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TANZANIA

FRIDAY 14 MAY, 2021

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Ministry sets forest, wildlife leasing rules

By Guardian Reporter

NATURAL Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro yesterday signed new investment regulations aimed at promoting strategic investors in the country's conservation areas.

Addressing a press conference, Dr Ndumbaro said that this move opens door for large investors from inside and outside Tanzania to take up offers in wildlife conservation and thus improve the sector.

This initiative will also help increase the number of tourists to five million and enhance tax collections to 6bn/- targeted by 2025, he said, noting that investors are invited to take up offers in game reserves, open wildlife areas and forest reserves for 25 years.

The new regulations will enable investors to build attractive and modern hotels in various conservation areas to help attract more tourists to those areas, he stated.

Changing the regulations focuses on attracting investors with sizeable amounts of capital thus capable of transforming the conservation areas to higher levels of attraction and penetrating more specialised travel markets abroad, the minister noted.

Major General (rtd) Hamis Semfuko, board chairman of the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) had earlier said the signing of the new regulations seeks to transform the country's tourism sector.

"We have decided to come up with this idea to enable large-scale investors from across the world to put their investments, like attractive accommodation and improve infrastructures in our conservation areas," he said.

Permanent Secretary Dr Allan Kijazi said that the ministry wants Tanzania Forests Services (TFS) to adopt regula-

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STOP PRESS

Samia suspends Hai DC Sabaya

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has suspended Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya to pave the way for investigations on various accusations leveled against him.

She has meanwhile appointed Dr Stergomena Tax, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to chair the board of Uongozi Institute, a para-governmental leadership research facility based in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Laurean Ndumbaro, Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) will be her deputy in the post.



PLEDGE TO SERVE PROFESSIONALLY: Nursing officers in Kilolo District, Iringa Region, take the Hippocratic Oath during International Nurses Day (May 12) celebrations held at district level in Ilula township. The solemn pledge demands that they practise their profession faithfully. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya.

Commercial banks, experts to advise on agro-financing

By Guardian Reporter

A high-level panel of experts in agricultural financing led by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, has been given four months to work on the issue and recommend on a course of action.

Prof Adolf Mkenda (pictured), the Minister for Agriculture, told reporters yesterday that the team will feature executives from banks and financial institutions, including Abdulmajid Nsekela (CRDB Bank CEO), NMB Bank CEO Ruth Zaipuna, Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) managing director Japhet Justine, National Bank of Commerce (NBC) managing director Theobald Sabi.

Others are Tanzania Postal Bank (TPB) CEO Sabasaba Moshingi, the Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust managing director Ana Sanalingigwa, Charles Itembe (Azania Bank), Charles Ngili CEO of the Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB) plus Benson Ndiege, the Registrar of Cooperatives.



He said that the Bank of Tanzania's 2018 annual report shows that the lending share in the agricultural sector declined from 12 percent in 2010 to 7 percent in 2018.

The State of the Economy Report for 2019 shows that the capital invested in the agricultural sector from commercial banks stood at 1.8 trn/-, equivalent to 9.2 percent of all loans

during the year. The rate for the agricultural sector, which employs nearly 60 per cent of the population, is small compared to 10.5 percent and 17.1 percent in the industrial and commercial sectors respectively.

Due to this situation on April 22, 2021, he met with heads of financial institutions, especially commercial banks, to discuss ways of instituting a reliable system for agricultural sector financing.

The session discussed ways of revolutionising agriculture by ensuring that capital is available to farmers and stakeholders in agriculture that will enable them to invest in the value chain of various agricultural products.

"This includes access to inputs, setting up value-addition industries for crops and guaranteed access to markets for the products they produce," he elaborated.

The minister said investment in the agri-

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Enumerators to use actual 'hamlets' for 2022 census

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) plans to use hamlets and streets as enumeration areas land mark features in the 2022 Population and Housing Census. Benedict Mugambi, the NBS acting field operations manager, said here yesterday that demarcation by hamlets and streets will help reduce costs of the exercise and save time.

This affirmation follows pilot enumeration areas demarcation in Manyoni district where NBS has resorted to using existing demar-

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Govt creates 547 health sector jobs

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has announced 547 more job opportunities in the health sector so as to further address the shortage of the professionals in various parts of the country.

The announcement came five days after it was announced that 2,726 job openings would be directed to health attendants in municipal, district hospitals and health cen-

The sixth phase government is committed to ensuring that it addresses challenges facing the health sector,

tres.

Prof Abel Makubi, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, said yesterday that the new batch of civil servants will be hired for health ministry departments.

The ministry has received the relevant permit of employment from the President's Office (Public Service, Management and

Good Governance) to hire them, as part of measures to implement recent pledges made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"The sixth phase government is committed to ensuring that it addresses challenges facing the health sector, which includes hiring competent

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Commercial banks, experts to advice on agro-financing

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cultural sector has been limited compared to other sectors due to a lack of reliable capital, land, investment incentives and unreliable markets for agricultural produce.

Citing reports from Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), the minister said the agricultural sector has been receiving less investment compared to other sectors such as industry, trade, services, communications, and construction. Investment amounts for the period 1997 to 2018 had agriculture and livestock obtaining 14.18 per cent of total amounts, manufacturing (18.01 per cent), communications (15.54 per cent) and infrastructure (12.62 per cent).

Agricultural sector lending,

which employs nearly two thirds of the population, was slightly lower than 10.5 percent and 17.1 percent in the industrial and commercial sectors respectively, he said.

In order to succeed in the agricultural sector, the ministry has set priorities like research especially to obtain the best seeds and best agricultural techniques. Strengthening extension services to increase productivity shall enable vast production and quality uplift within a small area, while increasing seed production, marketing, irrigation and agricultural financing are also prioritized.

All these priorities require renewed impetus and investment in order to achieve their respective goals, he stated.

Govt and development partners promise to strengthen cooperation

By Guardian Reporter

THE government and development partners have finished their two-day meeting during which they agreed to strengthen cooperation to speed up the country's development by improving issues of taxation and mobilising for the participation of the private sector to spur economic growth.

Finance and Planning Permanent Secretary Emmanuel Tutuba said the meeting was a big success whereby the advice given by development partners including the importance in the improvement of the country's business environment which he said the government has already addressed it.

"We have begun implementing the blue print for the improvement of the country's business environment and we call upon to Tanzanians and other business people from within

and outside the country to come up to conduct their businesses freely and transparently for the country to make development strides, PS Tutuba said.

He advised the business community including foreign investors to grab the available investment opportunities to inject their capital, the step that will strengthen business and create job opportunities.

Tutuba said the government continues paying its debt obligations to the business people and that it will increase the pace thereon after their verification.

He repeated his call to Tanzanians to demand cash sale receipts for their purchases of goods and services and stressed upon traders to issue such receipts whenever they sell goods or provide service for the exact amount paid.

Ministry sets forest, wildlife leasing rules

FROM PAGE 1

tions to attract strategic investors in the various forests. Foreign exchange earnings from tourism dropped to a 10-year low during the year ending October 2020, due to travel restrictions imposed by countries across the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) figures show that earnings from tourism for last year plunged by over 50 per cent to \$1.2bn compared to \$2.5bn earned for year ending October 2019.

Final earnings recorded in October 2020 showed that the country earned \$1.23bn in total from the tourism industry.

Wildlife tourism continues to grow, with nearly 1.5m tourists visiting the country annually. Its total \$2.5bn earnings, equivalent to 17.6 per cent of GDP, cement its position as the country's leading foreign currency earner.

Tourism also provides 600,000 direct jobs to the public and over one million other gainful occupations ties to the sector, official data indicates.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with one of the drivers of one of the scores of trucks waiting to load containers at the Dar es Salaam Port when he made an impromptu inspection visit to the gateway on Wednesday. Photo: PMO

Enumerators to use actual 'hamlets' for 2022 census

FROM PAGE 1

Demarcations for enumeration areas has been done in Dodoma and Singida regions, and was still underway in Manyara region, he stated, noting that demarcation by hamlets and streets has proved successful.

He said it was highly recommended that it is adopted for use in regions where demarcation has not been undertaken. George Milingai, Land Planning Officer from the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), said the department is work-

ing closely with NBS and other stakeholders in the census programme, as the ministry uses data from NBS in most government activities. The census is aimed at collecting data that is useful for administrative purposes, helping the ministry to prepare focused reports from the hamlets (groups of ten house cells) level. Makuru Ward councilor Moses Matonya said that the census is vital to national development efforts, so local government officials will cooperate

with NBS to make the coming enumeration a success. Residents in various areas need to be mobilised to cooperate with enumerators to give information on various activities in next year's census so as to identify existing challenges and opportunities in their areas. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the office of the Statistician General and other stakeholders will conduct the 2022 Population and Housing Census, ten years after the last one undertaken in 2012.



Arzu Yilmaz (3rd-L), head of Dar es Salaam's Feza Nursery School, cuts a Mother's Day cake at the school earlier this week witnessed by her pupils' parents. Photo: Correspondent Ashirack Miraji

Dozens dead as Israel, Hamas scale up fighting

ASHKELON, Israel

THE worst fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in seven years intensified on Tuesday night, as Israeli airstrikes began targeting Hamas offices in Gaza City and militants in Gaza fired rockets at the metropolis of Tel Aviv, the southern city of Ashkelon and Israel's main airport.

In Gaza, at least 35 Palestinians, including 10 children, had been killed by Tuesday night, and 203 others were wounded, according to health officials. In Israel, five people were

killed in strikes on Tel Aviv, Ashkelon and Lod, and at least 100 were wounded, according to medical officials.

Away from the military conflict, a wave of civil unrest spread across Arab neighborhoods as Palestinian citizens of Israel expressed fury at the killings in Gaza and longstanding complaints of discrimination inside Israel itself.

While the surge in strikes, the worst since 2014, brought fear to millions in Gaza and Israel, they nevertheless bolstered an unlikely pair: Hamas, the Islamist militant group that runs the

Gaza Strip, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

For Hamas, the conflict has allowed it to revitalize its claims to the leadership of Palestinian resistance. It framed its rockets as a direct response to a pair of Israeli police raids on the Aqsa Mosque compound, a religious site in East Jerusalem sacred to both Muslims and Jews. In the process, the group presented itself as a protector of Palestinian protesters and worshipers in the city.

For Netanyahu, the distraction of the war, and the divisions it creates between

the disparate opposition parties currently negotiating a coalition to topple him from power, have given him half a chance of remaining in office, just days after it seemed like he might finally be on the way out.

"It is the story of every previous war between Israel and Hamas," said Ghasan Khatib, a politics expert at Birzeit University in the occupied West Bank. Both governments "come out of it victorious, and the public of Gaza comes out of it as losers."

Both sides seized on the charged symbolism of the holy city. The Israeli mili-

tary code-named its operation Guardians of the Walls, a reference to the ancient ramparts of the Old City of Jerusalem. The militants had their own code name: Sword of Jerusalem.

For the victims of the violence, the first 36 hours of the renewed conflict brought little but terror and loss. The Palestinian militants and Israeli military are unevenly matched – the former armed with rockets, the latter with fighter jets and a sophisticated antimissile defense system, the Iron Dome, partly financed by the United States.

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Govt creates 547 health sector jobs

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health staff to facilitate the provision of quality health services," he said.

About 473 of the new batch will be allocated in zonal referral hospitals of Mbeya, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), Bugando and regional hospitals, plus providing additional staff in health colleges operated by the ministry.

The government's central laboratory in Dar es Salaam has been facing a shortage of staff, thus a

permit has been issued to employ 74 new qualified pharmacists, nurses, technologists, laboratory experts and other positions.

"The new employees will fill in positions of those who retired or stopped working due to various factors. Applicants are required to follow the rules and regulations as indicated," he asserted.

The job opportunities are new and different from those set out by the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), he added.



Lightness Lema (L) of Hai District Hospital examines Hai district administrative secretary Upendo Wella at an International Nurses Day (May 12) ceremony yesterday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

'National fertiliser authority has inspected 2,190 dealers'

By Guardian Reporter

IN attaining its targets for FY 2020/21, Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has been able to inspect 2,190 fertiliser dealers in 24 regions over the legality of licences and the quality of the fertiliser they distribute in the country.

Fertiliser dealers who were inspected were those from Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe, Morogoro, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Katavi and Coast regions.

Other regions were Tanga, Mtwara, Lindi, Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara, Simiyu, Tabora, Kigoma, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam, TFRA Managing Director, Dr Stephan Ngailo said 18 fertiliser factories were also inspected and were found with various deficiencies and owners thereof were told to improve their services and increase production, especially in areas of registration and products' quality.

He said during 2020/21 season the availability and distribution of fertiliser in the country was satisfactory as by April this year, a total of 454,905.02 tonnes of fertiliser was imported including 109,274, Urea, 95,444 tonnes DAP, 47,707 tonnes CAN, 95,660 NPK, 546.22 tonnes SA,

14,282 tonnes MOP and other types totaling 37,882 tonnes.

"TFRA continues working together with all stakeholders to ensure quality fertiliser is available at all times during a season," Dr Ngailo added.

In regard to fertiliser purchase system, he said up to April this year, training was provided to 458 cooperatives, under their cooperative unions.

He said the unions included UKU from Rukwa Region, IFCU (Iringa Region) NJORECU (Njombe), MBIFACU (Mbinga) including all primary cooperatives of small tea growers through Tanzania Smallholders Tea Development Agency (TSHTIDA), and coffee cooperatives under the supervision of Tanzania Tobacco Board (TTB)

He said as for now TFRA is working together with institutions under the Agriculture Ministry including Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC), National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) and Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) in empowering trained farmers to enter into contracts with crops buyers to obtain banks' collaterals for importing all types of fertiliser for the coming 2021/2022 season via one tender under the Bulk Purchase System (BPS).

We have a big shortage of nurses, says minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Ummu Mwalimu, has said as for now the country has a big shortage of nurses and medical devices, the situation that has seen nurses being subjected to complaints and even abuse from patients.

Ummu made the remarks on

Wednesday during celebrations to mark International Nurses Day which was held nationally at Babati in Manyara Region.

The minister was representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan who was to be the official guest.

"Many challenges facing nurses of being abused and even humiliated by patients are caused by the shortage of medical devices, and when patients are told of this they are not satisfied," she

said. She said 4,000 nurses in the country are inadequate, they are few, but despite this challenge they perform their duties well in serving many people.

The minister said 60 per cent of health workers are nurses, adding that they are the ones closer to patients for long periods of time than doctors as one doctor can stay with a patient for 10 to 20 minutes only, but nurses stay with patients for 24

hours. Apart from nurses' shortage, the minister said in 2020 the nurses managed to help two million pregnant women who delivered in various hospitals and health centres.

She used the occasion to congratulate them for reducing maternal deaths, especially to children under five years and those under 30 days and added that 85 per cent of nurses served patients during Covid-19 pan-

demic. "I will continue to recognise the good work by nurses and defend them as serving patients is an important profession," she added.

She called upon politicians, in particular regional and district commissioners to stop harassing them by placing them in custody, and instead if a nurse commits an offence she should be referred to the Medical Board for action.

For his part, a representative from the Ministry of Health Dr Saitore lazier said nurses and midwives are a huge resource as they stay with patients for longer times.

He said nurses are to be found in every department of the health sector adding that a nurse who performs well becomes very pleased with her/his work, and added that success in the health sector is provided by nurses by 60 per cent.

The Ministry's Permanent secretary Dr Grace Magembe said new 954 job opportunities in the health sector advertised were for nurses and pledged to continue improving the working environment in the sector.

For his part The Secretary General of Tanzania Nurses Association (TANA) Sebastian Luziga said nurses have played crucial role in reducing maternal deaths for both mothers and children.

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Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority

Head Office

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) is a Statutory Institution owned by the two Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia on a 50/50 share holding basis. With the registered Head Office being in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, TAZARA has two Regional Administrative Centres – one in Mpika, Zambia and the other in Dar es Salaam. The position of Corporation Secretary has fallen vacant at the Head Office, in Tanzania. Applications are invited from suitably qualified Tanzanians to fill the vacant position.

CORPORATION SECRETARY (CS)

Reporting to	: Managing Director
Salary Scale	: Contract
Location	: Head Office, Dar es Salaam
Number of Positions	: One (1)

Job Purpose
To advise Management on legal matters and provide legal and administrative services to the Council of Ministers, Board of Directors and the Authority in general as well as safeguarding Authority interests and asset utilization.

Key Responsibilities:

- a) Providing legal, administrative and secretarial services to the Board of Directors and Council of Ministers;
- b) Coordinating the interpretation and implementation of the Authority's policy decisions and ensuring that directives thereof are strictly adhered to;
- c) Vetting all Agreements to loans, asset acquisitions and property rentals and ensuring strict adherence to laid down conditions/stipulations;
- d) Litigating on behalf of the Authority in all court cases and advising Senior Legal Counsels and Legal Officers involved in the litigations to ensure adequate representation of TAZARA interests;
- e) Carrying out research on interpretations of the Labour Laws of both Countries and other legal issues through critical examination of relevant literature and consultation with professionals to guide Management, the Board of Directors and the Council of Ministers in their decision-making;
- f) Securing Title Deeds for all TAZARA land and coordinating with the relevant institutions in both states on matters pertaining to real estate i.e. property and Land;

Qualifications and Experience:

- a) Form four Certificate;
- b) L.L.B Degree from any accredited University;
- c) Legal Practising Certificate;
- d) An active member in good standing of the Bar of Tanganyika;
- e) Excellent command of the English language, both written and spoken; and
- f) At least five years of relevant working experience.

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

Mode of Application:
Only candidates who meet the specified requirements need to apply to the address indicated below, enclosing their detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of educational certificates, names and addresses of three traceable referees. Closing date for receiving application letters is 4th June, 2021.

Notes:

- a) Female candidates are encouraged to apply.
- b) Only short-listed candidates will be communicated to.
- c) Faxed or electronic applications will NOT be accepted.

Human resources Manager
Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA)
Head Office, Julius Nyerere Road
P.O. Box 2834
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



NMB Bank Plc HR officer Emmanuel Akonaay (2nd-L) and Dar es Salaam zone manager Donatus Richard present foodstuffs and beverages to Ijanga Zaida (L, standing), a representative of one of 12 orphanages to which the bank extended an Eid al Fitr "handshake" yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mwinyi holds discussion with UK Under-Secretary of State for Africa

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has met and held discussions with UK Under-Secretary of State for Africa James Duddridge and explained to him the steps by the Phase VIII government to ensure the Isles gets sustainable development.

In the talks held at Zanzibar State House, Dr Mwinyi told his guest about the government strategic plans in strengthening the economy for the development of the people of Zanzibar.

He also told him government efforts in strengthening cooperation with its development partners including other international institutions.

He said the Zanzibar government has vowed to make the Isles an important trading centre in the East African region by developing Blue Economy that incorporates tourism, fishing and oil and gas drilling.

Dr Mwinyi therefore told the UK Secretary to mobilise investors in the UK to come to Zanzibar to grab the investment opportunities in various sectors.

Dr Mwinyi also said his government was making special efforts to make sure of development ration between the islands of Unguja and Pemba.

In regard to politics and democracy, Dr Mwinyi told Secretary Duddridge that big efforts were being made by the government to ensure sustainability of peace, solidarity and unity among the people of Zanzibar.

He also told his guest in order to work for big development goals he made sure to cooperate with opposition leaders in forming the government on national unity to ensure the Isles remained peacefully.

In regard to the Covid-19 pandemic Dr Mwinyi explained to him of various measures taken by the Union government, including the formation of a committee of experts to advise the government on the issue.

He said since Zanzibar so much depended on the tourism sector, Covid-19 pandemic has caused the reduction of tourists coming to Zanzibar thereby drastically reducing government revenues.

For his part, the UK Under-Secretary of state for Africa James Duddridge promised that efforts taken by his government to support African countries will continue.

In attaining that goal, he said his government has allocated special budget to assist African countries.

Two arrested in connection with illegal tobacco trade

By Guardian Correspondent,

Chunya

A CONSIGNMENT of tobacco has been seized in Chunya District, Mbeya Region as it was being sold outside the official system governing the crop's sale, the incident that prompted the District Commissioner Simon

Mayeka to order for the detention of two people, a farmer and the buyer. Mayeka ordered the duo to be placed in custody on Tuesday saying the act was similar to economic sabotage.

Speaking to reporters in his office, the DC said the two were arrested at Mtanila village at around 8.00pm after primary cooperatives in collaboration

with the police made a patrol to control illegal tobacco trade.

He mentioned the two as Twaha Edward, a tobacco middleman and Songora Rashid a farmer and a member of Mtanila AMCOS. "As every tobacco buying season approaches there appears middlemen who go around houses to secretly buy tobacco, but this time we decided

to set a trap by making patrols using farmers AMCOs and the police and managed to seize the consignment," he said.

The DC said the farmer, through his AMCOs was loaned with farm inputs including fertiliser, pesticides hence he has debts which hasn't been paid, so he has secretly started selling his crop, a clear sign that he won't

pay the debts.

He said the habit has been causing conflicts in many AMCOs making the government spend a lot of time to resolve.

Mayeka further said the middlemen often buy high quality Grade I tobacco but shortchange the farmers by giving them low prices. "A good example is the tobacco we have seized, when

we called in officials from the Tobacco Board, they valued it at 835,146/-, but sadly this farmer sold it for a mere 118,000/-," he said.

Tobacco Board's representative in Chunya District Faustine Mtwewe said this habit could make the tobacco collection targets in Chunya District for this year not to be reached.

He said during this farming season, the aim is to collect 11.44 kgs of tobacco from about 400,000 tobacco farmers from Chunya District alone.

Chunya District Executive Director, Sophia Kumbuli said tobacco is among crops being depended on by the district council for revenue used to finance various development projects.

Mpina rallies fellow legislators to reject Health ministry budget over drug theft

By Guardian Reporter

KISESA Member of Parliament Luhaga Mpina has called fellow legislators not to endorse the Budget estimates for the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children until a solution is found on the issue of medicines being stolen, saying it spurred many complaints from the people not

getting medicines at government run health centres.

Contributing to the Health Ministry's budget estimates tabled in the House by its Minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima that among others touched the issue of theft of drugs, Mpina said the government has not shown how big the problem is and steps being taken against the thieves.

"Deputy Speaker, I have read the min-

ister's speech on the issue at page 61 but how it was reported it seem to be huge but accorded only one paragraph and hence I like to stress that the problem is very big," he said.

He said at one time the Health Minister announced a war against thieves of drugs, but since then drugs valued at 13.5mn/- have been reported stolen in Songwe Region, in Ukerewe 200m/- worth of drugs were also stolen and confirmed by her.

He wondered how come the government is failing to control these thieves, adding "up to today the thieves have a free hand to government medicines, who is stealing them? How do they do it while it has enforcement watchdogs at all levels?"

He said in the minister's report, she should have told us she has arrested how many thieves since she instituted the campaign against them, saying that sadly none has been arrested.

He said without solving the issue the government would be seen as lying to its people.

He said the government ought to come up with a special strategy to solve the problem to ensure all culprits are placed behind bars and taken to court.



Karatu district commissioner Abbas Kayanda (R) pictured yesterday handing over a birth certificate to the mother of an under-five who had just been registered. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Over 1,000 students in Dar drilled on sexual and reproductive health

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

OVER 1,000 students at Malamba-Mawili Secondary School in Dar es Salaam have benefited from education on sexual and reproductive health to address teenage pregnancies.

Facilitated by nurses from Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), the training was part of marking the International Nurses Day, themed: Nurses: A Voice to Lead-A Vision for Future Healthcare. The day is celebrated around the world every May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) com-

memorates this important day each year with the production and distribution of the International Nurses' Day (IND) resources and evidence.

MNH nurses chairman David Mpayuke said they provided the training so as to promote the improvement of community health, cleanliness, and first aid in schools as well as mental and reproductive health.

"Nursing is a profession which needs enough human resources so as to facilitate the provision of quality health services, so training and encouraging more students to love the profession will enable them to study hard to achieve their dreams.

This helps them also to value and prevent themselves from diseases," he said.

Catherine Bigendaku, a nursing officer from the MNH-Mlonganzila wanted the students to be very careful in monitoring their body changes so as to enable them to make the right decisions.

"By feeding the students with the right sexual reproductive health will enable them to value themselves and be able to prevent early pregnancies and diseases," she said.

Danile Mfanga, a teacher at Malamba-Mawili secondary school commended the nurses for educating the stu-

dents with the right education which is going to help them know various health challenges and be able to overcome them.

"This education will greatly help our girl students to know their value and protect themselves from strangers who end up destroying their dreams. Early pregnancies will be reduced or even totally eradicated," he added.

The International Nurses Day (IND) is a special day observed to mark the contributions that nurses make to society. Like doctors and other health care workers, nurses are at the forefront of fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION)

AT DAR ES SALAAM

COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 128 OF 2020

SAO HILL INDUSTRIES LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

URBAN AND RURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES LIMITED.....DEFENDANT

DECREE

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays for judgment and decree against the defendant as follows:

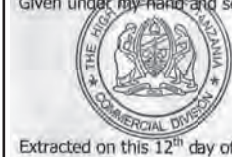
- A declaration that the Defendant has breached the terms of the Purchase Agreement executed between the Parties.
- An Order for payment of TZS 1, 823,564,330.00 being the outstanding amount due and owing to the Plaintiff for the purchase of the Poles supplied by the Defendant to the Plaintiff.
- An order for reimbursement of the CESS amount paid by the Plaintiff on behalf of the Defendant to the tune of TZS 62,994,500.00.
- An order for payment of TZS 68,418,520.10 being the accrued interest on the outstanding payments for the supplied poles and CESS by the Defendant as at 7th September 2020.
- An order for payment of an interest at commercial rate of 21% per annum on the Principal amount from the date of default until the date of Judgment.
- An order that the Defendant pay general damages to be assessed by the Court for breach of contract.
- An order that the Defendant to pay interest on the Decretal amount at Court rate of 12% per annum from the date of Judgment to the date of full satisfaction.
- Costs of this suit.
- An order for payment of interest on the costs at Court's rate of 12% from the date of Judgment until payment in full.
- Any other order and relief as this Honourable court may deem fit and just to grant.

This matter is coming for judgment on this 4th day of May 2021 before Hon. B.K. Phillip, J in the presence of advocate Jovison Kagirwa for the Plaintiff and in the absence of the Defendant.

THIS COURT DOETH HEREBY ORDER THAT

- The Defendant has breached the terms of the Purchase Agreement executed between the Parties.
- The defendant shall pay the plaintiff a sum of TZS. 977,407,430.00 being the outstanding amount due for the purchase of the Poles supplied to the defendant by the Plaintiff.
- The defendant shall pay the Plaintiff a sum of TZS 62,994,500.00, being the amount of CESS paid by the plaintiff on behalf of the Defendant.
- The plaintiff shall pay the plaintiff interest on the principal amount in item (ii) and (iii) herein above at commercial rate of 21% per annum from August 2020 the date of Judgment.
- The Defendant shall pay the plaintiff interest on the decretal amount at Court rate of 7% per annum from the date of Judgment to the date of full payment of decretal sum.
- Costs of this suit shall be borne by the defendant

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 4th day of May 2021.



Extracted on this 12th day of May 2021

Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair's 45th edition starting June 28

By Guardian Reporter

THE Industry and Trade Ministry through the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) is on preparations of the 45th International Trade fair to be held in Dar es Salaam from June 28 to July 13 this year.

A press statement issued by the Authority said the aim of the trade fair is to provide opportunities to local and foreign traders as well as other institutions to advertise their trade products and services, to learn better production of goods that respond to international market.

Another aim, according to the statement is to create a communication network among traders that will assist in strengthening their businesses and get partners.

"The Fair's theme for this year is 'Industrial Economy for Employment and Sustainable Trade,' this theme

aims to recognize the contribution of the industrial sector in spurring production in various economic sectors to beef up internal and external trade and increase employment," the statement said.

In addition to the Trade fair there would be online business meetings (B2B) to connect both local and foreign stakeholders aimed at looking for markets for goods and services produced in the country including products from agricultural, livestock, fishing, forests and mineral sectors.

The statement further said there will also be business clinical services for the business people to strengthen enabling environments for trade including the availability of modern and simple technologies.

He said the Fair will comprise three areas, the first of which will be the Agriculture Zone under the Agriculture Ministry made up of crops boards,

manufacturers of farm inputs and farming technologies.

The second area is the 'Minerals Avenue' that will comprise all stakeholders in the mineral sector including both small and big miners, researchers, jewelers and goldsmiths all aimed to expand the sector's markets.

The statement said the third area will be the 'Small Industries Street' that will comprise entrepreneurs aimed at providing opportunities to display and sell their product to both local and foreign markets.

It said despite the Covid-19 pandemic that has afflicted the world, so far more than seven countries have confirmed to participate in the Fair.

"These include China, Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan, Syria, India and UAE, as well as 54 foreign companies and 2,803 local companies have confirmed participation.



Zanzibar, a Tanzania island is one of the leading tourist destination for Africa

Zanzibar rated as springboard to rollout against digital exclusion

By Special Correspondent

ZANZIBAR is the springboard to the rollout of a global platform combining renewable energy with meshnet and blockchain technology to enhance digital inclusion in Africa.

World Mobile, a new global mobile network built on the sharing economy, is behind the rollout.

After Zanzibar, the company is expanding the service to Kenya and Tanzania in mid-May, then the rest of the continent.

The exercise follows the realisation that the lack of internet connectivity for half the world excludes 3.6 billion people from accessing essential services for human development including online education, banking, and health-care.

Until now, according to World Mobile, traditional telecoms have not found a sustainable business model to connect all of Africa, hence the company believes its sharing economy is an alternative business model.

Officials said the model allowed the network further reach and would remain more sustainable than any existing traditional telecom.

"Many telecommunication companies are leaving Africans behind because remote places are seen as non-profitable," said Micky Watkins, the World Mobile Chief Executive Officer.

He said the company's network would not only connect the unconnected, create digital inclusion and foster economic freedom but it was also profitable, allowing the network to provide coverage for years to come.

"I believe this has been the missing link that big tech companies and mobile network operators have overlooked so far and that is why half the world is still offline," Watkins said.

Through the exercise, the company said it would make it possible for local entrepreneurs to become network operators, earn rewards and incentivise growth of the network. Blockchain is a core part of World Mobile's technology stack.

It is used to create self-governed digital IDs, validate transactions, eliminate middlemen and enable distributed ownership of the infrastructure.

This allows the community to scale the network and disrupt the oligopoly that has so far left half the world offline.

The network's off-the-shelf nodes is hailed as affordable and easy for operators to set up, empowering them to connect themselves and others while earning World Mobile Tokens.

RC demands urgent repairs to damaged Dar es Salaam roads

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Aboubakar Kunenge has instructed Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to make repairs to all roads that have been damaged so as to remove inconveniences to road users.

He gave the instructions on Wednesday this week during his visit to some of the roads including the 1.24km Darajani-Barakuda road and the Gerezani-Machinga Complex road which he witnessed huge potholes that make vehicles pass with difficulties.

He said these roads were essential as they are used to reduce congestion when the main roads were undergoing repairs, hence he called for their prompt repairs.

"We cannot accept the condition of these roads, it creates great inconveniences to the people, my instructions are that they should be repaired, and since they are trouble sections during rains, use iron roads and concrete instead of tar," he said.

He added: "Abide by the quality, I want these roads to be completed within the times set, work day and night."

He added that it could be the government "has no ability to repair every road due to government needs and priorities, but from the funds we have procured we should begin repairing them especially those frequently used to eradicate road congestion in the city."

TARURA Dar es Salaam Region's Coordinator, Eng. Geofrey Mkinga said a contractor has been tasked to do the job and will use two months to complete the repairs to the Darajani-Barakuda road.

"True, this road has been a great challenge as it was being seen but the first phase of the repairs involving its two kms has been completed and the second phase thereof has begun and will be completed within the time set," he added.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Aboubakar Kunenge.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)/ REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA.

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The purpose of the EOI/ RFI is to explore the supply market for competent Suppliers with the requisite skills, knowledge and financial capacity to Supply and Deliver of various Goods and Services to Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) in accordance with the RFI documents.

The responses to this EOI/RFI will be used to shortlist capable Suppliers that will be invited to respond to the Main Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Various Goods and Services for Geita Gold Mining Ltd. The details and dates for the issue of the Main Tender will be communicated to shortlisted Companies only. It is necessary to respond to this EOI/ RFI in order to be pre-qualified to be considered for the Main Tender.

Scope of work:

Reference Number	Project Description
GGME01045	PROVISION OF SITE LABORATORY EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

II. SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR PROVISION, SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES

The below information forms the minimum requirements in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out:

- Approved dealership (where applicable)
- Capability
- Warranty (where applicable)
- Previous supply records of at least three (3) Clients on similar goods
- Previous experience on doing the same service

III. GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

The below information is required in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out below:

1. Details of business presence in Tanzania
2. Details on Compliance of the Mining Act (Local Content) Regulations 2018, including:
 - Approved Local Content Plan by Mining Commission
 - Ownership: Please provide the following information about your organisation's ownership/partners/members:
 - 2.1 For privately owned companies, a list of all the owners, their nationality and respective percentage ownership of your organisation.
 - 2.2 For publicly traded companies, a list of all shareholders holding more than 5% with details of their nationality and percentage ownership.
3. Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work. Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
4. Service provider's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years.
5. Company Profile, Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate, Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN, Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license & List of Directors
6. Safety and Environmental Policies & OSHA Compliance Certificate

IV. PREQUALIFICATION EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

In evaluating the interested bidder, GGML will consider the following:

1. **Supply Reliability** – Prospective Bidders to indicate the approach they will adopt to ensure Quality of the goods supplied, particularly in the Mining Sector.
2. **Capability** – Prospective Bidders to give details of their capability regarding the supply of services and goods to similar size of clients as GGML. (At least 3 reference letters from existing customers are required)
3. **Permits and Certifications** – Prospective Bidders to provide details and evidence of permits and registrations issued by the relevant Government authorities, and any other statutory bodies regulating the related goods/services.
4. **Local Content** – Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended by having an approved Local Content Plan.

Interested bidders must submit expression Letters of Interest ("**LOI**") by quoting the **DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER** of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than **0830 A.M 21 May 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline)**. EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email, documents should be submitted in PDF format (documents should NOT be submitted via a link). In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email. In case the applicant does not comply with the EOI Submission Requirements, GGML shall not be liable for not considering the applications that have been compromised.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



POLICY FORUM'S 2021/22 PRE-BUDGET POSITION STATEMENT

THE STATE OF 2021/2022 BUDGET: TOWARDS A COMPETITIVE AND INDUSTRIALIZED NATION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Preamble

This submission from the Policy Forum (PF), a network of over 60 Tanzanian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) brought together by their interest in public money accountability, is a continuation of efforts to contribute to the budget process, discourse and performance. Compiled by its Budget Working Group, the submission recognises the government's ambition to improve human development and it focuses on key public sectors such as health, education, agriculture, water and youth. It also presents crucial concerns related to resource budget allocation and execution and makes recommendations worth consideration in Parliamentary deliberations.

The year 2021/22 marks the first year of implementation of the Third Five Year Development Plan (FYDP III 2021/22 to 2025/26) themed 'Realising Competitiveness and Industrialisation for Human Development'. The submission takes stock of the current situation in the selected sectors, and humbly offers some issues worth considering in the implementation of the 2021/22 budget as well as other long government plans.

To this end, as active participants in Tanzania's poverty reduction and equity enhancement efforts using budget tools, we are obliged to adapt to changing times and ensure we contribute to mitigating the negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the socio-economic gains made in recent years as well as preserving their governance structures.

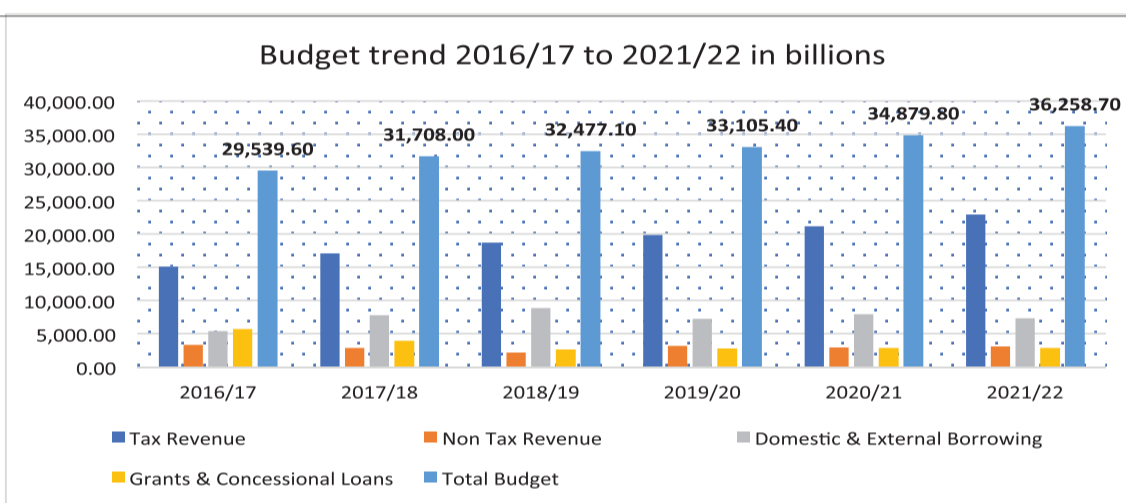
2. An Overview of the National Budget

While the budget for 2020/21 saw an increase of 5%, the budget for 2021/22 sees an increase of 4% rising to TZS. 36.3 trillion from TZS. 34.9 trillion in 2020/21. This is according to the proposal released on 11th March 2021 by the Minister of Finance and Planning while highlighting the National Plan and Budget ceilings for the financial year 2021/2022. Of the total budget, TZS. 23.0 trillion which is 63% is allocated for recurrent expenditures and the remaining TZS. 13.3 trillion is for development expenditures.

It is important to note that of the TZS. 23.0 trillion allocated for recurrent expenditures, TZS. 10.7 trillion (about 30% of the recurrent budget) is intended to service the national debt which stands at TZS. 59 trillion as of December 2020. Therefore, with the national debt aside, recurrent budget is TZS. 13.0 trillion and development budget is TZS. 13.3 trillion.

As stated earlier, the budget for 2021/22 is the first year of implementing the Third Five Year Development Plan which runs until 2025/26. Given the great ambitions of the plan that aim to foster human development, it is imperative that the government sets realistic allocations matching with its efforts to mobilise revenues. With the uncertainties of the Coronavirus pandemic, the slight increase in budget is welcome but it is worth considering the performance of last year in terms of revenue collection. The consistent growth of the budget as can be seen in figure 1 suffers from challenges related to actual collections and disbursements.

Figure 1: Sources of Funding from 2016/17 to 2021/22



Source: Statements by the Minister of Finance and Planning presented to the National Assembly.

3. Highlights from Selected Sectors

3.1 Health: Curbing Maternal Mortality in Tanzania: Does the Budget allocation and disbursement respond to the needs and targets?

In promoting health sector development, among other things, the Government of Tanzania has continued to improve health infrastructure, access to medical equipment, immunisations and medicines in health facilities in the country. Tanzania is making efforts to address the sectoral needs by encouraging greater investment where in 2020/2021, 17 pharmaceutical, medical and protective equipment industries were established. Additionally, there is a significant increase in number of dispensaries from 4,922 in 2015 to 6,120 in 2020, health facilities from 535 in 2015 to 710 in 2020, District Council Hospitals from 77 in 2015 to 179 in 2020 and yet some referral and specialized hospital construction projects are being completed.

Despite the achievements registered in the health sector, Tanzania is still experiencing challenges in maternal and child health especially during delivery process that among others is mostly caused by limited scale of maternal and child health services and inadequate infrastructures. There is a significant decrease of maternal mortality during childbirth from 432 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015/16 to 321 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2019/20. Tanzania is off-track to meet health sector target of 250 (2020/21), 220 (2025/26) and goal 3 of SDGs of less than 70 maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births.

Health related issues have been given primary attention in the global, regional and national plans and strategies regardless of the implementation and achievements at hand. Globally, the SDG number 3 focuses to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Amongst others, the goal has set at least two specific targets to reduce the number of maternal deaths over time:

- Reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100, 000 live births by 2030,
- End preventable deaths of new borns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1000 live births.

The Fourth Health Sector Strategic Plan 2015-2020 (HSSP IV) among others has specifically emphasized on quality improvement of primary health care services, delivering a package of essential services in communities and health facilities and equitable access to services in the country by focusing on geographic areas with higher disease burdens and by focusing on vulnerable groups in the population with higher risks. Likewise, the National Health Policy 2017 is consistent with implementation of the National Development Vision 2025, the Sustainable Development Goals 2030; and the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020. A related policy objective underpins to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services through:

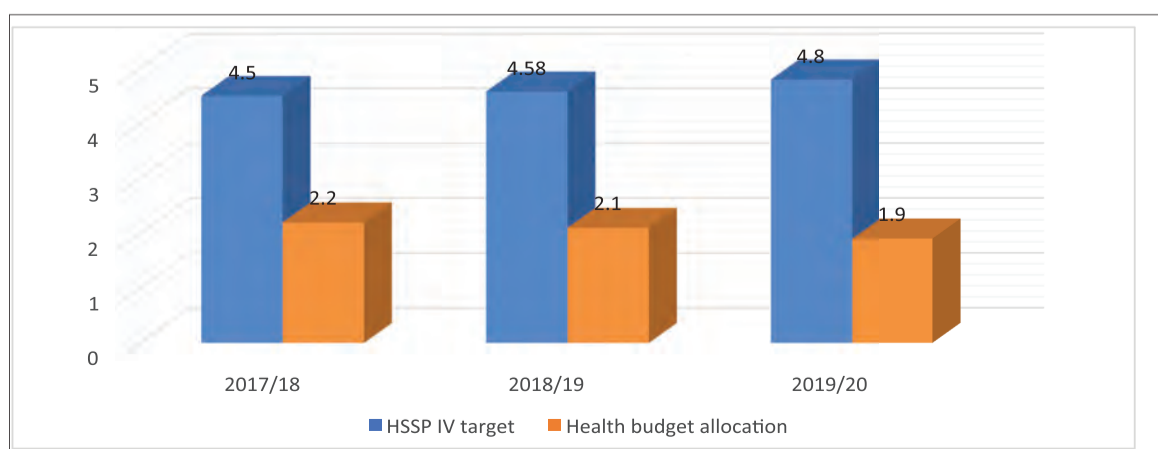
- Ensuring provision of quality health services to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescents and
- enhancing reproductive, maternal and newborn emergency services.

Health Budget

The analysis which covers the past three financial years; 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, has taken into consideration the trend of budget in line with maternal mortality related challenges.

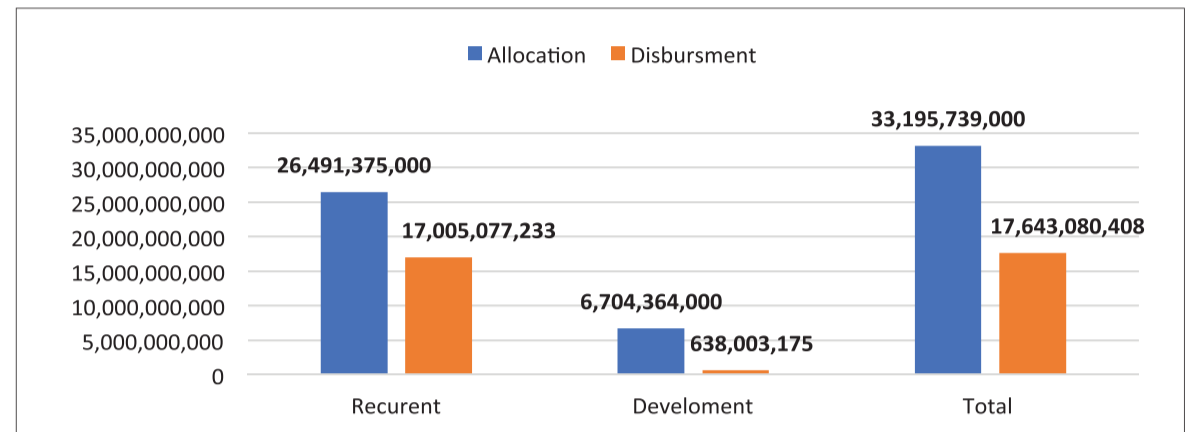
As shown in figure 2, budget allocations in 2017/18 through 2019/20 in the health sector have been less than targeted budget by the Health Sector Strategic Plan IV 2015 – 2020 that intended to extend maternal services to reach under-served areas and under-served groups and to meet the quality standards for primary and referral care.

Figure 2: Health budget Allocations Against the HSSP IV Targets (figures in trillions)



With scarce resources, the government has not been able to adequately disburse the budget allocated for the financial year 2020/21. The figure below shows a huge difference between allocated budgets and disbursed budgets as compared to the elapsed time and remaining time in the financial year 2020/21. While only 53% of the budget was disbursed, 10% of the budget set for development was disbursed and disbursement for recurrent expenditure accounted for 64% of the budget allocated to it.

Figure 3: Budget Allocations and Disbursement until February 2021 Vote 53



3.2 Education: Addressing Key Challenges in the Education Sector is Important

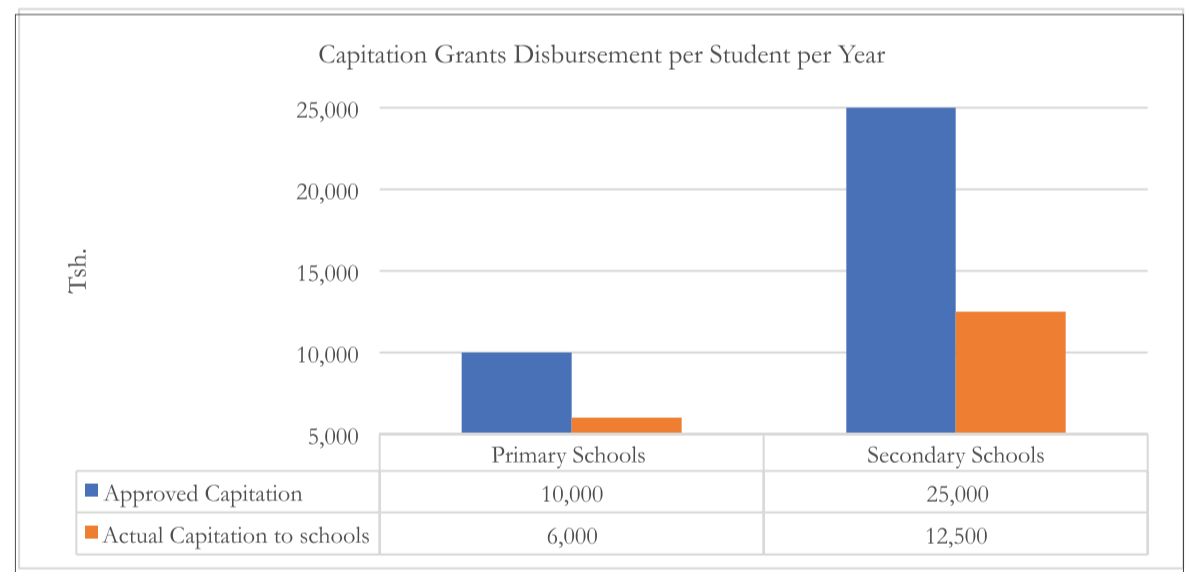
Recent efforts and commitment by the Government of Tanzania in providing and improving Education Sector through the Ministry of Education (MoEST) and Presidents Office, Regional Administration and Local Authorities (PO-RALG) cannot be overemphasised. The commitment to provide basic fee-free education for instance, has led to increased enrolment in primary and secondary schools which is an attainment of key education indicator, 'accessibility'. At the primary school level for example, the number of pupils has increased from 8.2 million in 2016 to 10 million in 2020. This increase in primary level, is expected to also lead to increased enrolment at the secondary school level from 2.6 million in 2020 to 4.5 million in 2024 (BEST 2020).

Need to Increase Schools Capitation Grants

Fee Free Basic Education is implemented by the government through direct support of schools using capitation grants. The current capitation rates are TZS. 10,000/= per primary school pupil per year and TZS. 25,000/= per each ordinary level secondary school student per year. It is important to note that these rates have been used since 2002 when the government was implementing Primary and Secondary Schools Education Development Programmes (PEDP & SEDP); and have not changed ever since despite the changing inflation and falling of Tanzanian shilling purchasing power.

Recent guidelines however, regarding the provision of capitation in schools; have reduced the amount that goes to schools by 40% for primary and 50% for secondary schools. To this effect, primary schools receive only TZS. 6,000 per pupil while secondary schools receive TZS. 12,000 only per student. Basically, this amount is insufficient. Take for instance, a primary school with 300 to 400 students will receive an average of TZS.150,000 to TZS.200,000 per month to cater for all monthly administrative costs and purchasing of teaching materials such as chocks, examination costs etc.

Figure 4 Capitation Grants Disbursement per Student per year



Addressing Shortage of Classrooms

Implementation of fee-free education has increased the number of pupils in primary schools which will in turn increase enrolment in secondary schools. The number of pupils in primary schools has increased from 8, 222,667 in 2016 to 10,024,815 in 2020. During this enrolment expansion, government invested little in expansion of schools' infrastructures, specifically classrooms, toilets and administrative buildings. Currently, primary schools have a shortage of 82,200 classrooms leaving the pupil classroom ratio at 1:75 instead of the recommended 1:45 (BEST, 2020).

Secondary schools currently have a shortage of 4,647 classrooms. In the coming four years, from 2021 to 2024, there will be a shortage of around 41,833 classrooms because of the increased primary school pupils in 2016 mainly in Standard I and II, who will complete Standard VII in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Also, those who began their primary education in 2017 and 2018 are expected to complete in 2023 and 2024 and join secondary school. By considering the number of students who will join Form I between 2021 and 2024, there will be a total increase of about 1.8 million students, which is an average of 450,000 per year.

While aware of the government's plan through PO-RALG to construct around 3,268 classrooms during the financial year 2021/2022 to address the challenge of infrastructure in primary schools, it should be noted that this is only 4% of the prevailing shortage of 82,200 classrooms. It is therefore important that a significant amount of resources is allocated to cater for this shortage.

Addressing Shortage of teachers in Schools

According to Basic Education Statistics in Tanzania (BEST, 2020), there is a deficit of 50,993 teachers in primary schools. The statement issued by the Minister of Finance in March 2021, discloses that in the period of July 2020 to January 2021, a total of 13,529 vacancies were made available to teachers. This employment will reduce to a great extent the prevailing shortage of primary and secondary teachers to 37,464. Although the deficit remains to be high, according to BEST, the number/ratio of teachers to students is a big challenge, especially for pre-primary classes where the ratio is 1:169 and primary school classes have the ratio of 1:61 instead of the recommended 1:45.

We are aware that according to BEST, the ratio of Arts teachers in secondary schools is good. The procedure used in 2019 to transfer secondary school teachers to primary schools is a short-term solution (temporary). For a long-term solution, the Government must allocate a budget to employ new teachers to replace those who were transferred. There must be a critical consideration in 2021-2024 due to an increase of 1,882,500 students, which means 41,833 teachers will be required. Considering this increase, the Government has to employ 10,458 teachers per year between 2021-2124 to meet the demand of 41,833 teachers.

Improving Quality Assurance in Primary and Secondary Schools.

Implementing 'fee-free' policy has contributed to increased enrolment in schools and to a great extent, has reduced the challenge of dropout due to lack of school fees or various contributions. According to BEST, enrolment in primary schools has increased from 91.3% in 2015 to 110.3% in 2019. In secondary schools, enrolment increased from 36% in 2016 to 43.9% in 2020, and the number will double in 2022-2024, where the number of Form I students will grow from 562,000 in 2017 up to 1,083,600 in 2022. This number will continue to increase up to 1,276,100. The increasing number of students is supposed to go with specific strategies and emphasis for the Government to monitor the quality of education.

In the FY 2017/2018 there were 1,081 Quality Assurers for primary schools, while the actual need is 1,541 Assurers. For sometimes now, lack of adequate human and financial resources has affected the quality assurance department not to perform at its best. For example, in the FY 2020/2021, the department planned to conduct quality assurance in 4,700 primary schools instead of 18,152, and 1,200 secondary schools instead of 5,072.

3.3 Water: Improve rural women and girls' access to water and sanitation

Tanzania population is estimated to be about 60 million people and is anticipated to hit 90 million by 2035. In this situation WASH demands and challenges are expected to rise if not met and solved respectively. As of April 2020, 70.1% (rural) and 84% (urban) of the Tanzania population have access to an improved source of safe water, and only 30% of Tanzania population has access to improved sanitation.

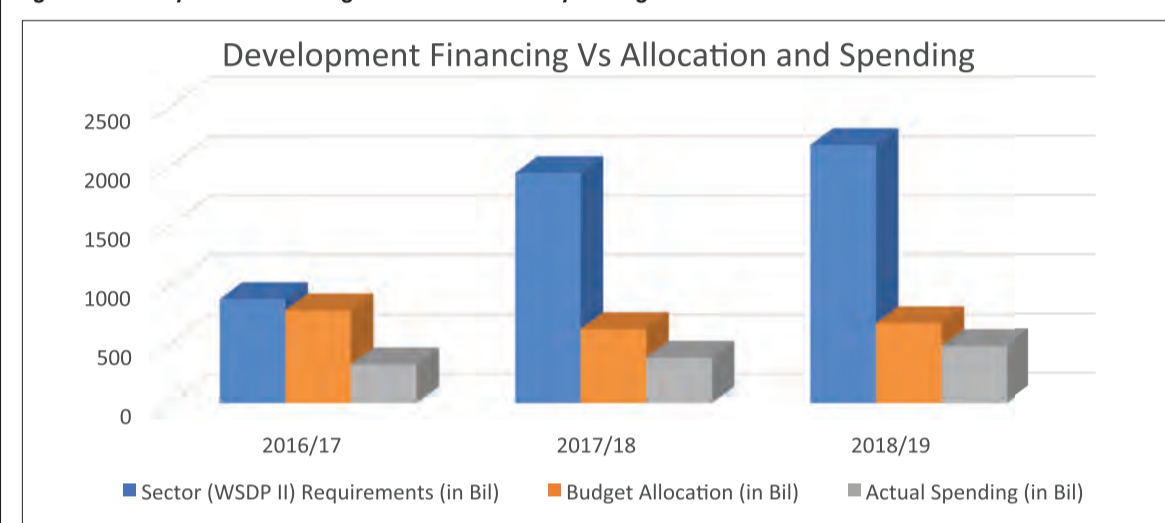
Traditionally, women and children bear the weight of fetching water from far-flung sources hence exposing them to violence. Efforts towards improving the management of the world's finite water resources and extending access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, often overlook the central role of women in water and sanitation.

For adolescent girls, the absence of privacy and dignity owing to lack of improved sanitation facilities have negative impacts on health, safety and self-esteem. There is growing evidence that inadequate WASH facilities which limit school enrolment, attendance, early dropout and affects performance and completion of education coupled with stress, shame, embarrassment, confusion and fear.

In bringing about gender equality the Government has in place the Tanzania National water policy of 2002 which recognises the importance of gender sensitivity and equality in implementation of water supply program, by ensuring active and effective participation of women and men in the interventions. Moreover, the National Development Vision 2025 that states among other things the attainment of gender equality and the empowerment of women in all socio-economic and political relations, and culture by the year 2025.

We would like to commend the efforts in place by the Government in establishing projects that aspire to end the challenges facing women, children particularly girls in as far as WASH is concerned. Specifically, the Government places prominence in monitoring the development of the projects to ensure that they yield the intended results. However, despite the zeal articulated by the policies seeking to address the setbacks, the water sector budget has been varying each year ranging from approximately 2% to 4% annually within the five years or the average of 3% which is contrary to the proposed allocation of 5.5% of the national budget by the Water Sector Development Programme II (WSDP II). The figure below demonstrates:

Figure 5 Development Financing Vs Allocation and Spending.



In the first year of WSDP II implementation, the Ministry of Water decided to temporarily abandon some activities pending the resources situation to improve while rendering highest priority to water supply and sanitation projects. Outcome of this prioritisation is evidenced through increased accessibility and coverage. While the expected annual share of resources for water resources management in WSDP II was 25%, annual allocations have been declining reaching 6% in FY 19/2020.

Annual approved budgets against WSDP II requirements.

WSDP II plans vs actuals	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Annual approved budget against WSDP II requirements.	89%	32%	31%	43%

During the period (FY 14/15 - FY 19/20), total accounted receipts from all sources (local, foreign and other) amounts to TZS. 1.99 Trillion. This is 54% of approved allocations for the period.

3.4 Youth: Curbing Youth Unemployment in Tanzania

In Africa, 10 to 12 million youth enter the workforce each year although only 3 million formal jobs are created whilst the impact of the enduring COVID-19 pandemic is highly expected to worsen the trend.

Considering the population of Tanzania which has increased more than four times from 12.3 million in 1967 to 55.9 million in 2019 where the average annual growth rate according to the 2012 Population and Housing Census is 3.1% which also stipulates 77% of Tanzanians are below the age of 35 and 19% are between 15-24 years. Yet, unemployment is higher amongst young women (14.3%) compared to young men of the same age (12.3%).

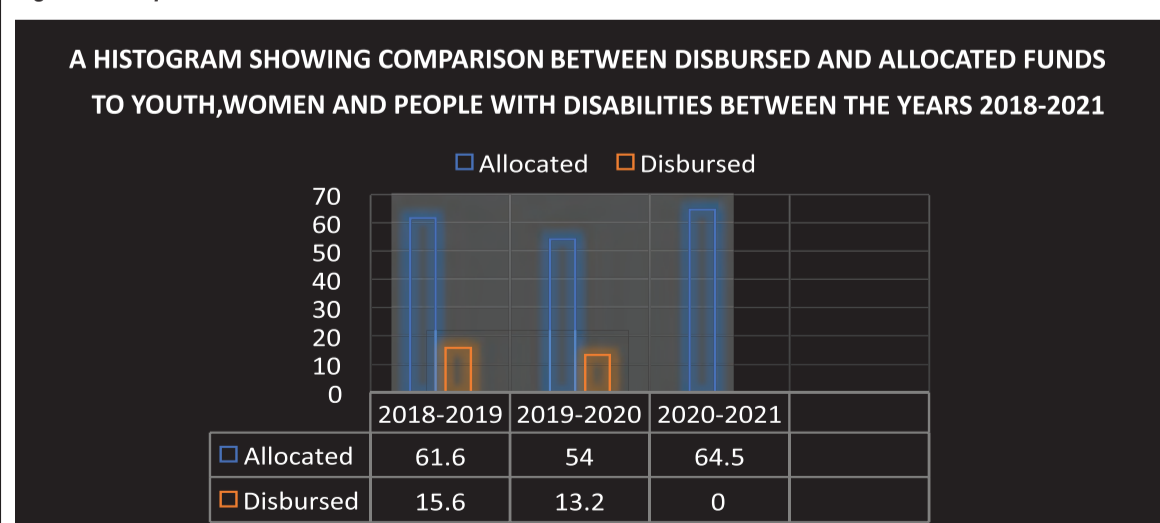
Through the Local Government Finance Act, 2018 the government came up with a commendable law which emphasizes on economic empowerment to address unemployment through access of loans to vulnerable groups to eradicate poverty by engaging in private enterprises.

In 2018 accordance to the amendment of Local Government Finance Act, chapter 290 section 37A, loans amounting to 10 percent of Local Councils' revenue are now issued interest free from July 2018 based on the distribution of 4% for Youth, 4% for Women and 2% for People with disabilities.

This section aims at examining the implementation of the said Act through scrutinizing the budget allocation versus disbursement to the PO-RALG and how much young women are accessing the funds to initiate or expand business, hence improving their livelihood. Before the Act, in the Financial Year 2017/18, the Youth and Women Development Fund were allocated TZS. 61.6 billion shillings which is 10% of the Council's internal revenue for 18,233 group loans. As of February 2018, an amount of TZS. 15.6 billion shillings was disbursed to 8,672 Women and Youth groups equivalent to 25% of the Budget allocated.

As of February 2019, a total of TZS. 13.2 billion shillings out of TZS. 54.08 billion shillings equivalent to 24.4% has been given as loans to 5,628 groups out of that TZS 8.04 billion shillings have been given to 3,835 women's groups, TZS. 4.7 billion shillings have been given to 1,606 youth groups and TZS. 415.96 Million Shillings have been issued to 187 groups of persons with disabilities. (Budget Speech PMO-RALG 2019/2020).

Figure 6 Comparison between allocated and disbursed funds.



In the financial year 2020/21, a total of TZS. 64.5 billion was allocated by all Councils in the country for loans to 18,244 groups of women, youth and persons with disabilities. Of this amount, TZS. 25.8 billion was allocated for 8,223 women's groups, TZS. 25.8 billion for 6,966 youth groups and TZS. 12.9 billion for 3,055 groups of persons with disabilities.

As of February 2021, a total of TZS. 26.81 billion equivalent to 41.61% of the target of TZS. 64.46 billion had been disbursed to 5,973 groups of women, youth and people with disabilities. In addition, the PO-RALG has revised the implementation guidelines for the empowerment of 10% of local council revenue for women, youth and people with disabilities by reducing the number of members who can form a group from 10 to five (5) members where in the case of persons with disabilities a group may be composed of at least two (2) persons; use part of the reimbursement funds for

group monitoring and evaluation; entrepreneurship training; leadership; financial management and reporting.

In the 2018-2019 CAG report, assessment made on the performance of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities revolving fund noted that 115 LGAs did not contribute total amount of TZS. 9,930,902,514 to the fund; and also, in 111 LGAs due loans issued to women, youths and people with disabilities amounting to TZS. 13,794,359,981 which had not been recovered.

While in the year 2019-2020, 82 LGAs did not contribute 10% of their own source revenues aggregate amount of TZS. 5,720,140,159, and whereby TZS. 27,790,189,049 had not been recovered.

Before enactment of the Act in 2017/18 allocation was TZS. 61.6 billion while three years after in 2020/21 allocation was TZS. 64.5 billion. This shows that there is an increase in allocation by only TZS. 3.1 billion. This is insignificant increase compared to the number of unemployment people in the country. On part of disbursement if compared in 2017/18 was TZS. 15.6 billion was disbursed while in 2020/21 disbursement was TZS. 26.8 billion. Here disbursement was nearly doubled. Therefore, the government should increase enforcement of the Act by imposing practical penalties to District Directors who do not comply. This may start by a research as to why there is such situation.

3.5 Adequate Agriculture Financing in Responding to the Needs of Women Small-Scale Farmers

In Tanzania mainland 50.5% of economically active population (labour force) are females and 49.5% are males, of these 55.8% are youth. Agriculture sector plays a great contribution towards Tanzania's economic development as it contributes to 28.6% of Gross Domestic Product. Agriculture is also a source of employment to 69.9% of women in Tanzania. Despite women being the most productive segment of the population, they do not benefit from the efforts they invest in agriculture.

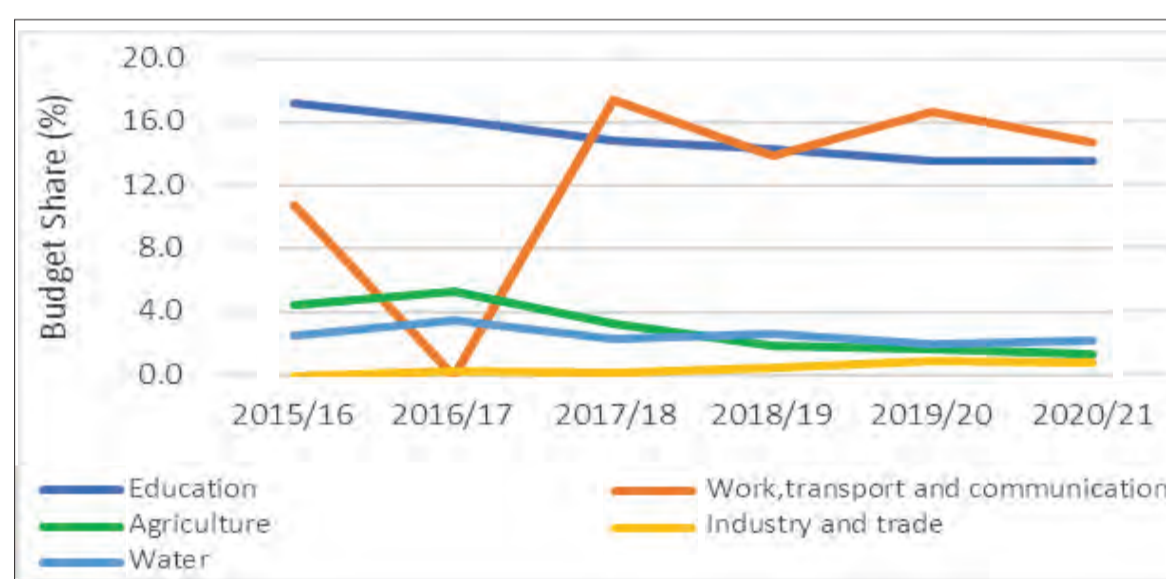
For quite some years now, agriculture sector has been crippled with inadequate financing, climate change challenges, difficulties in accessing extension services, poor post harvesting infrastructures, to name a few. Due to societal culture that in many ways undermines the rights of women especially when it comes to property ownership including land, women have been adversely affected by the challenges in the agriculture sector compared to men.

Agriculture is the engine of growth and poverty reduction in Tanzania. The sector, however, is underperforming due to the fact that women who are often crucial resources in agriculture economy face constraints that reduce their productivity. Agriculture provides 65.5% of employment, 65% of raw materials to the industrial sector and 30% of export earnings and provides employment to 82% of the total Tanzanian rural population, ensures food security and national security in general produce 70% of the country food requirements.

It has been shown that women and youth are potentially the most productive segments of the population, yet they suffer from marginalisation and are often the most vulnerable segments of the population. The gender gap in agricultural productivity in Tanzania is 30%. This is due to women and men farmers not facing the same productivity conditions.

Among the three major economic sectors and considering the multiplied effect of the agriculture sector, agriculture must receive the closest attention. Our labor productivity in agriculture barely improved in the recent years because budget has been low and fluctuating over a period of time.

Figure 7 Budget Priorities



Source: MoFP - Citizen Budgets, 2020

Large discrepancies exist between planned and actual expenditure, the review show there is large discrepancies between planned and actual budget execution far exceeding accepted international standards developed under Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability, and the budget allocation is also below Malabo commitment of 10% of the total share of the national budget be directed to agriculture Sector.

Climate change has serious effect in four dimensions of food security, food availability, food accessibility, food utilization and food systems stability. Women farmers currently account for 45-80 per cent of all food production in developing countries depending on the region. In the context of climate change, traditional food sources become more unpredictable and scarcer. Women face loss of income as well as harvests—often their sole sources of food and income. Related increases in food prices make food more inaccessible to poor people, in particular to women and girls whose health has been found to decline more than male health in times of food shortages.

The role of credit in the contribution to food productivity levels cannot be overemphasised. In fact, the lack of capital and access to affordable credit is cited by smallholder farmers as the main factor behind the low productivity in agriculture (Salami et al, 2010). For rural households, when it comes to demand for credit, Kibaara (2005/06) shows that majority of them seek credit for farming purposes as they derive their livelihood from farming. Further access to agricultural credit according to Kibaara (2005/06) is skewed towards the more productive agro-ecological zones and households in the high potential areas.

Agricultural extension includes the provision of farmers with knowledge, information, experiences and technologies needed to increase and sustain productivity and for improved wellbeing and livelihoods (NRI, 2011). Tanzania extension guideline of 2012 requires to have extension officers in every village to boost productivity of the sector. Data shows there is shortage of the extension officer in Tanzania that contributed to low productivity.

Financial Year	Available No. of Extension officers	Required No. of Extension officers	Deficit/Gap
2018/2019	8,756	20,374	11,618
2019/2020	7,307	20,374	13,067
2020/2021	6,704	21,288	14,584

Our Key Recommendations

We urge the government to:

- consider strengthening domestic revenue contributions through enrolment of citizens into Community Health Fund (CHF) to increase financing to the budget. In addition, we recommend the regional office to set aside a certain percent of the CHF into Medicine Revolving Fund (MRF) to act as Buffer stock to procure medicines where gaps exist.
- increase allocation in development budget of the health sector to ensure availability of essential medicines and medical supplies including availability of delivery kits, medicines, building of maternal homes and improve emergence services like ambulance for referral.
- ensure availability to adequate human resources in the social sectors like health and education.
- ensure timely disbursement and monitoring expenditure of funds to effectively implement core functions of water resource management. This can be aided by the establishment of a gender strategy in water and sanitation sector.
- ensure more effective mainstreaming of gender in the water sector particularly in ensuring that the strategic and practical gender needs differ with gender disaggregated lens particularly for schoolgirls from Primary to High academic level and mainstream this into a nationwide program supported with adequate staffing and budget.
- ensure provision of loans on higher economic productivity sectors through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labor-intensive sectors to reduce unemployment to young women and men.
- ensure prior preparation of the youth groups before loans are issued. This will help them with capacity building with regards to their businesses they are planning to start or support.
- set practical policies and systems that will enable young people to graduate from 4% lending scheme to join micro-finance institutions to expand access to finance for their enterprises.
- develop innovative strategies to improve access to credit and agricultural services for marginalized farm populations. This requires strategic investment in public goods and programs that benefit marginalized populations. These include rural infrastructure, education and health services and programs such as credit, subsidized inputs, information and extension.
- ensure availability of updated and disaggregated data to the public.

The Guardian

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FRIDAY 14 MAY 2021

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

Port 'go-slow' might show govt resolve, inviting deeper reforms

THE National Assembly has had to suspend its schedule of debating Budget estimates for the next financial year to discuss an emergency that had cropped up at the Dar es Salaam Port.

Several MPs warned that laxity at the port was causing huge losses to the government and scores of other stakeholders in both Tanzania and neighbouring countries.

A legislator raised a plea for urgency, asking the House to halt debate on the Health ministry estimates and deliberate on the matter.

The move was supported by a number of MPs, reaching the required threshold - and the Deputy Speaker allowed the matter to come under debate.

Noticeably, Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa had already organised himself to head for the port for an eyewitness account of the situation on the ground.

However, it is clear that a whole range of managerial and lower level staffers have an axe to grind against the new top management - that is, the new CEO President Samia Suluhu Hassan has detailed to clear the mess at the port.

Naturally, that would mean tripping on some toes, thus creating a situation for 'negotiations' on what to do.

The 'troubleshooting' MP argued that he had reliable information that loading and offloading of at the port was going at a snail's pace for the past two days, leading to pile-up of goods and hence massive losses to both the government and companies whose businesses depend on efficiency at the facility.

A number of MPs expressed

concern over this theme, some saying that there was a problem with oil flow meters and forklifts which called for immediate attention the impact of delaying loading and offloading was massive.

But just why should flow meters and forklifts pose problems all of a sudden, and should they pick on the CEO?

An MP charged that the port faces managerial issues that must be ironed out for it to operate efficiently enough. He then proceeded to say: "If you see an institution not performing or if there is corruption, the problem is the head of that institution."

But is it really with the new CEO that the issues must be raised or is it with the workers whose privileges may have been disturbed since he went there?

There was a more open-minded implication when another MP argued that woes at the port of Dar es Salaam are caused by leaders who do not admit that there is a problem calling for a solution from or at appropriate levels.

The MP said: "We need to know why port leaders have not told the nation that there is a problem and the port has not worked for two days. Is this sabotage?"

A member of House infrastructure committee meanwhile said it was shocking that after recent efforts to expand and modernise the port, efficiency is reported nosediving instead of going up.

This suggests that it isn't enough to invest, could it perhaps be that the situation invites reforms so that workers work for a private entity that oversees profits and pays appropriate taxes to the Treasury?

Well done SUA for training rats to sniff out COVID-19

POTENTIALLY morale-boosting research outcomes have been registered at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), where experts are finalising preparations to enhance the employment of rats to detect hidden dangers or pathogens. Earlier it was in landmines and TB bacteria while now it is in detecting coronavirus infections, on the basis of remarks by a senior researcher and manager of the SUA-APOPO rat research unit.

He said this to visitors to the SUA pavilion at the just-ended 2021 - in Dodoma city - edition of the national scientific, technological and innovative competition, understandably with pride.

While not affirming the proper significance level of the ability of trained rats to detect coronaviruses and infections as in the case of TB bacteria, the researcher said that the training would not be complicated. Pathogens or bacteria have their particular smell and each disease has a particular smell, so rats can do that work - in which case, the unit has prepared a paper to seek funds to enable the start of teaching the rats.

It is expected that the unit will start working thereafter, especially on people with the coronavirus but without symptoms. Of course, there is a costing dividend in that the setting up of sufficient centres for conducting Covid-19 tests is tricky, on account of the need to purchase equipment outside the country.

In that case, when the rat sniffing method is established as effective, using laboratory specimens will be cheaper and minimise complications related to waiting for results.

Still, there is a marginal climb down from onerous expectations,

as there is a major confirmation clause in what the unit and the health authorities have agreed on applying rat tests.

The rat research manager said that scientists in developed countries tried to copy what rats accomplished by using a fake (electronic) nose for sniffing in order to detect bacteria, but they were not as successful as SUA has been with the rats.

It is the precedence of biological detection over electronic devices that has enabled its endorsement for use in government hospitals. But this is pegged on prior agreement that results by rat tests be confirmed using other technologies before hospitals proceed with medications on the basis of rat test results. It is a sort of precaution, depending on the statistical level of reliability of rat testing of samples - from experience with dogs sniffing out drugs, it can be quite high.

This situation confirms the developing scientific research capacity both in applied biological sciences as in alternative medicine.

The discussion is now focusing on using dogs for the same purpose, while SUA is moving into studying what rats can do to detect coronaviruses. Issues of scale of numbers of the animals needed and ability to train them with the resources available must have been accounted for in selecting the rat method. Adding similar capacity to dogs is a familiar method.

The researcher was convinced that using rat technology or other methods for positive results will vary "but when the disease is eventually eradicated, that's when issues of the best technology will be sorted out completely".

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SUA RATS



No monkey business: For Zanzibar's red colobus, speed bumps are sure

By Malavika Vyawahare

WITH fewer than 6,000 of Zanzibar's iconic red colobus monkey (*Piliocolobus kirkii*) left in the world, there's much about their well-being that is worrying scientists.

Near the top of that list is the monkeys' road sense. Or the lack of it, as evidenced by videos captured by primatologists showing them sauntering across a road amid heavy traffic, scurrying up to cars, or just parking themselves in the middle of all the action.

"We know from studies in chimpanzees in Uganda and Guinea that they show some kind of awareness of the road, but the colobus they look kind of oblivious," said Alexander V. Georgiev, an ecologist at Bangor University in the UK and co-author of a recent study in the conservation journal *Oryx*.

"They don't differ in the way that they cross the big road where they are likely to get hit versus the small dirt road where there is hardly any traffic," he said.

With no larger animals to prey on red colobus monkeys, getting hit by vehicles has become a leading cause of death for the endangered primates, research from Zanzibar's Jozani Chwaka Bay National Park shows.

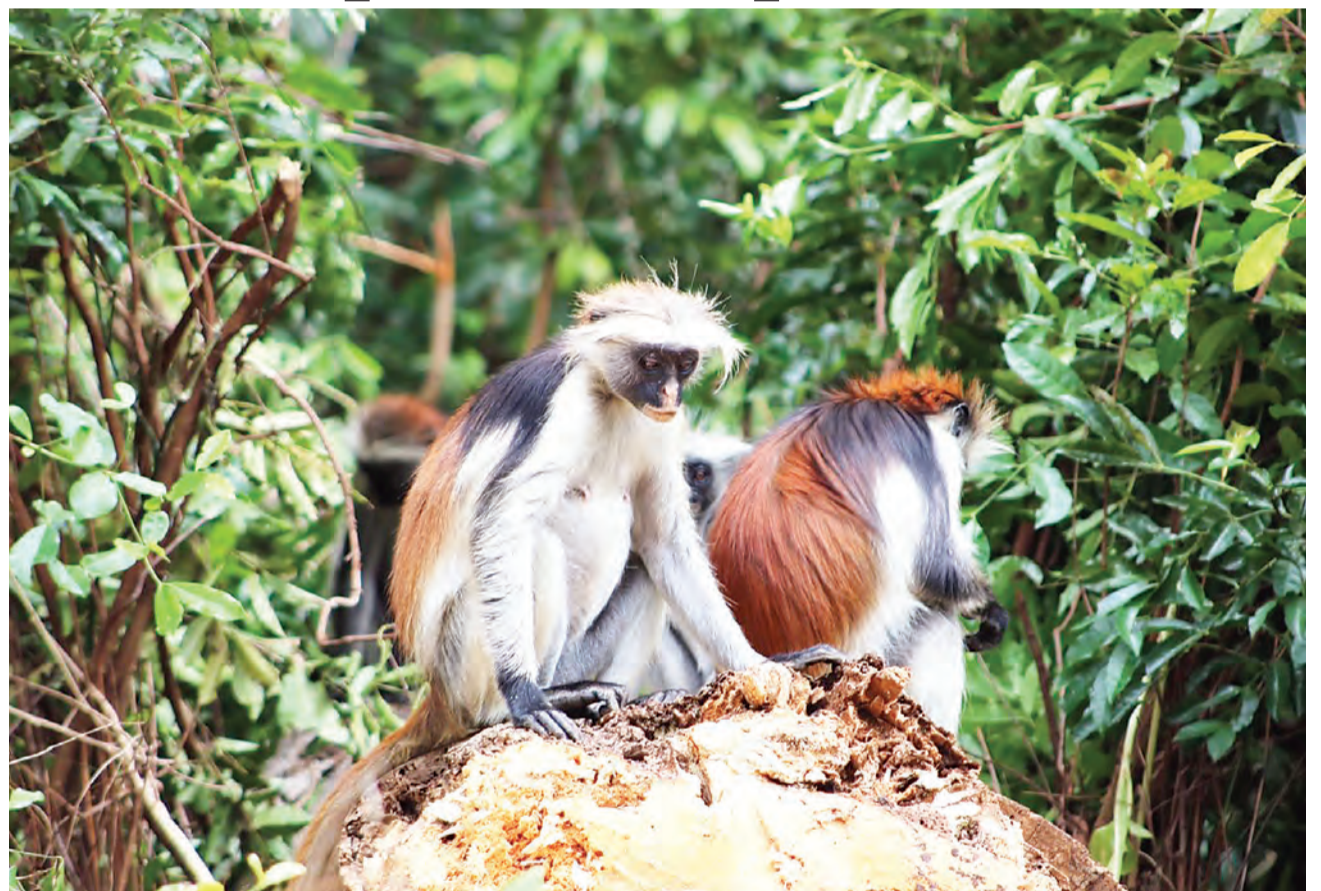
Cars, motorcycles, trucks and shared taxis popularly known as daladala all whiz past on the paved road that intersects the national park.

One of the solutions the new research confirmed is simple: speed bumps.

These monkeys are endemic to Unguja, the main island of Zanzibar, an autonomous region of Tanzania. Their habitat has shrunk over the years, from covering the entire island of 2,460 square kilometers to just about half of it.

Jozani Chwaka Bay National Park, occupying 50 km² in the island's centre, hosts half of the wild population. The main road that connects the east of Zanzibar to the west grazes the park's southern border.

As for the answer to the question: why did the red colobus cross the road? In



some cases, it could be a particularly enticing roadside tree.

Several accidents have happened in the vicinity of a favored Indian almond tree, Georgiev said. They also enjoy munching on mango leaves and have a bizarre taste for charcoal, much of it supplied by humans.

"Road accidents are a big problem here, especially in the summertime because of a scarcity of food. Since they prefer young leaves, so during that time, they expand their home range and cross the main road several times," said study co-author Mzee Khamis Mohamed of Zanzibar's forestry department.

The research was led by one of Georgiev's students, Harry Olgun, and relied on roadkill data and population census data of 18 groups of red colobus living sufficiently close to the road to attempt crossing it.

They used information collected by staff at the national park and reports from the public over a period of four years to estimate roadkill numbers. More than half of the carcasses reported were of red colobus.

Their analysis builds on an earlier study that found that after the installation of four speed bumps and wildlife crossing signs near the park entrance, mortality rates fell by 80 per cent for red colobus living in the vicinity.

However, these speed bumps occur only on a 600-meter stretch of road. The study authors suggest that installing more of them would help save the clueless red colobus.

Understanding how animals respond to new features that have cropped up in the environment thanks to humans is a key question in

behavioral ecology today.

Human disturbances in habitats are nothing new. For the red colobus themselves, the main road traversing the park has been around for generations. But a lot of work on primate behavior has focused on the study of primates in wild, undisturbed environments rather than their interaction with human-made structures like roads. This also means that historical data is scarce in road ecology studies.

"This dataset is incredibly important as it lays the groundwork for site-specific mitigations, but it also provides information to primate conservation managers globally to assess risks in their own areas even if they do not have the long-term data themselves," said Pamela Cunneyworth, who heads Colobus Conservation, a non-profit that works to save colobus species in neighbouring Kenya.

Zanzibar's only national park was created in 2004 and, unlike other national parks, it has seen some success in tackling conventional challenges to conservation.

The road has been bumpy. Friction with the communities hampered efforts initially as the monkeys would help themselves to crops in adjacent fields.

This led villagers to view them as pests, sometimes leading to the monkeys being killed. Today, the forest department, working with NGOs, compensates villagers for crop losses.

There are still those who say this is compensation not adequate, but the monkeys are much less likely to become victims of mob justice.

Financing the scheme is possible because half of the tourism revenue

from the park is set aside for the communities. Its popularity with tourists, however, has downsides.

"The study highlights the inherent danger of improving access to protected areas to support tourism and the risks associated with increased tourist traffic with the very attraction that people are often coming to see," said Rodney van der Ree, director of Ecology and Infrastructure International, an Australia-based consultancy.

According to Mohamed, from the forestry department, even a quick-fix measure like installing speed bumps will not be easy - in particular finding funds for it.

He also says that they are not the only solution, adding that a crossing bridge would help. There is only one crossing bridge at the park currently.

Studies have shown that the bridges they save wildlife from human-made risks and also keep humans safe.

"As most primate populations are declining, mitigations to reduce the anthropogenic risks are important," Cunneyworth said.

She added: "Mitigations such as canopy bridges and speed bumps call for further investigation, and we look forward to analyses which determine how well these work to reduce the rate of collisions."

According to Georgiev, it remains to be seen if the monkeys grasp that speed-bumped zones are their safest bets as zebra crossings.

Public development banks for new funding for Africa's recovery in wake of Covid-19

ABIDJAN

A GLOBAL coalition of public development banks on Wednesday emphasized the urgency of immediate resources for Africa's recovery post-Covid 19. Together, they committed to deepening co-operation to boost investment opportunities across the continent.

Participants in the Finance in Common Summit Spring Meeting, hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), brainstormed on joint actions that could help boost a strong and inclusive recovery in Africa. This would be recovery grounded in a dynamic private sector.

The African Association of Development Finance Institutions co-organised the meeting in collaboration with the International Development Finance Club, which is hosted by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

The meeting was held virtually and follows the first Finance in Common Summit held in November 2020. At that summit, public development banks committed to working together to support the transformation of the global economy and society towards sustainable and resilient development.

During the three principal sessions of the meeting, heads of public development banks and international partners focused on concrete proposals and innovative financial solutions to unlock the potential of African financial institutions to promote sustainable development investments in Africa.

"The African Development Bank is strongly supportive of public development banks," AfDB president Dr Akinwumi Adesina said in opening remarks.

"As public development banks, we must deepen our ability to reach all parts of Africa," he noted, adding: "To ensure financial inclusion, especially for the unbanked, and expand access to finance, savings and insurance products and services, we need to work as one unified system."

He said public development banks ought to strengthen their ca-

capacity to deepen domestic capital markets and stock exchanges, adding that this would hasten access to financing and unlock new opportunities.

Rémy Rioux, chairperson of the International Development Finance Club (IDFC), said: "African challenges, more than anywhere else, require us all to go seek coordinated responses and actions. Because in Africa, we need to leave no one behind."

He added: "Let's Finance in Common and build now a common and positive story of innovation and investment in Africa, leveraging ODA (overseas development assistance) and mobilising all willing stakeholders. The days of pure aid are over. Africa is ready for sustainable investment."

Public development banks have a key role to play in Africa. From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, institutions like AfDB have channelled resources to various sectors and clients, particularly underserved areas like health, social investments, housing, agriculture and climate.

AfDB's US\$10 billion Covid-19 Response Facility has been instrumental in mitigating macroeconomic shocks for African countries, while the bank also announced a US\$3 billion social bond to support its Covid-19 funding efforts.

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to an unprecedented global health and economic crisis, affecting African economies, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, most deeply.

A historic recession of 2.1 per cent, the largest contraction for the sub-Saharan region in more than half a century, is threatening gains made over the last decade and attainment of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Covid-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the debt situation for African countries. Without a resolution of Africa's US\$700 billion external debt, the continent's economic recovery will be delayed and financial market stability will be affected in both the short and medium terms.

"Think of the impact that this debt is having: in 2019, Africa paid

US\$221 billion for debt service, which is 44 per cent of the total government revenue of \$501 billion in the same year," said Dr Adesina.

Discussions covered measures that could be taken to strengthen the balance sheet of African public development banks and provide financing and additional tools to support the private sector in Africa. Participants also deliberated on challenges faced by African public development banks.

The AfDB is due to convey the outcomes of the Spring Meeting to a May 18 Summit on Financing African Economies slated for Paris.

That summit is being convened by French President Emmanuel Macron. It is expected that there will be further pledges and announcements of financial and technical assistance to support the commitments made by the African public development banks.

African public development banks, in a joint declaration, called for the heads of state and international organisations to support the role of the banks and development partners in the African financial system and provide them with the necessary means and incentives.

These include a clearer mandate for climate and the SDGs, additional capacity building, greater access to concessional resources as well as reinforcement of the banks' capital bases, taking advantage of the expected SDRs (special drawing rights) issuance by the International Monetary Fund.

The public development banks and partners that participated in the panel discussions include the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI), Association of European Development Finance Institutions, AfDB, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), AFD and Development Bank of Southern Africa.

The others are the European Commission, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, IDFC, KfW Development Bank, Trade and Development Bank Group, and West African Development Bank.



WWF for a living planet

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SUPERVISION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OF WATER DAM AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION WORKS IN NORTHERN TANZANIA

BMZ CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT WWF TANZANIA

May 2021

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

These Terms of Reference refer to a consulting mission for a civil/water engineer, responsible for the regular inspections of construction/rehabilitation works of water dam and buildings as part of the WWF/BMZ Climate Adaptation Project to ensure compliance with quality standards, health and safety requirements as well as risk mitigation at selected sites as outlined below.

Title: BMZ Climate Adaptation Project

Implemented by: WWF Tanzania, Arusha Office

Goal: Improved conservation of key ecosystems and enhanced climate resilience of local communities

Project area: Wildlife management areas (WMAs) and selected community areas in Northern Tanzania

Duration: 30 days in June/July 2021

2. PROJECT CONTEXT

WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF-TCO) is a Non-Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: (a) conserving the world's biological diversity; (b) ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and (c) promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

Due to climate change impacts of frequent and prolonged droughts in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Lake Natron in Longido district, Ikona in Serengeti district, Enduimet in Longido District, and Makao in Meatu District as well as and Kisima village in Same District and Karamba-Ndeea village in Mwanza District at the periphery of Mkomazi National Park, high level of environment degradation has been witnessed over the years which are impacting negatively on rural communities' livelihoods and wildlife management. As a result of water scarcity, livestock is forced to move long distances resulting in high livestock mortality and Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC). In 2009 for instance over 70% of livestock was lost due to drought in the project area.

WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF-TCO) secured funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for supporting the protection of key ecosystems, increased resilience and adaptation for sustainable use by local communities.

WWF-TCO intends to apply part of its budgetary allocation to fund the construction/rehabilitation of water points and buildings at the following locations:

1. Rehabilitation/construction of five water dams in the Makao, Enduimet WMAs, in Lake Natron area and in the Mwanza and Same districts and the drilling of a borehole in the Ikona WMA;
2. Construction of a ranger outpost and office building in the Makao WMA;
3. Construction of an office and community information building in the Enduimet WMA;
4. Renovation of a building to be used as a hostel for visitors in Enduimet WMA

3. RATIONALE OF THE CONSULTANCY

WWF Tanzania is concluding the process of contracting eligible construction companies for construction and restoration activities of water dams and building as part of the BMZ Climate Adaptation Project.

For additional supervision and to ensure quality work, WWF is seeking a civil engineer to be contracted as consultant for a period of 30 days. The consultant/engineer will be responsible for routinely inspecting progress and quality of building materials and construction work at different sites to ensure it meets quality standards in terms of used building materials, construction methods, health and safety requirements and to mitigate environmental and social risks.

4. TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 General Tasks and Responsibilities

Under the overall supervision of the WWF Project Manager, the consultant engineer will supervise the

1. Rehabilitation/construction of five water dams in the Makao, Enduimet WMAs, in Lake Natron area and in the Mwanza and Same districts and the drilling of a borehole in the Ikona WMA;
2. Construction of a ranger outpost and office building in the Makao WMA;
3. Construction of an office and community information building in the Enduimet WMA;
4. Renovation of a building to be used as a hostel for visitors in Enduimet WMA according to the approved specifications, will advise the contractors involved, will provide weekly reports on progress, will flag any problems, risks or other deviations from agreed plans to the WWF Project Manager and contractor and will recommend and follow up on corrective measures.

4.2 Tasks and Outputs:

The tasks of engineer of BMZ Climate Adaptation Project involves but not limited to the following:

- a) Measuring and quality checking of building materials to comply with approved standards and as specified in the respective proposals, Bill of Quantities and technical drawings and to flag any discrepancies and/or sub-standard materials immediately to the contractor and the WWF TCO water engineer for correction;
- b) Ensure proven quality of all materials used on the selected sites(material test and data records);
- c) Verifying for proper site-specific designs and layouts;
- d) Ensuring structural drawings, architectural drawings, service drawings and B.O.Q are clear, complete and understood by all personnel involved in on-site construction/restoration work;

- e) Ensuring all executed works are carried out according to structural, services architectural drawing as per B.O.Q specification;
- f) Ensure that the daily records are kept in on-the site workbooks; monitor the site workbook and request signature from the site engineer;
- g) Inspecting construction work and ensure compliance with drawings and specifications;
- h) Identifying defects and liaising with contractors/engineers and suggesting ways to correct them;
- i) Checking that building regulations, health and safety, legal and ecological/environmental requirements are met and that related risks are mitigated;
- j) Monitor and record the works in accordance with the technical specifications, bills of quantities and drawings among others;
- k) Ensure proper completion and final approval of construction phases as a pre-condition for the disbursement of funds
- l) Photograph and record completed works before District authorities provide approval certificate for payment. Take pictures and collating these in digital formats for the records and duly maintain an electronic library of photos of the progress of the works;
- m) Verifying payment certificates;
- n) Monitor the work plans and inform the Engineer for any deviation;
- o) Maintain a filing system for all site memos and instructions, meeting notes among others;
- p) Attend weekly site meetings and take minutes of meetings to be given to the Engineer and BMZ-Climate Adaptation Management weekly;
- q) The consultant engineer shall submit weekly and monthly reports to the WWF Project Manager and to the contractor according to agreed format and content. Narrative parts of the reports must be written in good English and must be proof read before submission;
- r) Carry out any other related tasks as agreed with the WWF Project Manager.

The deliverables includes but not limited to:

- a) Weekly and monthly reports which will include quality checking of building materials, daily records, inspection of construction work compared with drawings and specifications; identified defects and corrected measures undertaken; photograph and record of completed works, District water engineers approval certificates for payment;
- b) Approved district certificates from the start of construction to the end; and
- c) Final report including assessment of overall quality of work carried out at the different sites and risk mitigation measures implemented.

5. QUALIFICATION PROFILE

5.1 Academic, experience and language requirements:

- a) Degree in civil/water engineering or similar related to the assigned tasks;
- b) 5 years of post-university experience in the construction or the building sector;
- c) 3 year of site experience as clerk of works/construction supervisor;
- d) Fluency in spoken and written English and fluency in Swahili;
- e) Valid registration/membership with the relevant professional association; and
- f) Competency in computer use

5.2 Competencies

Other than the specific and technical competencies required in order to perform the duties described above, the following personal and general competencies will be needed:

- a) Overall Professionalism, Integrity, Enthusiasm & Commitment;
- b) Good problem-solving skills; ability to apply good judgment in the context of assignments given;
- c) Ability to plan own work and meet tight deadlines;
- d) Able to work efficiently with minimal direction;
- e) Remains calm, in control and good humoured even under pressure;
- f) Demonstrates integrity by behaving according to the engineers values and ethical standards;
- g) Good interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and working relations with sensitivity and respect for diversity

6. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The application documents as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the application shall be written in English and proposed salary currency used shall be in US\$ or TZS and not any other. Submit both technical and financial proposals as separate documents by email. Supporting documents and printed literature provided by the applicant shall be in English;

Applications should be supported by evidence of the past similar experience, please, send your hard copy application through the bellow address (in # 10-optional) and soft copy applications through e-mail to procurement@wwftz.org;

Evaluation of the consultancy will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that & WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest bid

All applications should be submitted by 5 pm, **May 28, 2021** (Tanzania local time). Only the successful applicant will be contacted.

For enquiries only please contact:

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WWF Tanzania Country Offices
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Kenya's informal traders find lifeline in online sales

NAIROBI

FOR many years, James Maina, a trader at Gikomba, Kenya's biggest flea market located in the capital Nairobi, considered his stock that consists of house fittings namely wooden doors, frames, locks and gypsum boards the most important things in his business.

However, this changed recently, besides the stock, Maina now considers his mobile phone and the internet as the other key things in the success of his business. His perception changed when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the East African nation in March 2020 and the government restricted movement in and out of Nairobi.

Many citizens also chose to stay at home, limiting movement so as to stop the spread of COVID-19. Maina saw the number of people visiting his shop shrink significantly leading to a decline in sales. But there was a way out, he joined an internet platform named jiji.co.ke and started to sell his wares online.

Today, Maina is among small-scale traders in the sector who have been handed a lifeline by e-commerce amid the pandemic. "The first partial lockdown in 2020 really affected me because I was still relying on walk-in customers but the one that was lifted last week did not because I am now selling online," Maina told Xinhua in a recent interview.

To trade on the platform, both the seller and the buyer must register and their details verified to curb fraud. "I normally post my goods on the platform regularly and then buyers from any part of the country reach me. We then process the order and payment is done," he recounted.

For buyers within Nairobi and on the outskirts, Maina delivers the goods and then receives payment, including for the delivery charges, or sometimes he uses courier services.

"During the recent COVID-19 partial lockdown, I did not feel it because I sold virtually door frames, doors and locks to people who are even outside Nairobi," he said, his mode of operation having been adopted by hundreds of other traders at the flea market.

Having relied on walk-in customers, some that come as far as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Tanzania for goods, Kenyan traders adopting e-commerce is a major shift in the East African nation. Maina sells a door frame at between 3,500 shillings (33 U.S. dollars) and 56 dollars depending on the type of wood it is made of and the size.

"Online trade is the thing. It transcends the pandemic because it is not affected by restrictions as in the case when one relies on walk-in customers," he of-



An employee packages goods at a warehouse of the e-commerce platform Kilimall in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, Nov. 1, 2019. (Xinhua)

fered.

At Uhuru Market in Nairobi, traders have embraced e-commerce, selling their wares on a website that bares the facility's name. "It makes shopping easier and faster. You don't need to visit Uhuru Market as has been the case for years.

Once you make your choice, the item is delivered and one pays," said journalist Allan Ininga, who buys African wear from the market. Joseph Macharia, founder of Mkulima Young, an agricultural online marketplace noted that e-commerce has reached the lowest of the traders who are normally laggards when it comes to adoption of technology because of ease in use.

"Many people already have smartphones thus don't need any extra form of investment to sell their wares online. Besides, traders are realizing that it's flexible, saves time and other resources," he said.

Macharia observed that with the lower cadre of traders embracing e-commerce, the service has taken root in Kenya. Bernard Mwaso, a consultant with Nairobi-based software development start-up Edell IT Solutions, noted with COVID-19 restrictions, Kenyan traders have no choice but to go online if they are to thrive.

"The traders have realized that it is either one makes the big switch or their businesses perish. This is because with the restrictions, buyers have moved online thus traders also must," he said, adding seamless virtual payments have helped e-commerce take root in Kenya.

Xinhua

What 'trust in news' means to users: Insights for publishers

By Faisal Kalim

“TRUST often revolves around ill-defined impressions of brand identities and is rarely rooted in details concerning news organisations' reporting practices or editorial standards - qualities that journalists often emphasize about their work.” This is according to a new report by the Reuters Institute.

The report, *Listening to What Trust in News Means to Users*, shares insights on what people think of the media they encounter every day and how it shapes their trust. It is based on open-ended conversations with cross-sections of people in Brazil, India, the UK and the US.

The authors do not make statistical generalisations but they grasp the context around how people form their views and why. The findings can help publishers formulate more effective strategies to foster trust among readers.

When asked what they thought about the news media they consumed or came across in their daily lives, readers had perceptions tending to be built around their sense of familiarity with brands. Sometimes this is more about intuition than rational judgment.

Audiences draw on shortcuts shaped by experience in some cases, partisan or social influences in other cases, as well as contextual factors involving the social media, search engines and messaging apps - which are increasingly central to how people find and engage with news worldwide.

Participants frequently mentioned relying on brand-level impressions based on rules of thumb or context clues to determine sources' reliability and credibility. For example, many readers tended to trust publications they have seen being consumed in their families through their childhood.

“I grew up watching the BBC...I grew up watching George Alagiah. Sometimes, you build that rapport with a presenter, and you think, ‘What they're saying is correct’.

“I can't get that with Piers Morgan and Good Morning Britain, anyone on those particular forums or channels. Channel 4, I can.

“It's really odd. Maybe there's something there, just because somebody's saying it who's in that position, that I've known all my life, I'm more inclined to trust that information.” That was Alice, a UK woman of 34.

“Stylistic qualities related to appearance or how news is presented are also influential. Comments about appearance often touched on the functionality and usability of website,” said another UK woman - aged 23.

She added: “I'm very wary of what the website looks like. If there's a lot of pop-ups and lots of different photos of different things and it's quite a clogged website, I tend to not trust the news as much. It is a weird way of thinking, but if it's not as posh-looking, I tend not to trust it as much.”

“There's a feeling of ease when you read something that's clean, clear and precise, well-written. I feel more relaxed and therefore more likely to trust it, to be honest,” US man Lawrence of 55 meanwhile noted.

The longevity of a publisher, its track and reputation contribute to its credibility as well. “Well, of course, there's the history, they've got a long history of journalism there,” said US woman Mary (40) when asked why she trusted the Washington Post and the New York Times.

Some people also believe that the longevity of existence was also an indicator of the high standards of a publisher: “It's more because if they are a big enough brand, an old enough organisation, they seem to have better prac-



tices,” said UK-based Andrew (25).

“I guess there are better regulations. I guess they get in trouble if they misreport facts. So, I think that is the main reason, the main deciphering of trustworthy news sources, and the best way to find it,” he added.

Reliance on sensationalism and click-baits can affect the credibility of a publisher. Antoine (29, man, UK) said he looks at the tone of headlines to determine ‘if something is being used to just rile people up or ...’

“You read a headline and then you read the rest of the article. You're like: ‘Hang on a minute, that's not even what you're saying in this headline,’” he said.

Many participants said that when they were not familiar with a brand, they would rely on the judgments of people they trusted. Most participants put far less emphasis on news organisations' journalistic practices. This was also because only a few were particularly knowledgeable or interested in knowing how news is produced.

Those who were, talked about a number of things, like the importance of correction policies as evidence of professionalism which adds to their credibility.

Many expressed preference for in-depth reporting and reporters asking hard questions. The presence of numbers or statistics or visual signals boosted the credibility of the news for some. They saw these cues as indications that journalists had carefully studied the situation they were reporting on.

“It is super important that the news reports are detailed with sources, statistics and graphs, and seen from several different perspectives. This brings more certainty and credibility to the information,” said Júlia (31, woman, Brazil). The participants also talked about qualities that are less tangible and concrete. One interviewee said that he liked a particular New York Times opinion columnist because of his integrity even though he disagreed with his political views.

Objectivity and impartiality scored high for many participants who said they would prefer that journalists keep their opinions out of reporting and stick to facts. Others were more accommodative of opinions as long they were not biased.

There were also those who recognized that their own interpretation of what is factual depended on their own subjective point of view. Many said they opted for generalised skepticism towards all news outlets as a protection against being misled or manipulated.

“I won't say 100 per cent is true and 100 per cent believable. We need to think proportionally about it, and we need to search and then trust, not trust blindly anything,” said Kavita (43, woman, India).

This skepticism extends to the platforms as well. Most participants said news consumption was not their primary goal for using the social media and messaging apps. There are pros and cons for news consumption and dis-

tribution on platforms for users as well as brands.

Platforms allow easy access to a wide variety of new sources which users can control. They can find perspectives, stories and original reporting on topics perceived as missing from conventional news coverage.

Earlier research has shown that people who use digital platforms for accessing news tend to engage with a wider variety of sources. This is an important motivation for publishers seeking to engage with users on platforms.

However, navigating the digital information environment can be challenging for those who do not have existing trusting relationships with one or more news providers. Moreover, readers' perception of news sources can be influenced by their engagement with platforms.

Many described how platforms not only made it easier to cross-check information between sources but also how those sources seemed interchangeable, making it difficult to discern where stories originated online and even undermining trust in the information environment more generally.

“What generates attention on Facebook and WhatsApp may not be the forms of journalism that news organisations would most wish to highlight in building reputations with their audiences, further confusing brand identities in the eyes of users,” the authors of the report explain.

They add: “There are of course risks to not appearing in these spaces as well, but publishers must weigh these costs in a clear-eyed manner as they seek to expand their reach in digital spaces.”

“These findings point both to opportunities and challenges for news organisations that seek to build trust with their audiences,” the authors says, adding that news publishers would benefit by “providing clearer cues and signals about who they are, their histories, what they stand for and how they do their work”.

The report recommends that publishers make it easier for users to find information about their missions and journalistic practices, adding that the publishers should also “promote their own unique strengths compared to their competitors in more consistent and memorable ways”.

The authors further note that brand reputations - good and bad - cannot always be controlled, but news organisations fail to define their own identities at their peril.

• **A WNIP/WAN-IFRA dispatch.** Faisal Kalim, a long-serving business journalist, rose to become Editorial Manager of *The CEO Magazine* before turning his attention to developments in media and digital publishing. His specialised focus is on the latest revenue generation strategies available to publishers.



CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Zanzibar launches resource packs to enhance clerics' engagement in anti-HIV/Aids war

By Guardian Reporter

THE Zanzibar Commission for AIDS (ZAC) in collaboration with other implementing partners have today partnered to launch faith-based leaders resource tools to encourage men and children on use of HIV/Aids services in the country.

The launch of these materials aims to enable religious leaders in various religious settings to have accurate HIV/AIDS information on HIV/AIDS including HIV testing and treatments to improve the delivery of "new messages hope" to their congregations with the motto 'Chaguo jipya, Matibabu Mpya, Wakati mpya, Tumaini jipya' (The New Choices. New Treatment. New Timing. New Hope)

Speaking in Zanzibar during the launch of the resources, ZAC Executive Director Ahmed Mohammed Khatib said that Zanzibar and many countries around the world look at Faith-based structures as an integral part of the community, and have durable relationships built on trust and ministry. He added that Studies across several sub-Saharan African countries have demonstrated how enhancing engagement with faith communities and faith leaders can significantly improve the attainment of the 95-95-95 HIV testing and treatment targets.

"With over 80% of the adult population in Zanzibar being faith believers the adapted "new messages, represents a unique opportunity to accelerate the attainment of the 95-95-95 HIV/AIDS target endeavors" said Khatib. He said that the purpose of the engagement of faith-based leader towards, the adapted "New Messages of Hope" is equipping faith leaders with the information and resources they need to break the silence, and help bridge the gaps in HIV testing, treatment, care and support for men and children.

He said that as per statistics, people living with HIV/Aids is 0.4 per cent of the Zanzibar population, which is down from 1 per cent as per 2012. 'As per March this year, people who have been getting treatment from HIV/Aids from different hospitals, dispensaries and health centers in Zanzibar where 8,147 where men where 2,526 and women 5,621. In addition, the number of children below the age of 14 years where 292 which accounts for 4 per cent of the total number', said Khatib.

However, despite the success in fighting against the spread of HIV/Aids, as THIS of the year 2016/2017 shows that a quick action between the government and support from our development partners is need to be taken including calling for men and children to go for HIV/Aids testing and to those who have been affected to immediately start use of ARV's and continued follow up to make sure they continue using them, said Khatib add-



Zanzibar Commission for AIDS (ZAC) Executive Director Ahmed Mohammed Khatib (R) hands over resource pack tools to the Rev Canon Justine - Priest Anglican Church and HIV/Aids Advisor aimed at encouraging men and children on use of HIV and AIDS services in the country. Looking on is Zanzibar Mufti Senior Advisor Othman Mohammed. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ing that as per statistics, 41 per cent of men living with HIV/Aids have never carried any test of the disease.

I take this opportunity to congratulate our developing partners including PEPFAR and USAID Tulonge Afya for their support in fighting against HIV/Aids. The government will continue working hand in hand for our future projects, added Khatib.

Speaking on the on the materials launched, The USAID Tulonge Afya Senior Technical Advisor SBCC for HIV/AIDS and TB Mr. Michael Luvanda said that the materials adopted and approved for use in Zanzibar include "The New Choices, New Treatment, New Timing, New Hope guide" for religious leaders Christians and Muslims, devotional resource calendars, four weekly planner and community posters focusing for both Muslims and Christians. The materials are aimed at addressing key behaviors on HIV Testing, Early enrollment in care & treatment, ART

adherence and retention in care and community support for PLHIV, TB prevention therapy (IPT) uptake and completion and the importance of Viral load monitoring for PLHIV.

"The materials are a result of a consultative adaptation process which brought together various actors from ZAC, Ministry of Health Zanzibar, Faith and community based organization, FCI implementing partners with support from PEPFAR through USAID Tanzania," said Mr. Luvanda.

Speaking at the launch the Zanzibar Mufti Senior Advisor Othman Mohammed said that religious leaders recognize that these tools have come at a right time when the government aims to end the spread of HIV by 2030, "We are very happy to be part of this great imitative of ensuring that the nation achieves the 95-95-95 targets" he said.

Speaking on behalf of religious leaders, Rev Canon

Justine - Priest Anglican Church and HIV/Aids Advisor commended the government for continuing to recognize the contribution of religion leaders in addressing various social challenges and especially in the fight against this HIV and AIDS, he said that fight against HIV/AIDS an engagement of wider range of stakeholder religious leaders. "As religious leaders are committed on the implementation of this campaign.

As people near and close to the community, we will use our platforms to deliver this message to our believers" he added.

'Tunduma town primary schools have shortage of 980 pit latrines'

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduma

PRIMARY schools in Tunduma Town in Songwe Region are faced with acute shortage of 980 pit latrines, the situation that poses health hazards to students at

the schools.

This was revealed here early this week by the town's acting primary education officer Subira Kulaga when receiving 22 pit latrines built by UNICEF through its Sanitation and Water Action (SAWA) project.

He said the pit latrines shortage posed health hazards to students due to congestion of students using the few latrines available, adding that the shortage includes those for students with special needs.

"Before UNICEF's assis-

tance our town had a shortage of 1,012 pit latrines but now the number has been reduced to 980, hence we appeal to other stakeholders to come up to help us reduce the challenge," Kulaga said.

SAWA Project Coordinator Wilhemina Malima called on

students and teachers of the schools to take care of the pit latrines in order to last long.

He also called on students to maintain the pit latrines' cleanliness to protect their health.

Tunduma Town Council's Administrative Officer,

Joseph Kayombo called on school teachers to make sure they take care of the school's infrastructures including pit latrines to ensure they last long.

He also appealed to various stakeholders to come up and support government's efforts

in constructing schools' infrastructures to ensure students learn in friendly environments.

UNICEF, through its SAWA Project has been building pit latrines at primary schools in various regions, and in Songwe and Mbeya regions vari-

Landesa launches guidebooks to guide investors on best ways to engage communities

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

A LAND right lobby organization-Landesa has launched guidebooks to guide investors on the best ways to engage communities and make them part of the process, a move meant to addressing land conflicts between the two parties in the country.

Recently the organization hosted a two-day meeting in Dodoma to train stakeholders on the guidebooks for responsible investment and exchange experiences on how the investments are carried as well as best practices to benefit all stakeholders involved in the process.

A land specialist from Landesa Luhula Masalu the guide books were developed after a serious research and community consultation with other stakeholders looking at what should be done better so that investment can be an opportunity for development.

"Investment has been a serious challenge in Tanzania. When you list ten important issues in Tanzania, investments might be the third of all," he said.

The guidebooks provide resources for reference which include, sample contracts and others which are important to ensure interests of communities and other groups involved are considered

Researchers on the development of the guidebooks were developed in groups namely a guide book for the government,

a guide book for investors and a guide for the communities on how to engage and be part of the investment process. After the research, a project advisory group was formed. The project advisory group had representation from University of Dar es Salaam, Ardhhi University, Ministry of lands, the private sector, CSO's which works on land such as Hakiardhi, Oxfam, the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) which was essentially leading the process by then, and Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) as part of the project advisory working group.

These three guide books were also informed by stakeholders who were part and parcel of the investment process and procedures.

Some of the issues that were discussed during that meeting were how local communities can fruitfully engage, for example in the process of investments, how do they give their consent, do they give their consent after being well informed and therefore they make informed decisions.

"We understand that some unfaithful foreign companies have been using these investment opportunities to clean their dirty money out of money laundering and other sources of revenues or capital," he said.

Citing an example, he said that research shows that the investments that are marred by conflicts do not succeed and therefore, do



Assistant director of urban planning division in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Imaculata Senje shows copies of guidebooks shortly after receiving from Landesa Executive director Dr. Monica Mhoja (L) during training in Dodoma recently. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

not generate the expected profits that are expected by the investors neither government generate any revenue.

Godfrey Massay, a Land Tenure specialist from Landesa on the other hand, emphasized that, the guidebooks are voluntary and not binding. However they are important to shape investment processes in the country.

Assistant Director from the Ministry of Lands Imaculata Senje commended Landesa for sharing of knowledge and experience

and for the preparation of the investment guide books on responsible investments saying prior to Landesa there was no such useful books.

She said many villages have no enough education on land and investment issues saying the investment guide books will help much the local communities, district council officials, and the investors address land conflicts and conduct fruitful investments for the benefits of the people and the country as a whole.

Impact of 56bn/- support from German govt will be seen after officially signing the contract - Ndumbaro

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Damas Ndumbaro (pictured) said the impact of the 56bn/- support from the German government will be seen after officially signing the contract for implementation of conservation projects.

The German government said over the weekend that it will give Tanzania 20 million Euros (56bn/-) to help in wildlife conservation efforts in the country.

The support which is a cushion to the impacts caused the corona virus on the sector, will be used for conservation in Selous, Nyerere and Serengeti national Park.

The minister told this newspaper that the support will also support communities surrounding parks which has been essential in managing the ecological systems.

"We believe that the implementation process will start on July 1, because all the processes will have been done," he said.

The German government has for over 50 years provided support and funding to conservation sector. One among the support includes the programmes to strengthen the management of the Selous Game Reserve and priority parts of the buffer zone around the reserve and the Selous-Niassa wildlife corridor.

This is to ensure that the Selous ecosystem remains intact while conservation and sustainable use of natural resources contribute to rural development.



Key takeaways for covering obesity during Covid-19

BY INAARA GANGJI

PEOPLE with obesity are suffering more and dying at higher rates from Covid-19, according to a report released by the World Obesity Federation in March. This makes obesity a high-risk factor, similar to other comorbidities such as diabetes and heart disease.

In medicine, comorbidity is the presence of one or more additional conditions often co-occurring with a primary condition. Comorbidity describes the effect of all other conditions an individual patient might have other than the primary condition of interest, and can be physiological or psychological.

"We know that clearly when you have obesity, when you're carrying a lot of excess weight, first of all you probably have comorbidities...which all work together to make you less healthy and less able to fight a virus," Johanna Ralston, CEO of the World Obesity Federation, said at a recent ICFJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum webinar.

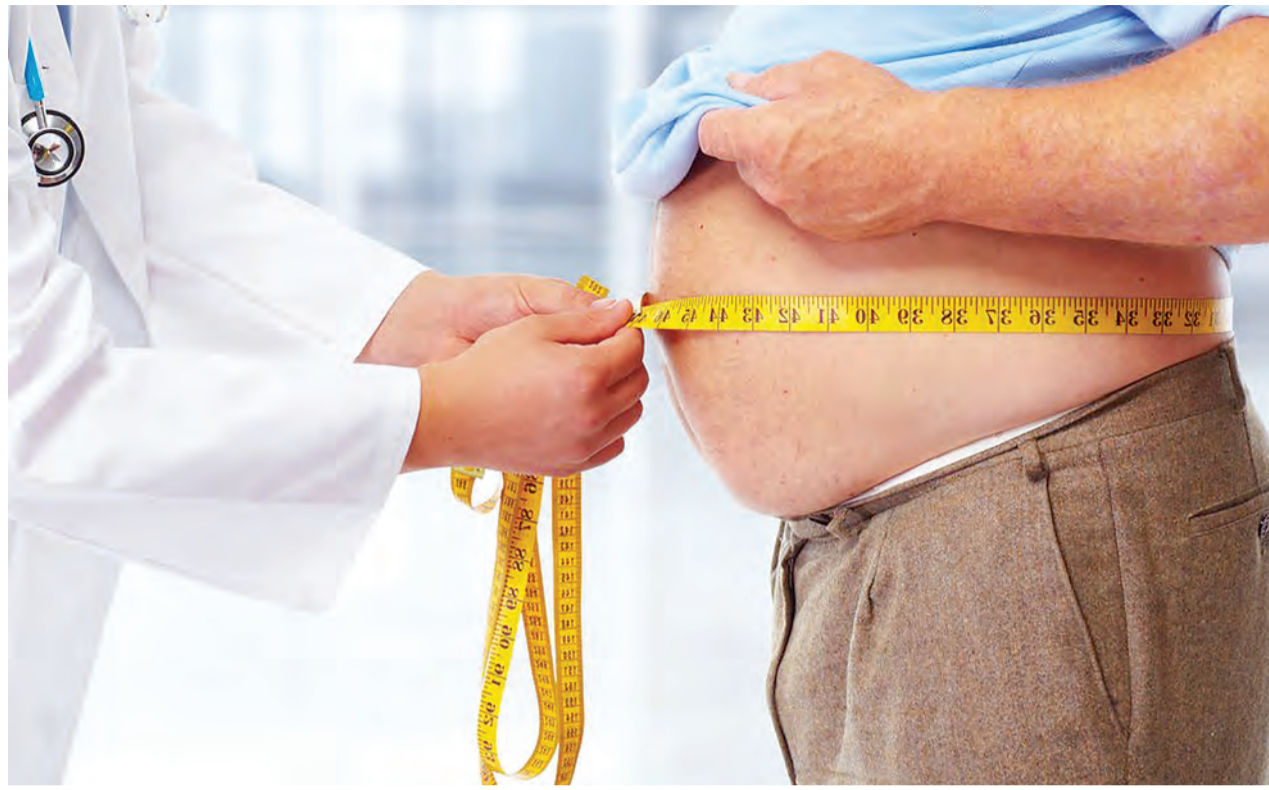
"But also, that you have an inflammatory response - essentially that you are more likely to have a very bad outcome," she said.

At the time of the report's release, 2.2 million of the 2.5 million deaths reported due to Covid-19 were in countries where over half the population is overweight, said Ralston, adding that only some small island states with more effective public health measures have been able to better control the virus despite higher obesity rates.

Obesity rates have been increasing across the globe for decades in both children and adults owing in large part to genetics, increased intake of drugs and higher consumption of soft drinks and ultra-processed foods.

Ralston said Covid-19 has exacerbated the risks and prevalence of obesity as the pandemic has strained food systems and supply chains, altered eating patterns especially among children, and increased food insecurity.

She noted that people have also been less physically active, and experienced more harm to their mental health, among other factors.



Ralston further explained that as we continue to fight the pandemic across the globe, solutions to address obesity must be found in order to save lives, adding: "We're not going to tackle obesity using one thing...we have to do many things at the same time."

"Solutions such as changing labelling, eliminating trans fat from diets, instituting sugar taxes and altering marketing can all work to combat obesity. They have to go beyond the pandemic-driven increase in obesity," she said.

Now, a trans fat is a type of fat that has certain chemical properties and is usually found in processed foods such as baked goods, snack foods, fried foods, margarine, and certain vegetable oils.

Eating trans fat increases blood cholesterol levels and the risk of heart disease.

There are approximately 800 million people living with obesity today. While the World Health Organisation and the United Nations have introduced targets in the past to reduce obesity, these are not being met.

"The roots...that are driving obesity, we're going to communicate into a clear map forward," said Ralston.

Obesity is a non-communicable disease - in other words, it is one that can't be transmitted from one person to another.

Non-communicable diseases are now the leading cause of death globally but since they manifest

over extended periods of time, they don't receive as much attention among policy-makers.

In some cultures, extra weight is also seen in a positive light and can even be perceived as prosperous. The goal is to combat "unhealthy weight" that has direct correlation to complications such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension and the like, said Ralston.

Moving away from stigmatising language and imagery is also important, with the WOF chief executive officer noting: "People saw obesity as a sign of weakness and laziness, but now we know there's a much more complex genetic storm behind it and what food people have available, too... There are many drivers, yet we portray people with obesity as bringing this on themselves."

While reliable data on obesity rates are not always available either, being rigorous with estimates is also important. Body Mass Index (BMI) may be an imperfect measure, but it is the lowest common denominator and a good place to start, she said.

We still don't know enough about obesity and its connection to Covid-19, but we do know that obesity has actual economic and social costs.

Ralston hopes the disease will be at the top of the global agenda and obesogenic environments - that is, environments promoting excessive weight gain - will be combatted with social and policy changes.

"We couldn't have stopped the pandemic by addressing obesity, but we could've stopped a lot of people dying," she said.

A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ). Inaara Gangji is a freelance Tanzanian-Indian journalist who focuses on gender, social justice and development - with work spanning the US, Middle East and Africa.

Kenya's elderly people take lead in COVID-19 vaccination

NAIROBI

When the Kenyan government announced in March that the elderly would be given priority in COVID-19 vaccination, Andrew Wandera, a resident of Busia, Kenya, heeded the call.

The 62-year-old retired teacher visited the main referral hospital in the county a few days after the announcement and got the jab. Wandera recounted Friday that he influenced other older persons in his church and neighborhood to get the vaccine. "There were lots of misconceptions in the village about the vaccine, with some saying one becomes very sick after getting it but I used myself as an example to encourage fellow elders to get the vaccine," said Wandera by phone, adding his wife, 59, also got vaccinated.

Such efforts from people like Wandera and increased awareness among the elderly in the country have seen the group lead in the number of those vaccinated in the east African nation.

At least 531,540 persons who are aged 58 and above have been vaccinated so far in the east African nation, according to the Cabinet Secretary for Health Mutahi Kagwe.

The number represents more than half of those who have been vaccinated in the country, with 911,515 people having taken the vaccine as of Friday.

Other targeted persons are teachers, health workers and security officers. Some 160,468 health workers have been vaccinated in the country, followed by 142,624 teachers and 76,578 security personnel. Willis Akhwale, chairman of COVID-19 Vaccine Development Taskforce, said recently that the elderly are targeted because they are at severe risk and account for 60 percent of recorded deaths in the east African nation.

Since the outbreak of the disease in March 2020, 2,865 people have died in the country due to COVID-19 as of Friday. Kenya launched the vaccination program on March 8, with the first phase targeting 1.25 million people at high risk of infection.



A resident receives a shot of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, March 5, 2021. (Photo by Joy Nabukewa/Xinhua)

While many of Kenya's elderly went to be vaccinated because they are among high-risk groups, young people have also taken the jabs because of the nature of their jobs.

"Our employer organized for us to take the vaccine because we handle cash and interact with tens of people daily," said Caroline Nelima, a banker in Nairobi. Other professionals who have been vaccinated besides bankers, teachers, health workers and security officers, are journalists and long-distance drivers.

Kenya's vaccination drive has, however, been hit by a shortage of the doses as India, the main supplier of the AstraZeneca vaccine, has suspended exports as its COVID-19 cases surge.

The east African nation is now working with Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) for assistance in procuring more vaccines, according to Kagwe.

The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Kenya rose to 162,666, with 1.7 million tests conducted as of Friday. And 110,653 patients have recovered from the pandemic.

Xinhua

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



Radio One

MLIMANI CITY'S HOLDING COMPANY PROFIT PEAKS 29.4BN/- LAST YEAR

By Property Watch Reporter

OPERATING profit of Turnstar Holdings Limited, Mlimani Holdings Limited's parent company, increased to Botswana pula 134m (over 29.4bn/-) last year thanks to an appreciating US dollars.

In its annual report for 2020, Turnstar said its rental revenue increased by four percent to P10.7m (over 2.2bn/-) whilst operational expenses were contained. "The US dollar appreciated against the Botswana pula, during the year under review. Approx 43 percent of the group's rental income is in US dollars, resulting in an exchange gain for Turnstar," the report said adding that the translation gain reported for the year, occurred when translating the US dollar denominated investments and assets of the group subsidiaries in Tanzania and Dubai.

Turnstar which is listed at Botswana Stock Exchange further noted that interest and loan repayments on the US dollar loan facility were made from rentals earned from Tanzanian property hence, there was no foreign currency exposure on the loan and interest repayments.

The report however pointed out that due to the vacancies in the commercial office space at Mlimani City, the local subsidiary reported a fair value loss for the year. "It should be noted that fair



Mlimani City's new entrance.

values are calculated on current rentals, projected into the future. It does not reflect the actual cost nor the condition of the buildings, and may change from year

to year, depending on occupancy levels," the report added.

The annual report stated that although Botswana properties recorded fair value

gains, due to the Mlimani fair value loss, the group recorded an overall value loss for the year. At Mlimani City, Turnstar said it has four property types with 165

active tenants with 56,370 square metres of total lettable area all valued at \$960m.

Mlimani City comprises of four distinct components being; Mlimani City Retail Centre which has a total rentable area of 27,465sqm; an Office park with a total rentable area of 15,017sqm; the conference centre which has rental space of 4,903sqm; and a residential complex with 50 free-standing residential units.

"The Mall has always enjoyed good occupancy with a large contribution being from the expatriates' community. As a result, Mlimani enjoys a large market share in Dar es Salaam," the report noted while stating that the coronavirus pandemic affected the conference centre immensely.

"The recent refurbishments of the conference facility had however spiked appetite to the conference centre to about 75 percent. The mushrooming of commercial properties in the city has affected our commercial office blocks, coupled with the movement of government offices to Dodoma which left behind offices which are now being occupied at lower rentals," the report explained.

"A renowned local foundation has signed a five year term lease and will occupy 768 square meters of the office block 6. This signing will attract more investors to Mlimani City Offices. Competition in the city's residential market is challenging and has been further aggravated by mushrooming of alternative accommodation. However we intend to continue looking for more innovative marketing tools to compete," Turnstar's annual report stated.

TIC comes up with call centre to serve investors in real time

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INVESTORS facing challenges on the ground will now get direct assistance from Tanzania Investment Center call center employees in real time.

Permanent Secretary in Prime Minister's Office responsible for Investment, Professor Godius Kahyarara said in Dar es Salaam mid this week when inaugurating the center that the move will help boost investments in the country.

"This center is one of the improvements which TIC is undertaking to improve service delivery and attract more investments in the country," said Prof Kahyarara. He said the aim of the center is also to enable investors and other stakeholders get the right information through direct mobile phone conversation, email and text messaging.

Prof Kahyarara named some of services that are available at the call center as information about different investment opportunities available in the country, investment procedures, how

to get project approvals and permits.

"The most important advantage of this call center is that it advises investors about policy, laws and how they can get feedback of applications for licenses and permits digitally without coming to visit TIC offices," he added.

The PMO's PS further noted that the call center will also save investors time and money to travel all the way to TIC offices to get correct information relating to investment in the country.

"This will also reduce incidents of fraud because investors were misled by unscrupulous people who masqueraded as TIC officials," Prof Kahyarara noted while adding that the call center will also help TIC get feedback from investors.

Prof Kahyarara explained that the government through TIC and other agencies is creating a system known as Tanzania Single Window of Investment which will be a digital one stop centre connecting all systems used by different institution that deal investments in the country. TIC Director General, Dr Maduhu Kazi assured the PS that the center will help improve efficiency.



TIC head offices in Dar es Salaam.

Cederberg wine farm installs solar energy plant to lower carbon footprint

JOHANNESBURG

South African wine farm, Cederberg has committed itself to sustainability with the installation of a solar energy plant.

Situated in the Cederberg Nature Conservancy, Cederberg was one of the first wine farms in South Africa to be awarded Champion Status by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), in recognition of its commitment to regenerative farming practices, including conserving natural systems and biodiversity on the land and optimal water and energy efficiency. It is also the farm with the most unspoiled land of all WWF Champion-accredited wine farms. Of the 5,500 hectares of property, only 85 hectares are under vine.

Extending harvesting windows

Wine farming is more energy-intensive than it may appear at face value. After grapes are harvested, their temperature must be reduced by between 15-16 degrees before they can be processed. To lessen

this, previously one needed to change the harvesting times. Now with the solar plant on the farm producing additional energy, the harvesting window can be extended. Naturally, wine cellars must also be temperature controlled throughout the year.

Building on its legacy of dedication to preserving the area's natural beauty and biodiversity, the move to solar is the farm's most measurable initiative to reduce its carbon footprint to date. The 25776 kWp solar power plant, which has been operating for six months, has cut the farm's carbon footprint in half. Additionally, it has reduced the electricity used in the cellar and farm practices by 75%. Made up of 716 photovoltaic solar panels, eight-string inverters and 358 optimisers, this solar system is grid-tied, meaning that it is connected to the national electricity grid.

This set-up was made possible through a collaboration between Cederberg Wines, New Southern Energy and Eskom. Solar

energy works by harnessing the sun's radiation and converting it into electricity. One of the many benefits of a grid-tied system is that when the solar system reaches a certain capacity, it can feed excess energy back into the grid.

Wine farm sustainability

Cederberg's winemaker David Nieuwoudt has shown that he not only has formidable dexterity when it comes to making wine, but also with every aspect of developing the property. When renovations were done on the farm a decade ago, he ensured that the roofs were built in such a way so as to enable solar panels to be optimally placed and reach peak efficiency in a solar system. So if the question is whether the solar plant will potentially be expanded so that the property can become a net exporter of energy, the answer is certainly yes!

"A world-class wine deserves a world-class solar system, and this is just the starting point for us," says Nieuwoudt.



A bird's eye view of Cederberg wine farm.

"I want people who drink my wine to think of the Cederberg mountains as unique and untouched. The solar plant is a step in our journey to reducing our impact on the beautiful environment in which we cultivate," he adds.

"This far-sighted approach enabled us to

build a sophisticated system that will stand Cederberg in good stead for the next 20-25 years. All data from the solar plant is logged and saved in cloud-based storage to ensure that it operates as effectively as possible," says David Masureik, CEO, New Southern Energy.

OIL MARKETERS URGE TBS TO EASE FUEL-MARKING PRICES

By Property Watch Reporter

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards which has been given the task of fuel marking by the government has been urged to improve efficiency and lower costs compared to a consortium of Global Fuels International.

Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies' CEO, Raphael Mgaya said in Dar es Salaam last week that the decision to take away the role from GFI will only make sense if things improve and not otherwise.

"Our greatest concern today is the level of services by TBS. We would like to know the technology that TBS is using and we also want to know the cost, whether there will be a reduction in costs given the recent understanding that costs by the GFI was twice as much compared to the bidder who won the tender but lost on appeal at PPRA," Mgaya said.

He pointed out that stakeholders in the industry expect to see TBS performing at high standards so that the exercise runs smoothly. "We also expect TBS to be, not only cost effective but as efficient as possible to prevent any possible hiccups in the industry," he noted while pointing out that Taomac members are cautiously following developments on the ground.

Last week, the government ordered TBS to take over the fuel marking technology exercise after Energy Minister, Dr Medard Kalemami made an impromptu visit at Dar es Salaam Port fuel terminal and found tankers belonging to Camel Oil loading unmarked fuel destined for the local market.

Dr Kalemami suspended two officials from TBS and Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority for failing to supervise the exercise properly which led to loss of government revenue. "I am ordering Ewura and TBS to follow up all fuel which has entered the market without be-



Transit fuel tankers leaving Dar es Salaam Port.

ing marked," Dr Kalemami said.

The Minister's visit followed debate in parliament which was provoked by Gairo lawmaker, Ahmed Shabiby who suggested that the government should assign the role to TBS to save consumers from paying hefty prices for the service currently being offered by the GFI consortium.

Shabiby argued that GFI was charging

twice the price which UK based Intertek International would have charged after winning the tender floated by Ewura last year. The tender was however annulled by Public Procurement Regulatory Authority after some unsuccessful bidders filed a case to dispute the tender award in November last year.

"The annulment means that Tanzanians

will continue to pay almost twice as much for fuel marking services because the status quo will be maintained until a tender is awarded as per PPRA ruling," Shabiby charged.

The GIF consortium which also included Swiss based SICPA SA had its tender expired in December 2019 but had extension due to the coronavirus outbreak last year. The GIF consortium won the tender in 2016.

Mozambique dismisses reports that equipment being dismantled in Afungi

MAPUTO

A claim that a consortium of firms has been hired to dismantle and remove infrastructure for the national gas liquefaction project on the Afungi Peninsula, in Palma district, in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, appears to be entirely untrue.

A story in the magazine "African Energy Intelligence" claimed that TechnipFMC and Saipem, the design and construction contractors on the suspended natural gas project, have hired a group of firms to take down and remove the infrastructure still in Afungi, following the terrorist attack on Palma town on 24 March.

The report said that, two weeks before the French oil and gas company Total, the operator of the project, declared force majeure at the end of April, TechnipFMC had moved staff out of its camp in Palma. Since then, the company has supposedly tasked South African firm Bridge Maritime with dismantling and removing the equipment it had left behind. Bridge Maritime was expected to ship most of the equipment, including pipes and umbilicals, to the French Indian Ocean possession of Mayotte.

If this report were true, it would send a strong signal that the gas project will not resume. However, Total itself has denied these claims. A Total spokesperson, cited by the Zitamar News Service, said that Technip had no equipment on land for its project. He found the repeated use of the word "dismantling" misleading, since it implies that the companies concerned are taking apart structures that already exist, when in reality they do not.

Zitamar said that some companies want to remove equipment from the project site at Afungi, either because they want to redeploy it elsewhere until there is a firm indication of when the gas project will move forward, or so they can properly maintain it.

Total, however, is not cooperating with these removals. One source cited by Zitamar complained that equipment is being held "hostage" at Afungi. As for Mayotte, Total has already assured the Mozambican government that it is not moving the logistics hub for its project to Mayotte.

Construction of R16bn Harbour Arch precinct on track

CAPE TOWN

Harbour Arch, a mixed-use development steadily taking shape on Cape Town's foreshore, is well on track according to Nicholas Stopforth, managing director of Amdec Property Developments.

With construction having commenced back in January last year, the development currently sits at around 25 metres above ground level, and can be clearly seen rising above Table Bay Boulevard. Concrete and structural work on the three-level basement, ground and first two floors have been completed and the contractor is moving ahead with brickwork and the installation of services. Floors four to six are also moving ahead at pace.

According to Stopforth, the transformation of what has been an uninspiring site characterised by vagrancy, warehousing and light industrial, into a safe and enjoyable community-focused environment, heralds a new era of urban living for the CBD.

"Our main contractor, WBHO, is managing the site with great efficiency, and we remain on schedule for completion of Tower One Harbour Arch in May 2023," says Stopforth. "On any given day we have around 300 workers on site, all of whom are screened and sanitised in accordance with Covid-19 protocols."

Once Harbour Arch is complete, these six residential towers will sit above landscaped public spaces lined with shops, restaurants, cocktail bars, two Marriott-branded hotels, offices, gyms, etc. In one of its largest deals in recent years, the Absa Commercial Property Finance division has provided a loan of R1,43bn, in addition to an existing facility of R210m, to develop the first tower of the Harbour Arch project ...

Job creation

"It is not by coincidence that we have joined forces with WBHO as our main construction partner," says Stopforth,



Harbour Arch taking shape on Cape Town's foreshore.

"The fact that WBHO is a Level 1 B-BBEE company reflects our commitment to creating an environment that can be beneficial to South Africans from all walks of life." The building of the precinct will provide around 20,000 jobs and many thousands more will be created upon completion via retail, extensive hospitality services and security services.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has in many respects changed the way we live, blurring the lines between work and play, highlighting the necessity for community and connectivity. Mixed-use developments like Harbour Arch are perfectly placed to satisfy this kind of lifestyle because they are designed to offer

dynamic, safe, sustainable environments that combine commercial, retail, leisure, and residential components," says Stopforth.

"While it's been a buyer's market for some time now, mixed-use developments like Harbour Arch remain in high demand. All-inclusive precincts make it easier for people to live close to where they work. The move from suburban to inner city living makes good financial sense if you factor in escalating traffic and sky-rocketing petrol costs. Less time spent commuting not only reduces traffic congestion and carbon emissions, it also allows people to live healthier, less stressful lives," he concludes.



An aerial view of Total's LNG at Afungi Peninsula.

CONSTRUCTION

SAUDI ARABIA'S PROPERTY MARKET SHOWS SIGNS OF POST-COVID RECOVERY

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia's property market is showing signs of a post-Covid recovery on the back of a broader increase in business activity in the kingdom.

The residential market is benefiting from a number of factors including a recent decision to exempt property transactions from the 15 per cent value added tax rate and a booming mortgage market, consultancy Knight Frank said in its Saudi Arabia Real Estate Market Review.

"The overall improvement in business confidence and market sentiment has led to a surge in residential mortgage loans, which rose by 38 per cent in the 12 months to the end of February," said Faisal Durrani, head of Middle East research at Knight Frank. New residential mortgage loans for villas accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the 26,800 property contracts recorded in February, valued at 11.3 billion Saudi riyals (\$3.01bn).

The value of residential transactions completed in Riyadh in the first quarter of 2021 increased by 80 per cent year-on-year, with the



Riyadh skyline.

number of deals up 25 per cent, Knight Frank's report said. The value of home deals in Jeddah increased 26 per cent and the number by 34 per cent.

However, there was a divergence between the price performance of villas and apartments. Apartments increased in value across the kingdom - up 4.4 per cent year-on-year in Riyadh, 6.5 per cent in Jeddah and 3.2 per

cent in the Dammam Metropolitan Area, but villa prices were 1.6 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 7.9 per cent lower, respectively.

The kingdom exempted property deals from VAT in October last year and instead introduced a new 5 per cent real estate transaction tax. The move is expected to continue having a positive impact on deal levels and boost

home ownership rates, Knight Frank said.

Saudi Arabia has set an ambitious target of increasing home ownership rates in the kingdom to 70 per cent by 2030 under the Sakani programme - a joint initiative between the Ministry of Housing and the Real Estate Development Fund that is building homes, distributing land plots and arranging home loans.

"Like other global economies, the pandemic has driven a widespread economic slowdown across the kingdom, however improved business confidence during the closing months of 2020 ... helped to drive a turnaround in performance in all main segments of the real estate market," said Mr Durrani.

The Ministry of Investment granted 466 foreign investment licences in the fourth quarter of last year, up 60 per cent on the prior year - 189 licences were granted in December

alone. The industrial and manufacturing, logistics, retail, e-commerce and ICT sectors attracted the most investment.

Office rents, however, remain under pressure. Grade A rents increased by 0.5 per cent in Riyadh, but fell 2.8 per cent in Jeddah and 4.3 per cent in the Dammam region. Grade B rents fell 2.5, 3.1 and 3.8 per cent, respectively. Vacancy rates tightened across most cities on improving business activity. Vacancies for Grade A space in Riyadh fell to just 7 per cent, although almost one third of Grade B units remain empty.

The unemployment rate for Saudi citizens fell to 12.6 per cent in the three months to December 31, down from 14.9 per cent in the third quarter. "The increase in employment is expected to positively impact office demand going forward," said Knight Frank.

BlackRock Invests in Metcold China Cold Chain Logistics

BEIJING

New York-based BlackRock last month agreed to invest in assets held by Metcold's Opportunity Funds I and II, the companies said in a release.

The investment amount and specific assets weren't disclosed. Metcold manages 15 cold chain facilities with a total investment of over RMB 6 billion (\$930 million), total planned gross floor area of 1.3 million square metres (14 million square feet) and cold storage capacity of 2.8 million cubic metres (99 million cubic feet).

"We are delighted to invest in this growing infrastructure sector in China and participate in a uniquely attractive and resilient theme tied to the modernisation of China's food logistics chain, improved safety and reduced food wastage," said Serge Lauper, BlackRock's global head of infrastructure solutions.

Founded in 2015, Metcold established its Opportunity Fund I that year to invest in cold chain facilities in Xi'an, Kunshan and Xiajing. Those three projects are in full operation. Further projects in Changzhou, Nantong and Haimen are expected to be launched in the second quarter of this year, while projects in Wuxi and Hainan are under



A Metcold facility in Changzhou, Jiangsu province under construction in 2020.

construction and due for completion in 2022.

Metcold reached a key milestone in 2018 when Australia's Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets became a major investor and shareholder in the firm's platform, creating the first specialised food supply infrastructure service provider backed by institutional capital in China.

Office Investment

In March of this year, Metcold announced an agreement with Metropolitan Real Estate that would see the US fund manager - then owned by Carlyle Group, now part of BentallGreenOak - invest a total of \$50 million in Metcold's two opportunity funds and in a cold storage project in Shanghai.

Metropolitan had previously joined forces with US developer Hines last year to acquire a

33,800 square metre cold storage facility and adjacent development site in southern China's Guangdong province. China's cold chain network is gaining in importance with the rise of e-commerce and online grocery.

The Asian superpower's cold chain was worth RMB 276 billion in 2019 after growing at a compounded annual rate of 10.5 percent from 2010. With

handling of fresh produce and other food products driving the majority of demand, the market is expected to reach RMB 512 billion in 2026, according to a report published last year.

Credit Suisse expects online grocery spending - including fresh foods and household goods - in China to reach RMB 4.2 trillion in 2025, up from RMB 900 billion last year, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Volvo records 97.5 percent global car sales increase in April

STOCKHOLM

Volvo Cars recorded its tenth consecutive month of sales growth as the company's global sales increased by 97.5 per cent in April, compared with the same month in 2020.

In April, Volvo Cars sold a total of 62,724 cars, up from 31,760 cars in the same period last year. The growth was mainly driven by a strong demand in US and Europe, in combination with a recovery from a sales drop in April last year related to the Covid-19 pandemic. In China, where sales returned to growth around this time last year, the company reported a steady increase of 11.6 per cent.

Sales in the January-April period landed at 248,422 cars, up 51.8 per cent compared with the same period last year. Sales of its Recharge line-up of chargeable models, with a fully electric or plug-in hybrid power-train, remained strong in Europe during the month of April, representing 42 per cent of the company's overall sales in Europe. Globally, Recharge cars accounted for 24.3 per cent of the total sales volume.

In the US, sales increased by 185.5 per cent in April compared with the same month last year, mainly driven by a strong demand for the XC90 and XC60. Total sales reached 11,036 cars, an increase from 3,866 in the same period 2020, when many states implemented stay-at-home orders due to the pandemic.

European sales grew to 25,816 cars for the month of April, up 178 per cent compared to the same period last year. The increase was mainly driven by markets that have started to recover after last year's pandemic-related shutdowns, as well as a strong sales increase in UK, Sweden and Germany.

China, Volvo Cars' biggest market, reported a solid sales growth in April, with total sales reaching 16,435 cars. The increase was led by a high demand for the locally assembled XC60 and S90 models. In April, the XC40 was the top selling model with sales of 19,833 cars (5,708), followed by the XC60, with total sales of 17,925 cars (10,908 units), and the Volvo XC90 with 9,371 cars (4,425 units).

Emaar Properties' profit rises 8pc on double-digit revenue growth

DUBAI

Dubai's biggest listed property developer Emaar Properties reported an 8 per cent jump in first quarter net profit as it recorded a double-digit revenue increase.

Net profit grew to Dh657 million (\$179m) as revenue rose 12 per cent year-on-year to nearly Dh6 billion, the company said in a statement to the Dubai Financial Market, where its shares trade.

"As one of the most dynamic and growing markets in the world, Dubai's property market resilience is a testament to its commitment to become one of the world's best

cities," Mohamed Al-abbar, founder and managing director of Emaar Properties, said. "Within such a short space of time, Emaar has managed to achieve results that are comparable to 2019, before the pandemic affected businesses globally."

The developer behind Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, is the third-biggest company on the Dubai Financial Market, with a market capitalisation of Dh28.64bn. Emaar has built more than 74,500 units to date and has more than 25,500 under development in the UAE, with a further 11,500 in oth-

er markets.

The company booked sales of Dh7.11bn in the first quarter, an 83 per cent increase on the same period last year. UAE property sales more than doubled to Dh5.9bn. This has brought the size of its backlog up above Dh41.8bn, the company said.

Profits at its Emaar Development arm grew 20 per cent to Dh781m as revenue grew 26 per cent, the company said. Its international arm reported revenue growth of 18 per cent to Dh1.21bn but the company did not provide a profit figure.

The company con-



A view of Dubai's Burj Khalifa, built by Emaar Properties, at the centre of the developer's downtown Dubai district.

firmed its Emaar Malls arm made a profit of Dh318m for the quarter, but did not give a corresponding figure for the same period last year. It also did not give a profit figure for its hospitality, leisure and entertainment arm. Property

prices in Dubai continued to rebound in April, rising 1.2 per cent month-on-month although they remain 6.5 per cent lower year-on-year, consultancy Valustrat said in a report on Sunday.

"On a citywide level, capital

values of residential homes commenced a growth trend, a promising signal that the property market has indeed bottomed out. Clear improvements in capital values were observed in 96 per cent of locations," Valustrat said.

WORLD

Over a quarter of EU adults would refuse COVID-19 shot, survey says

BRUSSELS

MORE than a quarter of adults in the European Union would be unlikely to take the COVID-19 vaccine when it was offered to them, a survey published yesterday showed.

The results also suggested a strong link between vaccine hesitancy and the use of social media, particularly where social media is the main source of information, according to Eurofound which

carried out the survey.

"Unfortunately, these findings reflect a failure to deliver persuasive and clear communication regarding the efficacy and safety of vaccines," said Daphne Ahrendt, Eurofound senior research manager.

Bulgarians were the most reluctant to get the vaccine, with 67% of adults saying they were unlikely or very unlikely to get it. In Ireland, only 10% of adults said they would not get the shot.



A nurse administers the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in La Baule, France, February 17, 2021. REUTERS

The survey found an east-west divide across Europe. Except for France and Austria, the intention to get vaccinated was above 60% in all Western member states - with Nordic and Mediterranean countries, Denmark and Ireland having even higher rates.

The rate of planned uptake in Eastern member states was much lower, ranging from 59% in Romania to 33% in Bulgaria.

The main influence on vaccine hesitancy was the time spent on social media and which medium was used, the survey said. The proportion rises to 40% among those who use

social media as their primary source of news. Among people who used traditional media including press, radio and television, only 18% of respondents were vaccine sceptics.

The survey also found that students, employed or retired people were less vaccine hesitant than average, while 39% of unemployed people or those with a long-term disease of disability were more hesitant.

The survey was conducted between February and March 2021, after a full year of living with COVID-19 restrictions across the bloc's 27 member states.

Agencies

Lavrov, Blinken discuss Russia-US summit, agree to meet in Reykjavik

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the timeline of bilateral Russia-US contacts by phone Wednesday, including the proposed highest-level Russia-US summit, and agreed to hold a separate meeting during the Arctic Council ministerial session in Reykjavik.

"The sides discussed the timeline of other Russian-US contacts for the upcoming period, including Washington's proposal on the organization of the Russia-US summit," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in its statement.

The sides also touched upon the interaction between the two countries in the Arctic Council - in particular, in regards to the upcoming Russian presidency in the organization, which will begin on May 20.

"Lavrov and Blinken agreed to hold a separate meeting on the sidelines of the [May 20] session to review key issues of bilateral relations and the international agenda," the Foreign Ministry said.

The Foreign Ministry noted that the sides "exchanged opinions on approaches to the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, the restoration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and reviewing tasks on strategic stability."

India to begin Covaxin vaccine trials for children

JERUSALEM / BAGHDAD

THE Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has cleared phase II and III clinical trials of Covaxin COVID-19 vaccine for children from two and 18 years, officials said yesterday.

"The National Regulator of the country, the DCGI, after careful examination, has accepted the recommendation of Subject Expert Committee and accorded permission to conduct the Phase II/III clinical trial of Covaxin (COVID-19 vaccine) in the age group 2 to 18, to its manufacturer Bharat Biotech Ltd on 12.05.2021," reads a statement issued by the federal health ministry.

According to the ministry, Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech International Ltd., Hyderabad had proposed to carry out the clinical trials of Covaxin in the age group of 2 to 18.

The trials will be conducted in 525 healthy volunteers, the ministry said. In the trials, the vaccine will be given by intramuscular route in two doses at day 0 and day 28.

According to a government statement, the drug regulator accepted the recommendation of an expert committee on vaccines.

India has been seeing a shortage of COVID-19 vaccines, according to media reports.

India's COVID-19 tally rose to 23,703,665 on Thursday with 362,727 new cases registered in the past 24 hours, while the death toll swelled to 258,317 with 4,120 deaths since Wednesday morning, the federal health ministry announced Thursday.

The Philippines

The Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) reported 6,385 new COVID-19 infections yesterday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the Southeast Asian country to 1,124,724.

The death toll climbed to 18,821 after 107 more patients died from the viral disease, the DOH said.

DOH data showed that 17,909 medical workers, primarily nurses and doctors, have contracted the virus as of May 12. At least 89 health care workers have succumbed to the disease.

The Philippines, which has about 110 million population, has tested over 11.6 million people since the outbreak in January 2020.

Japan

Japan's COVID-19 vaccine chief has blamed a rigid drug approval system for a slow inoculation campaign that is relying on only one approved shot, as a fourth wave of infections raises worries amid preparations for the Summer Olympics.

Taro Kono, the minister in charge of vaccines, took responsibility for the public frustration with the vaccine distributed system but also said the approval process was a disadvantage in an emergency.

"Even though we are in a state of crisis, we're still using the same rules to approve vaccines that we do under normal times," Kono said in a TBS television interview broadcast on Wednesday.

"In the wake of this corona situation, the administration needs to change."

The government aims to inoculate most of its 36 million people over the age of 65 by the end of July. The Olympics, postponed last year as the virus was spreading around the world, are due to begin on July 23.

Agencies

Zambia set for heightened political activities ahead of polls

LUSAKA

AS campaigns ahead of this year's general elections start in Zambia, heightened political activities are set to grip the country as various political parties take to the streets to woo voters.

The country's electoral body on Tuesday evening officially announced the campaign period which will run from May 12 to Aug. 11.

Presidential candidates will start filing in nomination papers from May 17 to 20, with each candidate expected to provide 1,000 supporters from all the country's 10 provinces.

Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) Chairperson Esau Chulu appealed to all political parties to adhere to the electoral code of conduct. Political parties have also been discouraged from holding public rallies in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.

This follows the development of standard operating procedures against COVID-19 aimed at guiding stakeholders' conduct in relation to the election calendar.

On the other hand, the media has been advised to conduct fair coverage to all political par-

ties participating in the general elections.

Civil rights activist Brebner Changala, however, has questioned the electoral body's decision to discourage political parties from holding public rallies. According to him, the move will disadvantage opposition political parties because there were no proper measures outlined to ensure a level playing field for all parties participating in the elections.

Also, a source of concern is the problem of violence that has characterized previous elections.

Zambia's elections have been marred by violence since the reintroduction of multiparty politics in the 1990s. Journalists have not been spared as they have been caught up in violence perpetrated by supporters of political parties as they discharge their duties.

The police have this time warned that they will not allow violence during the campaigns.

Inspector-General Kakoma Kanganja said the police are well prepared to ensure that campaigns take place in a peaceful environment in order to allow all players to present their messages to the voters.

"Political leaders at various



Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) Chairperson Esau Chulu

levels should play their role of educating their cadres against engaging themselves in acts that may trigger violence.

All political parties should conduct constructive and issue-based campaigns devoid of hate speech, inciting violence," he said in a release.

According to him, political activities should be focused on presenting political parties' respective manifestos to the electorate and leave it to the electorate to exercise their constitutional rights of choosing

their preferred leaders without coercion. Daniel Kalemba, a youth leader in Lusaka Province for the ruling Patriotic Front (PF), has called on the youth to desist from engaging themselves in violence as campaigns begin. He said the ruling party will concentrate on telling the voters the development programs the party has achieved since assuming office in 2011.

"We have told our youths to engage in issue-based campaigns and not to engage in vio-

lence," he said.

Another unique feature in this year's polls is that prisoners will also be participating in voting following the amendment of the country's constitution.

About 7.2 million voters are expected to vote in the Aug. 12 polls. So far, 19 candidates have paid fees to stand as presidential candidates while political parties have started announcing candidates to stand as members of parliament and councilors.

Xinhua

S.Africa's COVID-19 death toll much higher than official tally - report

JOHANNESBURG

A SOUTH African report into excess deaths over the past year suggests more than 133,000 people in the country have died from COVID-19, far more than the official tally of nearly 55,000.

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) has been monitoring excess deaths since May 2020.

In its latest report, published on Wednesday, the SAMRC said South Africa had

seen 157,000 excess deaths in the past 12 months and estimated that 85% of them were caused by COVID-19, which means just over 133,000 people have died from the disease.

This compares to an official death toll of 54,968 since the start of the pandemic.

South Africa implemented one of the world's most restrictive lockdowns from March 2020, when cases were still relatively low, and the SAMRC said increases in weekly deaths due to the pandemic only be-

came evident from May 2020 onwards.

Excess death figures, which some epidemiologists say are the best way to measure the true toll from COVID-19 given that counting methods vary between countries, surpass official COVID-19 death figures in many countries.

Excess deaths are typically defined as the difference between the observed numbers of deaths in specific time periods and expected numbers of deaths in the same time peri-

ods. The SAMRC report said the excess death rate per 100,000 population for South Africa was 258 over the past 12 months. This places the country - on an age-standardised basis - in the top five countries for which excess deaths are measured.

The health ministry declined to comment immediately on the report.

Last year, South Africa imposed tough lockdown measures to curb the spread of the virus, including border closures and even bans on the

sale of alcohol and cigarettes.

Most restrictions have now been lifted but a recent rise in infections has prompted fears of a third wave of the pandemic as the southern hemisphere's winter approaches.

South Africa's vaccination campaign got off to a slow start but it has now ordered millions more doses. The health ministry said on Wednesday around 430,730 shots had been administered so far, with priority given to frontline healthcare workers.

Israel masses troops along Gaza as rocket fire, air strikes escalate

ISRAEL was preparing ground troops along the Gaza border yesterday and Hamas launched rocket barrages at southern Israel as the fiercest hostilities in years dragged on with no end in sight.

Sirens blared in Tel Aviv overnight and the sound of rockets being shot down by Israel's Iron Dome system filled the sky, sending thousands of Israelis to shelters.

By dawn on Thursday, Israel had renewed its air strikes on the Palestinian coastal enclave, destroying a six-storey residential building in the middle of Gaza City.

As world powers reiterate calls for calm, a wave of violence between Jewish Israelis and the coun-

try's Arab minority has continued to spread in several Israeli cities, with attacks on synagogues and Arab-Jewish fighting in the streets.

At least 67 people have been killed in Gaza since violence escalated on Monday, according to the enclave's health ministry. Seven people have been killed in Israel, its military said.

Israel has prepared combat troops along the Gaza border and was in "various stages of preparing ground operations," a military spokesman said, a move that would recall similar incursions during Israel-Gaza wars in 2014 and 2008-2009.

"The Chief of Staff is inspecting

those preparations and providing guidance ... we have a division headquarters and three maneuver brigades down in Gaza preparing themselves for that situation and for various contingencies," Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus said.

Health authorities in Gaza said they were investigating the deaths of several people overnight who they said may have inhaled poisonous gas. Samples were being examined and they had yet to draw any final conclusions, they said.

Amid fears the violence could spiral further out of control, Washington planned to send an envoy, Hady Amr, for talks with Israel and

Palestinians.

"My expectation and hope is this will be closing down sooner than later, but Israel has a right to defend itself," Biden said on Wednesday after speaking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Biden did not explain the reasons behind his optimism.

Netanyahu's office said he told the US president that Israel would "continue acting to strike at the military capabilities of Hamas and the other terrorist groups active in the Gaza Strip".

On Wednesday, Israeli forces killed a senior Hamas commander and bombed several buildings, including high-rises and a bank,

which Israel said was linked to the faction's activities.

Hamas signalled defiance, with its leader, Ismail Haniyeh, saying: "The confrontation with the enemy is open-ended."

Jerusalem tensions, Israel strife

Israel launched its offensive after Hamas fired rockets at Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in retaliation for Israeli police clashes with Palestinians near al-Qsa mosque in East Jerusalem during the fasting month of Ramadan.

These escalated ahead of a court hearing - now postponed - that could lead to the eviction of Pales-

tinian families from East Jerusalem homes claimed by Jewish settlers.

For Israel, the targeting of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem posed a new challenge in the confrontation with Hamas, regarded as a terrorist group by Israel and the United States.

A Palestinian source said truce efforts by Egypt, Qatar and the United Nations had made no progress to end the violence.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken phoned Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and said Washington "was exerting efforts with all relevant parties to reach calm," the official Palestinian news agency WAFA said. Agencies

Kremlin seeks assurances Ukrainian opposition figure's case not politically motivated

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has no plans to interfere in Ukraine's case against Chairman of the Political Council of the Opposition Platform - For Life party Viktor Medvedchuk but would like to make sure that the case is not politically motivated, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Wednesday.

"We don't plan to interfere in these procedures, this is Ukraine's internal affair. However, we are closely following these developments. We would like to make sure that this case is not based on political persecution and this is not a campaign stemming from someone's desire to get rid of political rivals," Peskov said in response to a question.

According to him, such persecution would be unacceptable "from the standpoint of the spirit and letter of democracy." Meanwhile, Medvedchuk has requested neither assistance from Russia, nor political asylum, Peskov noted.

He emphasized that the Kremlin viewed Medvedchuk, first and foremost, as a pro-Ukrainian politician who, unlike many other political figures in his country, "believes in the need to improve relations between Ukraine and Russia and maintain them at a proper level." "As far as we can see from open pollster data published in Ukraine, the position appeals to quite a large number of Ukrainians," Peskov concluded.

On Tuesday, Ukrainian officers of the law conducted searches at Medvedchuk's home and at the office of the Opposition Platform - For Life party.

At the same time, Prosecutor General Irina Venediktova announced that she had signed documents charging the politician and another parliament member, Taras Kozak, with high treason and attempted embezzlement of national resources in Crimea. Medvedchuk slammed the developments as a political witchhunt.

Pipeline breakdown leads to urgent issues for Biden administration

WASHINGTON

THE temporary shutdown of the U.S. largest conduit for gasoline and diesel over the weekend has conspicuously triggered off a dire situation of triple predicament for the Joe Biden administration to cope with, which might escalate and deteriorate on the three fronts of fuel supply, energy development and cyber security if not addressed on urgent basis.

FUEL SHORTAGES

Fuel shortages have worsened across the U.S. East Coast as consumers continue panic buying amid the fallout from the cyberattack on the Colonial Pipeline last week. The national average for gas prices reached 3 U.S. dollars per gallon on Wednesday, the most expensive level since October 2014, according to FOX Business.

The 5,500-mile pipeline system transports more than 100 million gallons of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and heating oil per day, or roughly 45 percent of fuel consumed on the Eastern Seaboard between the Gulf Coast and the New York metro area.

A growing number of gas stations along the East Coast are without fuel as nervous drivers aggressively fill up their tanks following the ransomware attack that shut down the critical artery for gasoline. "The panic-buying threatens to exacerbate the supply shock," CNN reported.

As of Tuesday morning, 12.3 percent of gas stations in North Carolina and 8.6 percent in Virginia didn't have gasoline, according to outage figures reported by GasBuddy, an app that tracks fuel prices and demand.

"We've already seen higher gas prices," Tiffany Wright, a spokeswoman for the American Automobile Association (AAA) in the Carolinas, was quoted by the National Public Radio (NPR) as saying. "They have gone up as high from anywhere from three to 10 cents overnight."

Later Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm urged Americans not to hoard gasoline as Colonial Pipeline Co. was expected to fully resume operations in a few days.

"The White House and the Department of Energy have been leading an interagency response to the Colonial Pipeline hack," Granholm said at a White House press briefing, noting that the current supply crunch was in the areas that were affected by the pipeline, predominantly the Southeast, such as the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and southern Virginia.

LACK OF REGULATION

The ransomware attack on Colonial Pipeline has also hit the U.S. energy industry that largely lacks federal oversight, leading to uneven digital defenses against such hacks.

The temporary shutdown of Colonial's pipeline, the country's largest conduit for gasoline and diesel to the East Coast, highlights the need for additional protection and oversight to help shield the oil-and-gas companies that power much of the country's economic activity, cyber experts told the media.

"The pipeline sector is a bit of the Wild West," said John Cusimano, vice president of cybersecurity at ae-Solutions, a consulting firm that works with energy companies and other industrial firms on cybersecurity.

Cusimano called for rules similar to the U.S. Coast Guard's 2020 regulations for the maritime sector that required companies operating ports and terminals to put together cybersecurity assessments and plans for incidents.

More than two-thirds of executives at companies that transport or store oil and gas said their organizations are ready to respond to a breach, according to a 2020 survey by the law firm Jones Walker LLP. But many don't take basic precautions such as encrypting data or conducting dry runs of attacks, said Andy Lee, who chairs the firm's privacy and security team.

Int'l community casts vote of confidence in Belt and Road

XI'AN

ADJEI Peter Junior banged an African drum and danced to the exciting rhythm, with the surrounding crowd drawn to the intriguing musical instrument.

It was not the scene of a party. Rather, the manager of Ghana Opace Group was using the dance to promote the company's products such as drums and wooden handicrafts at the ongoing Fifth Silk Road International Exposition in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province. "We can go all round China for business, and it is a huge market for our products," he said.

Themed "Interconnection, Contribution and Shared Benefits," the expo has attracted more than 1,900 envoys and guests from 98 countries and regions such as Slovakia, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan and Zambia. Joint efforts to push for deeper Belt and Road (B&R) economic cooperation are high on the agenda.

Participants at the expo said that with the COVID-19 pandemic still raging across the globe, the enthusiasm of the international community in jointly promoting high-quality B&R cooperation is tantamount to a resounding vote of confidence in the program. "It reflects the great and growing interest of countries in achieving the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and re-establishing the links of the ancient Silk Road," said Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov. "We must work together to find new development drivers and growth points," he said, adding that active participation in the B&R is needed to realize these goals.

Since the BRI was proposed in 2013, China has carried out development cooperation and contributed to policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity based on the needs of individual countries, creating space and opportunities to promote high-quality B&R cooperation. Since 2013, China has signed cooperation agreements with a total of 140 countries and 31 international organizations under the BRI, said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a video address to the expo.

The total trade volume between China and the B&R countries amounted to 9.2 trillion U.S. dollars from 2013 to 2020, and combined investment by Chinese enterprises in these countries had reached 136 billion U.S. dollars, according to Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen. In this year's government work report, China pledged to jointly build the B&R with high quality, pushing cooperation on major projects in an orderly manner. The country has also vowed to promote the high-quality development of the B&R during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi addresses the opening ceremony of the Fifth Silk Road International Exposition and the Investment and Trade Forum for Cooperation between East and West China via video link in Xi'an, capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province on May 11, 2021. (Xinhua)

In 2020, Malaysia's trade with China, its largest trading partner for 12 consecutive years, expanded by 4.2 percent to 78.5 billion U.S. dollars, accounting for 18.6 percent of its total trade volume, compared with 17.2 percent in 2019. "We are delighted to observe positive development in bilateral trade between Malaysia and China in 2020, despite all the great challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Nur Azni Aziz, director of the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation Chengdu Representative Office, at the expo.

In 2020, China remained the second-largest foreign investor in Indonesia, with the total investment value at 4.8 billion U.S. dollars, rising 2.1 percent from the same period in 2019. There is plentiful cooperative potential waiting for the two countries, said Marina Novira Angraini, commercial counselor of the Indonesian Embassy in Beijing, citing digital services in manufacturing as a potential area where the two countries can cooperate more in the future.

Wang Yi said China will seek to create more space and identify better routes for the joint building of the B&R, thus further unleashing the potential of China's huge market, and creating more opportunities for the world.

Thanks to smoother trade channels under the BRI, emerging industries such as cross-border e-commerce have become bright spots in promoting the economic development of B&R countries. "E-commerce is becoming a new and prospective economic driver for the Belt and Road development," said Teymur Nadiroglu, trade representative at the Embassy of the Azerbaijan Republic to

China, at the expo. He added that the e-commerce market enables companies from various countries to gain international exposure for their products and services.

Due to the pandemic, many brick-and-mortar stores in Kazakhstan were not able to open. Chinese businessman Yuan Zhaohui has managed to blaze a trail through win-win cooperation with his foreign partners. His company Silkroad City Shop teamed up with over 2,000 local online influencers in Kazakhstan to promote products including home furnishings and mini electric appliance via livestreaming on social media platforms such as Instagram.

At the same time, he set up his own delivery teams in 18 cities in Kazakhstan and hired local people as couriers, which helped to reduce delivery costs while boosting local employment. Last year, Silkroad City Shop raked in more than 200 million yuan (about 31.12 million U.S. dollars) in revenue, with sales promoted by livestreaming contributing about one-tenth of the total.

Yuan stressed the role that the China-Europe freight train service played in spurring the growth of his company. "Thanks to the railway cargo service, the transportation cost can get cut in half compared to previous transport channels," he said. Amid pressure from a supply chain shattered by COVID-19, China-Europe freight trains stand out as a competitive alternative. **Xinhua**

Ouster of anti-Trump Cheney from House GOP leadership may deepen party's division

WASHINGTON

The ouster of Liz Cheney, a fierce critic of former U.S. President Donald Trump over his narrative of "a stolen election," from House Republican leadership on Wednesday morning, is thought to have underscored Trump's massive and continuing importance in the increasingly divided Republican Party with uncertain consequences.

It marked the first time in recent U.S. memory that a congressional GOP leader was toppled by rank-and-file Republicans in the middle of their term through a formal vote, according to a report by The Hill. As chair of the GOP House Conference, Cheney, also a three-term congresswoman, had been the third-ranking Republican member of the House.

"I will do everything I can to ensure that the former president never again gets anywhere near the Oval Office," Cheney told reporters after the vote, vowing to continue her fight against Trump's baseless claims of widespread voter fraud, which she describes as "The Big Lie."

"We cannot let the former president drag us backward ... If you want leaders who will enable and spread [Trump's] destructive lies, I'm not your person," Cheney said in her opening remarks before the quick voice vote behind closed doors, sources in the room told local media outlets.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said in a letter to House Republicans this week that removing Cheney from her post was necessary to resolve "internal conflicts" that have distracted and divided Republicans as they focus on winning back the majority in 2022.

"You can't have a conference chair who recites Democrat talking points," Jim Jordan, former chief of the conservative House Freedom Caucus and a close Trump ally, said after the vote, referring to Cheney's refusal to stay quiet about Trump's election fraud claims.

"Liz didn't agree with President Trump's narrative and she was cancelled," said Republican lawmaker Ken Buck, warning that Republicans likely alienated voters who



U.S. Congresswoman Liz Cheney.

agree with Cheney's criticisms of Trump, or at least her right to air them from a position of leadership.

"The message it sends is if you tell the truth and make it uncomfortable for people, you might lose your position," said Adam Kinzinger, an open Trump critic who joined Cheney and other eight House Republicans in vote to impeach Trump for provoking the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

"In the short term it'll be a hit, obviously, to truth, but in the long term history will judge this as exactly what it was, which was a really dumb move by a party that's trying its best to be irrelevant," Kinzinger said.

Moments after the vote to remove Cheney, New York congresswoman Elise Stefanik, an outspoken Trump defender, sent a letter to her colleagues outlining why she wants to fill the post Cheney left.

Trump released a statement shortly after the ousting of Cheney, calling her a "bitter, horrible human being" and "a talking point for Democrats." The former president endorsed Stefanik earlier this month, describing her as "a far superior choice."

Meanwhile, more than 100 former Republican officials are planning to release a letter on Thursday to call for reforms within their party and even threaten to form a separate group if GOP members do not break away from Trump, according to local media reports.

Republicans must "either reimagine a party dedicated to our founding ideals or else hasten the creation of such an alternative," an NBC News report quoted the letter as saying.

Reuters noted that among the signatories on the letter are former Republican governors Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania and Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey, as well as former President George W. Bush's transportation secretary, Mary Peters, and a number of former Republican lawmakers.

Reacting to Cheney's removal from House GOP leadership, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said on Wednesday that the development was "disturbing."

"Our nation's Capitol was attacked, our democracy was attacked, and six people lost their lives. So it's disturbing to see any leader, regardless of party, being attacked for simply speaking the truth," Psaki said, without naming Cheney.

U.S. President Joe Biden said last week that he could not remember a time when partisan divisions have been so stark, noting the Republican Party is going through what he called a "mini-revolution" while "trying to identify what it stands for."

"They're in the midst of a significant, sort of mini-revolution going on," said Biden.

The GOP's move to oust Cheney was recently precipitated when she greeted Biden at the Capitol and tweeted that Biden won the election fair and square. **Xinhua**

EU citizens sweating on status with UK deadline

WITH just 50 days remaining until the British government's settlement program for European Union citizens in the United Kingdom closes, campaigners are warning that hundreds of thousands of people could find themselves in legal limbo because of a huge backlog in paperwork at the Home Office.

The Guardian newspaper reports that according to government figures, 5.3 million applications have been received, and so far 4.98 million have been processed, which means that with time running out, hundreds of thousands of others face a worrying wait to find out about their legal status in the country.

"We are deeply worried not only about those caught in the backlog but also people whose applications haven't even been acknowledged by July 1," said Maïke Bohn, one of the founders of campaign group the3million.

"Without a 'certificate of application', they are not seen as legal residents and could face crippling (National Health Service) treatment fees, for example."

As part of the Brexit deal, an Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements, also known as the IMA, was set up to safeguard the rights of EU citizens.

It is in discussions with the Home Office amid concerns about how long and complicated the process was proving to be, and said the possibility of taking action was being "actively considered".

"The IMA has the right to take action when we think there are systemic issues that are affecting how the rights of EU citizens are being upheld by public bodies," said Chief Executive Kathryn Chamberlain.

"We are hearing from concerned EU citizens who have issues with their applications for settled status and are therefore in talks with the Home Office."

Application uncertainties

The figure could be even bigger than the official estimate, with the 3million tweeting "some people might not even be counted in that backlog, as they might not realize that their application somehow wasn't properly submitted."

The group added: "We urge all those waiting to check you have a 'certificate of application' document."

Concerns about the application process were expressed earlier this year, with the limitations of the pandemic having made it even more challenging.

In February, Joanna Karwecka, from the East European Resource Centre in Hammersmith, west London, told the Financial Times that many applicants did not have internet access, and could not ask for face-to-face advice on what to do.

"The people we're in contact with don't have proper internet access or a mobile (phone) with cameras," she said.

"Those people are waiting for us to open the office so that they can come and see us because they're not able to pass through this very basic first step."

Yanga now eager to tame Namungo FC



Yanga's information officer Hassan Bumbuli.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League giants, Yanga, have stated they are ready for Saturday's crucial away fixture to Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa, Lindi.

This promises to be a fascinating clash as the match might have an impact on both teams' standing in the league.

Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said the Saturday game is very important to them as it is one of the games which will define their destiny in the Vodacom Premier League this season.

Yanga are placed second in the league table with 57 points from 27 games, in their last league assignment, they lost 1-0 to Azam FC.

"The team is in Lindi, ready for the encounter. We want to win this game as the results will determine our destiny in the league," he said.

He said all of the outfit's players are in good shape ahead of the game.

The last time the two sides met at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the game ended in a 1-1 draw.

Namungo are not enjoying a good game in the Vodacom Premier League, they are placed 11th after collecting 32 points from 24 games played.

Namungo FC head coach, Hemed Suleiman, who is under pressure to rediscover the team's lost form, said they are ready to face any team.

"The league has reached a tough stage and our form has not been that good, but we hope our next games, the team will do well, we just need to prepare well so that we play good football," he said.

The coach said after being knocked out of this season's CAF Confederation Cup's group stage, the focus now is on the Premier League.

"All of our energy is now in the Vodacom Premier League where we want to do well, we are confident that if we get good preparations, the team can do well and finish the league in a good position," he said.

KMC FC in high spirit ahead of Azam FC clash

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

KINONDONI Municipal Council KMC FC's leadership has said the side is keen on garnering three points when it confronts in a Vodacom Premier League's match, slated for tomorrow at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Christina Mwangala, KMC FC information officer, said they are ready for their coming tie.

She recalls that the side had settled for a goalless draw with Namungo FC in a previous Vodacom Premier League match at Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi.

Azam FC's previous league fixture ended with the team notching a 1-0 victory over Yanga at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

In a previous Premier League game pitting KMC FC against Azam FC played at Uhuru Stadium, KMC FC posted a 1-0 victory over Azam FC.

Christina disclosed: "We need to show Azam FC that we won

convincingly in the previous game, we are strong and we are going to Azam Complex confidently."

Azam FC, coached by George Lwandamina, has now started setting sight on the KMC FC clash.

The duel will be an opportunity for Azam FC, now placed third in the league, to notch three points that will help the side put pressure on second-placed Yanga.

In the league's table, Azam FC is placed third with 54 points, KMC FC is placed fifth with 41 points, with both taking part in 28 matches.

Azam FC information officer, Thabit Zakaria, said that the team is keen on garnering three points in each of their remaining matches to achieve their goal.

"We still have work to do, we first have to collect points in each of our matches, we still have the same goal", he said.

Mayay: Yanga players now need psychological motivation

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, has been asked to strengthen his players psychologically as they prepare for their Vodacom Premier League clash against Lindi's Namungo FC slated for tomorrow.

Yanga will be away to Namungo in the Premier League match which will be played at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa.

The two teams' games have turned out to be quite

competitive.

Namungo FC has in a previous top flight clash, cruised to a 1-0 win over Mtibwa Sugar and that has given the former motivation ahead of their match on Saturday.

Former Yanga and Tanzania's senior national team 'Taifa Stars' midfielder, Ally Mayay, noted for the club to get good results in tomorrow's tie, their players' morale should be as high as it was when they were set to confront Simba, despite the clash having been

postponed.

He said Nabi needs to make sure he regains the motivation so that they can fight to get good results in the game and consequently keep on pushing for the top flight top honour.

"The match is tough and that's why I say the coach has to talk to his players and boost them psychologically so that they can do well," he said.

Mayay moreover noted each of the top flight's sides needs good results to stay safe, therefore, Namungo

FC should win to escape relegation.

Yanga are placed second in the Premier League standings with 57 points after playing 27 games.

They have posted a victory in 16 fixtures, settled for a draw in nine, and lost two.

Namungo FC sits 11th after playing 24 clashes, grabbing 32 points.

The Lindi club has posted a victory in eight matches, draw in as many, and loss in eight.

Meanwhile, an avid Yanga enthusiast, Mansur Hussein,

who walked from Kigoma to Dar es Salaam to watch the Simba SC against Yanga match, which had been slated for May 8, has put his equipment including jerseys and shoes in the National Museum.

The fan allegedly spent 22 days reaching Dar es Salaam after starting his journey from Kigoma on April 22 and arriving in Dar es Salaam on May 8.

National Museum's Director General, Noel Lwoga, said Hussein had set a record of doing so among

plenty of people and the institution would recognize him.

"We offer our congratulations to Hussein for walking from Kigoma to Dar es Salaam, he has made history as he is among few people who did so and this history we will earn recognition in sports," he stated.

The National Museum boss moreover congratulated Yanga for remembering the institution via presenting the outfit's fan's attire.

"I congratulate Yanga and

Hussein for recognizing the importance of coming to the National Museum, for cherishing this history set for Yanga and the nation," he stated.

Hussein pointed out his feat sought to support Yanga in their clash against Simba.

"I have done this to support my club and show that I am an athlete who can go long distances," he disclosed.

Despite achieving the feat, Hussein could not watch the clash following its postponement.

Simba coach warns players ahead of Kaizer Chiefs tie



Simba SC goalkeepers' coach Milton Nienov

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC goalkeepers' coach Milton Nienov has warned his players against drawing confidence from Kaizer Chiefs' domestic struggle ahead of the two teams' CAF Champions League's quarterfinal encounter.

Simba SC is in Johannesburg, South Africa to face Kaizer Chiefs, nicknamed Amakhosi, in the first leg of the quarterfinals of the premier continental competition tomorrow.

Nienov believes Kaizer Chiefs are a big side that cannot be underrated whatsoever even though they have had rough times in the DStv Premier Soccer League.

"I know the capabilities of the Chiefs' players, especially when playing against bigger teams," Nienov said.

He stated: "Although they are not doing well in their domestic league, you cannot expect them to perform dismally in the Champions League as this is a different competition altogether."

He said: "They are a big team and have got many fans behind them. So, we must ensure we conduct top-notch preparations and I believe we will progress to the semis although it will not be an easy journey."

The tactician also explained how he has helped keeper Aishi Manula and other goalkeepers at the club improve.

"I stayed for two weeks in Brazil after contracting Covid-19 and I asked the club about every report of our goalkeepers, especially for Manula since he has been our number one goalkeeper," he added.

He noted: "I came here knowing what Manula's strength is and where his weaknesses could be. I used my experience of 20 years to help Manula overcome weaknesses especially in the corner and free-kick situations."

He disclosed: "Another problem with Manula is that he is easily beaten with long-range shots and we worked together with Beno Kakolanya and Ali Abdullah and all have improved."

Nienov believes Manula is the best goalkeeper in Tanzania and that is why the custodian has been always selected as the number one choice.

"Manula is the best goalkeeper and looking around, I cannot see any goalkeeper at his level."

He disclosed: "I am saying so not because I am his coach but honestly no one comes close to him in Tanzania."

He noted: "Even at the national team, no one has challenged him which means he is in his level."

During the Champions League group stage, Manula and Kakolanya conceded just two goals as their side emerged top in Group A

Simba Queens get timely boost from company

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA Queens have had a timely boost as they seek to emerge as a force to reckon with in the Mainland Tanzania Women Premier League, given the outfit was presented with a bus by a Dar es Salaam company, Africarries Limited.

The bus, donated by the company as part of its sponsorship for the club, will facilitate the club's trips across the country.

The handover ceremony, which took place early this week, was held at the Africarries Company offices at Vingunguti in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Africarries Legal Unit Head Ngassa Mboje said the bus was presented as part of maintaining the firm's efforts to boost its cooperation with the club.



Simba Queens

"This is a good start for our partnership with Simba Queens and the outfit's matron, Fatema Dewji, as part of our efforts to support and empower women," he stated.

Speaking after receiving the bus, Fatema, thanked Africarries Limited for sponsoring the outfit and providing them with

the bus.

She disclosed: "Although the sponsorship will come to an end at the end of the season, I am confident it will be a catalyst for our pursuit of the silverware."

"This kind of contribution is a boost for women's football in the country," she stated.

She said Simba Queens

promised Africarries Limited and all of the club's fans to defend the title.

Simba Queens will take on Dodoma's Babab Queens at the latter's stadium on May 13.

Africarries Limited's Director Mohamed Raza Pirbhal said he believes in the development of women and Simba Queens.

He pledged to continue supporting the

club which is in the race for the title this season.

"We have provided this bus to facilitate transport but there is a special gift for you if you win the league's title, there is your special gift," he stated.

The ceremony was attended by Simba Queens players, technical bench, stakeholders, and journalists.

If South Africa don't qualify, 'you can kill me' - new coach Broos

JOHANNESBURG

NEW coach Hugo Broos told South Africans on Wednesday that "you can kill" him if the team fail to reach the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in the Ivory Coast.

Bafana Bafana (The Boys) missed out on the next Cup of Nations, scheduled in Cameroon from January 9 to February 6, which triggered the sacking of former boss Molefi Ntseki.

Belgian Broos, who guided outsiders Cameroon to the 2017 Cup of Nations title in Gabon, replaced Ntseki and held his first press conference at the national football association offices in Soweto.

The 62-year-old admitted that qualifying for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar would be difficult, especially as he wants to rebuild the squad, using younger players.

But securing a place at the 24-team finals of the 2023 Cup of Nations was non-negotiable, stressed the 69-year-old former Belgium defender.

"If we are not qualified for that, you can kill me," he said with a deadpan expression. "I know this country is looking forward to success."

After decades of apartheid-induced isolation, South Africa returned to international football in 1992 and won the Cup of Nations four years later on home soil.

Second and third places at the following two editions in Burkina Faso and Ghana/Nigeria led most South Africans to believe the country would become an African powerhouse.

- Bit part players -

But as the years passed, Bafana became an increasingly bit part player on the continental stage, qualifying for only two of the last seven Cup of Nations and gaining entry to another as hosts.

"When rebuilding, there are always moments of weakness, so it can happen that we will not qualify for the (2022) World Cup. That said, we will do our utmost to reach Qatar," said Broos.

South Africa are in Group G with favourites Ghana, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia, and only the winners after a double round advance to the final round.

Fortunately for Broos, the first two matchdays have been put back three months to September because many national stadiums in Africa do not meet international standards.

The new dates will offer him time to watch some national league matches before briefly returning home to get his second Covid-19 vaccine on June 4.

Broos said he will be assisted by Macedonia-born Cedimir Janevski, 59, who currently coaches Olympiakos Nicosia, and a South African to be named.

After exceeding expectations by guiding Cameroon to a fifth Cup of Nations title in 2017, Broos struggled in 2018 World Cup qualifiers and the 2017 Confederation Cup.

The Indomitable Lions were hammered 4-0 by Nigeria and won only one of six World Cup qualifiers and took just one point from a possible nine when finishing last in a Confederation Cup group.

AFP

Tuchel ready for 'big fight' as Chelsea suffer top four blow

LONDON

THOMAS Tuchel said Chelsea face a "big fight" to finish in the Premier League's top four after their damaging 1-0 defeat against Arsenal on Wednesday.

Tuchel's side missed a chance to climb above Leicester into third place as Emile Smith Rowe bagged the first half winner at Stamford Bridge.

Smith Rowe punished a wayward back-pass from Jorginho to leave Tuchel anticipating a tense finish in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Fourth placed Chelsea are six points ahead of fifth placed West Ham, who have a game in hand, and seven in front of sixth placed Liverpool, who have two games in hand.

Chelsea have two league matches remaining against Leicester and Aston Villa and Tuchel said: "It was always a big fight, it never felt like a relief."

"If anybody felt it like this today, maybe, it's the last lesson to learn."

"It's still in our hands. It is another chance missed. We have had some good results, so we have to cope now with a loss."

Tuchel conceded he was to blame for Chelsea's first defeat in eight games in all competitions after he made seven changes from Saturday's win at Manchester City.

"Maybe I gave some signals to the team with changes that Saturday is on my mind," Tuchel said in reference this weekend's FA Cup final against Leicester.

"Even if it's one per cent or five per cent, this is not how we approach things, because you get punished. It's hard to swallow, hard to accept, but there's no other way."

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta admitted the Gunners' first Stamford Bridge win in a decade was much-needed after a difficult period.

Arteta has been under-fire during a troubled campaign, but he insisted his side have not given up hope of qualifying for Europe next term.

They could make the new Europa Conference League and have an outside chance of reaching the Europa League.

AFP

Chelsea's limp performance unnecessarily puts season in jeopardy

LONDON

PERHAPS Chelsea felt they didn't have enough to play for as it is. Either side of this weekend's FA Cup final and the Champions League final at the end of the month, the Blues now face a needlessly nervous end to their Premier League campaign after slipping to a 1-0 home defeat to Arsenal.

This was almost entirely a mess of their own making. Thomas Tuchel made seven changes to the team that won at Manchester City on Saturday, setting the tone for a disjointed display that lacked the intensity and precision that has epitomised Chelsea during the German tactician's tenure.

The Blues amassed 68% possession, totalled 19 shots and hit the woodwork twice in stoppage time, but there was a curious lack of purpose to this performance, only really explainable by falling in what could be viewed as a lull in the schedule given the Gunners have precious little to play for. In that sense, it bore a passing resemblance to Chelsea's only other league defeat under Tuchel, against West Bromwich Albion on April 3. The visitors that day were seemingly doomed to a relegation that has subsequently been confirmed, and



The Gunners edged past Chelsea 1-0 on Wednesday thanks to a goal from Emile Smith Rowe (r). (Agencies)

with a Champions League quarterfinal first leg against FC Porto on the horizon, Chelsea allowed their focus to slip and an embarrassing home defeat followed.

"With West Brom we were 1-0 up and with 10 men, we were not fully concentrated after the national break," Tuchel said. "That was a pretty freak game because we won all statistics, even expected goals. So did we today. So, it is an easy one to say it is a totally

lucky win and nobody can argue with that. It is not a deserved win, not at all for Arsenal. But I don't want to go there 100% because I think we all lacked concentration, we lacked focus. That is very unusual. Maybe I also gave some signals into the team with changes that Saturday is on my mind. Even if it is only 5%, or 1%, this is not how we approach things. You get punished because you cannot be naïve in the race for the

top four."

Tuchel can at least console himself with Chelsea's response on that occasion. The Blues won 2-0 in Porto before putting four past Crystal Palace, the start of a seven-game domestic unbeaten run that also included that FA Cup semifinal win over City.

How they need that now.

Leicester City's win at Manchester United on Tuesday moved them above Chelsea into third place and served as the perfect morale-booster for Saturday's showpiece at Wembley. The Blues still hold a six-point advantage over the teams below them but each of them have at least one game in hand -- last season's champions Liverpool have two -- and suddenly a sense of jeopardy is likely to be present right until they face City in the Champions League. Meanwhile, City can rest, plot and cogitate on that game knowing the Premier League title is secure.

Arsenal have less ambitious aims after a disappointing campaign but this win slightly increases their chances of qualifying for the inaugural Europa Conference League next season. Results elsewhere will have to go their way in addition to winning their final two matches against Crystal Palace and Brighton & Hove Albion, and so perhaps of greater significance is the glimpse this offered

of a blueprint for certain games next season.

Arteta's tenure is undoubtedly a mixed bag but their best performances have arguably come with this more disciplined, defensive approach against top opposition. There is growing evidence that a back three -- or a back five as it was for long periods -- suits them against superior opposition. In addition to beating City and Chelsea to win last season's FA Cup, they have now completed victories at teams currently occupying second, third and fourth in the table.

There was a framework for the future here with Pablo Mari and Rob Holding particularly solid at the back, Thomas Partey and Mohamed Elneny marshalling the midfield well while Emile Smith Rowe and Martin Odegaard supported Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in attack. Partey in particular was a disruptive influence all evening, breaking up play and easing pressure. Bukayo Saka was deployed in an unfamiliar right wing-back position but otherwise there was a lot that made sense here, a possible glimpse of future foundations.

"What we are trying to do is be as competitive as possible, a way to win every game with the players with we have, the amount of games they have played and how much they are trying," said Arteta. "Next season will be a different

season. We have to focus and try to do the best because it will have a focus on next season."

That said, they needed to catch Chelsea on an off-night, their somewhat blasé attitude typified by the only goal of the game.

Under minimal pressure from Smith Rowe, Jorginho returned the ball toward goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga, not realising he had taken up a position to the left of his goal wanting to receive the ball on his right foot. Jorginho's backpass possessed excessive pace and suddenly Kepa was at full stretch to keep it out, handling the ball in a foul referee Andre Marriner opted not to call as Aubameyang seized on the loose ball. He squared it to Smith Rowe, who scuffed his shot but still found the net via Kepa's left-hand post.

"In the end, we were not on the pitch with the same energy," said Tuchel. "It was not easy to come up with a big intensity in passing because they defended 5-4-1 very deep around the box but we were not sharp enough, not with the same energy, not with the same hunger, not with the same attitude like we used to play so it is on us. Totally unnecessary but that is the reality."

Totally unnecessarily, Chelsea's Premier League battle is now far from over.

ESPN

German FA in turmoil after embattled president steps down

BERLIN

THE German Football Association (DFB) was in turmoil on Wednesday after its embattled president Fritz Keller said he would step down after comparing his own deputy to a notorious Nazi-era judge.

"President Fritz Keller has made a personal decision...that he is ready in principle to resign," the DFB said in a statement late Tuesday.

The move came just two days ahead of the DFB's flagship annual event, the German Cup final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, and a month before Euro 2020.

Keller sparked outrage and calls for his resignation after likening DFB vice-president Rainer Koch to Roland Freisler, the infamous head of the Nazi party's court in the 1940s, during a meeting last month.

The 64-year-old later apologised to Koch, acknowledging that his words were "totally inappropriate, notably towards the victims of Nazism", but is now set to step down next Monday, after facing a DFB tribunal to explain his comments.

Far from settling what appeared to be bitter power struggle between Keller and Koch, the president's resignation appears to herald a mass clear out of the federation's top brass.

In their statement on Tuesday, the DFB announced it was "laying the foundations for a new orientation".

General secretary Friedrich Curtius was



Fritz Keller

also set to resign, while Koch and treasurer Stephan Osnabruegge would not put themselves up for re-election in 2022, the federation said.

That leaves only vice-president Peter Peters, a former CEO of Schalke who have just been relegated from the Bundesliga, as the only remaining member of the German FA's top committee.

Koch and Peters will now lead the German FA until a new president is elected early next year.

The changing of the guard in the boardroom comes with the DFB already in the midst of upheaval in its sporting leadership.

Flick as his successor.

The hunt is also on for a new president.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has already distanced himself from the role which he has described as a "suicide mission".

- Hoeness linked to vacancy -

Former Bayern president Uli Hoeness, ex-Germany coach Ruedi Voeller and 2014 World Cup winning captain Philipp Lahm have all also been mentioned as possible replacements.

Former Germany women's international Nadine Kessler, 33, and anti-corruption expert Sylvia Schenk, 68, are other potential candidates.

Ex-Germany coach Berti Vogts, 74, said Hoeness, 69, should be given the job having turned Bayern into a European powerhouse.

"For me it needs a strong man at the head and that can really only be Uli Hoeness," Vogts told Duesseldorf-based newspaper the Rhein-

ische Post.

"Over the decades, he has shaped Bayern into a world club, and his word is heard at both UEFA and FIFA."

"His name has a completely different status internationally."

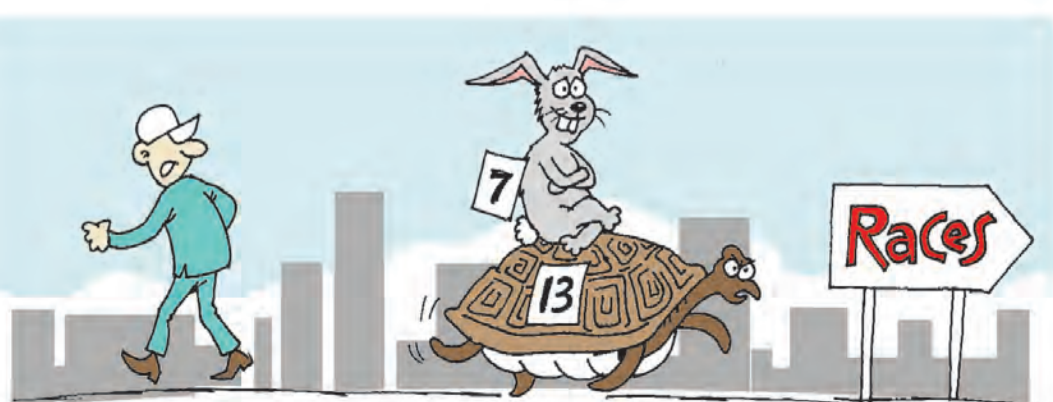
This is the third consecutive occasion where a president of the DFB has resigned amid a scandal, dating back to 2015.

Keller's predecessor Reinhard Grindel stepped down in April 2019 after it was revealed he had accepted the gift of a luxury watch from Ukrainian Grigori Surkis, a former colleague of Grindel's on UEFA's executive committee.

In turn, Grindel replaced Wolfgang Niersbach, who resigned in November 2015 amid accusations the DFB used a secret fund of 10 million Swiss francs (6.7 million euros, \$8 million, according to the exchange rate at that time) in 2000 to buy the right to host the 2006 World Cup.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Chelsea's limp performance unnecessarily puts season in jeopardy

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Simba SC assistant coach, defender stuck in Kenya

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC arrived in South Africa for their CAF Champions League quarterfinal clash against Kaizer Chiefs minus one player and official.

Simba SC defender Pascal Wawa and the team's assistant coach Adel Zrane were left in Nairobi, Kenya after they had problems with their travelling documents.

The Msimbazi Street-based giants travelled through Kenya to Johannesburg and the two could not board the plane from Nairobi owing to issues with their visas but they are now expected to link up with the team when their paperwork is sorted.

A source with the team has, however, stated the two have started to work on their visas and they will link up with the team soon in South Africa.

"It is true Wawa and Adel remained behind in Kenya because they had some small issues with their paperwork especially the visas but we left them behind to sort the problem," the source said.

He disclosed: "I am confident it will be sorted out and they will link up with us here in Johannesburg, it is nothing big to worry about because their papers had issues and must be cleared for them to travel."

On Tuesday, Simba SC landed safely in Johannesburg for the first leg fixture with a squad of 24 players making the trip.

Midfielder Bernard Morrison, who also had issues with his travelling papers, was conspicuously missing.

However, Simba SC's manager Patrick Rweyemamu affirmed the Ghanaian player will link up with the team after sorting his paperwork issues in Tanzania.

"We have left for South Africa minus Bernard [Morrison] because he does not have his paperwork ready to travel, his visa was yet to arrive and we cannot wait for him," Rweyemamu said.

He noted: "The club is still working on his paperwork and when they are ready, he will then join us in South Africa, we are confident his paperwork will be done in time for the match on Saturday."

Simba will hope to maintain the solidity they showed in the group stage, where they only conceded two goals and kept four clean sheets as goalkeepers Aishi Manula and Beno Kakolanya took part in the clashes.

Mozambican winger Luis Miquissone- who scored a clinical goal against Egypt's Al Ahly in matchday three to earn Simba a surprise 1-0 win- is expected to be the club's creative brain during the knockout stage and has also been named in the travelling squad.

Striker John Bocco has also made the squad and he will fight for a starting role alongside Meddie Kagere and Chris Mugalu.

Simba SC squad:
Goalkeepers: Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya and Ally Salim.

Defenders: Shomari Kapombe, Joash Onyango, Pascal Wawa, Ibrahim Ame, Erasto Nyoni, Gadiel Michael, Mohamed Hussein, Kennedy Juma, and David Kameta.

Midfielders: Jonas Mkude, Rally Bwalya, Mzamiru Yassin, Luis Miquissone, Hassan Dilunga, Clatous Chama, Francis Kahata, and Taddeo Lwanga.

Strikers: Meddie Kagere, John Bocco, Ibrahim Ajib, and Chris Mugalu.

Dar Derby postponement will not affect Simba SC players, says official



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's leaders have maintained they will not be affected by the postponement of their Vodacom Premier League game against Yanga, aka 'Dar Derby', when the former take on South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs in a CAF Champions League quarterfinal clash tomorrow.

Msimbazi Street-based Simba was due to face their age-old rivals in the duel at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

The fixture, though, was called off after Yanga refused to adhere to the Tanzania Football Federation's late kick-off time change.

Simba's manager Patrick Rweyemamu said despite the players failing to play in the derby, they are well-motivated heading into the first leg clash against Kaizer Chiefs 'Amakhosi' and they will not be affected in any way by not play-

ing against Yanga.

"Psychologically we are prepared to face Kaizer [Chiefs], we are not thinking of the derby now and these are two different competitions, against Yanga is a league match and this is a Champions League fixture," Rweyemamu said.

He disclosed: "The Mainland Premier League is a marathon, you fight to win and get points and whoever get more points at end of the season, wins the title, but in Champions League it is a knockout competition, you win you proceed to the next stage, you lose you are knocked out, so these are two different competitions

and not playing against Yanga will not affect us at all."

He noted: "So we always prepare differently when playing in the two competitions and we have already forgotten what happened against Yanga, we respect them, they are a great team but now our focus is on Chiefs, it is the task we are focused on."

He further disclosed: "The squad is good, they are ready to play in South Africa, they are all in good shape and we have travelled minus three players namely Said Ndemla, Miraj Athuman, and Perfect Chikwende and Bernard

Morrison, whom as I explained earlier he had issues with his traveling papers but will be sorted to join in South Africa soon."

"We all know Perfect Chikwende is not registered to play in CAF competition and Ndemla and Athuman have not travelled because of sickness and family issues but the most important thing we have travelled with a squad of 24 players and we will be 25 when Morrison joins us," Rweyemamu said.

Rweyemamu stated: "It will not be an easy game, remember there is no easy game in football, whether in Mainland Premier

League, FA Cup or Champions League because any team you come up against is always prepared to get a win, but we have prepared well but in football, you have to have respect for your opponent."

"We respect them [Chiefs] and for them to have also reached the quarter-finals means they are a good team and we cannot underrate them but we believe we have prepared our players well and we are going for a good result because we have the desire to do well in the competition."

Simba SC's match against Kaizer Chiefs will be played at FNB Stadium tomorrow.

MCC wallops Estim B outfit in 2021 Kazim Nasser tourney's Division C

By Guardian Reporter

MALABAR Cricket Club (MCC) has kept on seeking to make its presence felt in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division C after notching a five-wicket drubbing Estim B outfit in a clash, played early this week.

Estim B team got the chance to bat first in the 20-over clash, which took place at the Leaders Club ground, and were bowled out for 66 runs in 14.2 overs.

Skipper Kishor Varsani, deployed as middle order batsman, and Bhimji Vekariya, slotted in as top order batsman, were the batsmen with a notable performance at the crease.

They endured a frustrating start to their quest for notching an imposing score, given the top order batsmen succumbed to early dismissals.

Opener Hitesh Kerai ended six runs short of a double-digit figure as he was trapped for leg before wicket by MCC's skipper Sreejesh Puthiyaveetil.

Kerai was soon followed by the fellow opener, Bipin Vekariya, and Vinod Jesani, who came on at number three, with the duo equally failing to



Malabar Cricket Club (MCC)'s players pictured before participating in a recent club tournament, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MCC

hit double-digit figures.

The MCC continued putting pressure on Estim B outfit with an early dismissal of Bhavesh Pindoriya who was dismissed for duck by MCC's bowler, John David.

Vekariya stepped up and sought to give Estim B squad confidence with solid knocks, he went on to score 32 runs, which included three fours and two sixes, and ended as the top run-getter.

Varsani helped his outfit add more runs with his 13 runs, which

included two fours.

Vekariya and Varsani's dismissals turned out to be a huge blow to Estim B side's pursuit of a convincing total, what with a dismal showing showcased by the remaining batsmen.

The MCC's youthful all-rounders, Kelvin Anjelo and David, had a field day with the ball given they took four wickets apiece.

Anjelo conceded six runs in his three-over spell, which had

the batsman having one maiden over.

David gave away four runs in his four-over spell which included one maiden over.

In response the MCC did not waste time chasing the modest total of 67 runs, cruising to victory for the loss of five wickets in mere 9.2 overs.

They were hardly unperturbed by an early dismissal of the opener, Shajil Ayadathil, given top order batsmen, David and James Jeyson, catapulted them to the win.

Jeyson who opened the innings with Ayadathil, put solid knocks to show, notching 18 runs which included two fours and a six.

David, deployed at number three, displayed his aggressiveness with his unbeaten 26 runs, which consisted of three boundaries and a six.

Sreyas Puthiyeduthe wrapped the innings with two runs not out, forming an unbeaten stand with David.

Much as Vekariya gave his all during Estim B side's bowling spell,

which saw him notch three wickets, his efforts could not help his squad turn tables on MCC.

Vekariya gave away 10 runs in three overs, fellow bowlers Amit Vadhher and Varsani notched a wicket apiece.

The MCC now sits third in Group A of Division C, given they have posted one victory and one loss.

The team has notched 2,400 in net run rate, given they have scored 134 runs and gave away 162 runs.

The group's leaders, Estim B, have two wins and one loss, which have seen them post 0.3905 in net run rate. The team has scored 336 runs and gave away 257 runs.

Second-placed Dar Cricket Club (DCC) B has won the only tie they have taken part in, recording 2,400 in net run rate.

Upanga SC B side, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) B, and Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Academy have been placed fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

