Africa, for example, has established guidelines and standards for the maintenance of public infrastructure to avoid deterioration in the value of public assets like roads and bridges.

The book underscores how infrastructure governance institutions tend to look better on paper than in practice. This points to the importance of not only having well-designed frameworks, but also focusing on how well they function in practice.

The overall message is simple: countries can end waste in public investment and create quality infrastructure with specific actions to improve infrastructure governance. To rebuild economies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be more important than ever.

The October 2020 Fiscal Monitor will include more of the IMF's analysis and policy advice on how countries can best invest in infrastructure to build a sustainable economy and recovery.



# It's time for the legal profession to embrace change

By NJ Ayuk in Johannesburg

**U**NDER the best economic circumstances, paying for legal services can be difficult for small businesses and startups. With the Covid-19 pandemic currently wreaking havoc on the global economy - and companies' cash flow - there's a good chance that businesses around the globe are putting their legal needs on the back burner.

It wouldn't be the first time; during the Great Recession, for example, growth in demand for US law firm services dropped from 4.1 per cent in 2007 to -5.1 per cent in 2009.

Given market conditions, putting off legal services now is understandable, but it's a risky practice that leaves companies vulnerable to oversights in areas ranging from drafting contracts to establishing employment policies.

That, in turn, increases the risk of costly liability when it might be more difficult than ever for companies to pay for a legal defence or settlements.

The thing is that quality legal services shouldn't be beyond businesses' financial reach, regardless of their size - and it's up to the legal profession to make sure that they're not. We should be making meaningful changes to the way we operate that will meet businesses' needs now and during whatever new economic normal we face after the pandemic.

Earlier this year, American Lawyer commended North American attorneys for "stepping up to the plate" by maintaining open communication with clients and being flexible in how they offered services during difficult times.

More of us, around the world, should be doing the same. I believe that offer-

ing flexible legal services, also known as legal services on demand, is a significant step in that direction.

Flexible models allow businesses to work with premium attorneys on a per-project basis for considerably less money than they would spend to engage a law firm or employ in-house counsel. Companies get access to affordable legal services without sacrificing quality.

This model helps attorneys, too, by providing work opportunities that they wouldn't necessarily have otherwise and giving them more control over their hours.

Centurion Law Group launched a flexible services model, Centurion Plus, at its offices in Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany, earlier this summer. They are not the first to offer this option, but their research showed that there continues to be a shortage of flexible legal services across Europe and in many countries around the globe. I hope that other law firms will follow this lead: it would be beneficial for clients and for the legal profession.

While flexible legal service programmes vary by provider, the general idea is that businesses work with attorneys on a per-project basis. Firms that offer this service cultivate large pools of vetted attorneys with a wide range of specialties who work on a contract basis.

When a business contacts them with a need, qualified lawyers can accept the project and go to work immediately. In most cases, the attorneys work remotely.

There are no requirements for attorneys to meet billable hours quotas, and their rates don't factor in employee benefits or overhead expenses. All of this makes flexible legal services convenient and affordable, even for

companies with limited financial resources.

The flexible model meets attorneys' needs, too, and during the Covid-19 era, it protects participating lawyers' livelihood. Instead of facing the risk of layoffs, attorneys in the flexible model are more likely to continue getting work because they represent a more affordable option than traditional law firm associates or in-house counsel.

Plus, in a flexible model, participating attorneys can be "shared" across departments, and even among law firms with agreements in place, giving them more opportunities to be matched with clients who need their skills and expertise.

The flexible model also considers the needs of attorneys with children: practising law when there's uncertainty about schools remaining open can be extremely challenging. In Germany, for example, governments are hopeful that schools will be able to continue in-person classes, but there are no guarantees.

For attorneys with children, flexible scheduling and the ability to work from home can be invaluable. Not only that: working remotely through a flexible legal services programme is ideal for attorneys who have underlying health issues or vulnerable family members who can't risk being exposed to Covid-19.

Even when we return to a strong economy and the pandemic is a thing of the past, flexible models will give attorneys the ability to avoid the long workdays that are common in the legal profession while continuing to pursue their passion.

As I have mentioned, flexible legal service is not a new concept. In fact, some American and European firms started offering this service more than



a decade ago, in the aftermath of the Great Recession.

We simply need to see more firms around the globe willing to embrace this new model - and to continue innovating from there. Firms should be looking at potential clients' needs and pain points; how can we better address them?

We should be looking for ways to support the people in our profession, across all levels; how can we help them succeed? Successful businesses in other fields are in a constant state of evolution - of problem solving and, when neces-

sary, re-inventing themselves. Law firms should be doing the same.

If we are going to be effective in the Covid-19 era and whatever follows, we must be willing to break away from tradition and adapt creative new ways to operate. We need to start looking ahead now so that we can successfully meet clients' needs in the future.

**—A dispatch by Centurion Law Group, where NJ Ayuk is the CEO.**

## The Ubuntu Nation? Changing views on social solidarity and the Covid-19 pandemic

THE first round of the online University of Johannesburg-Human Sciences Research Council Covid-19 Democracy Survey, conducted between 13 April and 11 May, asked respondents: "In the immediate future, is the coronavirus pandemic more likely to make South Africans more united and supportive of each other, or more suspicious and less trusting of each other?"

In response, 48% of respondents were optimistic that the crisis would lead to greater social solidarity, while 28% felt it would create further division in society.

This positive outlook was consistently observed, irrespective of the wide range of socio-demographic attributes examined. Looking at responses by gender, age, population group, educational attainment, employment status, subjective poverty status, personal income and type of accommodation, there was a broad uniformity in perspective, with a larger share believing in the unifying rather than the divisive effect of the pandemic.

There was a degree of group-based variation in how widespread the solidarity view was shared, ranging from a high of 54%-55% among the non-poor and those earning more than R20,000 per month to a low of 41% among students. But this does not detract from the overall message.

This dominance of the solidarity perspective suggests an ubuntu ideal of a caring, humane society informed the outlook of South Africans during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was, after all, a period characterised by a substantial increase in charitable giving, with monetary contributions to social solidarity funds, in-kind support in the form of food parcels and other basic needs supplies, as well as the formation of community action networks. This was in line with past research indicating South Africans are a nation of social givers.

### A broad-based change in outlook

There was a decisive change in public sentiment between Level 5 and lower levels of the national lockdown. By the time Phase 1 of Round 2 of our survey was conducted (8-17 July) and the solidarity question was replicated, the public's primary response had switched from a fundamentally optimistic one to a critical and mostly negative stance.

The proportion who felt the pandemic would unite South Africans fell by 14 percentage points between the two survey rounds, whereas the pessimistic view grew by 17 percentage points. This change meant the leading view became one of division rather than solidarity (45% vs 28%).

This change in outlook was broad-based in nature, with a growing inclination towards the divided option occurring almost universally across the different personal characteristics described earlier. This signifies that a generalised scepticism emerged among



Meal SA and several partners donated food parcels to Iterileng informal settlement on 20 May 2020 in Pretoria. File photo

South Africans between the initial hard lockdown period and the subsequent, less restrictive, lockdown phase.

What gives? Economic strain, leadership performance and political divisions

What might explain this changing predisposition among the public? We explore several lines of argument based on the survey data. These relate to economic vulnerability, loss of confidence in the leadership response to the pandemic, and the re-emergence of political fault-lines.

### Economic strain

There is some evidence of an economic vulnerability effect, with those expressing economic distress during lockdown displaying a more substantive scepticism regarding a social solidarity effect resulting from the pandemic than those who report being relatively better off. Those who stated they and their family were poor or just getting by were significantly more likely to adopt the negative outlook relative to the self-rated non-poor.

Similarly, those reporting difficulty paying expenses during lockdown were more sombre in their views on social solidarity than those who were comfortably able to meet household expenses. Support for the economic duress argument is also found in the qualitative responses about economic difficulties provided by those respondents who feel the pandemic is going to polarise society further:

"We lost jobs we can't provide our family it's a disaster even social relief grant we don't get it food parcel our leaders they judge by looking us they don't know what is happening in-

side our homes";  
"Being jobless with no income, I'm only depending on my son's grant and it's not enough";

"Work is closed and the bank doesn't care and takes money out of people's bank account even though you explain that you need that money to feed your family... work isn't paying out the UIF money nor paying you the amount of money that you clearly worked hard for".

### Loss of confidence in leadership response to pandemic

The survey further suggests that loss of confidence in the handling of the pandemic by the President, national government and local authorities is associated with the lower likelihood of believing that the pandemic will produce a more caring society. The scale of this is sizeable and applies across all institutions examined.

While this pattern applies equally to both Rounds 1 and 2 of the survey, the share providing negative performance ratings increased substantially between the two rounds for all except local councillors (where low trust was observed in both rounds).

Confidence in the President's performance fell by 24 percentage points (from 85% to 61%), 21 percentage points for the police (from 51% to 30%), and 15 percentage points for the army (from 47% to 32%). The implication of this is that the greater numbers offering critical evaluations of the performance of these institutions contributed to the general swing in perspective from solidarity to polarisation. The confidence in local councillors remained

very low (29% in Round 1, 24% in Round 2).

This finding raises the additional question of what prompted this harsher view of the handling of the pandemic response by these institutional actors.

A recent Daily Maverick article based on the data suggests that part of the answer lies in divisive regulatory policies, such as the tobacco and alcohol bans, as well as psychosocial strain as reflected in feelings of frustration, anger and depression. Other factors suggested by the qualitative data we collected are perceived problems in implementing emergency relief measures such as food parcels, coupled with concerns over corruption, as well as lack of preparedness as the confirmed Covid-19 cases and deaths surged. Some of these responses included the following:

"People not getting any help from the government and not getting the unemployment funds they promised to give them";

"Knowing that many people are struggling to meet basic needs and government is not providing the support that is needed";

"Food being expensive and no food parcels. Our councillor has not been of any help about hampers or food parcels";

"I feel the government did not prepare enough, especially for the poor who are now suffering and have no food";

"Make sure there is no corruption in the Covid response. If that fails, there must be severe punishment for those found to be corrupt in any area. The laissez-faire attitude towards corruption must stop";

"Stop corruption and use that tax money to help our nation survive Covid";

"Please save South Africa by fighting corruption and improving service delivery for the poorest people".

### Political faultlines

A final argument relates to the apparent re-emergence of political and other societal fault-lines after the hard lockdown phase. During the early weeks of the pandemic, there was broad consensus among political party leaders of the necessity of a hard lockdown to ensure that the health system was ready for a forthcoming spike in coronavirus cases. This support for the presidential decision, however, began to erode during lower levels of lockdown, with wide-ranging criticism of leadership decisions, the rationality of certain regulations such as the tobacco ban, the return to school, the economic consequences of lockdown, and alleged corruption.

Mirroring this growing political division over aspects of the national lockdown, we find significant public differences in views on social solidarity based on party support (Figure 3). While ANC supporters are generally more likely to favour the solidarity perspective on average, opposition party supporters tend to be more negative in their outlook. This clearly points to the resurfacing of politi-

cal divisions in societal orientations that characterised the country prior to the Covid-19 crisis.

### Spirit of togetherness

Having highlighted some of the statistically significant associations informing personal views on social solidarity during a time of national crisis, it is worth briefly outlining positive views of solidarity during the pandemic. The personal messages provided by respondents again speak to the role of observing collective action during the lockdown, confidence in leadership, and successfully receiving emergency relief:

"Seeing South Africans coming out and helping others by donating their time and money";

"It has encouraged people to engage more and to band together to find solutions";

"President keep the good job together with the minister of health to protect the lives of South Africans and everyone dwelling in your land";

"You're doing a great job. I wish South Africans can abide by the restrictions so that the hard work can be worth it all";

"Thank you Mr President for increasing the grant money and also giving unemployment people grants we appreciate it".

Government should therefore be encouraged to support civil society organisations working with vulnerable populations to leverage the trust that exists to promote behaviour change and the positive health practices needed to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. This spirit of togetherness can also be enhanced if government leaders mirror the behaviours they expect of their citizens. For instance, wearing masks and respecting social distancing during public meetings and gatherings will improve trust between government officials and citizens.

An ubuntu notion rather

than the ubuntu nation?

The experiences of the past five months have clearly seen the public's hope that the pandemic will lead to a coming together of citizens against a common existential threat increasingly being replaced by a more circumspect view. This reflects a combination of adverse personal circumstances and experience, growing negativity about the quality of leadership and governance during the pandemic, and a loss of political unity. This suggests that, for now, the ubuntu ethic remains more notional than evident in practice for many South Africans. This is reflected in survey evidence from the HSRC's South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) series, which demonstrates that low levels of social trust have persisted in the country over the last two decades.

However, the rallying together that patently occurred during the early phase of the lockdown - and arguably since - remains a telling reminder that a different kind of society is possible. A social compact framed around a collective emphasis on helping others - a hallmark of ubuntu as a moral theory - is needed now more than ever in order to address the new and existing vulnerabilities that will confront the post-pandemic society.

While we are optimistic about our ubuntu nation, we acknowledge the tensions that exist between individual and collective priorities. The Constitution of South Africa and its underlying values are strongly informed and shaped by the African conception of ubuntu. This emphasises a communitarian ethic and mutual obligation to the community rather than individual rights and entitlements, and may serve as a framework that encourages new ways of living together and, thus, the potential for social renewal.

Agencies

# The Eritrea-Ethiopia peace deal is yet to show dividends

BY SELAM TADESSE DEMISSIE

IT'S been over two years since the much-heralded rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia culminated in a peace and friendship agreement in July 2018. The deal, brewed personally by Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali and President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea, symbolised an end to the 20 years of no war, no peace situation and the start of cordial relations between the two countries.

The settlement was internationally praised for its potential to stabilise the region beyond improving the two countries' affairs. Abiy even received the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to build bridges with Eritrea.

Two years later, positive steps have been taken in some areas, but not in others due to tensions between Ethiopia's federal government and Tigray regional state, and unresolved animosity between Tigray and Eritrean leaders.

The dispute over the small border town of Badme, which both Eritrea and Ethiopia claimed as their own, is often cited as the reason for the outbreak of the 1998-2000 border conflict. However the root causes go deeper.

They include historical rivalry, political and economic differences and hegemonic competition between the ruling elites of both countries. These were the Eritrean leadership, and the ruling party in Ethiopia's Tigray State - the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) - Ethiopia's dominant political party until Abiy came to power.

The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), established to resolve the border issue, decided in 2002 that Badme should belong to Eritrea. A failure to implement the EEBC's decision led to the stand-off between the two countries.

In the 2018 peace deal, the leaders agreed to begin political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation. They decided to resume diplomatic, transport, trade and communication ties that had been frozen for two decades. The leaders resolved to implement the EEBC decision and jointly ensure regional peace, development and



cooperation.

Twenty years after the border war, and despite the peace deal, the main protagonists are still fighting

Since then, progress in reconnecting the two countries has been made in key areas. Numerous high-level leadership visits took place, diplomatic relations were normalised and embassies reopened. Daily flights between Addis Ababa and Asmara were established and phone connections resumed. Four border posts were opened, although they were closed after a short period.

Talks about infrastructure and transport linkages, such as Ethiopia's use of Eritrean ports (including a feasibility study for a railway between Massawa and Addis Ababa) and rebuilding of roads, dominated discussions. Other symbolic soft power and people-to-people interactions took place. United Nations sanctions on Eritrea were lifted.

The high-profile start of the rap-

**Tensions in both countries relating to Ethiopia's Tigray regional state are hampering progress. File photo**

prochement raised expectations, both at home and internationally, that 20 years of tension and mistrust could be eroded. Two years later, this potential has waned, paralysing anticipated socio-economic gains for people in both countries. And just like old times, the cause is mostly tensions between Ethiopia's federal and Tigray officials, and ongoing conflict between the TPLF and Eritrean leadership.

Ethiopia's Tigray regional state and Eritrea share the border that was contested. Badme is also under Tigray administration, and so the region's TPLF leaders share responsibility for implementing the EEBC's decision. But the peace process was initiated from Addis Ababa, and there wasn't adequate consultation and consensus building among stakeholders like the TPLF.

The peace process failed to adequately consult some stakeholders like the TPLF

This exclusion - together with other political differences relating to ideology, foreign policy, governance and elections - have worsened the division between Abiy's government and the TPLF's rule in Tigray. One point of contention involves how to engage with Eritrea.

Abiy, in his April 2018 inaugural speech, announced his administration's unconditional acceptance of the stalled Algiers agreement signed in 2000 and aimed at ending the border war. In February 2020, Debretsion Gebremichael - the TPLF's highest official - said a structured peace process was needed that

included all relevant sides, not just the two national leaders.

Implementation of the 2018 deal cannot occur without buy-in from all relevant government actors in Tigray. Consensus is also needed within the respective agencies of both Ethiopia and Eritrea and all other relevant stakeholders.

The four border posts that were opened and quickly closed symbolise the lack of consensus among federal and state agencies on both sides around regulating movement and trade across national boundaries. Proper consultations would have allowed time to develop harmonised positions and enact new regulations.

Implementation of the 2018 deal requires buy-in from all the relevant government actors in Tigray

Unresolved hostility between Eritrea's and the Tigray region's ruling elites also hampers progress. Isaias accused the TPLF of complicating

implementation of the EEBC's decision, which the TPLF denied. Isaias also claims the TPLF created division among Eritreans, organising ethnic-based opposition and spreading misinformation to spoil relations between Eritreans and Ethiopians. The TPLF in turn accuses Eritrea of interfering in Ethiopia's internal affairs and threatening regional security.

Twenty years after the bloody border war, and despite the new peace deal, the conflict's main protagonists - the TPLF and the Eritrean leadership - are still fighting.

Given the increasingly serious confrontation between Mekele and Addis Ababa and the unresolved animosity between Mekele and Asmara, the TPLF feels unfairly targeted from both sides. Without political will and confidence building between the TPLF, Abiy and Isaias, the peace deal may not bear fruit.

**Agencies**

## This virus divides as it multiplies

By Camaren Peter

SOUTH Africa is arguably the most vulnerable it has ever been in the new democratic dispensation. In 2020, the annual Edelman Barometer survey revealed that public trust in key societal institutions - government, business, media and academia - was lowest in South Africa among all countries that were surveyed. This does not augur well for our prospects to successfully navigate the Covid-19 crisis.

These institutions are not without blame for the decline in public trust in them. Government and business corruption, media sensationalism and academic insensitivity, in a society that has decidedly reproduced the racial and class disparities of apartheid, has withered the "rainbow nation" narrative. We are now a nation divided.

Societies under stress often rupture along their weakest fault lines. The escalating Covid crisis is amplifying unresolved tensions that have the potential to tear the nation apart even further. As the coronavirus multiplied exponentially, claiming the lives of more and more South Africans, it widened the fault lines in our society, dividing people into the very race-based boxes that our democracy was intended to dismantle.

A plague of poverty has combined with a biological plague to exacerbate existing tensions, and it has spilled over into public discourse, most notably on social media. Social media analytics, from a variety of sources, indicates that these tensions worsened as we approached the first peak of infections.

Initially, a fair amount of admirable social cohesion was brokered in tackling the ill effects of the pandemic. Political parties presented a united front, and the planning - we were assured - would be guided by the best scientific advice that we could draw on. Government enjoyed a high level of support from both its political opponents as well as citizens. Civil society, business and ordinary people mobilised to help the poor.

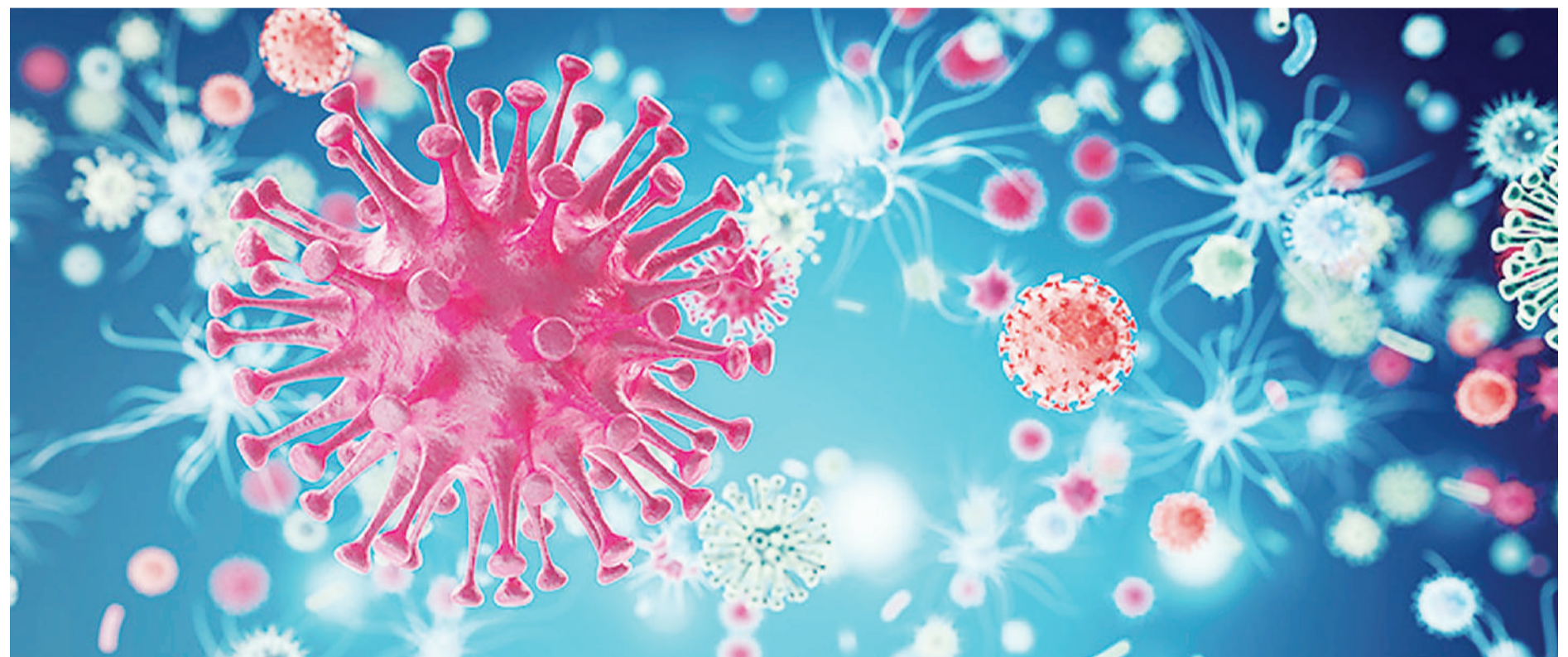
Fear drove us closer together and we responded by cooperating with one of the toughest lockdowns in the world. We put our faith in our key institutions, despite the fact that our faith in them had been steadily declining for over a decade.

For a moment, we put our trust in our academics, government, the media and business to guide us through the crisis.

Yet this was not to last. In this new era of politics, political spin that actively discredits institutions has become routine. Positioning themselves as experts in every arena without qualification, politicians have proven especially guilty of deliberately undermining the very institutions that we require most to navigate crisis.

Take Helen Zille, for example, who indiscriminately waded into the student protests to discredit critical race theorists and students alike. During the current crisis she became a proponent of the now discredited notion of "herd immunity". With scarcely any expertise in either domain, she waded into these debates and drove wedges between institutions and society deeper.

And she is not alone. Politicians, wanna-be politicians, industry leaders, social media influencers, celebrities, religious leaders, crackpots and conspiracists have all joined the milieu, resulting in a deafening noise that has all but drowned out the clear institutional signals we desperately need to navigate the crisis successfully.



It is this devastating assault on the integrity of the institutions that we need to preserve social cohesion and organise our response to the pandemic that has deepened the fissures in our society. As doubts and uncertainties are exploited, ordinary people are lost in the gap between what we know about the virus and what we are still discovering as the pandemic unfolds. The consequence is that our ability to act coherently in response to the pandemic has significantly diminished.

It is imperative that a new leadership and social compact is brokered on the understanding that this is not a moment to exploit differences for political and personal gain. This is a moment to forge unity among us and emerge with a stronger sense of who we are, what we stand for, and what we can achieve when we work together.

Not only is it cruel and irresponsible to arrogantly wade into the fray armed with nothing but half-baked "facts" and speculation at best, and opportunism and wild conspiratorial delusions at worst, it puts the lives and livelihoods of ordinary people at risk. By obscuring the clarity of institutional messaging, they have confused the citizenry, leaving them without clear guidelines on how to change everyday behaviours to get society back up and running again.

If people don't take precautionary measures seriously and are in doubt about how to adapt to the new reality, we will endure spike after spike in infections, and businesses, schools and the like will be forced to close.

We will endure a staccato economy, a spiralling death

count, and the healthcare burden of people who have to live with the lingering after-effects of the virus (the "long-haulers").

Yet most strangely, in the vacuum that has emerged in the wake of public disconnection from our institutions, we have seen the emergence of bizarre, self-serving rhetoric.

Ultranationalist,ophobic messaging has skyrocketed, threatening to expose us yet again as the pariah of the continent. Alongside the infamously unknown @uLerato-Pillay's attacks on foreign migrants and refugees, smaller, more recent political parties such as South Africa First and politicians such as Herman Mashaba are ramping upophobic rhetoric, seeking to capitalise on misplaced fear and prejudice. Our once exalted position on the continent as a shining light for tolerance, freedom and constitutional democracy is now an unrecognisable wreck.

Thinly-veiled white supremacy advocates have attempted to disguise their messaging in terms of the "white genocide" narrative, positioning themselves - bizarrely - as comrades alongside the Black Lives Matter movement. This despite the fact that black people are far more likely to be murdered in South Africa. Moreover, the irony of identifying with Black Lives Matter while at the same time promoting the "All Lives Matter" message appears to escape the proponents of this narrative. Predictably, no "All Murders Matter" rhetoric has emerged from this camp.

Race and class divides have risen to prominence, revealing a nation of two starkly disconnected realities. While the

poor, predominantly black and brown people navigate the threat of hunger, white South Africans were ranting that Woolworths had to stop selling rotisserie chicken.

To add to this unholy milieu, an EFF central command member was caught posing as a white woman on social media - Tracey Zille - to put out racist messaging that directed would-be "fellow" racists to internet pages off which he was earning advertising revenue.

In this new reality, truth is stranger than fiction. Catalysed by divisive rhetoric, profound distrust and disengagement from our core societal institutions - stoked by both official and unofficial actors - the virus proceeds to divide as it multiplies. And our nation is left the worse for it.

It is imperative that a new leadership and social compact is brokered on the understanding that this is not a moment to exploit differences for political and personal gain. This is a moment to forge unity among us and emerge with a stronger sense of who we are, what we stand for, and what we can achieve when we work together.

It is a moment to trust our institutions and to hold them accountable at the same time. It is also a moment to begin exposing those who would divide us, and to interrogate their motives.

The alternative - a society and politics driven by divisive, populist, ultranationalist rhetoric - is too scary to contemplate but it may well come to fruition, as it has in so many other nations across the world.

**Agencies**

## Enhancing agro-ecological practices, key in reducing farmers and pastoralists conflicts

By Getrude Mbugo

IN recent decades, pastoralist and farmer conflicts in many parts of Tanzania spread violence, loss of property, massive displacement of people who were as well injured and even killed.

These conflicts are nurtured with shrinking grazing lands due to pressures from the growing human population which is accompanied with a need for land for arable crop farming.

The government's response is perceived by many involved people as insufficient. Conflicts have potential to be the underlying power of stimulating innovation. This is the starting point where agro-ecology can evolve its strengths in various ways.

To support the government's efforts to address the farmers and pastoralists conflicts, the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) embarked on the project dubbed "Farmers and Pastoralists Collaboration (FPC)" which is implemented in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region.

Supported by Biovision and Liechtensteiner Development Service (LED), the 6-year FPC project goal is to enhance sustainable livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists through agroecological practices in Tanzania creating a solution where both parties can create local circular economies, where everyone benefits, and conflicts are drastically reduced.

Agroecology is the application of ecological principles to the interactions between human beings and their environment, as well as to their consequences, with the goal of minimising the negative effects of certain human activities. It aims at protecting the environment, ensuring the sustainable renewal of the natural resources (water, soil, biodiversity, etc.) necessary for production, and making sparing use of non-renewable resources. By gradually eliminating the use of chemicals, it strives toward implementing organic farming, thus contributing to improving the health of farmers and consumers alike.

According to the SAT executive director Janet Maro, the FPC project is implemented in two phases whereby the first phase

was implemented from 2017 to 2019 and the second phase goes up to 2022.

She said that the purpose of the project is that the practice of agroecology in Mvomero and Morogoro Rural Districts by farmers and pastoralists creates mutual benefits for both parties which are increased income, balanced nutrition, reduced conflicts and strengthened climate resilience.

She said that the first phase of the project was implemented for three years from 2017 to 2019 benefiting directly over 3000 farmers and pastoralists.

Maro said that in 2017, over 192 farmers and 31 pastoralists received training in organic cultivation of seasonal crops. Besides that, another 131 pastoralists were mobilized and trained on sustainable livestock keeping.

She said from January up to the end of February 2018, over 178 farmers in eight different groups were mobilized. SAT's plan is to mobilize 250 farmers and 40 pastoralists this year.

She said that the series of activities that enabled the project to reach its goals includes facilitation on agroecological methods that also covers training on organic farming methods and certification of organic farmers to enable farmers supply organic certified products to the available markets.

"Such training is complemented with capacity building of the farmer groups, so that they gain skills in leadership, marketing and saving and lending. Special focus was hereby in supporting women who have especially from the pastoralist community reduced freedom in creating income," she said.

Together with training farmers and pastoralists also benefited from the Machinery ring component which provided such services as Farm ploughing with SAT tractors, maize shelling machines, transporting harvests and manure to and from the farm using trailers. Farmers' harvests were brought to the nearby SAT Farmer Training Centre. Here products like sunflower, sorghum and maize will be processed and marketed at a good price. The residues from the food processing such as sunflower



seed cake can be used for animal feed and offered to the pastoralists."

The project also involved exchange of manure for livestock feed strengthened again the advantages for all parties. Fertilized plots result in higher production and higher production means more available animal feed.

The fodder has potential to increase milk production which goes hand in hand with new introduced or crossed breeds. Lucrative dairy business leads to reduced flocks and to decrease conflict potential.

"Within the three years of the project implementation, a total of 1435 Female and 1415 Male benefited directly from the project activities including the dry land farmers, pastoralists, project workers and the extension officers responsible for those villages. 30,060 people benefited indirectly, these are; the families of the farmers benefit through increased

household income, members of saving and lending groups provide social funds and social security for their family members and farmers who are trained by farmers who gained knowledge at SAT FTC," she said.

Maro said that many people argue that agroecology is important to sustain the food production in Africa but best cases with strong market components are rare.

According to her, through thinking and acting in cycles pastoralists and farmers can benefit from each other; Agroecological practices can impact the value chain in a positive way through combining local strengths and focusing on national market opportunities.

She noted that Morogoro is a conflict zone where pastoralists and farmers are clashing regarding land use.

"It is a social entrepreneurial project with strong model character to solve an existing social problem where only in 2015 about 50 people died in clashes between pastoralists and farmers,"

In addition to that transformation, FPC also encouraged pastoralists to grow crops. This raises their awareness of how it is like when cows invade a crop field. I

t is a goal of this project to reduce conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. First impressions imply that it works well, evaluation is underway. There is no doubt, though, that the Maasai remarkably improved their variety of food through farming.

The FPC project is supported by Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development and LED Liechtenstein Development Service.

## EA business community expressed confidence for Amina Mohamed as WTO director general

By Guardian Reporter

THE business community in the East African bloc has expressed confidence in the candidature of Ambassador Amina Mohamed as the Director General at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

This follows a virtual meeting organized by the East African Business Council (EABC) that convened industry captains from the East Africa region to deliberate on deepening relations between the

private sector in East Africa and WTO.

This is buoyed by her promise to steer reforms towards eliminating trade barriers and implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, if selected.

Speaking from Geneva, Ambassador Amina (pictured) told the industry captains that if selected, she will push for a vibrant multi-lateral trading system to boost Africa's trade.

"If I was selected, I would



be a strong advocate for an open trading system. I'd also be a leader in reforming the system and particularly in re-

covering the economy from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Amb Amina

According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, businesses in African countries currently face higher tariffs when they export within Africa than outside the continent.

"If we eliminated the current overall average tariffs of 6.1 percent in Africa, we would actually double intra-Africa trade among African countries, from 15 percent to 30 percent. If we also eliminate some of the

pressing tariff barriers, intra-Africa trade will significantly improve," she said.

The Ambassador noted that although trade rules are negotiated by governments of the WTO member states, it is the private sector that uses them to expand trade and investments.

"A dynamic East Africa community with an active private sector will ensure that the region benefits significantly from the World Trade System but also the African Conti-

ental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)," said Amb Amina.

EABC CEO, Dr Peter Mathuki said: "We are confident that Amb. Amina in her reform agenda at WTO, the voice of the African private sector shall be articulated and heard, with a focus on deepening engagement between the private sector and the global body."

The selection process of the WTO Director-General is now in the third phase where WTO members are consulted to narrow down on the candidate to

receive consensus support.

The virtual engagement was attended by over 75 distinguished business leaders including Dr. Manu Chandaria, Founding Chairman of EABC, Nick Nesbitt, current Chairman of EABC, Dennis Kareru, Chair of Rwanda Hospitality Association, Simon Kaheru, Board Member of Uganda Manufacturers Association, Hamad Hamad, Executive Director of Zanzibar National Chambers of Commerce and Industries, among others.

## Africa agriculture status report launched in Rwanda

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

THE 2020 Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR) has been launched at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) virtual summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

This year's AASR focuses on Feeding Africa's Cities by assessing the opportunities, challenges and policies required to enable African farmers and agribusinesses to serve the rapidly growing urban food markets. The report seeks to find ways for smallholder farmers to drive food security, rural prosperity, and inclusive economic growth.

"This report highlights the opportunity for all agriculture industry stakeholders to bring together viewpoints that define the transformation agenda while outlining the practical next steps to an agricultural revolution," said Dr Agnes Kalibata, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

The report begins by outlining the opportunities provided by Africa's urban food markets to the continent's 60 million farms. It indicates that cities shape Africa's agribusiness environment by affecting patterns of agricultural production and inducing the rapid expansion of food processing and distribution plans.

"This year's AASR shows that as the centre of gravity in Africa's agri-food systems shifts increasingly towards urban areas, a cohort of new, non-traditional actors - including city planners, mayors, district councils, trader organizations and public health professionals - are becoming key players in the implementation of agricultural policy," said Andrew Cox, AGRA's Chief of Staff and Strategy.

Subsequent chapters touch on the opportunities in Africa's growing urban food markets while recognizing that the effective governance of urban food systems requires inclusive models that coordinate and harmonize the actions of the many diverse players now shaping African agri-food systems.

"Traditional markets and small-format shops currently account for 80 - 90% of urban food retailing in African cities. Supermarket shares, though currently small, seem like-



ly to increase in the coming decades.

"Small farmers reach urban food markets primarily via traditional wholesale markets and the efficient operation of these markets, therefore, becomes key to small farmer access and competitiveness," reads the report, in part.

While recognizing the debilitating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its role in exacerbating existing economic and social inequalities, the report defines five focus areas in a bid to overcome the problem of

urban under-nutrition and accelerate the urgency of urban food system planning.

These focus areas are improved urban food system governance; efficient urban wholesale markets; food safety regulation and enforcement; regional free trade and agricultural policy harmonization; and agricultural research focused on high-growth, high-value food commodities.

Domestic food distribution systems, intra-African trade and food safety are the other themes of the report leading to the conclu-

sion that improved urban food system governance and performance can create new opportunities for Africa to transform its agricultural endeavours into thriving businesses.

The report was launched at the 10th edition of the AGRF, an annual gathering that has this year brought together 4,000 delegates including heads of state and government, agriculture ministers, members of the civil society, private sector leaders, scientists and farmers in discussions to find

ways of feeding Africa's increasing urban populations.

This is the first time in history that the AGRF is held virtually, in line with COVID-19 containment measures.

The theme of the Forum is Feed the Cities, Grow the Continent: Leveraging Urban Food Markets to Achieve Sustainable Food Systems in Africa, a call to action to rethink Africa's food systems in the delivery of resilient, better nourished, and more prosperous outcomes for all.

# Chronicle of Xi's leadership in China's war against coronavirus

BEIJING

**O**N March 10, 2020, at Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, Chinese President Xi Jinping – wearing a mask – spoke to a patient lying in bed by video link.

“What you should do now is to stay confident. We all should be confident that we will win this war,” Xi said. “Victory for Wuhan, victory for Hubei, and victory for China!”

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, appeared at a critical place – Wuhan, the Chinese city hit hardest by the COVID-19 outbreak at the time.

Eight days after Xi's visit, the city reported no new cases for the first time. On April 26, Wuhan hospitals cleared all COVID-19 cases.

Over the past seven-plus months, China – the world's most populous nation – has gone through an extraordinary time. More than 80,000 Chinese were infected by the virus and about 4,700 people lost their lives. Epidemic control became the country's top priority.

During the Spring Festival holiday starting in late January, hundreds of millions of people abandoned their holiday plans. They stayed at home for weeks in a row. Cities were locked down, businesses were closed and public gatherings were canceled.

The annual sessions of the national legislature and the national political advisory body – a key event on the country's political calendar known as the “two sessions” – were postponed for the first time due to a public health emergency.

Xi said the epidemic was the fastest spreading, most extensive and most challenging public health emergency the country had encountered since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

“Life is of paramount importance,” Xi said. He launched a “people's war” and personally took charge of the response, marshaling national resources to fight the “invisible enemy.”

In little more than a month, the rising spread of the virus was contained; in around two months, the daily increase in domestic coronavirus cases fell to single digits; and in approximately three months, a decisive victory was secured in the battle to defend Hubei Province and its capital city of Wuhan – a major achievement of strategic importance in the nationwide fight against COVID-19.

Though there were a handful of sporadic outbreaks over the past few months, the Chinese government – with its experience and targeted measures – managed to break the transmission routes quickly.

From a global perspective, China was among the first countries to resume work and reopen schools and businesses. The country is now racing against the clock to win its anti-poverty fight and achieve a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

## LEADERSHIP IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The COVID-19 epidemic changed Xi's schedule. People familiar with his work said Xi dedicated himself to leading epidemic control efforts and gave instructions every day at the height of the outbreak.

Xi devised a set of general principles to guide the fight against the virus, emphasizing “remaining confident, coming together in solidarity, adopting a science-based approach and taking targeted measures.”

On Jan. 7, when Xi chaired a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, he

underlined the importance of properly handling the epidemic – known then as “an epidemic of pneumonia of unknown cause.”

On Jan. 20, Xi gave important instructions on fighting the epidemic, emphasizing that people's lives and health must come first and resolute efforts should be made to stem the spread of the virus. He also called for the prompt release of information on the epidemic and enhanced international cooperation.

On Jan. 22, Xi ordered the immediate imposition of tight restrictions on the movement of people and channels of exit in Hubei and Wuhan. Xi said making the decision required enormous political courage. “But time calls for resolute action. Otherwise, there would be trouble,” he said.

On Jan. 23, Wuhan suspended all urban public transportation and cut off outbound flights and trains. Putting a megacity with over 10 million residents under lockdown was unprecedented, but crucial.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, Xi has repeatedly stressed that cadres must have a strong sense of responsibility. “Stay loyal to the Party, strive for people's well-being, work hard...” These are the consistent tenets upheld in various Party endeavors.

Xi did not sleep well on Chinese New Year's Eve as he shouldered the heavy responsibility to fight the epidemic.

The next day, Jan. 25, Xi convened a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on epidemic control. He told his six colleagues on the standing committee that the situation was pressing and they needed to study the issue together.

Xi took the lead in making a donation to support epidemic control efforts. He said the principle of early detection, reporting, quarantine and treatment must be strictly observed. And he called for saving lives by raising admission and cure rates and lowering infection and fatality rates.

Xi made specific response demands at different stages of the battle. Since the start of the outbreak, he has chaired a great number of high-level meetings to devise containment measures. These included 17 meetings of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, four meetings of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, and leadership meetings on law-based governance, cyberspace affairs, foreign affairs and the deepening of reform amid the epidemic.

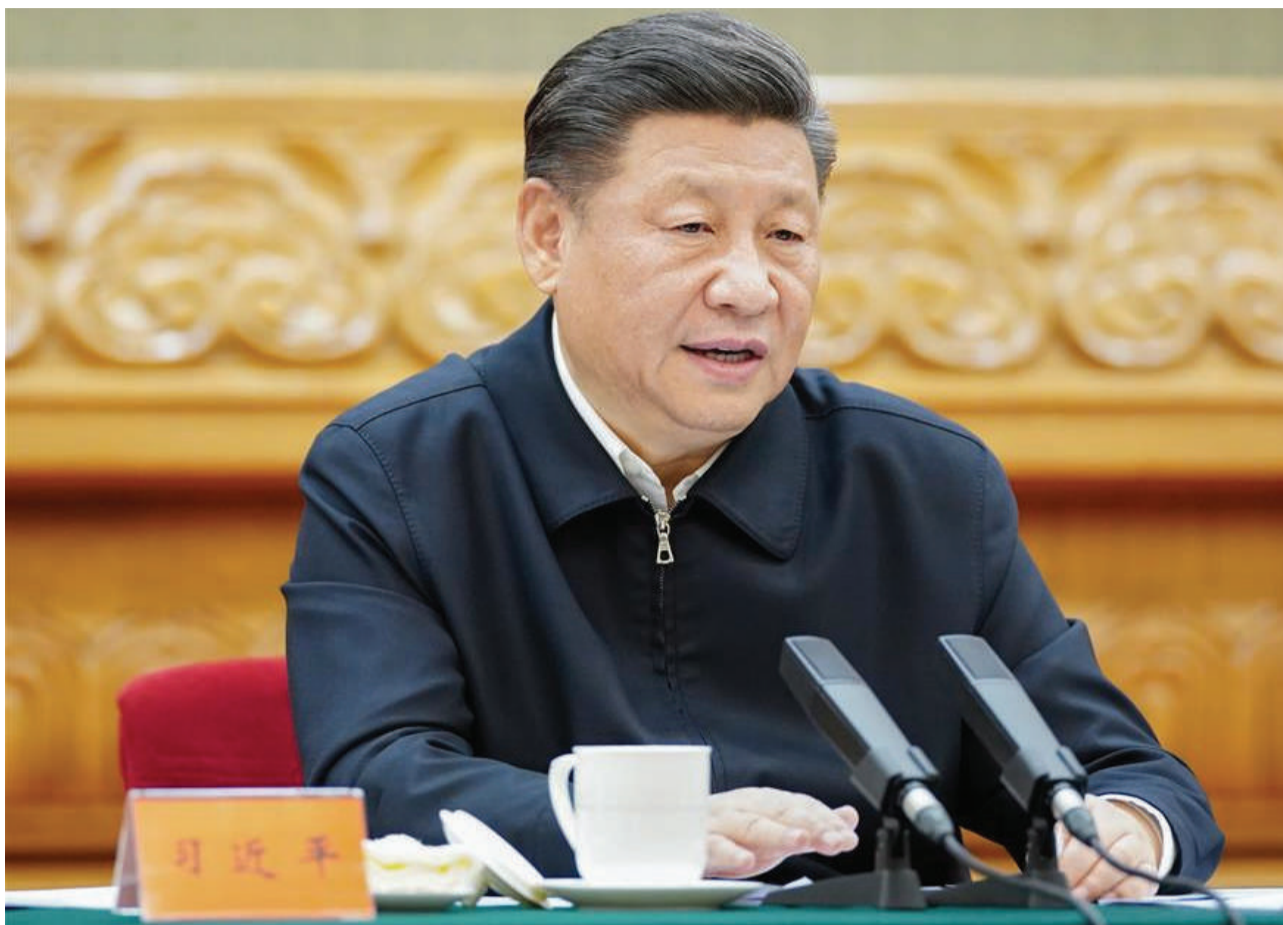
He also instructed the military to join the fight and chaired a series of symposiums, including one with non-CPC members to hear their suggestions and another with experts on building a strong public health system.

He convened large teleconferences, one of which was the largest held in China since 1949. It was attended by 170,000 officials from central leadership down to county-level units across the country.

Xi also carried out nine domestic inspections to guide epidemic control, economic development and other work: two in Beijing, one in Wuhan and the other six in Zhejiang, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Jilin and Anhui provinces, as well as Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

At the postponed “two sessions” in late May, Xi joined political advisors and lawmakers in four group discussions to plan epidemic control and economic development measures.

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said when he was in Beijing, he saw President Xi lead China's efforts to mobilize the government and society and to make the response every citizen's busi-



Chinese President Xi Jinping



**From a global perspective, China was among the first countries to resume work and reopen schools and businesses. The country is now racing against the clock to win its anti-poverty fight and achieve a moderately prosperous society in all respects**

ness.

Political observer Eric Li wrote in an article posted on the website of Foreign Policy, a U.S. magazine, that the decision to lock down Wuhan and Hubei turned out to be one that saved the nation from a devastating catastrophe.

Namibian President Hage Geingob said Xi has led the Chinese people in waging an effective fight against COVID-19, which has demonstrated outstanding leadership and been highly appreciated by countries around the world, including those from Africa.

In a letter to Xi, 18 CEOs of the Global CEO Council said China, under Xi's strong leadership, has rapidly contained the coronavirus epidemic, taken the lead in resuming work and production, and played a positive role in supporting the global COVID-19 fight and maintaining world economic stability.

## INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHS GIVEN FULL PLAY

Xi stressed that it is imperative to coordinate national response measures to fight the outbreak, adding that concentrating strength to accomplish big tasks is an advantage of China's socialist system.

Support was summoned from across the nation. All jumped into action after Xi, as the leadership core of the CPC Central Committee and the Party, issued his orders.

A central leading group on the epidemic response was set up on Jan. 25. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central

Committee, led a central guiding group to oversee work on the ground in Hubei for three months.

“Whatever situations it encounters or whatever needs it has, the group can directly phone me,” said Xi, who made more than 100 instructions to the group.

Under Xi's leadership, more than 90 million CPC members and 46 million grassroots Party organizations joined the battle.

“The general secretary says the interests of the people come above all else. We, as Party members, must be at the forefront,” said Xia Jian, secretary of a Party branch at Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University.

Some lost their lives after they were infected on the front line while attending to patients. Liu Zhiming, president of Wuchang Hospital, and Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist at the Central Hospital of Wuhan, were among the fallen heroes honored as martyrs, a title given to citizens who bravely sacrifice their lives for the nation and the people.

Employees who are Party members also took the lead to work around the clock in fields closely connected with epidemic control such as building hospitals and producing masks.

Heeding Xi's order, the military sent its first group of medics to Wuhan on Chinese New Year's Eve. In total, three groups involving over 4,000 service personnel were dispatched. Supplies were airlifted to Wuhan by large transport aircraft.

China mobilized the best doctors, the most advanced equipment and the most needed resources to assist the all-out fight against the virus in Hubei and Wuhan, with all treatment expenses covered by the government, Xi said during the “two sessions.”

Robert Kuhn, a leading U.S. scholar on China studies and chairman of the Kuhn Foundation, described China's mobilization as “unprecedented” in global health history. Across China, over 42,000 medical workers, including academicians and top experts, were sent to Hubei. They endured tremendous fatigue and stress, and paid a heavy price. More than 2,000 medical workers were infected, and scores died in the line of duty.

In Wuhan, 16 exhibition halls and sports venues were converted into makeshift hospitals. Dozens of hospitals were repurposed. More than 600 venues were used for quarantine sites. All these measures helped add about 3,000 beds on a daily basis, easing the strain on hospital beds in the city.

“The key learning from China is speed,” said Canadian epidemiologist Bruce Aylward, who led a team of WHO-organized international experts to China for a nine-day joint mission on COVID-19 in February. Outside the hard-hit zone, the manufacturing of medical supplies was cranked up and “green passages” were opened. In a short time, everything from masks to life support equipment was rushed to the front line.

At the height of the outbreak, Hubei accumulated more than 100 extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machines, about a quarter of the nation's total of these sophisticated life support systems.

Xi ordered leveraging the country's institutional strength of “pairing” support. Nineteen provincial regions were “paired” with 16 cities and prefectures in Hubei to help them contain the outbreak.

Xi said science and technology hold the

key to “eventually prevailing over the outbreak.” He demanded research to be fast-tracked to solve key issues while meeting all safety standards.

Universities, research institutes and businesses across the country joined forces to develop vaccines, medicines and treatment. A vaccine developed by Chinese researchers was the world's first to enter phase-two clinical trials on April 12. By July 23, nine enterprises in China had started clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines. The emergency use of COVID-19 vaccines has also started.

In a country with a huge population of 1.4 billion, people acted orderly; they took the Party and government's advice seriously, staying at home for weeks and practicing social distancing.

Over 4 million community workers were mobilized to regularly disinfect public spaces, check body temperatures, and register visitors and take them to quarantine if necessary.

Grid management and neighborhood watches were initiated in some cities to detect and isolate suspected cases and their close contacts as soon as possible. Many volunteers showed up to help.

“Communities have made huge contributions in this epidemic response,” Xi told community workers during a tree-planting activity in Beijing. “Looking forward, there are still formidable tasks ahead.”

China's approach, truly mobilizing all of government and all of society, is estimated to have averted hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 cases, according to a report by the WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19. International medical journal *The Lancet* said there are important lessons that presidents and prime ministers can learn from China's experience, highlighting the role of public health measures, such as surveillance and exhaustive contact tracing, in delaying the spread of infection.

China's COVID-19 fight offers three important pieces of experience to the world: talk to the public, slow the transmission of the disease, and prepare health systems for a spike in demand, according to the London-based magazine *The Economist*.

## PEOPLE FIRST

In essence, what Xi commands is a “people's war.” By and large, it is a war waged by the people and for the people, embodying the fundamental purpose of the CPC, the world's largest ruling political party – to serve the people wholeheartedly.

“People” is the most prominent recurring word in the meetings he chaired and the instructions he issued.

Xi has stressed putting people's lives and health first and placing their interests above anything else. He demanded closely relying on the people to win the war. He also said all prevention and control measures of the CPC Central Committee were taken with the primary consideration of preventing infections among the people and saving lives.

China has made COVID-19 treatment free, pledging to treat every patient and leave no one unattended.

The oldest COVID-19 patient saved in China is 108 years old.

“We saved lives at all costs. We never gave up no matter how old a patient was or how serious their condition was,” Xi said.

Jiao Yahui, an official with the National

Health Commission, said the elderly were among the most difficult to treat and required more medical resources than others. “But China has given every patient equal treatment, in disregard of their age or wealth,” she said, adding that this reflects the traditional Chinese virtues Xi has emphasized that put people first in state governance.

Jiao said China has far fewer COVID-19 cases and deaths than major developed nations in Europe and North America.

Xi developed close ties to the people early in life. At 15, he went to the village of Liangjiahe in Shaanxi Province, and spent seven years there, working and living with peasants on the Loess Plateau.

Meeting the press after the 18th CPC National Congress, Xi said, “People's aspirations for a better life are what we should fight for.”

Xi has made people's health a major focus. Not long after he was elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee in 2012, he traveled to a village clinic to learn about the new rural cooperative medical system. He has repeatedly stressed that without good health for all, there would be no moderately prosperous society in all respects.

On Feb. 10, when the cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Beijing reached 342, Xi put on his mask and visited a residential community, a hospital and a district disease prevention and control center. He held out his wrist to have his body temperature checked upon entering every location.

Xi chatted with residents in a street, asking them about the prices of vegetables.

“Let's not shake hands at this unusual time,” Xi said. “We must have confidence that we can prevail over the epidemic.”

“We absolutely can beat it,” the residents responded.

A month later, Xi visited a residential community in Wuhan. At this time, daily new confirmed cases on the mainland had dropped to 24, but Wuhan still had 14,514 COVID-19 patients. The task of containment remained arduous.

Walking between apartment blocks, Xi looked up and waved to residents under lockdown who stuck out their heads from their windows and balconies to greet him.

“Let's keep it up! Hold on for a little longer!” Xi said.

Speaking at a symposium in Wuhan, he made a special request for officials to supply more fish, a favorite food of Wuhan people. Andrey Ostrovsky, deputy director of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences, said Xi's Wuhan inspection was a clear testament to the Party's principle of putting people's lives and health first.

Xi cares deeply about medical workers. He demanded maximum efforts to reduce the loss of life and instructed cadres to relieve medical workers' stress, provide for their basic needs and give them enough rest and encouragement.

At Huoshenshan Hospital, Xi spoke to fully gowned doctors by video link. “I can't see your whole faces as you are all wearing protective gowns and masks. But in my heart, you are the most beloved people,” he said.

Chen Jing, a lead nurse of the hospital's intensive care unit, said she was touched by Xi's visit and felt stronger than ever with the leadership and people firmly standing by medical workers.

On International Workers' Day, Xi wrote to the staff of a household service company in central China. He lauded a wide range of working people from sanitation workers, deliverymen to workers producing anti-epidemic supplies. Their hard work and contributions, Xi said, had gathered tremendous strength to prevail over the epidemic.

On International Nurses Day, Xi applauded nurses who braved the danger to save lives during the COVID-19 fight. On China's Doctors' Day, Xi again lauded medical workers who fought tenaciously against the virus on the front line.

Xi was concerned about Chinese citizens' safety abroad and asked embassies, consulates, overseas Chinese associations and student unions to ramp up support. The government arranged flights to bring back Chinese students and other people in need from Iran, Italy, Britain and other countries. Cadres, Xi said, must shoulder their responsibilities for the people. Those who disobey orders, be self-serving, fail to take on responsibilities or have undesirable conduct will be punished. In serious cases, the supervisors of wrongdoers will be held accountable too, Xi said.

On April 4, Xi led the nation of 1.4 billion to observe three minutes of silence for the lives lost to the coronavirus. This year's “two sessions” also opened with the mourning of the fallen, once again demonstrating the people-first spirit.

*To be continued*



Xi Jinping meets with visiting World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 28, 2020. (Xinhua)

## BUSINESS



An ad for a Vichy Laboratoire skincare product shows fairer skin as the desired result.

## CAUTION

## What you need to know about rebranded skin-whitening creams

## HARARE

Skin whitening has proven to be damaging, physically and mentally. But sales are booming. Experts predict the market will be worth US\$31.2 billion by 2024.

The multi-billion-dollar market for skin whitening products is an enduring sign of commodity racism. Skin whitening is at once an old and emerging globalising industry. Women (and some men) whiten their skin by using products that reduce or suppress melanin biosynthesis and function.

Products are also marketed to white women with the promise of making white women's aging skin and faces appear smooth, wrinkle-free and younger looking. As an anti-aging care, skin whitening is formulated to bleach out visible signs of aging such as age spots. So actually, skin-whitening products have already been marketed under different labels such as skin brighteners for at least the past 20 years.

### Transformation from whiteness to wellness

Medical sounding terms such as cosmeceutical and skinceutical have long been used to market skin-whitening products to white women to fight age spots, dull skin, hyperpigmentation, etc. These coded words widely promote the message that good skin is youthful looking and glowing.

In the marketing of skin-whitening products, lighter skin embodies whiteness not only as a sign of racial difference but also as a signifier of class privilege. The rebranding and niche marketing of skin-whitening products is made easier by the fact that these are often melanin-suppressing products with pharmaceutical properties.

Increasingly, advertising for skin-whitening cosmetics uses terms that can be substituted with whiteness: glowing, radiant, translucent, bright and clear. These terms frame skin whitening as a source of recuperative wellness and youthful femininity. Meanwhile, there is no clearly defined regulatory framework for these products. This makes it easier for endless rebranding and niche marketing of skin whitening products.

India confronts long-held bias against dark skin

A growing number of Indians are speaking out against cosmetic giants selling skin-whitening creams as global anti-racism protests shine a spotlight on Asia's obsession with fair skin. Such products generate billions of dollars in sales, with promi...

### The banner of anti-aging

Skin whitening has been marketed as part of a fight against aging, which

means it has also come to be seen as a legitimate way to take care of one's skin. Women are told over and over that getting and keeping glowing skin at all ages is a standard requirement for femininity and beauty.

When corporations promote skin whitening under the banner of anti-aging wellness to aging middle class white women, the practice is often defended, both by consumers and the cosmetics industry, as a legitimate way of regenerating the aging white female body and shielding it from environmental deterioration, modern stress, air pollution and more. In this way, advertisements for anti-aging skin whiteners are supposedly formulated to promote wellness by restoring, regenerating and protecting white women's skin from the harmful effects of sun damage and other environmentally induced signs of aging.

The idea that increased pigmentation represents an unhealthy process of premature aging has facilitated the promotion of skin whitening products to both white women and women of colour. The symbolic association of whiteness with youthful appearance and anti-aging wellness has driven the research and development and mass marketing of high technology-based skin whitening products with anti-aging claims.

As a result, the industry invites all women, regardless of ethnicity, race and or nationality, to seek smooth, radiant and youthful-looking skin, which is free from age spots and hyperpigmentation, by consuming skin-whitening products.

### The misguided desire for whiteness

In the past two decades, skin-whitening products have been promoted in glossy magazines, online shops, upscale health spas, wellness boutiques, department stores and websites run by cosmetics firms. It is pertinent to stress that the globalisation of skin whitening depends on more than a misguided desire for whiteness. The cosmetics, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries will continue to invest in skin-whitening products by using terms which convey that a good skin is youthful looking – and white.

The leading cosmetics and pharmaceutical firms have declared that they will no longer mention skin whitening. Yet they will continue to promote products that produce skin-whitening effects. This lack of real change reveals how deeply the intersection of race, gender, femininity and ageism continues to shape the globalisation, normalisation and mainstreaming of the skin-whitening industry.

## TECH SAVVY

# When essential farming skills are just SMS away

## NAIROBI

Messaging has become one of the most popular methods of communication, whether it's through text messages or messaging apps. But imagine texting, getting information and feedback from your phone without subscribing to internet or using air-time.

With a platform known as Arifu, farmers and rural entrepreneurs from Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Uganda are learning about finances and agronomy by texting an interactive Chatbot. A chatbot is a computer program that simulates human conversation through voice commands or text chats or both.

The chatbot responds to standard questions immediately, at any time of the day. If a learner needs to ask a question in the middle of the night, a chatbot can answer them within seconds. Chatbots have been used by companies such as Starbucks where customers can order for a drink via messaging or voice, one can request a ride from Lyft via chat and you can get all kinds of makeup tutorials if you chat to Sephora on Kik messenger.

This has improved the efficiency of businesses across the world through streamlining communication with consumers. In Africa, however, the technology is transforming education, farming, and rural entrepreneurship by making it easy for organisations to pass knowledge and skills to masses through basic phones.

One user, Janet Kanyua, is a 45-year-old mother and farmer who keeps dairy cows, rears chicken, and grows beans and maize in Imenti Central, Meru. She started the small scale farming activities after finishing her secondary education.

As with most Kenya's rural small-



Craig Heintzman, the co-founder and CEO of Arifu.

scale farmers, she often struggled to sustain growth due to obstacles such as limited access to finance to purchase quality farming inputs, limited access to knowledge on good agricultural practices, and appropriate technologies. Then she discovered Arifu.

"I saw a TV advertisement about a way where I would learn about farming using my basic phone by texting a question and I would get a reply. I dialled the number. I have trained with them for about three years. I learn about cows and rearing Kienyeji chicken," she said.

She started learning about animal husbandry and later advanced to crop farming and finances. Now Janet has turned her dairy farming into a business. She has also bought a chaff cutter machine to chop cow feed and now keeps a superior cow breed which has increased milk production substantive-

ly and sustainably, increasing her household income.

"Earlier I did not know about cross-breeding and that there is a specific fertilizer for maize and one for cereals. I was just buying DAP and mixing it with soil. I used to do mixed farming but on my phone, I have learned that it is not the best. I never used to make a lot of money," she said.

According to Craig Heintzman, the co-founder and CEO of Arifu, many farm households and small scale rural entrepreneurs lack access to the credible information and tools they need to manage and improve their earnings.

But there's a way to reach them: In Kenya specifically, 62 percent of the country's population of 49 million have access to mobile phones. The downside is millions are without the internet nor smartphones and hence cannot access the Web or so-

cial media to learn new skills.

This is where Arifu comes in. In 2015, Canadian National and Business Graduate Heintzman launched a platform where people access free educational content from helpful sources and credible organisations over any mobile phone.

Mr Heintzman and his team developed a simple SMS chatbot accessible by any phone on the market via SMS, WhatsApp, and Facebook Messenger. "If you create a website you will still not reach them as they do not have a computer or a smartphone. Arifu is engaging, entertaining, and free so people can afford to use it," he said.

The company is headquartered in Nairobi. In an interview with Digital Business, Mr Heintzman said the platform is purposely built to teach people how to solve their problems and learn on topics such as financial literacy and farming techniques

such as which cow breed suits their region and how to reach bigger markets.

Arifu has worked with banks, mobile operators, agribusinesses, Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), and NGOs such as Syngenta, Mobigrow Kenya Commercial bank (KCB), Equity Bank, Digi Farm by Safaricom, Vodacom, CGAP, TechnoServe, and the Kenyan government to spread skills training and product information to the underserved segment of the population. He said the organisations pay for the platform subscriptions and educational content creation.

The content is then delivered to the Arifu chatbox so that it is free for those who are looking to learn skills and information. Content can be in any language that can be delivered through a mobile phone. In Kenya, Kiswahili and English are the languages mostly used on the platform.

"These organisations have an interest in educating the population on how to grow their business but they are finding that to do that face-to-face is very expensive and hard to scale up. Some populations are also hard to reach," he said.

Five years into the market, the venture is already having encouraging results

The platform has helped 1.4 million people mostly farmers and small businesses in the rural areas learn on digital financial services, commercialization, how to save, loan facilities, and agronomy.

According to a study conducted on 300 farmers with Mobigrow Kenya Commercial bank (KCB), Arifu reports that 81 percent of farmers reported improved crop production, and 73 percent of farmers reported an increase in income.

## IMPRESSIVE

## Mother and son take Hollywood by storm as reality show gets noticed

## JOHANNESBURG

Reality TV star and Durban entrepreneur Shawn Mkhize and her son Andile Mpisane have been nominated for three international awards in the fourth annual Hollywood African Prestigious Awards (HAP Awards).

The popular Mzansi Magic reality show KwaMam'Mkhize has been nominated in the category best reality TV show while Mpisane has been nominated in the category best new independent African artists and best new male independent African music video.

Mpisane has a love for gqom and viewers got a glimpse of the music video for his EP, Umcimbi, featuring Madanon and Distraction Boyz. The HAP Awards nominated the music video, which has more than a million views on YouTube. The announcement was made on Tuesday.

However, it seems not everyone celebrated with Mpisane on his nomination, with the news getting mixed views on social media. Tweeps raised questions about how Mpisane's song Umcimbi was recognised internationally while not getting the thumbs up at home.

However, Mpisane was not bothered by some of the nasty comments. But he admitted that he was also surprised but very grateful for the nomination. "I always focus on what's positive and that keeps me grounded. This is my validation that I'm on the right path. My focus is to come out of the lockdown bigger and better and not to listen to the noise," he said.

Mpisane added that he always believed in his music and the proof was the work he put into it. "If you believe in yourself first the rest will follow. I'm grateful for all the support I've re-



Shawn Mkhize and her son Andile Mpisane have been nominated for HAP Awards.

ceived. I do this to make my family and mom proud."

Getting international recognition is validation to us that what we are doing, sharing our lives with Mzansi has been received positively. He is currently working on some collaborations. "You'll just have to stay tuned and watch this space," was all he was prepared to say.

Mkhize's nomination

comes almost a year after the airing of her popular reality show. She was thrilled: "Getting international recognition is validation to us that what we are doing, sharing our lives with Mzansi has been received positively. The love and support has been overwhelming." She said her team was also very surprised. "I still can't believe it myself. Most of the show is in isiZulu,

so the fact that we were able to get this nomination means a lot to us."

Asked if she was going to bring an award home, she said: "We hope so, getting the nomination alone is enough recognition for us, it's truly a milestone. This is not only for us, but for everyone that supports us, shows us love and believes in us. This is for Mzansi."

She shared that she was working on several projects: "You'll have to make sure you're following me on the socials to see what's coming up for Mam'Mkhize. The sky is the limit." The HAP Awards celebrate outstanding individuals whose lives have been marked by extraordinary achievements and milestones

In her reality show, which aired earlier this year, she opened up about going through a divorce with her ex-husband Sbu Mpisane. The two were once Durban's power couple living the high life, driving flashy cars and hosting A-list parties. But that past is behind her, she said. So is she single and happy? "I am very happy," she chuckled.

The HAP Awards celebrate outstanding individuals whose lives have been marked by extraordinary achievements and milestones. They also connect talented Africans with the Hollywood entertainment industry and contribute to the development of several communities in Africa and across the US. Winners will be announced on October 18 at 7pm. Viewers can watch the live streaming of the event on the website at hapaawards.com and across social media channels.

## SKIN-INTELLECTUAL

# 'I love my natural hair but my mom hates it - and it's racist'

By Ruby Stone

When I was 24, a hairdresser told me I shouldn't relax my hair anymore. I was sceptical at first; this was the only thing I knew, but then I decided to jump right in and transition.

I've had massive fights with my mother about my hair. She once told me that only a black man would love me with my hair like this and that I'm not allowed to bring 'him' home. The blatant racism was difficult to fathom; I reeled from it. Now, a couple of years later, I have a white boyfriend who loves my curls, but it still hasn't stopped my mother from going behind my back to try and convince him to persuade me to straighten my hair again.

Even though my hair is healthy and thick, the fact that it's curly and 'kroes' just doesn't sit well with her. While this really upsets me, I also realise that my mom still needs to unlearn that internalised racism and prejudice she was taught for many years.

Gadija Roshan, a clinical psychologist in Cape Town, says that hair is a big part of our identity. "It is one of the many political or socio-economic nuances that exist for so many of us, especially for non-whites, believing... that blonde and straight was the best thing since sliced bread and that perhaps consciously and unconsciously translated to less than or not good enough," she says.

She says that this feeling of not being good enough can contribute to a negative self-image and while mothers who do judge their daughter's hair may not do so purposefully, they are perhaps also



A model in her original thick hairs.

sitting with feelings of not being good enough which is a narrative that is common in an oppressive system in South Africa.

I also spoke to Sol Maria Fernandez

Knight who is a researcher at UNISA's Institute for Social and Health Sciences and specialises in issues of gender, identity, social justice and inequality. She also says that

women of colour have been taught negative things about our natural appearance.

"Historically, society has placed negative valuations on our features,

from our skin colour to our hair, which is made evident in the media's lack of inclusivity for natural hair textures, and institutional discrimination. Such valuations have maintained black women within a cycle of inferiority that trickles down to their lived realities and how they are viewed in their communities," says Maria.

She also says that the natural hair movement has helped many women of colour to let go of the myths that their hair needed to be "rectified" or was unmanageable. Now while my mother may not think she's blatantly racist, her reaction towards my hair is. That doesn't make her a terrible person, but it does mean that she needs to unlearn a lot of biases and let go of a lot of negative perceptions. This is internalised racism.

According to Donna K Bivens, who wrote on the subject for [racialequitytools.org](http://racialequitytools.org), people of colour are victimised by racism and therefore often internalise it. "That is, we develop ideas, beliefs, actions and behaviours that support or collude with racism. This internalised racism has its own systemic reality and its own negative consequences in the lives and communities of people of colour."

My mother's issue with my hair is just one example of this within the broader community of people in this country. And it is still an issue that needs to be addressed and dealt with in the best way possible.

I hope someday she accepts me for who I am and the hair I have, but it is also not up to me to teach her differently. This is an issue she needs to face on her own. But for now, I will keep wearing my curly hair exactly the way I want to and hope that works.

## OPPORTUNITY

## Govt woos investors for Kigali recreational zones

KIGALI

The Ministry of Environment and City of Kigali have urged investors to venture into dedicated recreational zones as city dwellers face a shortage of them.

The call follows the launch of the revised Kigali City Master Plan and Wetland Master Plan last week. At least 6 per cent of the City of Kigali has been set aside for recreational spaces in the new master plan.

The ministry of environment has also zoned the Kigali city wetlands. Figures show that wetlands recommended for rehabilitation take 20 per cent, wetlands recommended for sustainable utilization make 29 per cent, wetlands for conservation make 38 per cent and the rest are recommended for recreation.

Jeanne d'Arc Mujamariya, the Minister for Environment, said the wetland master plan will show the number of wetlands and their use. "Then we will work with the Rwanda Development Board to seek investors to help us exploit the wetlands depending on their use," she said. The minister explained that some wetlands have been developed by the government and could be privatised.

"As government, we are developing some wetlands into recreational space such as Nyandungu wetland to be turned into Ecotourism Park and once it is completed, it will serve as model for investors on how they can invest into recreational zones," she said stressing that the wetland master plan will guide interested investors. Wetlands serve both economic, social and environment benefits.

For instance, projections indicate that Nyandungu ecotourism park should generate over Rwf1 billion profit in the first 12 years of operation. "Investors have already expressed their interest in some wetlands and they are waiting for details in the wetland master plan," she said. Relocating people from wetlands continues to pave the way for proper use.

The city has allocated Rwf1.4 billion while trade and industry ministry allocated Rwf3 billion to continue relocating encroaching activities from wetlands. There is an estimated Rwf11 billion that will help to turn some of the vacated wetlands into recreational zones to start next year under World Bank funding.

Updates on dedicated recreational zones  
Recreational zones are not only planned in wetlands but also other areas in the city. Marie-Solange Muhirwa, City of Kigali's Chief of Urban Planning told The New Times that works at Rwandex Park in Gikondo Sector are at 98 per cent completion under the first phase.

"What is remaining is completing pedestrian lanes," she said. The park has gardens with green lawns, colorful indigenous tree species and refreshment facilities, small ponds of waters with paths designed for pedestrians coming for sight-seeing.



Jeanne d'Arc Mujamariya, Rwanda's Minister for Environment.

## ANXIETY

## Ally the poached pangolin gives birth in the wild after SA team's rescue efforts

JOHANNESBURG

A female Temminck's pangolin - that had been poached - gave birth in the wild after she was rescued and treated by a team of South African veterinarians and wildlife experts.

According to the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital (JWVH), the pangolin, named Ally, was retrieved out of the illegal trade by the South African Police Service's Endangered Species Unit on 25 April in the Alldays region in Limpopo. Ally was transported to Polokwane, where veterinarian Dr Karin Lourens of the JWVH assisted with stabilising the pangolin and its initial examination.

During an abdominal ultrasound, it was discovered that Ally was pregnant. According to Lourens, pangolins that had been poached were always compromised, some worse than others, and they required a period of veterinary treatment.

Prevent miscarriage

Once ensconced at a secure location in Johannesburg, Ally began to recover both psychologically and physically from her trauma. It was important for her to recover as quickly and gently as possible to prevent her from miscarrying her pup because of the high stress levels she had endured.



A pangolin.

A pangolin - the world's most-poached mammal - that was saved from poachers in May is slowly being reintroduced into the wild. Ally also had pneumonia, but regular blood tests, CT scans and ultrasounds, along with careful nursing, ensured that she

received the best care and her pup continued to develop normally.

A few weeks later, Ally was feeding well, her lungs had cleared and she had gained enough weight to be placed into her release phase. She was transported to a release site carefully

selected by the African Pangolin Working Group (APWG) in the Limpopo Valley.

VHF (very high frequency) and satellite telemetry tags were attached to her scales to enable the post-release monitoring - this was critical to ensur-

ing the animal's well-being and distribution back into the wild. Ally eventually settled into an area with diverse ant species, found good burrows and relaxed into typical pangolin behaviour.

Some weeks later, the APWG's experienced release team noticed that Ally had kept to the same burrow for a few weeks and placed camera traps to continue monitoring her. This was an ideal way of monitoring the animal without causing any distress which could affect her pregnancy or unsettle Ally.

In one of these recordings, the team saw that Ally had given birth and her pup was in the burrow. This was the first-ever record of one of our successfully retrieved and rehabilitated Temminck's pangolins giving birth in the wild, following release. "We are all thrilled to share this wonderful success story and wish our born-free pangolin pup a safe, long and wild life," the JWVH said.

## FORECAST

## Climate change may shift risks of mosquito-borne diseases

NEW YORK

More dengue, less malaria. That may be the future in parts of Africa on a warming planet, depending on where you live.

New research says it's all about which mosquitoes will thrive. And the methods to control one don't necessarily work on the other. The mosquito that spreads malaria prefers relatively cool temperatures of 25 degrees Celsius (77

degrees Fahrenheit). The dengue mosquito does best at 29 degrees Celsius (84.2 degrees Fahrenheit).

Because of this difference in optimal temperatures, "We would actually predict that climate change might have opposing effects [on disease transmission]," said Erin Mordecai, assistant professor of biology at Stanford University and lead author on the study. "Climate change might make it less suitable for malaria to be transmitted but more

suitable for dengue to be transmitted."

Using mosquito optimal temperature data and population density, the researchers predicted the risk of malaria and dengue in Africa under "worst-case, business-as-usual" climate projections. The dengue mosquito - which also spreads a lot of viruses that cause diseases such as chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever - is expected to expand its range, increasing the risk of these diseases throughout sub-Saharan Af-

rica by 2080. In contrast, the areas of greatest risk for malaria are predicted to shrink, shifting further south and into high-elevation regions. The researchers say that rising urbanization in Africa may further enhance the risk of dengue. Malaria is often more of a problem in rural areas because the mosquito breeds in natural bodies of water such as ponds and streams. But the dengue mosquito prefers to breed in tiny, human-made containers "as

small as a bottle cap" that are common in cities, said Mordecai.

Urban areas also tend to be warmer than surrounding rural regions, providing more suitable habitat for the heat-loving dengue mosquito. "We're predicting that dengue is going to become a much bigger problem in Africa. And I think that, itself, is a very big deal, because Africa on the whole is probably not well-prepared, because they've been focused on another very

important vector-borne disease - malaria," said Desiree LaBeaud, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Stanford University and co-author of the study.

Public health measures such as insecticide-treated bed nets have helped curb malaria because they protect against the nighttime-biting malaria mosquito. But nets are little help against dengue because the mosquito bites during the day.

BREAKTHROUGH

# Researchers redesign the face mask to improve both comfort and protection

GEORGIA

As Covid-19 spreads and masks become mandatory in many more parts of the world, there have been plenty of debates about which types of masks are most effective.

The valve mask, for example, provides comfort, but it doesn't protect other people against droplets that escape through the vents. Some prefer masks with elastic bands that loop around the ears, while others prefer simple cotton buffs.

Research has shown that some masks are more effective than others, but even the simplest single-layer cotton mask can decrease the amount of droplets expelled. Even though we theoretically understand this, masks

are, however, still a bit of a struggle for some.

Now, researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology have designed a new mask to incorporate protection and comfort - and are providing plans so that people can make it themselves.

What does this mask look like?

The full research is published in The Journal of the Textile Institute, and according to a press release, the modular Georgia Tech mask combines a barrier filtration material with stretchable fabric to provide a comforting fit while staying in place.

The prototypes have hook and eye fasteners on the back to keep the masks secure. There is also a pocket for an additional filter to add protection. The researchers found that even after 20 washes, the prototype didn't



A Georgia Tech researcher adorning the new face mask.

shrink or lose its shape.

The front part of the mask contains a barrier component

with filtration material and is contoured to fit the face snugly while still allowing space for the

nose and mouth. The mask is made from moisture-wicking material normally used in athletic clothing.

The stretchable part of the mask is made from a blend of Spandex and lycell to stretch around the head and under the chin. The researchers also wanted to ensure that the materials chosen for the masks are available in a variety of colours and designs.

"Masks have become an essential accessory in our wardrobe and add a social dimension to how we feel about wearing them," stated principal research scientist Sungmee Park.

The problem with current masks The researchers stated that the fundamental flaw in existing reusable fabric masks is that they leak air around the edges, which can still spread droplets and smaller aerosols that may be carrying the virus.

Many users who wear glasses also complain about their lenses fogging up as the exhaled breath leaks out around the nose. Home-made fabric masks may also not fit properly, causing the user to constantly adjust them with hands that may be contaminated.

"We want people to be able to get the mask in the right place every time," stated Sundaresan Jayaraman, professor at Georgia Tech's School of Materials Science and Engineering. "If you don't position it correctly and easily, you are going to have to keep fiddling with it. We see that all the time on television with people adjusting their masks and letting them drop below their noses."

While Covid-19 has necessitated the use of masks, Jayaraman and Park's efforts weren't initially influenced by the pandemic. They started their research 10 years ago after receiving funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate the use of masks during an avian influenza outbreak.

"There is so much misinformation about what face masks can do and cannot do," Jayaraman said. "Being scientists and engineers, we want to put out information backed by science that can help our community reduce the harm from SARS-CoV-2."

UNIQUE

# First female public bus drivers in the Middle East tell of life on the road

DUBAI

Driving a bus back home in the Philippines was an ordinary job for Marygold Cez, but she is turning heads in Dubai after becoming one of the first female public bus drivers in the region.

Ms Cez, 33, was one of three women recently hired by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) to drive a public bus. The trio are the first female drivers throughout the Middle East.

After spending nearly a week on the road, two of them spoke to The National about their experiences so far. "People are surprised to see us, but they are very welcoming. They ask us 'are you really driving the bus?' The drivers on the road and at the intersection look surprised when they see me," said Ms Cez.

"I worked as a school bus driver for three years in the Philippines, so I had some experience of driving a bus." Ms Cez moved to Dubai more than a year ago and worked in sales at a mall. When she heard about RTA's initiative to hire the region's first female bus drivers, she wanted to be part of it.

She lives in the emirate with her husband and has a five-year-old daughter and a teenage son in the Philippines. "They are proud and were excited to hear the news. I feel like I've helped my country be part of history. This shows that women can do

anything men can."

The profession is a male-dominated one in the region. In Dubai, RTA employs 165 female taxi drivers, 41 limousine chauffeurs and one school bus driver. More women public drivers are expected to be hired in the near future.

Aileen Lean, 45, used to own a minibus back home in the Philippines and was interested in becoming a public bus driver when she heard about the job opening. She moved to Dubai five years ago and held a few different jobs.

"Some are shocked to see that a female is driving a 12-foot-long bus," said Ms Lean, a mother-of-two. "People are supportive and are welcoming us. I think it sends a good message that men and women are equal."

Meanwhile, Ahmed Bahrozayn, chief executive of RTA's Public Transport Agency, said that the new move will help create job opportunities for women in a field that is dominated by men. The three women will be responsible for covering three routes in the city.

They are: Circular Route 77 linking Baniyas, Deira City Centre and Terminals 1 and 3 of Dubai International Airport; Route F36 - a metro link service between Mall of the Emirates, Dubai Science Park and Al Barsha South; and Route F70 - a metro link service in Bur Dubai running between BurJuman mall and Al Fahidi heritage district.



Dubai based bus driver, Marygold Cez.

<p><b>ITV</b></p> <p><b>MONDAY 07 Sept</b></p> <p>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 09:55 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 17:00 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 22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW</p> <p><b>TUESDAY 08 Sept</b></p> <p>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 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Jungu Kuu 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## WORLD

## Trump admits downplaying danger of virus

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump admitted to journalist Bob Woodward in March that he publicly downplayed the dangers of the novel coronavirus as it spread around the world, hoping to avoid a panic even as he recognized how "deadly" the virus could be.

"I wanted to always play it down," Trump told Woodward on March 19, CNN and The Washington Post reported on Wednesday. "I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic."

Trump had acknowledged to Woodward more than a month before that interview that he recognized COVID-19 was "deadly stuff", according to CNN, in contrast with the president's public assertions the virus would "work out fine" and was "very much under control".

Woodward interviewed and taped the president for a total of nine hours

for his book, *Rage*, which will be released on Sept 15. Audio clips of the recorded interviews were published by CNN and the Post. Woodward is an associate editor at the newspaper. Some of the interviews were conducted at the White House; Woodward said others were done when Trump called his cellphone.

Trump on Wednesday didn't deny what he told Woodward and defended his rosy public assessments on the virus as part of a possible effort not to "create panic". But he called the book "just another hatchet job".

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany insisted at a news conference on Wednesday that the president "never lied to the American public on COVID-19" but rather "was expressing calm". She said that Trump "never downplayed the virus" despite Trump's remarks to Woodward.

Democrats on Wednesday quickly pounced on Trump's comments



US President Donald Trump

about the coronavirus.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said Trump "knowingly and willingly lied about the threat it posed to the country for months".

"While this deadly disease ripped through our nation, he failed to do his job on purpose," the former vice-president said during an event in Warren, Michigan. "It was a life and death betrayal of the American people."

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the president's comments to Woodward showed weakness and a disdain for science.

"What he was actually saying is, 'I don't want anybody to think anything like this happened on my watch so I'm not going to call any more attention to it,'" Pelosi said.

Angry Schumer

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said: "There is damning truth that President Trump lied and people died. It just makes me angry. How many people would be alive today if he just told Americans the truth?"

The Associated Press reported that several

Republican senators at the Capitol declined to comment on the new book, telling reporters they hadn't yet read it, even when informed of key passages about the virus.

Woodward writes that National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien warned Trump in a briefing on Jan 28 that the virus was the "biggest national security threat you face in your presidency".

Trump later told Woodward that he didn't remember O'Brien's comment. "I'm sure if he said it you know, I'm sure he said it. Nice guy," Trump told Woodward in a May 6 interview.

On March 25, about a week after admitting in the interview to downplaying the virus threat, Trump told reporters at the White House that no one could have foreseen the pandemic, which had by that time led to much of the US economy being shut down.

"Nobody would ever believe a thing like that's possible," he said at a White House news conference. "Nobody could have ever seen something like this coming, but now we know, and we know it can happen and happen again."

Agencies

## New research shows COVID-19 may have been in L.A. before China announces its outbreak

LOS ANGELES

A NEW study by American researchers, released on Thursday, suggests the deadly coronavirus may have already reached Los Angeles by late December, actively circulating in the area months before the first definitive cases in the United States were identified.

Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), evaluated more than 10 million patient and health records for UCLA Health outpatient, emergency department and hospital facilities, spanning Dec. 1, 2019, to Feb. 29, 2020, and compared those records with data from the same period over the previous five years.

They found a troubling trend. The outpatient clinic visits by UCLA patients seeking care for coughs increased by over 50 percent and exceeded the aver-

age number of visits for the same complaint over the prior five years by more than 1,000.

They also discovered a "significant" excess in the number of patients seen in emergency departments for reports of coughs and of patients hospitalized with acute respiratory failure during this time period.

These excesses remained even after accounting for changes in patient populations and seasonal variation, according to the study, published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Medical Internet Research.

"For many diseases, data from the outpatient setting can provide an early warning to emergency departments and hospital intensive care units of what is to come," said Joann Elmore, the study's lead author and a professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.



A man wearing a mask is seen on a street near Venice Beach, Los Angeles, the United States, April 10, 2020. (Xinhua)

"The majority of COVID-19 studies evaluate hospitalization data, but we also looked at the larger outpatient clinic setting, where most patients turn first for medical care when illness and symptoms arise," Elmore said.

Researchers noted the unusually high number of visitors, patients and hospitalizations suggests community spread of SARS-CoV-2 prior

to established clinical awareness and testing capabilities.

It may indicate that the coronavirus had silently arrived and begun establishing a foothold undetected on the West Coast around Christmas 2019. If true, that would shake up the current narrative of the virus' origins in the country.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) re-

ported the first U.S. COVID-19 case on Jan. 21, who was a man traveling from Wuhan, China to Washington state. And it was not until Feb. 26 that the CDC confirmed community spread of the coronavirus in the United States.

UCLA researchers did not conclude for certain that coronavirus was behind the trends laid out in their study, saying other factors could be responsible for some of this unexpected increase, such as the use of e-cigarettes, or flu.

"We may never truly know if these excess patients represented early and undetected COVID-19 cases in our area," Elmore said. "But the lessons learned from this pandemic, paired with health care analytics that enable real-time surveillance of disease and symptoms, can potentially help us identify and track emerging outbreaks and future epidemics."

Xinhua

## The Lancet calls on Sputnik V vaccine developers to answer Western colleagues' questions

LONDON

THE British medical journal The Lancet has called on the scientists that have developed the Russian coronavirus vaccine Sputnik V to answer the questions from their Western colleagues about alleged anomalous data in the article published by The Lancet about the vaccine's trials, the journal's press office told TASS.

"The Lancet has invited the authors of the Russian vaccine study to respond to the questions raised in the open letter by Enrico Bucci

[a biology professor at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - TASS]. We continue to follow the situation closely," the journal said.

"We encourage scientific debate on papers we have published, and are aware of the open letter on the Russia vaccine trial by Logunov et al. We have shared the letter directly with the authors and encouraged them to engage in the scientific discussion," they continued.

On September 7, some scientists from US, Italian and other universities released an open letter to the



Russian researchers, drawing their attention to some experiments depicted in the article, where, according to the letters' authors, certain statistics anomalies could be detected.

The Russian scientists announced their readiness to provide required explanations

to The Lancet, if the journal requested that.

On Tuesday, Alexander Kabanov, Associate Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Professor of North Carolina University and Moscow State University, told TASS that criticism of scientific articles is part of a normal scientific process, "moreover, when we talk about the works of paramount social importance, like a vaccine or a drug amid the pandemic."

He emphasized that this criticism does not mean that the researchers' results are erroneous.

Kabanov recalled that three months ago, articles by US scientists were withdrawn from two leading journals, including The Lancet, after criticism of the published results and the refusal to provide primary data on the outcome of their research on the use of certain drugs to treat COVID-19.

Agencies

## China to write splendid chapter of openness, cooperation, mutual benefit

THE world is facing profound changes unseen in a century, and the changes are accelerating this year, the beginning of the third decade of the 21st century.

The global spread of the COVID-19 epidemic, the headwinds against economic globalization, the fight between multilateralism and unilateralism, as well as the confrontation between justice and hegemony have once again placed the human society at a crossroad of history.

The world needs to reach a consensus to conform to the trend of the times featuring peace, development, and win-win cooperation, and build an open world economy.

After the 127th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) was held online from June 15 to 24, the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) kicked off in Beijing on September 4. The 3rd China International Import Expo will also be hosted in November in Shanghai as scheduled. These comprehensive and all-round events of opening-up have provided the international society with communication platforms that are in dire need at the moment.

China's development will enter a new stage in the next five years, said Chinese President Xi Jinping at a recent symposium on economic and social work.

He stressed the importance to remain sensitive to changes, respond to them with well-judged actions, and be ready to adjust the approach when necessary. He urged the country to be brave enough to sail against the wind and be good at turning crises into opportunities.

His remarks signaled to the world a clear message - no matter how the international situation evolves, stimulating domestic demand and deepening opening-up have always been an indispensable driving force for China's development; integrating the country's and the world's interests, China is always a constructor of world

peace, a contributor to global development and a guardian of global order.

As the world's largest comprehensive exposition specializing in trade in services, the CIFTIS had held six sessions. But the session this year bears a special significance.

The pandemic has pressed the pause button for major exhibitions and other international cooperation projects, but the international community's demand for exchanges, cooperation and development remains the same.

The world needs more than ever a guiding force that enables countries to break barriers and

strengthen communication.

To ensure a successful CIFTIS both online and offline, China has made tremendous preparatory efforts. The grand event will surely further open the Chinese market to global investors and deepen international cooperation. In the face of the world's dramatic changes, China will not isolate itself from other countries, advocate beggar-thy-neighbor policies, or pursue its own benefits without lending a hand to other countries.

It has scrapped the limitations on the ratio of foreign shareholding in securities and fund management firms, expanded the

scope of business and market access for foreign banks, and promoted the construction of Hainan Free Trade Port.

A series of new measures on opening-up have been implemented in the country and a sound pattern is gradually taking shape where reform and opening-up promote and complement each other.

Xi pointed out that despite the rise of protectionism in the world, China will stand on the right side of history and uphold multilateralism and democracy in international relations. China will continue to pursue development through openness and win-

win cooperation, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all, so as to build an open world economy.

China is striving to maintain the stability of the global industrial and supply chains, assisting other countries in combating the epidemic and in economic recovery.

During the first half of the year, China-Europe freight trains saw a significant year-on-year increase in the number of freight train trips and volume of goods despite the pandemic, sending a total of 3.67 million items of anti-epidemic supplies weighing 27,000 tonnes.

People's Daily

## China urges Pompeo to respect press freedom

BEIJING

CHINA urged the United States to stop slandering and lying, discard bullying acts and respect the freedom of the press with practical actions, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Thursday.

Spokesperson Zhao Lijian made the remarks at a news briefing when answering a question regarding U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's complaint that People's Daily, one of the major media groups in China, refused to post an article written by U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad.

Zhao (pictured) pointed out that the content of the article was seriously inconsistent with basic facts, and was full of loopholes and filled with malicious smears and attacks on China.

"If the Chinese government, as the U.S. did, provided you with an article that seriously distorted the facts and attacked your country, and requested you to reply the next day and promise to post it without any changes, could you do it?" Zhao asked reporters attending the news briefing.

He said that what the United States did "had nothing to do with freedom of the press, but was a well-designed frame-up."

The Chinese ambassador to the United States has always been committed to promoting friendly exchanges and cooperation between the two countries and the two peoples, never creating and spreading rumors against the U.S., never attacking and defaming the U.S. system, and never interfering in the internal affairs of the country, said the spokesperson.

He said some U.S. politicians, on the one hand, were arbitrarily suppressing Chinese media, calling them "propaganda machines" of the Communist Party of China (CPC). But these same politicians demanded that the "propaganda machines" maliciously attack the Chinese government. "Their behavior is both illogical and insolent," he said.

"Just like any other U.S. media outlet, People's Daily has the right to decide whether or not to publish any submitted article and when to publish it, and is entitled to make necessary changes and edits to any article. It's also entitled to reject publishing an article with factual mistakes and filled with prejudice.

This is in line with the professional practice of the media industry, as well as international norms," Zhao quoted the People's Daily's statement, adding that China urges the United States to stop slandering and lying, discard bullying acts, and respect the freedom of the press with practical actions.

Xinhua

## UK and Japan strike Britain's first post-Brexit trade deal

LONDON / TOKYO

BRITAIN struck its first post-Brexit bilateral trade deal with Japan yesterday, hailing the agreement as a "historic moment", just as it is struggling to clinch a deal with its closest trading partners in the European Union.

Britain said the deal, which had been agreed in principle, meant 99% of its exports to Japan would be tariff-free.

Digital and data provisions in the agreement went "far beyond" those in the EU's trade deal with Japan, helping British fintech firms operating in the Asian country, it said.

Financial services firms, food producers, coat-makers and biscuit bakers - as well as cheese producers - would benefit from the agreement which represented an "important step" towards Britain joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in the Asia-Pacific region. Major Japanese investors in the UK such as Nissan and Hitachi would benefit from reduced tariffs on parts coming from Japan and streamlined regulatory procedures, the British trade department statement said.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said Brexit gives Britain the freedom to strike trade deals with other countries around the world.

Critics say such agreements are unlikely to replace exports lost to the EU if a deal cannot be struck with Brussels.

The EU has ordered Britain to scrap a plan to break their divorce treaty, but Johnson's government has refused, potentially sinking four years of Brexit talks.

Japan wanted to reach broad consensus with Britain on trade this week before a change in government in Tokyo which could have caused the negotiations to drift.

Japan's ruling party will choose a new leader next Monday to succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is stepping down for health reasons. His successor will become the next premier and form a new cabinet.

Agencies





## Cheka vows to defeat Malawian boxer Phiri

BY NASSIR NCHIMBI, TUDARCO

MOROGORO'S professional boxer, Cosmas Cheka, is set to face Malawian Hanoock Phiri for the Universal Boxing Organization (UBO) Lightweight title at the Jamhuri Stadium in the region tomorrow.

Boxing fans are, according to organizers, expected to pay 3000/- each to watch the 12-round fight.

Cosmas, a young brother of former Tanzanian Super Middleweight boxing champion, Francis Cheka, vowed he will win the UBO honour.

The boxer, in his previous bout, posted a Technical Knockout (TKO) victory over Ramadhan Sunya.

Cosmas promised his fans that he will come out victorious in the bout against Phiri within six rounds of the fight, should it go his way.

The Morogoro native is in full confidence heading into the fight due to the fact he is an experienced boxer.

He has participated in 43 bouts, posting victory in 24, losing 13 and the remaining six were declared draw.

The 29-year-old fighter made his professional boxing debut with a win against Shabani Ugando on June 14 2009.

He heads into Sunday's evening rumble with a record of knockout victory in five of his 24 victories, and knockout loss in three of his 13 losses.

His opponent Phiri, popularly known as

the 'Hardknocker', arrived in the country on Monday to get a shot at lifting the UBO title.

Phiri expressed his optimism that he would like to take the prize with him back home and admitted it will not be an easy task.

The 21-year-old Malawian holds a record of five TKO wins in five bouts he has taken part in.

He is the current World Professional Boxing Federation (WPBF) Lightweight champion, a belt that he won in Zambia when he defeated Hillary Kataya.

Phiri moreover is Malawi's national Welterweight champion, a belt that he won after beating Byson Gwayani.

This will be will be his first international fight this year as the young promising boxer hopes to use his training camp tactics he got from South Africa, where he set his training camp.

The camp had Phiri sparring hard to put his rhythm and combinations together to, ultimately, lay his hands on the title.

Organizers noted doors will be opened at the Jamhuri Stadium from 4:00pm, with several undercard fight expected to take place before the main event.

Both boxers are weighing at 61kg with Cosmas being older than Phiri.

Cosmas moreover holds the home advantage heading into the fight, as he will be fighting in front of a host of his fans.

## Pay equalization: Africa will take time to follow Brazil's lead

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

A new approach is being applied in professional football where Brazil has apparently become the first major soccer country the world over to move to formalize equal payments between players of national teams.

Women players wearing the green and yellow shirt shall get the same pay as Brazil's proper national team super stars, an announcement that has sent ripples around the world, and some could say, shock waves.

The news was just being spread around in the past week and has yet to percolate, sink in.

What the Brazilian federation is doing is to peg women's national team payments at the same level as the Selecao, or the Brazil XI squad members, a measure whose source was still being examined.

It was an announcement by the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) mid last week, seemingly on the basis of a domestic policy review than any real international obligation in that regard, though it appears that it will now start becoming an issue.

That is what precedents do, that they are the groundwork for a new norm.

Efforts to find out how Brazil came to lead the world in that regard, deciding that women national soccer team players and the star-studded men sides are the same in significance - which is what pay levels or scales ought to indicate - is complicated.

One is introduced to a long itinerary of complex issues of attitude to government and the use of the national team colours - especially the yellow shirt in contrast to the blue - used for shorts - and the white that is usually left aside, but for a stripe, etc.

It appears that at the moment it is the 'progressives' as they are called in the Americas, that dominate the waves and the views.

The situation in the South American country is somewhat kindred with the United States, namely that when liberals and progressives dominate the waves, the 'silent majority' vote a right wing or even far right government.

Many observers see Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro as a faint copy of his US equally far right counterpart, Donald Trump, and both are breaking plenty of 'behaviour

norms' in politics in order to keep their voting base happy and to an extent, excited.

That leaves the progressives gasping for breath.

Soccer is such a deep rooted issue in Brazilian politics that when Bolsonaro visited the US upon his taking office early last year, he had a present for his role model to present at the White House, a Brazil national team jersey with the number 10 insignia, and the name 'Trump.'

Number 10 has become something of a hallowed position after Brazil's world legend Pele led Brazil to successive World Cup titles in that jersey, followed by Diego Maradona of Argentina about half a generation later.

Portugal great Cristiano Ronaldo has never bothered with number 10, but his perennial archrival Lionel Messi of Argentina is identified with number 10 most of the time. Number 7 had a past legend, Stanley Mathews.

A Brazilian commentator says that "the fight for the yellow jersey leaves some longing to reclaim a victorious past, while others push forward to create new meaning for the iconic symbol."

"In a country so deeply rooted in football, it's an issue that's unlikely to go away."

In other words when Bolsonaro offered the jersey to Trump, the idea was to revive the great Brazilian soccer tradition and cement the country's image as actually personified by the number 10 shirt.

It is not merely one iconic item but Brazil itself there.

In that case one begins to understand the urgency of equal pay for men and women soccer teams, that it has the same urgency as activists here campaigning for 50-50 representation in the selection of candidates for the current poll campaigns, etc.

While the symbol of equality in many countries is political position or business sector appointments, Brazil does not overly lack that aspect, but with the far right making massive headway in politics, the progressives may have discovered how to capture the national spirit and steer it towards an equality agenda.

Equal pay for soccer players will not be an isolated decision as it may attract other equality agenda items in future, for instance between urban centres and indigenous rural provinces.

What cannot be said directly is how far

## Kinondoni Development squad eyes Upanga Warriors' scalp in 2020 TCA Development League

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

KINONDONI Development cricketers will be out to prove they are serious contenders for the trophy in the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League when they confront Upanga Warriors in a clash, which will take place at Leaders Club venue today.

The second-placed Kinondoni Development team are coming off a morale boosting three-wicket victory over the tournament leaders, Lions Academy, in a match that took place at the same venue a fortnight ago.

All-rounders, Jumanne Mohamed, Yash Hirwania, Aahil Jasani and Abubakary Juma, are some of key players Kinondoni Development squad is set to bank on for good results in today's clash. Should Kinondoni Development squad come out victorious today, the squad can scale to the tournament's top spot depending on net run rate.

The squad, the only team which has yet to lose a match, has posted four points, having notched victory in the two matches it has played, two points below leaders Lions Academy.

Kinondoni Development squad has posted net run rate of 1.1102, having amassed 308 runs and leaked 255 runs.

It is nevertheless not expected to be plain sailing for Kinondoni Development team today, considering Upanga Warriors are



Kinondoni Development side's cricketers discuss match tactics when they featured in one of the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League's clashes. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

equally expected to come out firing on all cylinders in pursuit of victory.

Third-placed Upanga Warriors are also deemed as serious contenders for the top honour and, therefore, this weekend clash means a lot to the side.

Upanga Warriors are two points below Kinondoni Development, having registered victory in one game and

conceded loss in two outings.

Upanga Warriors have a win percentage of 33.33 and have recorded a net run rate of 1.1077 given they have notched 579 runs and leaked 412 runs.

Today's match will be an opportunity for Upanga Warriors to make up for three-wicket defeat they conceded to Lions Academy in the past match.

Ilala Boys side and TCA

Women team are placed fourth and last respectively in the competition.

Ilala Boys squad has amassed two points from victory in one match and two losses, which have left them with net run rate of -0.1583.

They have notched 433 runs and leaked 452 runs. Bottom-placed TCA Women team have yet to register victory in two games they have taken part in.

## Waluguru Original Band set to shoot videos for new album

BY CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

MOROGORO'S Waluguru Original Music Band is set to start shooting videos for its new album, titled 'Kikao cha Wahenga', after a successful launch of the album which took place in the region recently.

Deogratius David, the troupe's Director, said the new videos' production is expected to start in the next two weeks and will be done in various areas in the region.

"Our new album 'Kikao cha Wahenga' has such songs like 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa Mapezi', 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngalile Mwanangu Ndole', 'Supu' and 'Nataka Nlewe', we will though start shooting videos for four songs," David, also known as 'Killer Man', noted.

He pointed out the troupe first launched the album earlier last month and the event attracted plenty of music followers.

He stated the troupe's fans have, since then, been asking for the songs' videos.

"Our new album's launch was a huge success and we sold over 40 flash sticks containing the album's songs, our fans are listening to our songs in their homes, they now want videos for the songs" he disclosed.

The troupe leader stated the



Waluguru Original Music Band's vocalists and dancers put their skills to show at one of the troupe's shows, which took place in Morogoro recently. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

album launch was part of his plans to have Morogoro regain enthusiasm in dance music, as it was the case in the past.

He noted Morogoro had, in the past, turned out to be one of regions that were quite active in music promotion in Tanzania but the region's passion for music started waning in the closing stages of the 1970s.

David noted Morogoro held sway in music in the country, producing several gifted artistes including Mbaraka Mwinshehe but things later took a turn for the worse.

He was adamant he wants to have Morogoro regain passion for dance music promotion and he is now slowly working on the initiative.

According to David, Waluguru Original Band was formed in 2014 and the troupe launched its first album titled 'Rosemary'.

He disclosed the troupe has now come up with the 'Kikao cha Wahenga' album which, according to him, has played key role in the troupe's ability to win prominence.

this move - being splashed around the world in newspapers and television apart from reflections on the same in social media outlets - will affect soccer organization in other parts of the world.

For reasons of proximity it can be said it could arguably impact on what people think of women national teams in South America, the Caribbean and the United States (apart from Mexico) as they are in the same zone in various competitions.

In addition, there are areas where the women teams have also been efficacious role models for instance in the case of Jamaica or the US, so the case for refusing such consideration may be narrowed, other than the humiliating bad temperance fear for opponents of this initiative.

It may not be taken up too rapidly elsewhere, but it will be 'food for thought.'



Tanzania's senior national women soccer team, Twiga Stars.



## SPORT

Klopp shrugs off rivals' spending as Premier League kicks off

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## National Boxing Club Championships 2020 climaxes today



Ngome JWTZ Boxing Team's Alex Isendi (R), in action against Sebastian John from MMJKT Team in Lightweight category's bout of the ongoing National Club Championships, which is taking place in Manyara. Isendi, who is also national boxing team's captain, won by points 4-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF OBFT

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE 2020 National Boxing Club Championship, which is taking place in Babati, Manyara, ends today with army clubs set to win many medals.

The Manyara championships attracted five regions and 10 teams.

The regions include, Arusha, Coast Region, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Kagera and the hosts, Manyara.

Participating sides are Tanzanite Manyara, Kagera and Arusha teams, Tarangire Manyara, MMJKT, JKT Mgulani, JKT Mbweni, JKT Ruvu, Ngome JWTZ and Band Coy JWTZ.

Tanzania's Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) Secretary General Lukelo Willilo said they are impressed with the performance shown by all boxers at the championships.

"The Manyara championships ends tomorrow (today), it is going on very well and we really thank all regions and clubs that sent their boxers," Willilo noted.

"I'm sure that, at the end of the championships, we will select a good team which will represent the country at many events," he said.

He said on Thursday eight boxers qualified for the finals. He mentioned them as Christian Charles from Tarangire Manyara, who will face Abdallah Mohammed from MMJKT in the Light Flyweight final.

To reach the division's final, Charles won by points 3-2 against Said Mohammed of Ngome JWTZ, while Mohammed beat Jonas John of Tanzanite Manyara by points.

In Flyweight category, finalist are George Constantine from Ngome who will take on Steven Anastas of Tanzanite Manyara.

To qualify for the category's final, George and Anastas beat their opponents Iddi Athuman of JKT Mgulani and Issa Omary of MMJKT respectively by points.

Willilo said finalist in Bantamweight division are Ezra Paul from Ngome JWTZ and Boniface Mlingwa of MMJKT.

The two sailed through to the final in contrasting fashion, given Paul beat Manyara Tanzanite's boxer Hamed Furaisha by points 3-2 while Mlingwa won via Referee Stopped the Contest due to Head Blows (R.S.CH) in 23 seconds of the first round of the fight against Emmanuel Marwa of JKT Ruvu.

The Lightweight division's final will have Hamdani Issa of MMJKT taking on Said Kanenda of JKT Mbweni.

Issa had a walk over after his opponent, Salum Mwarani from JKT Mgulani, failed to show up for the fight while Kanenda beat Mussa Omari from Band Coy JWTZ by Technical Knockout (TKO) in two minutes, 26 six seconds of the second round of their bout.

As we went to press results of other weight categories' fights were not out.

The Manyara championships will be used to select boxers who will represent the country at next year's local and international events.

Some of next year events are Tokyo Olympics, World Boxing Championships to be held in Belgrade, Serbia in March and Boxing Championships which will take place in France in May.

# Simba SC, Namungo FC get new CAF inter-club campaign dates



Simba Sports Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

THE dates for the Confederation of African Football (CAF) 2020/21 inter-club season have been rescheduled as Simba SC and Namungo FC will represent Mainland Tanzania in the tournaments.

The continental soccer governing body made the announcements after a virtual meeting of its Executive Committee on Thursday, and said the African inter-club competitions have been given new dates to complete their schedules before commencing the 2020/21

campaign.

"In light of restrictions in the Kingdom of Morocco as a result of Coronavirus pandemic leading to constraints in air travel, the remaining matches of the Total CAF Champions League and Total CAF Confederation Cup has been rescheduled following a request by the Royal Moroccan Football Federation to make way for easy travel of the participating clubs," CAF said in a statement.

"The change in schedule has automatically affected the calendar of the 2020/21 season, which

has been adjusted accordingly."

The CAF Champions League semi-finals would now be staged on the weekends of October 16-17 and October 23-24.

Simba will compete in the CAF Champions League, while Namungo FC will be playing in the CAF Confederation Cup.

As confirmed by CAF the first registration for inter-club 2020/21 season will commence from October 21-November 10 2020, with the second registration period is set to take place from November 11-30 2020.

The preliminary round of the

fixtures will be from November 27-29 2020 and December 4-6 2020.

The second preliminary round will be from December 22-23 2020 and January 5-6 2021.

Other decisions reached at the Executive Committee meeting on Thursday was to shift the African Nations Championship (CHAN), originally billed for April 2020 in Cameroon, to now take place from January 16, 2021-February 7, 2021, in the same country.

Also, the final tournament of the Total African Nations Cham-

pionship Algeria 2022 will be rescheduled to January 2023.

Tanzania qualified for the CHAN finals after edging out Sudan in October last year and will now have to prepare for the locally based players' championship in the next four months.

They are in Group D alongside Zambia, Guinea and Namibia.

The only other time Tanzania took part in the CHAN finals was during the inaugural edition in 2009, played in Ivory Coast, under the tutelage of Brazilian Marcio Maximo and were eliminated at the group stage.

## Simba SC in pursuit of successive victory, Mtibwa seek to rebound

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will be far less happy with the manner in which they had to scrape a 2-1 victory against newly promoted Ifehu FC in the opening day of the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League campaign last Sunday.

The top flight defending champions will be hoping for an improved performance as they seek to make it two wins from two league games when they take on hosts Mtibwa Sugar in Morogoro today.

This match will be played at Mtibwa Sugar's alternative home ground, which is the Jamhuri Stadium.

After a disappointing home draw against Ruvo Shooting on the opening day, Mtibwa Sugar will look to avoid defeat by all means as they do not want to find themselves in the same situation as last season, where they survived relegation on the last day of the campaign.

Only one of their six new signings featured in the goalless draw against Ruvo Shooting.

Head coach Zubeir Katwila will expect new



Mtibwa Sugar's players, defender Dickson Job (L) and midfielder Abdulhalim Humud (C), attempt to keep Simba SC winger, Hassan Dilunga, in check in the previous season's Vodacom Premier League clash, held in Morogoro. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

boys, Hamad Ahmada Hilika, Hassan Ramadhan and on loan striker, AbalKassim Khamis, to strengthen his starting 11 and, if they can be

at their best, then Simba will have to dig deep to emerge with maximum points.

In head-to-head stats, Mtibwa Sugar and Simba

have met in 20 league matches since 2010/11.

Mtibwa Sugar have claimed two wins compared to 13 for Simba, while five games have ended in draw.

Last season Simba did a double on Mtibwa Sugar, winning 2-1 in the first fixture at home and 3-0 in the return game at the Jamhuri Stadium.

In other Vodacom Premier League matches to be played today, the first of which will see JKT Tanzania take on city rivals Dodoma Jiji FC in the first 'Dodoma Derby' of its kind.

The KMC FC are expected to play host to a wounded Polisi Tanzania outfit, who suffered a 1-0 loss to Azam FC in their opening game of the 202/21 season.

The weekend's action will culminate with three games on Sunday. Promoted Ifehu FC and Ruvo Shooting will kick-off the action at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on Sunday afternoon.

Both teams will be hoping to return to collect their first three points of the campaign following last weekend results.

Yanga will seek to rebound from a frustrating draw against Prisons as they host Mbeya City FC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium while Biashara United will entertain Mwadui FC in Mara.

## TFF: Grassroots soccer project set to unearth gifted players

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) Technical Director, Oscar Mirambo, has said the country's grassroots football project has the potential to unearth many talented youngsters who can contribute effectively to the development of the sport in the country.

Mirambo, in a recent interview, said TFF is this year implementing the project in five regions of the country.

He mentioned the regions as Kilimanjaro, Mara, Katavi, Simiyu and Morogoro, mainly targeting school going children and physical education teachers.

"This year, the grassroots football project is talking place in five regions, next year we will go to other regions, the project is very vital to the development of football in the country," he disclosed.

"Through this project we can unearth many talents who in the future can contribute to the development of football in the country," he said.

He said he is impressed with what is happening because most kids are eager to learn the sport and improve their skills.

He disclosed the plan is to unearth more youngsters with a view to seeing to it that they graduate and compete in elite, First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL), as well as outside the country.

"Physical education teachers are also learning a lot on talent identification and nurturing of players, the project is already bearing fruits as many teachers have shown interest to further their coaching skills," he said.

Mirambo, however, said the project is facing a number of challenges which include lack of infrastructure, finances and sometimes the project is conducted at a period the schools have been closed.

"Recently, all schools were closed due to Coronavirus outbreak, this affected the project as our main target are school going children and sports teachers," he said.

"There is also lack of infrastructure and sometimes equipment and materials," he noted.

The federation, recently, affirmed its commitment that it will continue to assist in the nurturing of young talent from the grassroots level where real potential is found.

"We understand that the best way to uplift football standard in the country is to invest much in various grassroots programs aimed at shaping young football talents who will later become reliable national team players," he said.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

