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TADB on course to revive cotton sub-sector

Guardian BUSINESS

Tigo introduces rollover airtime service to enable use of expired packages

Regional electronic cargo tracking system launched

Mark Rayner resigns as CEO of MultiChoice South Africa

Tesla joins cobalt group supporting DR Congo artisanal miners

NEC endorses only 15 appeals filed by opposition parties

Says other appeals for 100 disqualified parliamentary candidates are being scrutinised

By Guardian Reporter

JUST 15 out of 100 barred parliamentary candidates from opposition parties nationwide have had their appeals endorsed by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

The Director of Elections, Dr Wilson Charles, said in a statement yesterday that the commission had endorsed parliamentary candidates 15 contenders who were initially barred from running after successful appeals.

About 15 other appeals by disqualified aspirants who sought to be put on the ballot paper were rejected, he said, noting that NEC had rejected 25 objections that sought disqualification of endorsed candidates.

Still the statement did not list the names of successful appellants and those who filed ejected objections, in which case the situation remains nearly the same after 53 aspirants nominated by Chadema were barred and 47 parliamentary candidates nominated by ACT-Wazalendo

disqualified, including 16 from Pemba constituencies.

NEC will continue to release more results of the filed appeals by disqualified candidates and objections raised after nominations and endorsement by NEC.

“NEC has carefully reviewed documents and statements of



NEC has carefully reviewed documents and statements of appellants as well as responses

appellants as well as responses from those whose nominations were objected to ensure that justice is done in accordance with electoral laws and regulations,” the statement asserted.

After the announcement of list of candidates endorsed by NEC last month with one hundred candidates

from opposition parties disqualified, opposition parties have had no avenue to rectify the situation than to appeal for democratic good sense from NEC and other state authorities, or appealing for support from the diplomatic community.

During the launch of its maiden campaign rally in Dar es Salaam last month, the main opposition Chadema appealed for support from Western countries, saying there were sinister motives in the massive disqualification of its candidates.

The party's presidential candidate, advocate Tundu Lissu said the international community should press the government and even individuals who took part in the disqualification of its aspirants.

Lissu said the party lined up some 3,754 contestants in the 3,955 wards up for grabs all over the country, leaving out 201 wards, but out of the number, a total of 1,020 aspirants who sought to be elected as councillors have been

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Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (R) presents a souvenir photo to the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright, at the minister's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The ambassador assumed his duties in Tanzania last month. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



TMA urges food stocks plan as dry spell looms

By Getrude Mbago

Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) forecasters have expressed worries of a looming shortage of food, water and pasture due a dry spell likely to last from October to mid-January next year.

TMA Director General Dr Agnes Kijazi (pictured) told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the prolonged dry weather forecasted is linked to a phenomenon called La Niña and it could affect 13 regions. La Niña dry weather pattern arises

from the cooling of surface ocean waters along the tropical area. It is considered to be the opposite of El Nino, characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures, where cooler surfaces diminish evaporation or winds blowing to the continent carrying moisture.

“Farmers are advised to plant drought-tolerant crops and apply sustainable farming practices,” she said, elaborating that responsible authorities need to prepare food reserve plans and extend support to farmers during the period.

The expected prolonged dry spells similarly causes soil moisture deficit, outbreaks of water borne diseases, shortage of clean and safe water as well as enhanced risk of forest fires, in which case the relevant authorities must prepare strategies to mitigate such impacts, the director affirmed.

The basically below normal rains are likely around the Lake Victoria Basin, north eastern highlands and northern coastline,

I simply can't return to CCM, says Membe

By Guardian Reporter

ACT-Wazalendo presidential candidate Bernard Membe has said he will never abandon his newly adopted political party and return to CCM after upcoming next General Election as speculated in some quarters.

Appearing on a television programme on Monday, Membe said unlike other CCM cadres who joined opposition parties and later went back 'home,' he wasn't headed on that road.

In the ITV talk show, the former Foreign Affairs minister said he joined the opposition for good and will never return to the CCM.

Notable CCM cadres who rejoined CCM are



He has enough experience in handling development and governance issues than other candidates, he added

former prime ministers Edward Lowassa and Frederick Sumaye, decamping at short intervals last year from Chadema, with Lowassa having been Chadema's presidential candidate in the past general election.

He said that being in opposition does not mean opposing every act of those in government.

The former head of the country's diplomatic corps joined ACT-Wazalendo two months ago as his expulsion from CCM was issued a week earlier, citing repeated violation of party ethics - and refusing to apologise.

Not cited in his remarks was ex-deputy premier Augustine Mrema who is nominally in opposition but in all respects part of the CCM campaign frontline, observers noted.

A questioner had demanded to know if he would not change his attitude upon being elected - or in the wake of losing in the polls. He said he would never do that ask he was actually expelled.

“Those who have been returning to CCM had abandoned it of their own volition,” he

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JPM: Cheap sales of crops bad idea

Farmers will reap benefits of lockdown refusal

By Henry Mwangonde, Sengerema

CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli yesterday advised farmers in the country not to sell their produce to market traders at a throw-away price but wait for high prices when shortages brought about by Covid-19 begin to bite.

Addressing a rally at Mnadani grounds in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region, Dr Magufuli said the whole world is expected to experience shortages of grain and other food crops as most countries imposed lockdowns restricting



farming activities.

“We had the same problem but we prayed to God and he heard our prayers and now we are free of corona. Let me advise you not to sell your food crops because soon some countries will start experiencing shortages. It will be an opportunity for us to sell it to them,” he said.

The reelection candidate said Tanzania has produced enough food as it did not impose a lockdown, thus “this is the time for farmers to benefit from their food crops.”

He promised to answer a long-time plea by

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa holds talks with Wilberforce Luhwago, President of the Judges and Magistrates Association of Tanzania, who paid him a courtesy call in Dodoma city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Rombo

Govt allots 1.5bn/- for solving water woes in Rombo District - Majaliwa

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said the government has already set aside 1.5bn/- for River Challa to address water woes in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region as part of efforts to address water challenges in the district.

Majaliwa was speaking yesterday at Holili cereals market grounds at the launching of the campaign for the ruling party's parliamentary candidate for Rombo constituency.

He said the money was for the river's refurbishment by installing canals

and pipes to enable water supply to Rombo residents and make water woes in the district history.

"So far we have only one source for water distribution in Rombo District which the government has started working on it to see how the problem could be solved," he said.

He said other efforts to ensure the availability of water in the district include the establishment of an

institution - Rombo Water Supply Authority (Rowasa).

Majaliwa also spoke about road infrastructures, saying the government has resolved to construct a 53 kms road costing 58bn/- to ensure traders conduct businesses with ease in border areas.

"We have discovered that when traders and other people in Holili want to travel to Tarakea they must go back

to Himo to start the journey. This is not acceptable if we want to boost the economy, hence the government will open a route to make it easier for traders," he added.

Kilimanjaro Regional CCM chairman Patrick Boisafi said the main challenge facing Rombo people was the acute water shortage, and called on the government to do all it can to find a lasting solution.

I simply can't return to CCM, says Membe

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insisted, pointing out that his party's presidential candidate for Zanzibar, Seif Sharif Hamad, was expelled from CCM and he has not returned.

"The same goes for (ACT-Wazalendo national leader) Zitto Kabwe after he was expelled from (Chadema). It is hard for those who are expelled to go back, and if you return, you will be humiliating yourself," he told the audience.

Membe said that as proceedings to expel him from CCM gathered pace, he sat down and chose a party to go to - ACT-Wazalendo - noting that the party has a vibrant youth with an urge for change.

On opposition parties, he said they cannot criticize everything. "You must agree that there things that are correctly implemented, but unfortunately there

are politicians who view opposition parties as enemies. They are not."

Focusing on his frequent slip-ups in rallies mentioning CCM instead of ACT-Wazalendo, he declared that it was not a sin, "as this shows he had come from the party in which he grew and which built him up."

He similarly insisted that moving from one party to another does not mean you have to despise the other party, "but only that one has to bear with the good and the bad."

Asked why he was contesting for the presidency he said he has fulfilled the requirements of the National Electoral Commission that scrutinizes those nominated to contest for the presidency.

He has enough experience in handling development and governance issues than other candidates, he added.

NEC endorses 15 appeals filed by opposition parties

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disqualified. There were no valid reason for this measure, the candidate intoned.

"Out of 264 parliamentary seats in the country, we had 244 aspirants in all but 20 constituencies based in Pemba, but 53 of those aspirants have been barred from running," he specified.

Chadema is not the only opposition party targeted, as others such as ACT-Wazalendo find themselves without 47 parliamentary candidates disqualified, including 16 in Pemba "where CCM has no history of winning," he told a crowd at Mbagala, on the southern outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

"In the history of multiparty politics in this country since 1995,

opposition aspirants have never been systematically disqualified as it is the case this year," the former MP and opposition legal affairs spokesman added.



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TMA urges food stocks plan as dry spell looms

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together with northern parts of Kigoma region (Kibondo, Kakonko and Kasulu districts), she stated.

Lake Victoria Basin regions of Kagera, Mara, Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga will receive mainly below normal rains with elevated chances of prolonged periods of dry spells. Seasonal rains are likely to start during the course of this week and cease mid-January, 2021.

In the eastern and north eastern coastal areas of Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Coast regions, along with the islands of Unguja and Pemba and north of Morogoro region will similarly receive below normal rains with prolonged periods of dry spells. Rains in this zone are expected, mid-November to late December, the statement noted.

In the north-eastern highlands: (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions) below normal rains and long dry spells are mostly expected, from

mid-November to mid-January next year, it elaborated.

Apart from hitting agriculture, the shortage of rains will impact on fisheries, with a decline of fish and seaweeds yield, in which case fishermen and livestock keepers are advised to seek advice from extension officers on what to do in their respective areas, she said.

Local authorities need to prepare a maintenance plan to improve water supply infrastructures so that the flow is smooth even in case of limited supplies, the agency noted.

Water levels at hydroelectric power stations will fall slightly and cut the risk of water overflow, while water for domestic and industrial use may be affected by the poor rainfall scenario. "In view of that, sustainable use of water resources is highly recommended especially for minerals processing, irrigation, domestic use and power generation," the director underlined.



Angellah Kairuki, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), shows the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Donald Wright, documents on the investment climate in Tanzania. This was shortly after they held talks in her Dar es Salaam office yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Horticultural research centre plans to preserve vegetable seeds for 99 years

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Arusha Centre for Agricultural Development in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACADESA) is to establish a system to preserve horticultural seeds for up to 99 years aimed to assist farmers in the country's various regions.

The centre also said horticulture earns USD 250 million per year that boosts government's incomes.

As for now they have more than

3,000 types of seeds in laboratories used to grow in seedbeds used as lessons for students and farmers coming to the centre.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday at the opening of a seminar to journalists on horticulture the centre's director Dr Gabriel Rugalema said since its establishment in the country they have succeeded to produce 18 kinds of horticultural seeds.

He said the centre's aim was to produce many kinds of seeds that will

be sufficient for horticultural farmers in the country.

He said the system to preserve seeds for up to 99 years will begin next year so that they are used for generations to come.

Dr Rugalema said the plan aims to make horticultural farmers produce enough vegetables to be able to export.

Speaking on earnings from the horticultural sector he said the four laboratories will be used to avoid taking horticultural products to Kenya

for analysis.

He also appealed to reporters to mobilise the community to consume green vegetables as they use meat to increase their vitamins intake.

Researcher of organic vegetable seeds Elias Shem said the centre is at the fore front to ensure the community understands the importance of consuming green vegetables, adding that the seminar should act as catalyst for reporters to educate the communities in their areas.

JPM: Cheap sales of crops bad idea

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Sengerema residents who want the district council to become a town council.

Earlier, the CCM parliamentary aspirant for Sengerema Hamis Tabasamu asked the presidential candidate not to forget the area upon re-election on turning the area into a township council.

The president said his government was committed to improving infrastructure in Sengerema, and had set aside 700bn/- to build the Kigongo-Busisi bridge. Upon completion it will turn the budding town into a busy area economically, he said, continuing with campaign rallies on his way to Geita.

President Magufuli told the rally that this is the first time the country was conducting elections using its own funds.

"We are holding this general election without a cent from donors. This is a great achievement in our endeavor to cut down dependency," he stated.

Two Chinese companies were in July tasked with the construction of a 3.2 kilometer Kigongo-Busisi road section and bridge, costing around 592bn/-.

The construction work is expected to take up to four years, with the bridge becoming the longest in the country, easing passenger and cargo ferrying from over two hours to a four minute drive, on the basis of an overview by the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads).

The new bridge is designed to carry up to 180 tonnes at one moment, which enhances the number of vehicles ferried daily from 1,200 to 12,000 peak capacity, thus improving the image of Mwanza city to a commercial hub for the Lake Zone and neighboring countries.

The bridge connecting Mwanza and Geita region shall ease links with Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and Uganda as a convenient route Lake Victoria compared to marine haulage, experts noted.



Jeremiah Sigalla, a vegetable and fruit researcher with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute at Tengeru in Arusha Region, pictured at the institute on Monday showing journalists what he said was the largest amount of organic seeds stocked in an African country. Photo: Correspondent Wainde Shizza

Annual inflation stagnant at 3.3 pct for August, says NBS

By Correspondent Valentine Ofora, Dodoma

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) yesterday unveiled that the annual headline inflation rate for August has stagnated at 3.3 per cent as it was recorded in July, this year.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, NBS acting director of population, census and social statistics, Ruth Minja expressed that the Uganda Bureau of Statistics reported a slight decline of 4.6 per cent inflation rate in August 2020, from 4.7 per cent reported in July, while Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reported that inflation had equally stagnated at 4.36 per cent headline inflation rate as it was recorded during the corresponding period in July 2020.

She detailed that Tanzania's stagnation of the Headline Inflation explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended August, 2020 remained constant as that recorded for the year ended July 2020.

"The overall index went up to 119.87 in August, 2020 from 116.01 recorded in August, 2019," she unveiled.

And she added, in Tanzania, food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate for the month of August, 2020 decreased to 3.7 per cent from 3.8 per cent that was recorded in July, 2020.

"Annual inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home for the month of August, 2020 decreased to 4.8 per cent from 4.9 per cent recorded in July, 2020," she asserted.

The National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) used to compute this type of inflation rate excludes food consumed at home and restaurants, petrol, diesel, gas, kerosene, charcoal, firewood and electricity, the NBS official further revealed.

"The Annual Inflation Rate which excludes food and energy for the month of August, 2020 decreased to 2.5 per cent from 2.6 per cent recorded in July 2020," she added.

The NCPI measures the change over time in the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services that are purchased by a representative sample of households in Tanzania. A basket includes a list of 278 goods and services of which 97 are Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages and 181 are Non-Food items that are being priced on monthly basis.

The NCPI weights are based on monetary expenditures relating to consumption for all households in the 25 geographic regions of Tanzania Mainland. The index weights are based on expenditures of both urban and rural households derived from 2011/12 Household Budget Survey and the price reference period is December, 2015.



The overall index went up to 119.87 in August, 2020 from 116.01 recorded in August, 2019

By Guardian Reporter

AIR Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is today expected to resume flights between Dar es Salaam and Hahaya (Comoros), a senior official said yesterday.

ATCL's managing director, Eng. Ladislaus Matindi said in a statement that the national flag carrier suspended flights to the Indian Ocean Archipelago in March this year, after the Comoros

ATCL resumes flights to Comoros

government induced lockdown and travel restrictions due to Covid-19 outbreak.

He said that the airline will be flying two times a week in the islands, while eyeing to extend more flights in the coming months.

Eng. Matindi said that the move will bolster trading activities between the countries and open room for more businesses to happen thus promote economic growth.

"However all passengers planning to travel between Dar es Salaam and

Comoro will have to submit a special certificate verifying that they have conducted COVID-19 checkup and should register in the Comoro embassy offices before purchasing travel tickets," the official said.

He said that ACTL has continued

to conduct several flights landing in eleven domestic airports. The airline has also conducted some flights (repatriation charter flights) fetching back Tanzanians who were stranded in various countries due to COVID-19 pandemic.

"We really thank our customers for their patience during the difficult time of COVID-19. We also commended the government of Comoro Islands through its embassy for allowing us to travel in their country," Matindi added.

Air Tanzania is a full service carrier with its hub in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). Air Tanzania currently serves domestic destinations like Iringa, Bukoba, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Mwanza, Tabora, Zanzibar and Kigoma.

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister and Member of the ruling CCM Central Committee Kassim Majaliwa has said the government is well mobilized in strengthening the country's industrial sector for economic growth and put to an end to the employment challenge to the youth especially.

He said the industrial sector is the robust foundation for economic growth and also a solution for the unemployment problem as factories employ many people in various cadres.

The Prime Minister was speaking on Monday (Sept 7) at a campaign rally at Tarakea in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region when asking for votes for President John Magufuli and the constituency's CCM parliamentary candidate, Prof Adolf Mkenda as well as the party's candidates for councillorship.

Majaliwa said the Phase V government has been mobilizing for investors to build factories in the country aimed to develop the national economy and the people in general because factories are always big employers.

He said people are required to elect Dr Magufuli to enable him continue to oversee activities for economic growth through the industrial sector which he had begun.

He said president Magufuli has brought great respect for the nation within and outside the country through his audacity in working to develop the people without discrimination along political, religious or tribal affiliations.

'Govt is well mobilised to support industrial sector'

Speaking on the issue of electricity in Rombo district, Majaliwa said out of the district's 519 villages, 494 access electricity, adding that those yet to be connected to power, will be connected as the contractor

for the job is already in the district.

He said president Magufuli wants to see every Tanzanian home gets power at low cost and has allocated billions of funds for that.



NOTICE FOR CONVENING OF THE 22ND NATIONAL GENERAL CONVENTION

The President of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), does hereby pursuant to Article 13 of the MCT Constitution give notice to members of MCT that the 22nd National General Convention (NGC) of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) shall be held on September 28, 2020 at Tanga Beach Resort in Tanga.

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Opening;
2. Adoption of Agenda;
3. Minutes of the 21st National General Convention held at Seashells Hotel in Dar es Salaam on November 19, 2019;
4. Matters arising from the 21st NGC;
5. Report of the Executive Secretary;
6. Adoption of 2019 Audited Financial Statements;
7. Appointment of External Auditors for the period ending December 31, 2020;
8. Adoption of 2020 reviewed Code of Ethics;
9. Election of Governing Board;
10. A.O.B;
11. Closing

MCT members who have not paid their annual subscription fees during the prescribed time are hereby reminded to do so promptly.

Judge Thomas B. Mihayo
President

Media Council of Tanzania (MCT)



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JOB ADVERT

CAMFED Overview

CAMFED (the Campaign for Female Education) is internationally recognised as a leader in education for girls, for its child protection policy and practise, and as a voice for girls' education and women's empowerment at the highest levels. Founded in 1993, CAMFED supports young women throughout their primary and secondary schools years, into economic training and further education, and onto leadership, as role models, activists and philanthropists. CAMFED Tanzania is looking to recruit Finance Officer to fill vacant position.

Job Title : FINANCE OFFICER (1 Post)
Accountable to : Senior Finance Officer
Salary : Competitive
Start Date : ASAP
Location : Dar es Salaam

Job purpose:

Under the direction of Senior Finance Officer or such other person as CAMFED shall from time to time direct. Finance officer is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and smooth running of an accurate and up-to-date accounting system; provide management information for planning, control and decision making; provide timely and accurate financial reports; support districts and other partners in financial management and record keeping.

Specific Accountabilities:

- Donor Reports preparations support, including Co-Funds Accounting
- Preparation of Overheads Cost Analysis, including Donor Recoveries
- Support in preparation of financial reporting packs and annual accounts.
- Ensuring that all financial records, including documentation are properly filed and safely stored.
- Maintaining an accurate Fixed Asset Register and ensure accurate & proper calculation and posting of depreciation.
- Managing records on Gift In Kind (GIK) from community partners to the CAMFED Projects
- Review and Report on Cash Position on a weekly basis including Cash Requests as and when required
- Reconciling all Intercompany balances and preparation of clearing journals
- Tracking spending against planned activities and donor budgets.
- Be part of districts' monitoring and capacity building

plans for non-finance staff and other stakeholders, especially in the areas of procurement, retirements of advances and school payments, revolving fund scheme of CAMA members, budget/contracts management and tracking as per CAMFED policies and guidelines.

- Postings of all expenditures and incomes within Finance ERP Database (Financial Force).
- Review of the Day to Day program and administration payment requisitions
- Performing Weekly Petty Cash Spot Checking
- Prepare, review and record daily financial Journals
- Managing Accruals preparation and postings
- Managing Monthly Balance Sheets Schedules Reconciliations
- Managing CAMFED Tanzania KIVA Loans to beneficiaries
- Administration of field advances and Petty Cash
- Support staff development, motivation and continuous on-the-job learning and training.

Other Activities, as and when required:

- Initiation of payments via Check and Online Banking Platforms
- Managing Staff and Stakeholders Retirements to the funds sent for various activities
- Bank and Cash Reconciliations on Monthly Basis
- Supporting Finance Deliverables as defined from time to time.
- Any other duties as may be assigned from time to time

Person Specifications

Essential:

- A degree in accounting and Finance.
- Registered with NBAA.
- Skills in excel, Salesforce database and other accounting packages as well as Ms Office
- Honesty and integrity
- An eye for detail, strong quantitative skills and a flexible, proactive and problem-solving approach to work.
- Ability to use own initiative and to work unsupervised.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and to keep to deadlines.
- At least 3 years working experience in accounting or auditing field.

Application Details

To apply for this position please send your CV and covering letter to hrtanzania@camfed.org on or before **16th September 2020**.



Almachius Pastory of the Weights and Measures Agency's surveillance section demonstrates to motorbike taxi operators (bodaboda) how to identify weighing machines that have been tampered with. This was at a one-day public education seminar the agency organised in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Guardian Correspondent, Karatu

Karatu constituency candidate gives an apology for not assisting onion farmers

CCM parliamentary candidate for Karatu constituency in Arusha Region, Daniel Awack has apologised to his constituent members for not assisting in Eyasi valley agricultural activities, particularly where onions farmers were seeking for water services to irrigate their farms.

He apologised on Monday when launching his election campaign at a public rally attended by hundreds of people.

"My brothers and sisters, I call upon

you to vote for me on October 28 and I promise to bring development for you," he pleaded.

He said he understands there were some people who were a stumbling block for your agricultural activities.

"We should forget about unpleasant things that happened in the past. We should forget something bad that someone has done to them: Just let

bygones be bygones and work together again", he said.

He said in case they elect him he will build a school with dormitories for girls in River Eyasi Ward to ensure they are not impregnated.

He said the area was the challenge whereby girl students do not finish school due to pregnancy and that if elected he will deal with the issue by

building dormitories for them.

He said in his office he will have a lawyer to give him professional advice in serving the people without breaking the laws.

Arusha Region's CCM Chairman Zelothe Steven appealed to the residents to vote for John Magufuli as President and Daniel Awack as Member of Parliament.

Agricultural bank out to revitalise cotton industry

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

The cotton industry, once a leading source of revenues for Tanzania, remains in limbo. It has experienced declining production and low yields in spite of the huge demand for textiles locally.

As such Kahama and Chato Cooperative Unions are supervising use of tractors and other farm inputs sent to experienced cooperative members in Chato, Biharamulo, Kahama, Msalala, Ushetu na Muleba locations in order to promote cotton growing during the 2020-2021 farming season.

The two unions have received over 11 billion from the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to revamp cotton lost glory.

The chairman of the AMCOS-Chato, Elias Kaswahili, said here yesterday that tractors and other inputs were going to cooperative supervisors and cotton growers who proved to have gainfully used loans and other forms of agricultural support since the 2012/2013 farming seasons.

"Both the cooperative leaders and farmers are experienced. They have done well since then and are now happy with money from the bank (TADB) because it has changed their lives," he reported.

The chairman said TADB soft loans helped cooperative societies build offices, secure tractors and other farm implements and was instrumental in buying smoothly cotton from farmers scattered in many areas of the Lake Victoria cotton growing zone.

Contacted for comment, the TADB managing director, Japhet Justine, said one of the bank's strategies relating to agricultural transformation in the lake

zone was to focus on cotton growers by increasing crop production and the disposal income of the growers themselves.

"We want to see cotton's lost glory restored and increase the growers' income. Peasants had become desperate because in the past they depended heavily on the crop," Justine said.

He said the bank's transformation strategies cover smallholders in agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors throughout the country.

"We believe the money that has gone to the lake zone will change growers' lives because it will add value to the cotton they are growing and it will create direct and indirect jobs to thousands of people in those areas," he said.

Mr Justine said based on projections already over 15000 farmers who were currently benefiting from the lending and were being served by Kahama Cooperative Union (KACU) and Chato Cooperative Union (CCU) leaders.

He said the bank's objective was to cover more areas in the lake zone in order to transform lives of hardworking farmers.



We want to see cotton's lost glory restored and increase the growers' income. Peasants had become desperate because in the past they depended heavily on the crop

TRC hosts stakeholders for talks on ways to make sure local communities benefit from living near railways

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Railways (TRC) has brought together stakeholders from various public and private institutions in the country to discuss on best ways to enable residents living along railway lines benefit from the projects.

Speaking during the meeting held recently in Ihumwa Dodoma, the stakeholders commended the government through TRC for implementing the project as well as ensuring that Tanzanians benefit from the opportunities that arise from the projects.

In his remarks, TRC managing director Masanja Kadogosa said that the meeting involved environment and social experts and stakeholders to discuss and share views on how the projects should be implemented by considering all the needed requirements.

He said that as Tanzania continues with the construction of the standard gauge railway, the government is also revamping the old metre gauge railway network built by colonialists over a century ago.

Kadogosa said that the rehabilitation is aimed at facilitating the transporting of goods to EAC neighbours to and from Dar es Salaam and Tanga ports.

"We have brought together stakeholders from the University of Dar es Salaam, Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Our aim is to ensure that we hear views from our stakeholders on how to improve our services especially to the residents living along railway lines," he said.

He said: "It is true that the implementation of these projects bring a number of positive impacts on the surrounding communities, this involve construction of various infrastructures, health services as well as stimulation of economic growth."

Dr Edwin Lyala, an archaeologist from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) said that the meeting was important as it gave room for participants to discuss and share views on various issues including economic opportunities as well as environment conservation in railway projects.

Dr Lyala recommended that natural heritage, traditional and customs as well as farmers and pastoralists interests should be considered while implementing such projects.

"We should make sure that those who were evacuated from the projects are given land to sustain their lives," Lyala added.

Catherine Masao, lecturer and researcher from the University of Dar es Salaam said: "We have learnt a lot in this meeting and tour, we have seen a new opportunity that our universities may introduce railway engineering courses so as to produce more experts to service in the sector in the country, we still have deficit of experts."

For her part, Catherine Mroso, TRC social issues manager said that railway lines surrounding communities should be given priority in the projects implemented near them so as to ensure that they remain safe and people benefit from them.

The session was preceded by a visit by the stakeholders to the major projects which include the construction of the new modern Railway and the rehabilitation of the old railway line (metre gauge) with a total 970 km from Dar es Salaam to Isaka.

We have brought together stakeholders from the University of Dar es Salaam, Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Our aim is to ensure that we hear views from our stakeholders on how to improve our services especially to the residents living along railway lines



Vivianne Penesis (R), Vodacom Tanzania Plc's director of human resources, presents a gift to Nilham Ally of Soko Poa group in Dar es Salaam yesterday after the group emerged first winner in website-aided food buying and selling innovation. It was at a 'Women in Data Science empowerment training' organised by Tanzania Data Lab and sponsored by Vodacom for 60 students from secondary schools based in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Z'bar TADA-Tadea presidential aspirant stresses need for peaceful campaigning

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Presidential aspirant under ADA Tadea ticket Juma Ali Khatib yesterday returned nomination forms to the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC), saying he trusts he will be nominated as candidate.

Khatib becomes the second aspirant to return the forms after the CCM aspirant Dr Hussein Mwinyi.

Speaking to reporters at ZEC offices after returning the forms, Khatib called on fellow aspirants who will be approved by ZEC to compete by stating their policies, campaign for peace and adopt patriotism whenever they mount campaign rostrums.

He said this was not the time to

engage in hate and divisive politics and instead leaders of political parties should be preaching peace for the elections to be conducted.

He said his party's aim was to win in the Zanzibar presidential bid but in case he loses he will respect ZEC's decisions on the results.

He said the party will be campaigning while stressing for unity, tranquility and solidarity as well as social equality.

According to ZEC's timetable September 8 will be the last day for collecting and returning of nomination forms for the Zanzibar presidency.

Since August 27 when the window was opened, a total of 17 aspirants collected forms and only two returned by yesterday.

Chadema aspirant in Mbarali out to improve health and education

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

CHADEMA Parliamentary candidate for Mbarali Constituency in Mbeya Region Liberatus Mwang'ombe has promised to improve health and education as well as giving loans to women to enable them live happily.

Mwang'ombe gave the pledge when speaking to this paper on his various pledges in case he is elected.

He said his aim is to see women agendas are well implemented by ensuring a friendly environment in the health, education, and water sectors including accessing loans.

He said he would ensure health services for mother and child are provided free at all health centres

including improvement of the system for accessing loans from the local council.

He also pledged to implement in deeds his party's policies in regard to health services to pregnant women and children under five years of age, as well as mobilising for the construction of hostels for schools to protect them.

He also pledged to assist vulnerable groups to access low interest loans including a good environment for accessing various social services.

Whilst in Mbeya at the weekend, the party's presidential candidate Tundu Lissu promised Tanzanians that in case he is elected, he would improve their economic development and health services.



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CSSC set to extend specialised medical services to Tanzania's rural areas

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Christian Social Service Commission (CSSC) is planning to embark on a special programme to start offering specialised medical services in all of its faith-based health facilities, located at different rural areas from across the country.

Targeting to improve availability and provision of better health service towards communities in marginalised rural areas, the commission currently owns at least 105 hospitals, 102 health centres as well as 720 dispensaries.

The crucial plan was unveiled here yesterday by President of the Tanzania Christian Medical Association (TCMA), Dr Bwire Chirangi on the sidelines of the 83rd edition of the associations' Annual General Meeting held at the Dodoma's famous Saint Gasper Hotel.

"Most people in rural areas are still crowded out from reliable access

to specialised medical services, the situation which apart from compelling spending huge money to seek for such services, sometimes causes deaths,"

"It's for these bases we're looking for all possibilities to extend specialised medical services in the areas," Dr Chirangi expressed.

Attracting a total of 165 medical experts from all regions within the country, the key forum, held under the theme of 'Future of Church Health Facilities in the Era Changes' was tailored to give a key platform for the involved experts to deliberate on how best to contain several challenges haunting faith-based health facilities, as well as sharing potential experiences on how to improve performance of the side.

In his earlier remarks to open the meeting, President of the Christian Social Service Commission (CSSC), Bishop Alinikisa Cheyo, who doubles as Chairman for the Christian Council of

Tanzania (CCT), urged the participants to use the forum bravely to discuss and set useful agendas for uplifting performance of the sector.

He observed that the faith-based health facilities were vital in helping the government to provide health services in rural areas, added: "The nation with no good health service system cannot achieve any economic development. Make sure you continue to execute your daily responsibilities with high devotions, God-fearing hearts, but while embracing medical professionalism."

He also hailed the fifth phase government for working closely with the commission in efforts to ensure better provision of health services from across the country.

"Since emerging to regime, President John Magufuli has implemented and achieved countless milestones in improving health service delivery in Tanzania, and thus, we must also

play a major role to supplement such laudable efforts through improving statuses and performance of our health facilities," he asserted.

For his part, TCMA's Secretary, Ronald Massawe, said this year's Annual General Meeting will focus on discussing ways to strengthen close cooperation with the government, and other key likeminded stakeholders from other private sectors.

"We're very determined to see our health facilities improve services delivery, possibly through installing modern medical facilities and recruiting specialized medical experts,"

he observed.

For instance, he said, CSSC has so far managed to start offering specialised medical services on kidney complications at the Sengerema Hospital, saying the service is playing a meaningful role in assisting hundreds male-elders with different forms of kidney diseases.

Moreover, in his vote of thanks, CSSC Executive Director, Peter Maduki expressed that the commission was focusing to attain an enlightened and well-educated community that is enjoying quality life and is free from diseases of poverty.

"Our mission is to facilitate delivery of people centered, social services by Church institutions in Tanzania through partnership, advocacy, capacity building and cost effective interventions with the compassion and love of Christ," he detailed.

The Christian Social Service Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical body that works with a network of 9, 00 health facilities and more than 1,000 education facilities, and it was established in 1992 jointly by the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) and the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC).



REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTENTS

Written Translation Services and Documentary Design

Issue Date: September 9, 2020

Response Deadline: September 16, 2020 via email: alema@pciglobal.org

Submit Questions by/ Need for clarifications: September 10 & 11, 2020 via email: alema@pciglobal.org

Expected Award: September 19, 2020

RE: Solicitation of interest for Translation and insertion of subtitle Services

BACKGROUND

Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is Africa's new crop insect-pest originating from the Americas. The pest is very versatile and polyphagous (feeds on a large range of host plants that span nearly 100 species in 27 families), it is also voracious, highly prolific, and rapidly invasive due to its ability to fly long distances during the moth stage. The farmers across the country in Tanzania have been suffering the damage far and wide to a total loss of the harvest. Mara region is no different in this regard.

In response to FAW in TZ, PCI came up with an agricultural technical solution called AfriFARM, which is an innovative solution designed for smallholder farmers and extension workers, whose content is advisory to early identification, field scouting, and treatment of incidences of FAW. AfriFARM solution was developed, customized, and tested in Malawi by Project Concern International (PCI). Adapting the AfriFARM solution in the Tanzanian context was critical, whereas, a review and testing of the functionality of the AfriFARM modules were strategically done to suit the purpose, which included gathering experience and perspective from the Tanzanian user.

PCI has produced four episodes of learning documentaries in Swahili and we want to insert English sub-titles into the video.

Overview:

PCI is soliciting letters of intents and quotes from qualified companies, agencies, or individuals to translate four Kiswahili videos into English and insert sub-titles in the videos. Each video is approximately 20 minutes in length. The successful firm/individual will have relevant experience in translating technical videos from Swahili to English and inserting sub-titles into videos

PURPOSE

Insertion of subtitles in the already filmed and formatted AfriFARM documentaries which are divided into four (4) episodes. Translations will be from Swahili to English.

- Training of Extension officers
- Field Visits on scouting
- Harvest Period and
- Nane Exhibition (Farmers' day)

Deliverables and Payments:

1. Signed Contract and Work plan 10%
2. Episode #1 Completed Training of Extension officer's documentary, 20%
3. Episode #2 Completed Field Visits on scouting documentary, 20%
4. Episode #3 Completed Harvest Period documentary, 20%
5. Episode #4 Completed Nane Nane Exhibition documentary, 20%
6. Final Payment: 10%

Process to Complete Episode:

1. Consultant submits Translation of Spoken Swahili to English text
2. PCI reviews and provides feedback on English text
3. Consultant inserts English sub-texts in videos
4. Consultant submits draft video with sub-titles to PCI
5. PCI reviews and provides feedback on timing and quality of sub-titles
6. Consultant submits final video and invoice

Translation Instructions:

1. Translation to follow the existing video.
2. Maintain formatting, if something is bolded in Swahili, keep the translation bolded.
3. If there is a table, keep the translation in a table.
4. Ensure high quality translation from Swahili to English.
5. Ensure sub-titles progress at same pace as the speaking.

Expressions of Interest:

Qualified firms, agencies and individuals can submit the following as part of their Expression of Interest to PCI by 11 September:

1. **Cost Proposal:** The cost proposal will be based on the scope of work indicated above.
2. **Staffing:** Names and CVs of translators and designers on the project team.
3. **Timeline:** Schedule for all deliverables. (All four episodes to be completed by 25 September.)
4. **Capability Statement:** Not to exceed one-page narrative on the firm's/individual's capabilities to perform the scope of work indicating past experience in translation and documentary design. The firm should include in an annex with brief descriptions of previous projects implemented by the firm
5. **References:** A minimum of three (3) client references worked with in the past two years on an activity that is similar to this Scope of Work. Include the contact information (names, company or organization, phone number and email).



Dr Gabriel Rugalema, director of the Tanzania chapter of the World Vegetables Centre, briefs journalists yesterday on ongoing research on the cultivation of organic vegetable seeds. This was during a session at a weeklong seminar held at the centre - at the Tengere Agricultural Research Institute in Arusha Region. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Govt to continue supporting private sector for maximum growth - TNBC

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will continue to support the private sector to ensure its growth due to the importance of the sector to the economy. Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) Executive Secretary, Dr Goodwill Wanga, has stressed.

He said yesterday during the launch of Tanzania Startups Association (TSA) in Dar es Salaam that startups are important to the national economy because of their significant contribution to the same.

Dr Wanga, however, also stressed on the importance of ethical capacity, coordination, organization and transparency in the operations of the private sector, noting that a well-organised private sector will lead to good data that will help inform government decisions.

TSA is an umbrella membership-based organisation which brings together stakeholders of startup ecosystem in Tanzania to drive the agenda that ensures growth of startups.

He commended the formation of the association on the backbone that it will help bring to the table insights on the challenges facing startups for

deliberations and resolutions.

"The fifth-phase government under the transformative leadership of President John Magufuli has significantly improved the business environment by leveling the economic playing field and implementing policies to fight corruption and the blueprint reforms," he said.

During the same occasion, National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Executive Secretary, Bengi Issa said that TSA will be a platform for the government to work with startups to address challenges startups face.

In remarks read on her behalf by NEEC Acting Director for Empowerment and Local Content, Esther Mmbaga, she said that the council's policy intends to ensure that the majority of the population partake in economic activities.

"We see that startups have a promising future so long as they get enough support. We will support startups in addressing challenges such as lack of capital, regulatory issues and other concerns that will be brought forth by the association," she said.

TSA Chairman, Paul Wakanza, said that the association was only forged this

year after realizing the important role startups play in the national economy and how the nature of startups has changed over time.

He said that startups offer great opportunities for wealth and employment creation in the country by establishing social enterprises.

"We do appreciate government's efforts in supporting us, the fifth-phase government has shown that the political will to allow the private sector to grow is there," he said.

TSA Chief Executive Officer, Zahoro Muhaji, said that the association has been forged to assist startups address their challenges under one umbrella body, which would in turn assist many youth in the country because it is the youth who mostly engage in startups.

He said that one of the major challenges among youth is on how to start a business and not on how to do business, thus the association seeks to address this challenge.

According to Muhaji, other challenges startups face includes absence of policies and regulations that recognize startups and lack of curricula beginning from schools to tertiary institutions on entrepreneurship.

Tanzanians to join global celebrations on protection of education from attack

By Getrude Mbagu

TANZANIANS are today expected to join others in the globe to commemorate the "International Day to Protect Education from Attack" with an aim of reminding authorities and stakeholders to support safe and conducive learning environments.

The day which is commemorated for the first time this year also aims to promote access to quality education in humanitarian emergencies so as to foster long-term development goals and the need to protect and respect educational facilities.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the national coordinator of Tanzania Education Network (TENMET) Ochola Wayoga said that every child should have the right to education anywhere in the world regardless of any circumstance.

He said that there was no way the country could succeed in the race of fighting poverty without investing in education.

"Despite strides made by the government and stakeholders to improve the education sector and increase enrolment, there is still a good number of children who are not in school due to various reasons including poor learning facilities, long walking distances, poverty and poor nutrition," he noted.

He said that in May this year, the UN general assembly proclaimed September 9, as the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, adopting resolution that reaffirms the right to education for all and the importance of ensuring safe, enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies.

Tanzania has continued to be calm and peaceful however the education sector still faces some challenges. We still have gaps in the access of quality and inclusive education," he added.

Wayoga said that the government should invest in creating supportive environment to enable teachers to fulfill their duties smoothly by making

sure that they have all the essential equipment on time.

He further said that coordinated efforts are needed to ensure that children remain safe even during disasters and conflicts. "The government should develop guidelines on disasters and disseminate them in schools."

He also urged the government to invest heavily in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) so as to facilitate sustainable teaching and learning of pupils and students even during disasters.

He said that Covid-19 should be a wake-up call to the authorities by coming up with strong strategies especially to sustain the education sector.

The network further urged the ministry of Education, Science and Technology to conduct an assessment to find out possible effects which may affect sustainable learning during disasters and come up with guidelines on how to address them.

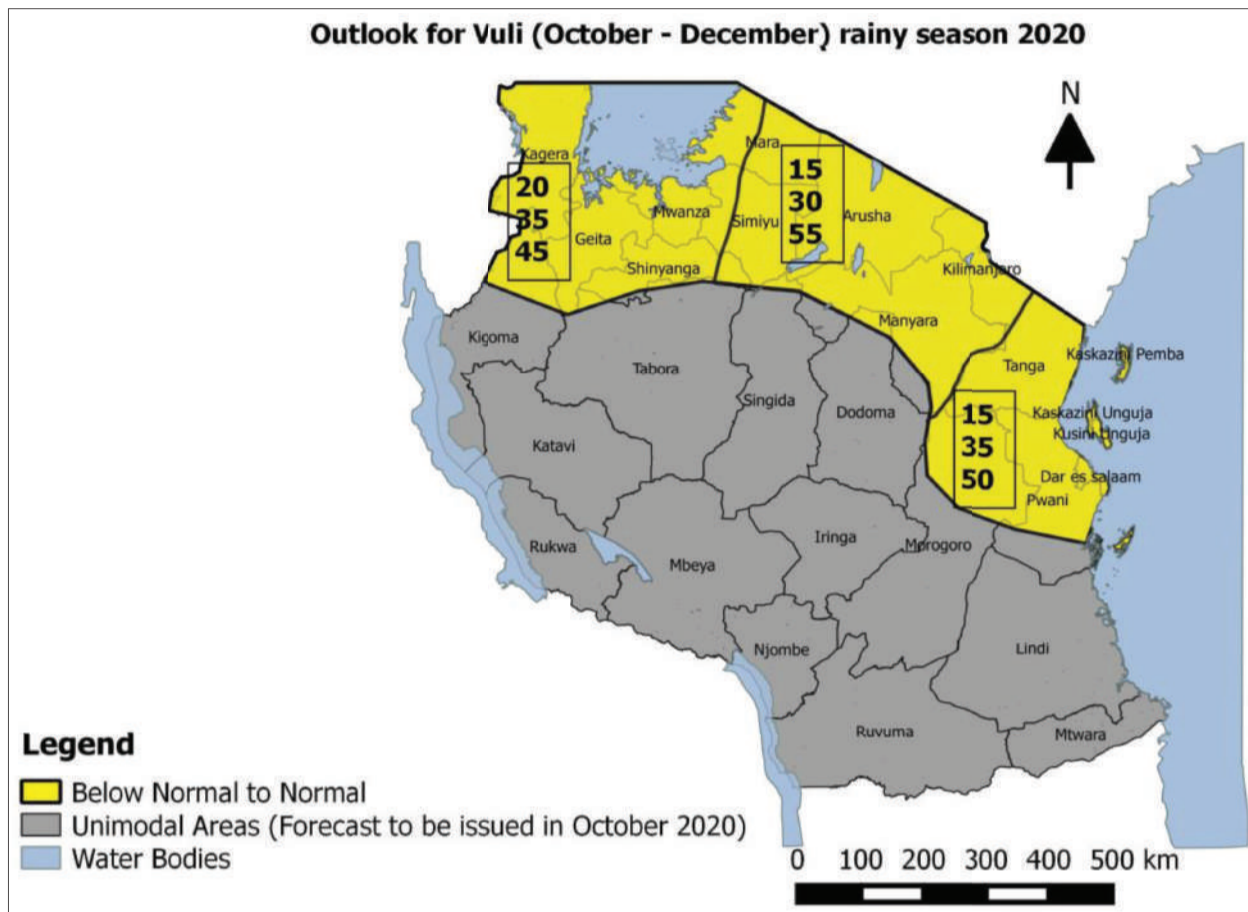


TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2020 (VULI) RAINFALL SEASON

Outlook for Vuli (October - December) rainy season 2020



Highlights for October –December, 2020 (Vuli) rainfall season

This statement describes the evolution of the climate systems and outlook for the October to December, 2020 rainfall season, advisories and early warnings to various weather sensitive sectors including agriculture and food security, livestock and fisheries, natural resources, wildlife and tourism, energy and water, transport (land, marine and aviation), local authorities, health and disaster management. This season is more significant for the areas of the northeastern highlands, northern coast, Lake Victoria Basin and the northern parts of Kigoma region. The key message contained in the outlook indicates that:

- a) **The Vuli 2020 seasonal rains**
 - i. Vuli rains are expected to be below normal to normal and characterized by prolonged periods of dry spells.
 - ii. The Vuli rains are expected to start late between the second and third week of November 2020 over the northeastern highlands and northern coast.
- b) **Expected Impacts**
 - i. Soil moisture deficit is expected over most areas.
 - ii. Outbreak of water borne diseases is likely to occur due to periodic shortage of clean and safe water.
 - iii. Inadequate pasture and water can result into conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.
 - iv. Risk of forest fires is likely to be elevated, relevant authorities are advised to prepare strategies to mitigate the associated impacts.

(I) SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2020

Based on the current and expected climate systems (As indicated in part II of this statement), below normal to normal rains are expected over most areas of the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB), North eastern highlands (NEH) and northern coast (NC) together with northern parts of Kigoma region (Kibondo, Kakonko and Kasulu districts).

1. October to December Seasonal rains (Vuli)

The October to December (OND) rainfall season (Vuli) is more significant for the bimodal areas of the north eastern highlands, northern coast including the Isles of Unguja and Pemba, Lake Victoria Basin and the northern parts of Kigoma and Morogoro regions. The Vuli 2020 rains are expected to be below normal to normal over most of bimodal areas.

1.1 Lake Victoria Basin: (Kagera, Mara, Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions):

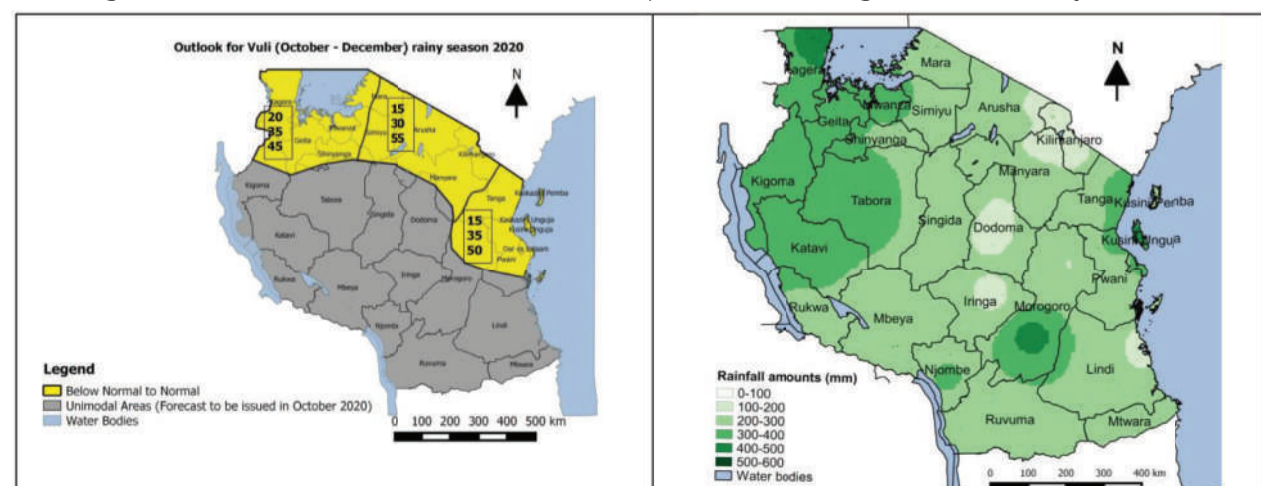
Rains are expected to be below normal to normal with elevated chances of prolonged periods of dry spells during the season. The rains are expected to start during the second week of September, 2020 over Kagera region and spread to Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions during the third week of September, 2020. The rains are expected to cease during the month of January, 2021.

1.2 Northern Coast areas and its Hinterlands: (Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Pwani regions, Islands of Unguja and Pemba and northern Morogoro areas):

Below normal to normal rains with prolonged periods of dry spells are expected over most areas. Late onset of rains is expected, which is between the second and third week of November, 2020. The rains are expected to end during the fourth week of December, 2020.

1.3 North-Eastern Highlands: (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions):

Below normal to normal rains with prolonged periods of dry spell are expected over most areas. Rains are expected to commence late during the second and third week of November, 2020 and expected to cease during the month of January, 2021.



Outlook for the coming rainfall season October to December, 2020

Climatological long-term average (normal) rainfall for October to December

It should be noted that events of heavy and short duration rainfall might occur despite of the expected below normal rainfall conditions.

(II) CLIMATE SYSTEMS OUTLOOK

Currently, there is cooler than average sea surface temperature over the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean (CEPO) which is expected to persist throughout the October – December 2020 period. This condition is expected to weaken rainfall-making mechanism over most parts of bimodal areas within the country. The western part of the Indian Ocean (WIO) is expected to have near normal sea surface temperatures while the eastern part (EIO) is expected to experience warmer than average sea surface temperatures. This is expected to suppress the humid easterly winds from the Indian Ocean towards the coastal areas and the north-eastern highlands. This situation is likely to weaken precipitation-making mechanisms over those areas. On the other hand, there is normal to slightly warmer sea surface temperature over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (off Angola Coast). The slightly warmer temperature is expected to persist throughout the OND 2020 season and suppress moisture rich westerly winds from the Congo Basin towards most areas of the country.

(III) LIKELY IMPACTS AND ADVISORY

The impacts and advisories of the outlook were jointly developed with experts from respective sectors during the stakeholders meeting held on 03rd September, 2020.

(a) Agriculture and Food Security

Soil moisture deficit, crop pest and diseases are expected to occur and resulting to poor crop growth and productivity. Farmers are advised to use drought tolerant crops and apply sustainable farming practices. Farmers are advised to seek guidance from extension officers in their areas. Responsible authorities are advised to prepare emergency plans, promote food reserve at community and national level as well as raise awareness to farmers on the suitable farming practices based on the expected suppressed rains.

(b) Livestock and Fishery

Decline of diseases in livestock, fish and seaweeds are expected. Poor rainfall and runoff are expected to lead into shortage of pasture, water availability and fish feeds. This situation is expected to lower production of fishery and livestock products, and may cause conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. Fisherfolks and livestock keepers are advised to use the weather forecast and adhere to advice from extension officers in their respective areas.

(c) Tourism and Wildlife

Shortage of water and pasture due to prolonged dry spells is likely to create conflicts between the community surrounding the wildlife habitats and the wildlife in search of water and pasture. Furthermore, outbreak of wildlife diseases is expected to occur due to insufficient water and pasture. Diseases transmission from wild to domestic animals is also expected following the exposure and mixing of these animals as they search for water and pasture. The responsible authorities are highly advised to raise awareness to the community at risk and take other necessary and appropriate measures. Meanwhile, the community at risk is encouraged to provide information to the responsible authorities on any noticeable invasion of wild animals into their areas.

(d) Transport Section

Based on the forecast issued, transport sector is expected to benefit especially air and land transport. Relevant authorities are advised to take advantage of the expected weather condition in execution of transport infrastructure construction especially in flood prone areas.

(e) Energy, Water and Mineral

In respect of the forecast issued, the water levels on hydroelectric dams is likely to decrease slightly reducing the risk of water overflow in hydroelectric power generation dams. However, the use of alternative sources of power are recommended. Likewise, water shortage for domestic and industrial use are likely to occur due to shortage of rains. In view of that, sustainable use of water resources is highly recommended especially for minerals processing, irrigation, domestic use and power generation.

(f) Local Authorities

Local authorities are advised to prepare maintenance plan to improve water supply infrastructures and drainage systems. Proper preparation will ensure water supply and drainage systems are working properly.

(g) Health sector

Outbreak of water borne diseases is likely to occur due to periodic shortage of clean and safe water. Therefore, responsible authorities and communities are advised to take appropriate health measures needed to minimize the expected negative impacts on community health. Cleaning of environment and destroying breeding ground for mosquitoes is highly encouraged. Communities are advised to consult health professionals so as to ensure protection from diseases.

(h) Disaster Management

Due to potential risk of forest fires, relevant authorities are advised to prepare strategies to mitigate the associated impacts. In addition, appropriate actions and preparedness measures for addressing negative effects of rainfall shortage should be put in place.

(i) Media

The media is encouraged to frequently follow-up on weather and climate information updates issued by Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) and disseminate to the communities. Journalists and media houses are advised to seek and use expert information from relevant sectors during preparation and delivery of multi-sector weather related issues.

The Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) advises all users of this climate outlook including farmers, livestock keepers, wildlife conservation authorities, hydrological and health sectors to continue seeking and utilizing experts' advice on their respective sectors.

NB: The current status of seasonal forecasting allows for prediction of spatial and temporal averages over larger areas and may not fully account for all physical and dynamical factors that influence short-term climate variability. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten-day and monthly updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority.

Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) will continue to monitor developments of the weather systems and issue updates whenever appropriate. Users are encouraged to consult TMA for specialized outlooks on relevant sectors so as to suit their specific needs.

The Guardian

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WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Fine if rise in yield continues feeding the world, but will it?

IN politics, humanitarian aid, and social science, hunger is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. So in the field of hunger relief, the term hunger is used in a sense that goes beyond the common desire for food that all humans experience.

Throughout history, portions of the world's population have often suffered sustained periods of hunger. In many cases, hunger resulted from food supply disruptions caused by war, plagues, or adverse weather. By 2015 the threat of extreme hunger subsided for many of the world's population. According to figures published by the FAO in 2019 however, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger has been increasing over the last four years.

While most of the world's hungry people continue to live in Asia, much of the increase in hunger since 2015 occurred in Africa and South America. The FAO's 2017 report discussed three principal reasons for the recent increase in hunger: climate, conflict, and economic slowdowns. The 2018 report focused on extreme weather as a primary driver of the increase in hunger, finding rises were especially severe in countries where the agricultural systems were most sensitive to extreme variations in weather. While the FAO's 2019 report found there was also a strong correlation between increases in hunger and countries that had suffered an economic slowdown.

Large agricultural development programmes have done little to reduce hunger while pushing farmers into debt, food security experts say, as they warn that such schemes risk failure if they do not move away from industrial fertilizers and seeds.

A range of critical voices have spoken out against the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an organisation launched in 2006 with the aim of delivering high-yield intensive

agriculture to Africa via access to markets and credit, high quality seeds, and better soil health and agricultural policies.

False Promises, a report from a coalition of international development organizations, argues that AGRA missed its 2015 goal to double the productivity and incomes of 30 million small-scale food producers by this year, saying that AGRA's initial goals were to double incomes for 20 million farming households while halving food insecurity in 20 countries by 2020.

The report is based on a study by Tufts University researchers, who say AGRA declined requests to provide internal monitoring and outcomes evaluation data. Instead, researchers used country-level production, yield and land data to assess whether AGRA programmes had significantly raised agricultural productivity. AGRA's 2017-2021 strategy states it will "contribute" to doubling the yields and incomes of 30 million smallholder households—nine million directly and 21 million indirectly.

In a statement to SciDev.Net, AGRA says it reached 4.7 million farmers in 2019. The alliance disputes accusations that its approach is failing Africa's farmers.

From AGRA's launch to 2018, the number of people suffering undernourishment increased by 30 per cent across the organization's 13 focus countries, the report's data shows. Farmers also reported going into debt when buying the seeds and fertilizers eligible for AGRA financial support.

AGRA says that hunger has been increasing globally since 2014 and rises in Africa are due to factors that are beyond AGRA's control.

AGRA is funded through philanthropic donors—the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had given US\$661 million by 2018—international governments and the African Development Bank. Its main countries of operation include Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique.

Supporting young African innovators stands to serve development superbly

INNOVATION is one of the most important contributors to economic growth in any market. Innovators create wealth, attract investment and provide job opportunities. They also create new supply chains and boost exports. This is a universal reality.

Africa has a context of its own. Many African nations are growing in a post-colonial and/or post-conflict environment with deficits in skills, technologies and infrastructure. However, the continent's booming economies have given birth to a new wave of opportunity entrepreneurs whereby young people see new opportunities in a growing market. Africa's burgeoning middle class is creating new consumer demand for products and services that never existed before.

Innovation in its modern meaning is a new idea, creative thoughts, new imaginations in form of device or method. Innovation is often also viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs.

Such innovation takes place through the provision of more-effective products, processes, services, technologies, or business models that are made available to markets, governments and society. An innovation is something original and more effective and, as a consequence, new, that breaks into the market or society.

Innovation is related to, but not the same as, invention, as innovation is more apt to involve the practical implementation of an invention. Not all innovations require an invention. Innovation often manifests itself via the engineering process, when the problem being solved is of a technical or scientific nature. The opposite of innovation is exnovation.

In economics, management science, and other fields of practice and analysis, innovation is generally considered to be the result of a process that brings

together various novel ideas in such a way that they affect society. In industrial economics, innovations are created and found empirically from services to meet growing consumer demand.

It is good news that the Africa Telecommunication Union (ATU) has launched the regional Innovations Challenge 2020 in a move to identify and support young African innovators who have developed mobile applications useful for benefiting the fight to contain COVID-19 and possibly other emergency situations in Africa in future.

According to the ATU Secretary General John Omo, top prize winner in the competition is expected to carry home a cash award of USD 5000 aside from being engaged in other mentorship and partnership programmes.

Indeed, this challenge will be instrumental in recognizing, testing and highlighting disruptive innovations and new business models that have the capacity to redefine Africa. We should stress on the importance of African institutions to support initiatives that create, innovate and deliver for the continent. To do so it requires a concerted effort from stakeholders at all levels.

The launch event brought together a number of innovators, ICT ministries and regulators, the academia and ICT organisations. Innovation has become the key differentiating element that can give economic opportunities to our young people.

For over 20 years Huawei has been building ICT infrastructure, promoting ICT skills and enabling ICT innovation across Africa. We believe the trustworthy partner can support this initiative with their expertise, insight and experience both globally and locally.

We underscore the value of innovative approaches towards growth in the continent as well as dedication to investing in talent development. We also believe that ATU can bring out the creativity and entrepreneurship residing in the African youth.

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Oh, this response to human trafficking!

By D.M. Badjie

TRAFFICKING of Gambian women, some of whom are called girls, have been going on for years despite international calls by human rights organizations for it to end.

The recent challenges faced by our women in Lebanon are the same situation encountered by our women in the Gulf countries. The agents for this scheme are right under our nose in the country. They continue to shamelessly engage in the practice because they realize that there are no strong enforcement laws and moral commitments by the authorities to arrest the situation. They know when the girls are returned home as a result of their suffering, that will be the end of the story. The practice has been viewed as individual choices to venture out of the country in search of economic benefits, sometimes with the consent of parents. The troubles these girls face in Lebanon and in other Gulf countries have been well documented. The news we have been hearing over the years involves the slavery and abuse of the women by their landlords.

Government after Government, the plight of these women has been well known. The question is how many times should we expect Government interventions and private organizations to be in the centre of rescuing the girls in the event things go very badly for them in their respective countries where they serve as domestic servants? What should be done to end this nasty affair in the best interest of both the women and the nation? The security agents at the entry and exit points of our country must strictly and honestly scrutinize the travel plans of girls suspected of being smuggled out. Where there is an agent involved in the trafficking the full weight of the law must be sanctioned without fear, favour and monetary inducement.

In the event of the girls' return to The Gambia as a result of bad experiences and inhumane treatment abroad, the Government should conduct contact tracing to determine who was involved in their predicament and take severe actions against the culprits, as well as provide compensation to the victims. A new surveillance radar system on human trafficking should be set up by Government and manned by strong security outfit comprising of the Anti-Crime Unit and Military Police due to their intelligence training. A Government that cannot work out lasting solutions to this burning national issue concerning illegal trafficking of women will be failing in its agenda to empower the women.



Of course, the parents of the women trafficked by agents should bear some responsibility under any enforcement laws thereto.

The international community should put in place sanctions against countries involved in the enslavement and abuse of women trafficked to their countries and cut some of the aid to countries allowing it to happen under their watch. Otherwise, all the international conventions and treaties on human trafficking and human rights violations would continue to gather dust and be taken for granted.

"A river cuts through rock not because of its power but its persistence." Government must therefore continue to be persistent to cut off this unacceptable and inhumane treatment of Gambian women as domestic slaves in countries whose people will never allow their daughters to come and work for Africans as domestic servants. Empowerment of women does not only mean giving them positions in Government. It means the totality of the well-being of the women.

Meanwhile, Sanna Badjie writes about opening schools in a COVID-19 safe and secure way: A message to Gambia government. Read on: Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) indeed is a distractors disease that caught the medical and scientific world by surprise. It disrupts human services and all sectors of the society since its emergence from the Chinese city of Wuhan. The disease was also declared by the World Health Organisation as a Public Health Emergency of

ignorance and more damaging, bury the future of our next generation. It is a known fact that keeping students out of school for this long without any meaningful learning alternation exposes them to other disheartening eventualities which are worse than covid itself.

Reports indicate that Kenya registered about 150,000 teen pregnancies just after three months of lockdown and many thousand learners recruited in the labor force. Nigeria had an increase in sexual and gender based violence with 30% of women and girls aged 15-49 having experienced sexual abuse according to reports. Global Partnership for Education experts warned that million learners may not return to school when schools reopen with girls the most affected. In Gambia, although no research in my humble knowledge is conducted to establish issues of teen pregnancies, gender based violence in these six horrible months of lockdown, but by observation, nobody can deny that fact that we are also registering these unfortunate vices.

Also, reports indicate that vocational and technical institutions of learning in the Gambia will die a natural death if the government doesn't open schools or supports these institutions. Just imagine the number of jobs lost that will result plus the terrible unemployment rate of the country.

Meanwhile, analysts putting on a political lens would argue that government do not want to take the nasty risk to open schools or other sectors. That the community transmission of the virus may increase which will be politically deathly to president Barrow considering the closeness of the 2021 most anticipating national election. But what about the tourism industry plan opening in October; changes in the quarantine protocols for travelers to the Gambia and even strangely the transportation sectors where drivers are allowed to carry passengers to the capacity of their vehicles with utterly no social distancing and improper wearing of the face masks? In effect, these eased restrictions pose higher risk of the spread of the virus than any other thing. So let the government think twice.

Finally, the future of this country lies on the educational sector as the educationists will put it "no development will be sustainable if it not backed by education"

The government should either open schools in a Covid-19 safe and secure way or add more weight to the already weak and shaky educational system and riskily bury our education and our future.

Zambian editor Mary Mbewe inspiring young women journalists on leadership

By Special Correspondent

MARY Mbewe has become a role model for women journalists in Zambia, quietly moving up the editorial ranks and exemplifying how women can become successful media leaders. As this year's recent WAN-IFRA (World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers) Women in News Editorial Leadership Laureate for Africa, she underscored the need for women journalists to continue to strive to be their best.

Becoming a woman leader within Zambia's media landscape can seem daunting. Managing work-life balance, pushing past self-doubt and creating a strong work ethic are what it takes to break the glass ceiling in a country where few women can be found in senior management positions.

But Mary Mbewe (pictured), current

Executive Editor at Zambia's Daily Nation, has shown young women journalists that it is possible to do exactly those things. In the 1990s, she became the first woman at the Zambia Daily Mail - and in Zambia as a whole - to achieve the role of Editor-in-Chief.

And in winning this year's WAN-IFRA Women in News (WIN) Editorial Leadership Award for Africa, Mbewe has become an inspiration for other young women hoping to move into the upper echelons of the media.

"To be named an award winner is great for my country and for all the people who have inspired me to work hard and be nice to people... it's a great honour," says Mbewe, adding, "I hope I can inspire other women to focus on their work, to not lose energy complaining."

Mbewe moved up the ranks of Zambia's often challenging media landscape by putting her nose to the grindstone



and not letting complaints bother her. As a woman in such a high-level position, she often faced skepticism about how well she could do her job.

"Some men and even some young women were uncomfortable about hav-

ing to report to a woman," says Mbewe, adding: "It was tough, but I didn't let it get to me. I just ignored them."

Mbewe looked to her managing editor, Godfrey Malama, who supported her in her journey and offered her advice about how to handle critique. But, she notes that oftentimes the only way to get ahead in the media is by believing in oneself.

"You can't expect someone to move you up if you're limiting yourself," says Mbewe, elaborating: "Don't give too many excuses. It's important to strike a balance between home and work life but no one will give you a promotion if they don't see you making sacrifices and dedicating yourself."

There are currently four women in senior management positions at the Zambia Daily Nation, making the paper a primarily female-led team. Patricia Chibiliti, the Executive Director of Zambia's Daily Nation, says working with so many women has only made the paper stronger - especially with Mbewe at the helm.

"We have found ourselves getting better and better with her input. She is very hard-working. She's really been invaluable to us," says Chibiliti.

But the gender parity at the Zambia Daily Nation doesn't necessarily represent the media landscape in the rest of the country. Even if Zambia's labour laws imply fair wages for men and

women, a study of six large newsrooms by the International Women's Media Foundation in 2011 showed that men outnumbered women two to one in Zambia. Women represented only around one-fourth of senior management personnel.

Mbewe says that's why it has been so important to have the support of WIN, which has a wide network and resources like the 2018 WIN Sexual Harassment Handbook.

"My reporters have learned how to operate in a newsroom, how to stand up for themselves, to follow through on stories and deal with certain issues. WIN gave us that opportunity," she notes.

In accepting the WIN Editorial Leadership Award for Africa in 2020, Mbewe says she will always be thankful - and hopes that other young women journalists will soon follow in her footsteps, even as journalists everywhere confront the uncertainty that the Covid-19 pandemic is creating for the media industry.

"This award is dedicated to all the hard-working women in this country (Zambia)," says Mbewe, adding: "For all the young female journalists entering this career, I can tell you that it's a tough world and there are no favours. But if you respect yourself, the world will respect you."

-WAN-IFRA



Room to Read
World Change Starts with Educated Children.®

Position: Director, Program Operations

Position Overview:

The Program Operations Director ("POD") is a senior management Country Office position primarily responsible for providing program operations support and oversight and ensuring timely and effective implementation of Room to Read's Literacy and Girls' Education Programs. The Program Operations Director will oversee the implementation, coordination, development, reporting and expansion of our current and prospective Programs and Administrative work. The position reports directly to the Country Director and directly supervises the Administration unit and Field Manager(s). The POD also works in close collaboration with both Literacy Director and the Gender Equality/Girls Education Program Manager who are responsible for country-wide Literacy and Girls Education program design, technical support and oversight. Regular travel to all geographical areas where Room to Read works in Tanzania is required.

Location: Dar es Salaam

Role and Responsibilities:

Management and Coordination

- Ensures efficient and effective coordination across all elements of the Literacy Program, including School Infrastructure and Girls' Education Program.
- Supervises and oversees the work of the field managers and is responsible for optimizing their productivity through effective management and leadership techniques (i.e., coaching/advising).
- Ensures staff are consistently complying and adhering to policies, procedures and guidelines articulated in the Country Office handbooks, and facilitates the dissemination of information to all staff members to promote transparency.
- Supports staff through consultation with Country Office level technical teams to regularly assess staff capacity building needs.
- Ensures the performance management process is well-planned and conducted in a timely for all field staff. This includes setting performance goals, conducting progress check-ins, providing feedback, conducting year-end appraisals, and making recommendations for staff development and career advancement.
- Collaborates with Human Resources to handle recruitment and training of staff according to need and all other HR initiatives.
- Leads and facilitates field manager's one on one, bi-weekly or monthly staff meetings to review progress against plans, find solutions to problems, share lessons learned, exchange expertise across programs, and to motivate, feedback and encourage teamwork.
- Ensures that field staff are aware of and understand the programs' goals and objectives, working approaches and methodology, and have all necessary information related to annual plans, targets, and implementation calendars.
- Supervises fund disbursement, reviews and approves the field monthly financial expenses in accordance with financial and purchasing policy and procedures.
- Perform other tasks as assigned by the Program Operations Director or Country Director.

Program Implementation and Monitoring

- Develops Country Office program implementation calendar and budgeting processes in coordination with Field Operation Managers, Programs staff, and Finance staff.
- Plans, coordinates, and documents site selection activities and tracks potential sites for future expansion.
- Coordinates with Finance team to ensure accurate oversight of budgets and spending, and supports monthly and quarterly budget forecasts.
- Coordinates and leads monthly and quarterly planning of program implementation activities.
- Coordinates and provides leadership over procurement, inventory management, and distribution.
- Collaborates with the Programs and Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E) team to support RM&E of all programs.
- Visits project sites to support and supervise program implementation.

Planning, Reporting and Documentation

- Leads the preparation of the annual plan, budget, implementation calendar, and other annual plan documents.
- Responsible for timely monthly and quarterly updates and reports on the status of implementation to the Country Management Team and Regional and Global Offices.
- Oversees and facilitates timely completion of Global Systems Database ("GSD") data-entry and other donor reporting to relevant Country, Regional and Global Office staff.
- Ensures that organizational, governmental and donor reports are high quality and provided on a timely basis.
- Identifies, tracks and documents program trends, lessons learned and best practices and reports to Country Office Program technical staff to consider in improving program designs.

External Coordination and Networking

- Attends to donor affairs including hosting donor and project site journey's and visits in collaboration with programs staff including providing feedback for the same.
- Meets regularly with local government representatives, NGO partners, school administrators and parent groups.
- Promotes and protects the reputation of Room to Read in external settings, ensuring that the organization's experience and expertise is well communicated and consistently presented, and that we are looked upon as a professional Education organization.
- Liaises with NGO Partner and Government Agencies, especially at provincial and district education levels. This includes periodic meetings with partners to exchange information and updating programs' work progresses.

Qualifications:

Required:

- Master's Degree in Business Administration, Social Science, Project Management, or equivalent experience
- Minimum of 5 years' related work experience, with experience in leadership and management roles
- Strong planning, budgeting/financial management, administrative, supervisory, coaching and program development skills
- Good knowledge and understanding of education issues, including teaching methodologies and community involvement in schools
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to stay in the field and travel to designated project sites
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Workshop/training and facilitation skills
- Prior success working closely and building relationships with diverse groups of people
- Proven track record of achieving results
- Ability to juggle multiple priorities simultaneously and take initiative

Preferred:

- Prior experience working with schools, teachers, administrators and government officials
- Prior experience in a fast-paced, growth-oriented global or regional organization
- Report writing experience
- Effectiveness in working or volunteering in a non-profit organization that is focused on maintaining high quality work and low overhead
- A valid driving license would also be preferred though not a must.

Room to Read is a child-safe organization; all personnel are expected to adhere to Room to Read's Child protection policy and Code of conduct.

Application Procedure:

Please visit our website at www.roomtoread.org and click on the "careers" link under about us tab. This will take you to Room to Read's Career Portal. Click on the See Current Vacancies to find this vacancy, select the vacancy you are interested and click apply to begin the online application process. If you do not hear from Room to Read within one month of the closing date, please accept that your application was unsuccessful. Please note that late applications will not be considered and correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates only.

Room to Read is proud to be an equal opportunity employer committed to identifying and developing the skills and leadership of people from diverse backgrounds. Women are encouraged to apply. **CLOSING DATE: 20th September, 2020.**



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED, TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring various services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of various services for any of the below listed services.

Scope of work:

Provision of Various Services

| Reference Number | Description of Services |
|------------------|--|
| GGME0906 | Construction of Toe Drain at Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) - Extension of Toe Drain for North and Southern Wall |
| GGME0977 | Provision of Drilling and Installing of Monitoring Borehole Piezometers and Vandal Proofs around the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) |
| GGME0910 | Provision of Supply and Delivery of UG AD60 Dump Truck Tray Routable |

1. INFORMATION REQUIRED

| PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS | 20% |
|---|------|
| COMMERCIAL | |
| Company Profile | 2.5% |
| Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate | 2.5% |
| Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) | 2.5% |
| Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN | 2.5% |
| Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license. | 2.5% |
| Company Shareholding Structure | 2.5% |
| List of Directors | 2.5% |
| Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission and details of capability of the contractor to hire local resources and procure local goods | 2.5% |

| FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE | 20% |
|---|------|
| Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019) | 6.7% |
| At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position | 6.7% |
| Confirmation of Credit for a period not less than 30 days | 6.7% |

| SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS | 10% |
|--|------|
| OSHA Compliance Certificate | 2.5% |
| Environment Compliance Certificate | 2.5% |
| Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance | 2.5% |
| Safety and Environmental Policies | 2.5% |

| PAST EXPERIENCE | 10% |
|---|------|
| At least 3 Names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed) | 2.5% |
| Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of above) | 2.5% |
| Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) | 2.5% |
| Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients | 2.5% |

| TECHNICAL CRITERIA | 40% |
|--|--------|
| Experience on the same or related service or Project in question | 13.33% |
| Availability of Equipment (owned/hired) to support provision of the service or project in question | 13.33% |
| CRB Class for Civil Works | 13.33% |

| TECHNICAL CRITERIA | 40% |
|---|-----|
| Drilling Experience in the Mining Industry | 20% |
| Availability of RC Vertical drill rig that can drill vertically at 90 degrees | 20% |

| TECHNICAL CRITERIA | 40% |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Warranty | 13.33% |
| Authorized dealer of CAT | 13.33% |
| Technical support | 13.33% |

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the REFERENCE NUMBER of the service they intend to express interest on together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 25 September 2020 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

With COVID-19, what's in stock for education in near and distant future?

By Chanté Russell

THE Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on the last school year for many students around the world. Now, experts are looking ahead to how ongoing outbreaks will affect education in both the near and distant future.

To discuss how countries around the world are handling education in the face of crisis and important considerations while covering the issue, Education Writers Association (EWA) deputy director Eric Robelen recently led a conversation with Brookings Institution's Emilianita Vegas; Chika Oduah, an award-winning Nigerian-American journalist; and Antônio Gois, a Brazilian education reporter, consultant and founder of the Brazilian Association of Education Reporters.

The panelists shared trends they've observed, insights into how other countries are approaching schooling and advice for journalists.

Gois noted the importance of contextualising when comparing courses of action from different countries, saying: "It's hard to have international references without considering the level of development of each country."

Global inequality and inequities in education

Panelists said that inequalities between countries as well as individual students within those countries have influenced national education plans.

Oduah said that Kenya was trying to adopt digital learning but parents weren't really able to help children tap into virtual learning or homeschooling. A lack of access to computers also made it infeasible. "So, they pretty much said no school. And this affects 18 million young people across Kenya...This also includes the 150,000 young people living in refugee camps," she said.

Inaccessibility is an issue in many other parts of the world as well. "...there's also a lot of inequality in how much, even with households that have connectivity, how often and how regularly students are connecting because the situation in households is quite different. So some households may be



able to have a device per student, parents who can help, but some may have one device that they share across the family and parents may have to use it for work," Vegas said.

Innovative methods being deployed worldwide

Some countries have been able to explore innovative virtual and non-virtual teaching methods.

"Virtual learning in Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal has really been testing the use of robots... And the robots have not yet been deployed into the classrooms, but they're working towards that," said Oduah.

In Japan, she said, some students were able to use robots to virtually attend their graduation ceremonies this year. "So, I think we're going to see a lot

of robot activity in the coming months."

Oduah also said that community radio is being used across Africa. "They're trying to employ community radio programmes, sometimes three days a week, for learning, just bringing young people together around the campfire to follow up on the education."

Vegas said that in Denmark and Finland, schools are experimenting with "pods", a small group of students and one teacher, as a way to reduce exposure. In this case, if one of them gets infected, then only members of that pod have to stay home instead of shutting down the entire school.

"That has proved to be quite effective during the period that they reopened in the spring of last year. They didn't see a rise in cases," she said.

Gois: "...the problem is that many of the researchers on Covid-19 that are being published have a lot of limitations that we should be aware of as reporters and report to our audiences... we cannot be pretty confident by looking through the research because the research is brand new."

Oduah: "Especially in developing countries, it's so important

to get on the ground into the communities because the stats at the federal level, it may not be a real portrait of what's happening on the ground."

Gois: "Something that always bothered me is that it's easy to go to a school and hear the voices of students who are more affluent or less shy, or teachers who are from unions or students who have a strong position against - or in favour of - something. But there are a lot of students who are shy, who are more invisible, who do not like to talk to journalists, who do not have ways of reaching the media."

And, Gois said, coverage should center education rather than the public health aspects of the crisis. "We should not ever lose focus on the pedagogical

issues - such as what will be the strategies that the systems will make to recover learning losses?" he said.

In partnership with its parent organisation, the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ), IJNet (International Journalists' Network) is connecting journalists with health experts and newsroom leaders through a webinar series on Covid-19. The series is part of the ICFJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum. Chanté Russell is a recent graduate of Howard University and a programmes intern at the ICFJ.

COVID-19: Presidents, the press, and the pandemic

CARACAS

THE presidents of the Americas, beyond their ideological differences, seem to agree in questioning the role of journalists and the media in the coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, human rights organizations remind us of the fundamental role of information, especially in times of crisis and uncertainty like the one we are experiencing in this 2020.

NGO Inter-American Dialogue and expert Edison Lanza, current Inter-American Commission on Human Rights rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, prepared the report "COVID-19 and Freedom of Expression in the Americas" which has three thematic areas: The role of journalists and the pressure against them from those in power, access to public information in the current context, and the dynamics of pandemic-related disinformation and misinformation.

Ultimately, the goal is for journalists and the media, as well as healthcare professionals and relevant experts, to be able to speak and report freely about COVID-19, "including coverage that is critical of government responses, without fear or censorship". And this mandate goes beyond the ideological leanings of those who govern.

The report, released on August 31 in Washington, reviews the role of leaders who, in the face of the pandemic, divert the focus towards challenging or discrediting newsmen's work in their respective countries. This policy has coincidentally been implemented by leaders who, ideologically speaking, are at the antipodes from one another, such as Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, or Daniel Ortega and Alejandro Giammattei in Central America.

The report confirms, on the one hand, the importance of the right to inform freely, even in situations of crisis, as set forth in documents by the Inter-American Human Rights System and, in turn, echoes public concerns expressed, for example, by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

"Undermining rights such as freedom of expression may do incalculable damage to the effort to contain COVID-19 and its pernicious socio-economic side-effects", remarked Bachelet.

The report outlines this situation: "[...] under the cover of Covid-19 response, some governments in the Americas have taken steps to criminalize free speech [...]"

In Mexico, in the context of the pandemic, president Andrés Manuel López Obrador (or AMLO, his acronym) criticized the ethics of both Mexican and international "conventional media" for questioning official data on COVID-19 provided by his administration. This was in May. In April, AMLO had already said that professional journalism did not exist in his country and verbally attacked newspapers Reforma, El Universal, Milenio, and Excelsior.

In theory, ideologically on the other side of the aisle, Bolsonaro also infamously launched a tirade of verbal attacks against journalists and the media in Brazil. Only in the first quarter this year, when the onset of the pandemic was being faced by the South American giant, the president made 32 verbal attacks.

The climate of "continued harassment and abuse" compelled several of Brazil's main news organizations to stop reporting outside the



US President Donald Trump (right) and Mexican counterpart Andrés Manuel López Obrador at the White House July 2020. Credit: Toa Dufour/White House

presidential residence at the end of May, in order to underscore their discontent with Bolsonaro's public statements.

The report highlights the permanent verbal sparring with the media engaged by President Donald Trump, from Washington, DC, during the harsh weeks of the pandemic that has significantly affected the United States. Between the months of March and May, Trump confronted at least eight journalists during his daily press conferences on COVID-19. The President has responded irately or simply left unanswered questions that are uncomfortable for him and that have been asked in these exchanges with the press at the White House. In Nicaragua, meanwhile, president Daniel Ortega accused the media of spreading fake news

about his government's concealment of COVID-19 figures. According to Ortega, there is "disinformative terrorism" in his country on the part of those journalists critical of him.

However, one premier from around the continent who has most clearly voiced his rejection to the exercise of independent journalism during the pandemic has been the president of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammattei. "I would like to put the media in quarantine but I cannot", he said candidly last March, when he lashed out at what he called negative coverage of his government's policies in response to the pandemic.

The Inter-American Dialogue report closes with recommendations. As has been the case in other situations of

crisis, amidst uncertainty, societies need more and better information. Regarding the role of authorities, it is stated in the document: "Governments have a duty to ensure that journalism thrives and plays its essential role during the pandemic, as the protection of the media is a protection of the public's right to information."

Ultimately, the goal is for journalists and the media, as well as healthcare professionals and relevant experts, to be able to speak and report freely about COVID-19, "including coverage that is critical of government responses, without fear or censorship".

And this mandate goes beyond the ideological leanings of those who govern.

Modern energy cooking services key for Tanzania in achieving SDGs, says UN

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

MODERN energy cooking services are crucial to human well-being and to Tanzania's economic development. Cooking remains a central part of energy transition and core to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the Paris Agreement.

In Tanzania over 55 million people are without clean cooking services, that is more than 85 percent of the population still depend on solid biomass fuels for cooking with 63.5 percent of households using firewood, followed by charcoal users 26.2 percent, Only 5.1 percent use LPG and 3 percent uses electricity, according to REA and NBS.

Most of the biomass fuels is being burned in inefficient three stone fire place in rural areas and in metal charcoal stoves in urban areas, which in turn affects health and well-being of the population through indoor air pollution.

The situation also contributes to the fast deterioration of forestry at the rate of 372,871 hectares per year according to statistics released in 2015 by TFS. Transforming cooking energy services for Tanzania is therefore critical to the development of the country and a strategic measure for achieving several SDGs and SE4ALL targets

International initiative on modern energy cooking services

In an interview with Executive Director for Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization (TaTEDO) Eng. Etomiah Sawe, he said relevant international supportive policies of modern energy cooking services that Tanzania has acceded to include; The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), and the Paris agreement, among others. Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) seeks to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Access to clean cooking services is therefore integral to this goal (SDG 7) (SDGs). The Paris Agreement seeks to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to limit the global temperature rise to below 2°C above pre-industrial level (UN-

CCC, 2020). Tanzania is among the countries that ratified the Paris Agreement by submitting its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on 18th May 2018. The Tanzania NDCs include actions to promote and implement renewable energy options as a measure to adapt to climate change effects and contribute to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Also, we have the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), the UN initiative that was launched in 2011 to catalyze major new investments in a bid to accelerate the transformation of the world's energy systems, pursue the elimination of energy poverty, and enhance prosperity. SE4ALL calls on all stakeholders to take concrete actions towards ensuring universal access to sustainable energy services; double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, within the UN timeframe of 2030. Tanzania was among the first countries to sign a commitment to the SE4ALL Initiative and has since developed a SE4ALL Action Agenda, Investment Prospectus detailing actions that the Government intends to carry out to ensure access to sustainable energy for all.

The modern energy services Programme (MECS) supported by UKaid in partnership with ESMAP and managed by the Loughborough University in UK, brings and draws on knowledge and experience from different partners around the world. The programme expects to build on such opportunities and knowledge emerging from the programme to break out of the business as usual approaches and rapidly accelerate the transition from biomass to clean cooking on global scale. TaTEDO is one of the southern partners of this very interesting and promising programme on clean cooking solutions.

Barriers to addressing the situation in Tanzania

Despite the recognised benefits of modern energy cooking services for health, local environment and climate change, large-scale adoption and sustained use of clean cooking solutions such as electricity and biogas is not succeeding. This is due to a variety of



context specific barriers both on the demand and supply side. While financing, lack of appropriate business and delivery models, and poor enabling environment appear to be major constraints for manufacturers and suppliers of the efficient cooking appliances, lack of supportive policies, information, awareness, and cultural barriers dominate demand side. According to Eng. Sawe, the barriers are further elaborated to include:-

Firstly, on the supply side there is a problem of poor and inappropriate business models for clean cooking appliances, which has led into low rate of adoption of the clean cooking appliances hence stagnation into market growth. There are more other common factors which contribute into market stagnation; these include lack of information on the availability of the clean cooking solutions and poor affordability.

Secondly, appliances are not available due to limited distribution networks as there are no agents and distributors at the local levels.

Thirdly, lack of investment and working capital to start up business is a challenge to most of the small and medium scale suppliers and distributors of the clean cooking solutions. They usually operate in difficult business environments with a low profit margin activity.

In addition, poor enabling environment such as inadequate supportive policies that favours incentives for electricity cooking appliances is another challenge that hinders the market growth. These appliances are imported but lack of incentives in taxes and other legal require-

ments that can promote and facilitate massive influx and supply of the appliance has led into higher costs of these appliances which are not affordable to end users.

On the demand side, despite the affordable rate of electricity according to REA 2018 evaluation report, majority of the customers still use inefficient biomass cooking stoves due to non-availability and affordability of clean cooking solutions because of the poor cash flow of most end users.

Only middle- and upper-income households can afford, majority of the low-income households still use low quality fuels. Low awareness on available alternative and their purchase options as well as financing mechanisms contributes to this challenge.

An additional challenge on the demand side is that majority of the people have a lack of familiarity and the inability to use clean cooking energy solutions which is hindrance to the uptake. This is also attributed to fear of explosions and lack of spare parts. Thus, it has created fear of been seen ignorant hence contribute into low adoption rate.

Finally, cooking is very much embedded in culture, and due to cultural resistance, it has been difficult to adopt the clean cooking solutions. These cultures which are deeply tradition-based and location-specific are linked to the cooking habits, traditions, cultural appropriateness of the device, and perceptions about the taste of food. Thus, these barriers are limiting large-scale marketing and the potential of

alternative scalability. Tanzanian Policies Relevant to modern energy cooking services

Within the country, initiatives for addressing the modern energy cooking services situation is compounded by weak institutional and policy frameworks, mainly poor consideration of cooking energy in the energy policy discussions and agendas. Often, electricity for lighting and other uses take precedence while cooking remains a marginalized agenda mainly driven by few NGOs and private actors with limited investment and working capitals. This has meant that clean cooking services is mostly left out in policy decisions that could open up both national and local market and non-market opportunities. It also means that the voices of the majority of the poor who engage in cooking on day to day basis mostly women and girls, are left out of the policy processes, further marginalizing opportunities for transitioning to more inclusive and gender sensitive clean cooking services. Enhancing energy access through clean cooking services therefore requires supportive policies and innovative approaches that catalyze opportunities for sustained and inclusive use and development opportunities

Tanzania has implemented limited national level policies to accelerate the development and adoption of clean cooking services in line with the above efforts. There is the National Development Vision 2025, released in 2000, which envisages Tanzania becoming a middle-income country by 2025; huge achievement, the country has reached this target by 2020. The National Strategy for Economic Growth and Reduction of Poverty, adopted in 2005, proposes strategies for reduction of poverty and raising incomes and improving the quality of life and social well-being, governance, and accountability. The Government supports and encourages innovations, product development, quality and marketing strategies.

Due to such limited policy support for modern energy cooking services in Tanzania, the sector has been dominated by gradual and slow ascent on the energy ladder. However, overtime, as income increases, some people move upwards to modern energy sources (improved cook stoves and LPG) and a few to the use of electricity, in addition, fuel stacking is commonly practiced.

According to statistics released by REA in 2017, the rate of electrifying households in Tanzania has increased by 6.2 percent. This is a big achievement that was noted in the last five years but less than 0.5 percent of the connected households in Tanzania use electricity for cooking.

UNEP launches assessment on air pollution, climate change in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in conjunction with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) has launched the first assessment of air pollution and climate change in the African continent.

Director and regional representative of the African office at UNEP, Juliette Biao Koude-noukpo, said the assessment will help deliver accurate and timely information to boost re-

sponse to harmful effects of climate change and air pollution to the environment, human health and livelihoods.

"In the face of growing inequality on pollution, a significant burden of air pollution-related deaths occurs in Africa, yet we lack accurate timely information," Koude-noukpo said in Nairobi during an event to mark the first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies.

She underscored the need to prioritize awareness creation

alongside enhanced monitoring of negative impacts of air pollution in Africa.

Koude-noukpo said improved air quality combined with action on climate change is key to hastening green and inclusive growth in Africa.

Philip Osano, center director of Stockholm Environment Institute in Nairobi, said the assessment will determine how the continent's development can be accelerated without harming ecosystems.

"It will focus on identifying coherent strategies that can give multiple air quality and climate benefits," said Osano

He said that inadequate data combined with incoherent policies had undermined action on air pollution and climate change in Africa.

"The countries need this data to inform policies that can reduce air pollution and deliver national development priorities and climate goals," said Osano.

He said the assessment will boost local knowledge and institutional capacity to enable governments to integrate and implement air pollution and climate change policies effectively.

Helena Molin Valdes, head of secretariat said that the assessment will help identify development priorities and actions that can reduce air pollution in the next decade.

She said the assessment will boost efforts to limit green-

house gas emissions in line with global commitments.

Alice Kaudia, one of the co-chairs guiding the assessment, noted that air pollution presents existential threat to livelihoods and ecosystems.

She said that millions of people in Africa die prematurely due to air pollution hence the urgency to combat the menace.

"In Africa, the situation is acute with the most vulnerable segment of Africa's population

- women and children - being at higher risk of susceptibility to chronic respiratory diseases because of exposure to indoor air pollution arising from the use of biomass fuels for cooking and paraffin for lighting," said Kaudia.

She said the assessment aims to build on the existing community of practice among scientists and policymakers in order to boost response to climate change and air pollution in Africa.

Southern Africa's hunger upsurge due to Covid-19 turmoil, climate

By Special Correspondent, Johannesburg

AN estimated 45 million people in southern Africa are food insecure, with the number of people without access to adequate, affordable and nutritious food up 10% from last year, the World Food Program has said.

The coronavirus pandemic, coupled with climate change and the struggling economies of several countries, are the main causes of the food insecurity, said international aid organizations in a webinar organized by the Foreign Correspondents Association of Southern Africa.

Zimbabwe is the country affected the most, with the number of its food insecure people expected to reach 8.6 million by the end of this year, World Food Program director in southern Africa, Lola Castro, said.

"We are going to see levels of food insecurity that we have never seen for many years," in 13 of the region's 16 countries, Castro said.

"We have chronic underlying causes that we know very well, and they are basically mostly related to climatic shocks ... drought, floods or big cyclones," Castro said.

She said COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, was an additional emergency that has enormously hurt the livelihoods of many poor people in the region. Lockdowns have made large numbers of people unemployed, increasing food insecurity, she said.

Many farmers, especially women, had been severely affected by COVID-19 and its impact on food production, ActionAid Africa humanitarian adviser Chikondi Chabvuta



Women carry bags of maize during a food aid distribution in Mudzi about 230 kilometres northeast of the capital Harare, Zimbabwe

said.

"Southern Africa has faced impacts of climate change for the past four years non-stop. ... I have witnessed the short-lived hope in people's eyes these past four years when seeds are distributed or exchanged in

the hope for a better yield next season, only to be disappointed by more climate disasters," she said.

"COVID-19 is exposing the existing systematic weaknesses of the regional policies meant to develop resilient food security,"

Chabvuta said. "This includes reliance on imports for agricultural production for food supply."

Zimbabwean farmer Juliet Hove said lack of access to water and the markets were also major problems for small-scale farm-

ers in her country.

According to Hove, COVID-19 restrictions on movements were preventing small-scale farmers from traveling to marketplaces to sell seeds and produce, reducing their ability to earn an income.

The 13 most outrageous Covid-19 myths and misconceptions

By Robert Roy Britt

ONLY a highly politicised, historically deadly pandemic could generate this number of outlandish and sometimes deadly myths, conspiracies, hoaxes and misconceptions.

There are so many false Covid-19 claims floating around - more than 2,000, according to a recent study - that even the sharpest minds can be excused for a little coronavirus confusion amid this great global infodemic, fuelled by hucksters and pranksters and facilitated by social media.

"The stuff that gets shared by people makes people walk away thinking that this is no big deal, that the virus is as trivial, and most people do fine, and for 99 per cent of people it's harmless," says Ashish Jha, MD, a practising internist and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

While some of the fabrications might do little more than make your head spin, others are downright dangerous and collectively they fuel distrust in science, in media and in the governments and institutions that are, or at least should be, trying to protect public health.

Here's a reality check on a dozen or so of the more inaccurate, outrageous, and sometimes dangerous Covid-19 falsehoods.

One: The coronavirus spreads on 5G networks.

This would be fascinating were it true... or even possible! Star Trek fans would recognize the stunning breakthrough as the first instance of biological teleportation. The myth, spread in part by a handful of celebrities, holds that cell towers broadcast Covid-19 over 5G frequencies or that the electromagnetic fields (EMFs) generated by 5G smartphones somehow cause the disease or make it worse. For the record, 5G is nothing more than radio waves at higher frequencies than 4G.

"EMF exposure from 5G devices does not cause Covid-19, nor does it have any effect on the disease process or health outcomes of those who are infected by the new coronavirus," states the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection.

The Mayo Clinic puts it bluntly: "Viruses can't travel on radio waves." (Well, some viruses can, but they're not the biological variety.)

Two: The virus was made in a laboratory

By mid-March, 23 per cent of Americans were convinced Covid-19 was developed intentionally in a laboratory, and another 6 per cent thought it was accidentally made in a lab, a Pew Research Center poll found. The percentage of infectious-disease experts who agree is roughly 0 per cent.

There are variations on this conspiracy theory, as Yasmin Tayag reports in Elemental, including that it's a scheme for population control or that Bill Gates is behind it as a way to boost vaccine sales. Or that either China or the US developed it as a bioweapon.

In fact, the novel coronavirus, like

many viruses before it, originated in animals and hopped to humans. Numerous scientists have analyzed the genome of the virus and come to the same conclusion. A July 28 study in the journal Nature Microbiology confirmed what many others have indicated: The virus came from bats.

Three: It's not that bad.

This is just total nonsense - a product of political efforts to detract from the seriousness of the pandemic or outright denial of facts.

Sure, early on we didn't have a clear picture of the full extent of the ravages of Covid-19. But scientists now say it's about five times as deadly as the flu.

The pandemic has already killed more Americans in a few months than any disease outbreak has in an entire year since 1918 (and no, the death toll is not inflated - in fact, it's thought to be well below the real total). In addition, the notion that only old people suffer is bunk. More than 12,000 Americans under age 55 have died of Covid-19, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Meanwhile, thousands of Americans at various ages are dealing with dozens of crippling long-haul symptoms, ranging from exhaustion to confusion to pain - weeks and months after their supposed recoveries.

Four: The coronavirus is mutating into something more (or less) dangerous.

Yes, the virus has mutated, surprising exactly zero virologists. No it hasn't changed in any way important to our understanding of its seriousness.

"Viruses mutate all the time," says Jha, the Harvard doctor. "Most of them have no clinical biological significance," adding: "I haven't seen any data at least that I'm aware of that compels me to think that the virus has become any more or any less lethal."

A review of the existing research in Science magazine, citing several experts, concludes there is no firm evidence that the mutations have had any effect - positive or negative - on how infectious or deadly the virus is.

Five: Drinking alcohol can protect you from the coronavirus.

Unlike 5G networks, alcohol does have an effect on Covid-19: It raises your risk. "Alcohol use, especially heavy use, weakens the immune system and thus reduces the ability to cope with infectious diseases," the World Health Organisation (WHO) states. And for the record, drinking alcohol-based hand sanitiser won't help, either. In fact, it could kill you straight away - as it has a few folks already.

Six: Ingesting garlic, bleach or hot peppers will kill coronavirus.

Let's take these one by one. Drinking bleach can destroy your organs and kill you. Spraying it on your body will irritate your skin. Neither is effective against any virus that's inside you. Garlic? Save it for the vampires. It's a healthy food, but "there is no evidence from the current outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from the new corona-



A 5G base station in Hefei, Anhui Province of China. Photo: VCG/Getty Images



The pandemic has already killed more Americans in a few months than any disease outbreak has in an entire year since 1918 (and no, the death toll is not inflated - in fact, it's thought to be well below the real total). In addition, the notion that only old people suffer is bunk. More than 12,000 Americans under age 55 have died of Covid-19, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

virus," according to the WHO. Hot peppers? If they're super hot, you might feel the pain, but the coronavirus won't.

Seven: Hydroxychloroquine might work.

Who knows? No matter how many times someone with a big audience says this, it continues to be a fantasy, scientists know. The US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) says "recent results from a large, randomised clinical trial in hospitalised patients" found hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine phosphate (the stuff of fish-tank cleaners that an Arizona man fatally drank) "showed no benefit for decreasing the likelihood of death or speeding recovery". That study was in line with other research, the FDA says. What does it have? A long list of side-effects.

The hydroxychloroquine ruse has, of course, been pitched by the US president. It's also promoted by professional-looking websites riddled with plausible-sounding disinformation about supposed supporting scientific evidence.

"This is an infuriating new frontier in Covid-19 disinformation," says Carl Bergstrom, PhD, a professor of Biology at the University of Washington and author of the new book *Calling Bullshit: The Art of Skepticism in a Data-Driven World*.

Worse, the false claims get picked up by popular media outlets and relayed as factual or possible. "This is already being presented as serious science on Fox News", Bergstrom says of one of the bogus sites.

Eight: Children aren't contagious. First there was the false notion that children didn't catch Covid-19.

As of late May, nearly 10 per cent of American believed that one, according to an Ipsos poll. The Coronavirus in Kids project, which draws on state and federal data and does its own research to find cases not in the official numbers, estimates that about 3 million American children 17 and younger have been infected.

Talk shifted to "Well, yeah, but children don't pass it on." And, lo and behold, they do. Children 10 and older are thought to be as contagious as adults. Younger children can pack a boatload of coronavirus in their snot, and one study estimated they are about half as contagious as adults, though subsequent research has suggested the rate may be lower. Still, there's this myth...

Nine: Children don't get sick with Covid-19.

It's true that children and also young adults seem less likely to become seri-

ously ill or die from the disease, but less risk is clearly not no risk. The CDC data is not thought to paint a complete picture of childhood Covid-19 deaths, given poor reporting by some states and reporting lags, but here are the agency's numbers as of August 22: 17 infants, 12 children ages 1 to 4, 28 children ages 5 to 14.

The Coronavirus in Kids project paints a fuller picture. As of August 27, the project counts 1,240 paediatric intensive care admissions and 118 deaths of children and teens 19 and younger, with only 27 states reporting such data.

Some people are quick to note how low these numbers are, to which others might respond: they are not low if your child is among them. And the picture is changing: The CDC recently said cases among kids are rising - perhaps a reflection of lockdowns being lifted - as is the rate of hospitalisation among children.

We've only begun to experience, let alone analyse, what happens in communities where classrooms open and children are reintroduced into society after being largely locked down since the early days of the pandemic.

Recent data from the American Academy of Paediatrics actually find Covid-19 hospitalisations and deaths are now rising at a faster rate in children and teens than among the general public, The New York Times reports August 31.

Ten: Six feet is the golden rule.

It would be nifty if the coronavirus, when emitted by coughing, sneezing, or just breathing, always fell to the ground within six feet. While it makes really good sense to stay six feet away from other people to reduce the risk of infection, this guideline is rooted in data from the 1930s.

Scientists have since learned that while large respiratory droplets do fall within a few feet, smaller droplets called aerosols can go farther. Scientists and health organisations like the WHO now agree that the coronavirus can become airborne and travel throughout a room. This is why experts say six feet is great, ten feet is better, and neither is fully effective in crowded rooms with poor ventilation.

Eleven: Masks don't help.

Well, um, how do we say this? Masks work. Admittedly, public health officials messed up the messaging on this big time. But the basic science is settled: Properly worn, masks provide some protection to the wearer, and they are even more effective at protecting others. While not a silver bullet (see the six-foot rule above), masks are a key tactic in layers of mitigation needed to get the

pandemic under control.

Twelve: Neck gaiters may actually spread the virus.

If you heard that neck gaiters are worse than nothing, that's wrong, too. Unfortunately, several media outlets misinterpreted a recent study and fuelled this misconception. Research shows that any cloth face covering is better than nothing at reducing the amount of coronavirus an infected person releases.

And no, wearing a mask "does not lead to carbon dioxide intoxication or oxygen deficiency," WHO says. We know this from the millions of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals who wear them constantly.

Thirteen: Herd immunity can end the pandemic.

There could be some truth to this one, but before you follow the herd of disingenuous proponents of the idea, you might want to know the "ifs" and "buts".

If a successful vaccine is developed, and most people get the vaccine, the virus finds fewer people to infect and eventually goes sub-pandemic. Yet, we don't know for sure that a safe and successful vaccine will emerge, nor when, nor just how effective it will be. But herd immunity can also occur naturally. If no vaccine is developed, and in the absence of serious prevention efforts, the idea is that enough people would catch the coronavirus, creating sufficient population-level immunity to significantly slow or stop the spread. But we don't yet know how much immunity develops from a Covid-19 infection - or how long it lasts. Regardless, at least 40 to 50 per cent of people would have to develop immunity for the herd effect to work, experts say, maybe as many as 70 per cent - it depends on just how effective the immunity actually is.

But that level of natural immunity would result in at least 1 million US deaths. That's a "but" with six zeroes.

Still, natural herd immunity - letting the virus spread rapidly while letting the nation get back to business as usual - is reportedly being promoted to the president by Scott Atlas, who joined the White House recently as a pandemic adviser, according to the Washington Post.

Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, reacted on Twitter to the news, saying: "If herd immunity through natural infection is even achievable, it will result in thousands - if not millions - more deaths."

A piece originally run in Elemental, a Medium publication about health and wellness.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 134 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

- 3 letters LOP, KEY, ADE
- 4 letters LOUT, DOOM, OOPS, MAID, STOP EYES, KAKA, HARE, GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, DREAD, OTAKU STRIPE, YIELDS, SPRINT, INDIAN, EDITOR
- 5 letters TUESDAY, ENDURED, EMIRATE, ENAMOUR
- 6 letters ALLOTTED
- 7 letters TUG OF LOVE

WORD-FIT

M O U N T A I N S D E V I L S R

E T I L N H E A O L O M E

D R O U G H T A V E N I U R E T

L A I C I Z E E L E A D E R S I

E A N E N E T O L L E A S E L

A S S A L H A I P R I M A L E S

M U O E I F R E S H C E

U R E S T R I C T A I W H E A T

S E E U O T M I D D L E A

E C E N T R A L E E T H E M E

- CLUES: Across**
- 1 recent times
 - 6 used to express good wishes in meeting
 - 7 Qatar's Capital
 - 8 famous for majorelle Garden
 - 9 manage a living with difficulty
 - 10 lacking interest
 - 11 the longest continental mountain range in the World
 - 12 letters and parcels sent by post in addition
 - 14 stiff blisttle growing from the ear of barley or rye
 - 19 Ioloian
 - 21 length of a time a person existed
 - 23 confess openly
 - 24 pass 26. argon (symbol)
 - 27 mouse
 - 28.a diazo copying
- Down:**
- 1 largest Port in Kenya
 - 2 defied
 - 3 bring or recall to the conscious mind
 - 4 a small space setback in a wall
 - 5 monetary unit of Tanzania
 - 7 Tanzania's Capital
 - 13 to or at a distance
 - 15 process digestive products
 - 16 urge / goad into doing something
 - 17 ahead
 - 20 hereditary classes of Hindu society
 - 22 escape, avoid
 - 25 give money due for work

BUSINESS

RELIEF

Tigo introduces rollover airtime service to enable use of expired packages

By Guardian Reporter

CUSTOMERS of Tigo Tanzania Limited can now roll over their unused airtime packages which includes voice, text messages and data as to avoid losing their credits through expiry.

The rollover service dubbed 'Chukua Kilicho Chako' was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday with the telco arguing that it's the only operator to guarantee subscribers use of their unused airtime package upon expiry of time limited bundles.

Speaking during the launch, Tigo's Data Product Manager, Ndevonaeli Eliakimu said the digital lifestyle company has listened and addressed concerns raised by customers over inability to reuse their unused packages after its validity period expires.

"This new service will give customers the flexibility and option to extend the validity date of their packages, by one,

seven or thirty days at a time without losing it," Eliakimu said adding that the new innovative product means that customers will no longer have to worry about the inconvenience of the validity period of their packages.

"This further demonstrates our efforts in being the network that gives more value to our customers while they experience our innovative services. Now that packages can be used at the customer's discretion this is a win for the local consumer and hopefully will lead to further improvements on how people communicate in the country," he added.

Under the new arrangement, Tigo subscribers will get notified when their bundle is about to expire hence will be prompted to roll over so that they can continue to benefit from their voice, SMS and data packages.

With its operations commencing in the country in 195, Tigo Tanzania is one of the domestic market's leading



Tigo Tanzania's communications manager, Woinde Shisael, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of 'Chukua Kilicho Chako' product. The service allows subscribers to rollover their unspent airtime in expired bundles. Left is the telco's data product manager, Ndevonaeli Eliakimu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

telecommunications company with the second largest number of customers. Through its distinctive and diverse product portfolio in voice, SMS, high-

speed internet and mobile financial services, Tigo has pioneered digital innovations such as the first smartphone in Kiswahili, free Facebook in Kiswahili,

TigoPesa application, Tigo Mobile application as well as the first East African cross-border mobile money transfer with currency conversion.

DIGITIZATION

Regional electronic cargo tracking system launched

KIGALI

THE launch of a regional electronic cargo and driver tracking system which had been slated to take place mid last month and later postponed was launched virtually yesterday.

It is one of the measures introduced by the East African Community to prevent further spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19) infections in the region. The virtual rollout of the East Africa Community Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System (RECDTS) was broadcast live from the Malaba-Malaba border crossing point between Uganda and Kenya and the Mirama Hills-Kagitumba border crossing point between Uganda and Rwanda.

During the event, officials linked and transmitted a real-time demonstration of driver registration and verification of EAC digital certificate at the borders. The system will issue jointly recognised EAC Covid-19 digital certificates, which will improve efficiency in regional freight transport,

by avoiding multi testing for drivers at all points of entry. Despite the borders being closed to human traffic in most regional countries, cargo transport has remained in operation, but drivers are subjected to multiple tests at borders which leads to delays.

The EAC developed the App with funding from the European Union, Global Affairs Canada, Danida, Finland, Netherlands and the United Kingdom through TradeMark East Africa and in accordance with the mandate given by a joint ministerial meeting of EAC ministers responsible for Health and EAC Affairs. The App provides a surveillance system to monitor the health of long-distance truck crew members and enable contact tracing.

It allows partner states to electronically share truck drivers' Covid-19 test results; therefore, minimising the need for multiple Covid-19 tests in a single trip. According to a joint EAC-TMEA statement, the reliance on manual certificates and delayed test results at the borders has been



EAC officials and business representatives during the virtual launch of Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System at Malaba-Malaba border post yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer

reported as one of the main reasons for costly long delays at border points.

"It is expected that RECDTS will contribute to protecting lives, support health-related protocols and facilitate safe trade," reads the statement. As noted, the electronic surveillance system will be in use in all partner states and will eventually be extended to EAC neighbouring countries, particularly the DR Congo.



The EAC developed the App with funding from the European Union, Global Affairs Canada, Danida, Finland, Netherlands and the United Kingdom through TradeMark East Africa and in accordance with the mandate given by a joint ministerial meeting of EAC ministers

CHANGEOVER

Mark Rayner resigns as CEO of MultiChoice South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

In a surprising development, MultiChoice South Africa CEO Mark Rayner (pictured) has resigned after almost 14 years with the pay-television broadcaster.

Rayner told TechCentral via text message on Monday evening that he has no immediate career plans. He declined to comment further about the reasons for his resignation.

"It is with great regret that today we announced the departure of Mark Rayner from MultiChoice, effective 30 November 2020. Having been part of the MultiChoice family for the past 14 years, leading in various parts of the group, Mark has now decided to further his journey outside the group," MultiChoice spokesman Maaga said in an e-mailed response to a text message.

"Over the years, Mark has been

a key part of driving growth, championing product innovation and pushing customer focus. We wish him well in the future. An announcement on Mark's successor will be made in the near future."

Rayner joined MultiChoice in March 2007 as chief financial officer of DStv Mobile before being promoted to CEO of the division 18 months later.

He served as MultiChoice

South Africa's chief operating officer from 2013 to 2016 before taking the CEO role, according to his profile on LinkedIn.

His resignation comes just weeks after MultiChoice took the wraps off some of its biggest product innovations in years, including plans to launch a new 4K-resolution, Internet-connected PVR decoder and a streaming version of DStv that no longer requires a satellite dish.



SCRUTINY

Tesla joins cobalt group supporting DR Congo artisanal miners

KINSHASA

TESLA is backing a new initiative to support informal cobalt miners in the Democratic Republic of Congo as carmakers and miners seek to reassure customers about ethically mined supplies of the battery metal.

The company joined the fledgling Fair Cobalt Alliance, according to an updated list of members on the group's website. The FCA aims to end the use of child labour at mining sites and improve working conditions in Congo. It's also backed by miner and trader Glencore Plc and major Chinese

cobalt refiner Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Co.

Almost three-quarters of the world's cobalt comes from Congo and demand is forecast to surge in the coming years. However, artisanal cobalt, produced by small-scale miners who often dig by hand, has become a divisive is-

sue. Groups such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have said that child labour and human-rights abuses are common at such sites and production from the country's artisanal mines often gets mixed in with industrial output. Before joining the group,

Glencore had long argued that customers were better served by buying from its mines, where safety and environmental standards were followed.

Still, the informal industry creates tens of thousands of jobs, exploiting small deposits that would be uneconomical for

large miners, and groups such as the OECD have said companies should engage with the sector to encourage improvements.

Tesla earlier this year struck a deal with Glencore to buy cobalt from its Congo mines.

The company has also been seeking to reduce its reliance on

the metal – while there's enough cobalt supply for now, demand is expected to surge in the coming years as Tesla expands in China and Europe and Volkswagen AG to BMW AG roll out fleets of electric vehicles. Tesla did not respond to an email seeking comment.

STABILITY

Inflation still in downward trend driven by cereals

By Francis Kajubi

INFLATION continued its downward trend from 3.7 percent in July 2019 to 3.2 percent this year thanks to falling staple food prices including maize and rice.

Bank of Tanzania said in its Monthly Economic Review for August that despite surges in prices of most food stuffs, the two cereals which dominate Tanzanians dining tables had driven inflation down.

"Wholesale prices for a 100 kilograms bag of maize and rice slightly went down when com-

pared to last year. The development was a result of commencement of the harvest season," the Central Bank said in its report which also noted that the trend has been sustained for the past three years.

"Maize was sold at 58,362/- in July this year down from 61,341/- last year while price of rice dropped to 148,992/- from 162,418/-," the report added. The prices are for a package of 100kgs bags.

The report stated that prices for other major food commodities such as beans, sorghum,

round potatoes and finger millet increased during the period compared to prices of maize and rice. "A 100kgs bag of beans was sold at 192,772/- up from the last year's 160,044/-," the report said.

The BoT report further noted that sorghum was sold at a high of 99,598/- per 100kgs bag compared to 79,283/- last year while round potatoes peaked 78,222/- per 100kgs sack from 72,507/- during a corresponding period last year. Finger millet slightly rose to 133,188/- from 131,819/-.

The report also defended stocks of food stuffs being held at



Cereals stocked inside an NFRA warehouse in Makambako, Iringa Region. File photo

National Food Reserve Agency silos which increased substantially to 90,255 metric tons at the end of July 2020 from 67,410 tons of July last year with 52,724.7 tons secured in June.

"The food stocks comprised of maize grain, paddy rice and sorghum increased on account of increased purchasing of food, consistent with seasonal harvests across the country," the BoT re-

port added. During July 2020, NFRA purchased 32,676.7 tons of maize, 4,088.4 tons of paddy rice and 829.5 tons of sorghum with 64.3 tons of maize sold to Tanzania Prisons.

COMPETITION

Shoprite stopping Kenya expansion, all ready retreat from the country

NAIROBI

SHOPRITE said yesterday it expected to close or dispose of its remaining two stores in Kenya in the year ahead, leaving the East African country after opening its first store there more than two years ago.

The supermarket chain has been reviewing its long-term options in Africa as currency devaluations, supply issues and low consumer spending in Angola, Nigeria and Zambia have weighed on earnings. "Kenya has continued to underperform relative to our return requirements," the retailer said, adding its decision to leave had been confirmed by the economic impact of Covid-19.

Shoprite opened its first supermarket in Kenya at Westgate Mall, Nairobi, in December 2018, hoping to take advantage of disarray in Kenya's grocery sector after the collapse of Uchumi Supermarkets and Nakumatt, two of the country's top three retailers.

The decision to leave comes a month after Shoprite said it was considering reducing or selling all of its stake in its Nigerian subsidiary. Shoprite, with more than 2,300 stores across Africa, reported a 6.4% rise in sales for the year ended June 28, with like-for-like sales up by 4.4% as customers spent more on groceries at its discount Usave and mid-to-upper end Checkers stores.

Diluted headline earnings per share (HEPS), the main profit measure used in South Africa, from continuing operations rose to 765.8 cents against a restated figure of 746.9 cents a year earlier. Shoprite declared a final dividend of 227 cents per share.

DIVESTITURE

Ethiopia to sell 5% stake of state-run firm to the public

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA plans to sell a 5% stake in its state-run telecommunications firm to its citizens as part of measures to break up the monopoly, state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting said on Monday, quoting Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

The sale of the stakes is part of Ethiopia's plans to open up one of the world's last closed telecom markets in the nation of around 110 million people. Fana said the government will retain a 55% stake in Ethio Telecom, with the remainder going to international companies.

In June, the telecoms regulator said it had received 12 bids for the two telecoms licences the government plans to award to multinational companies. South Africa's MTN Group and Vodacom Group are among the bidders. The regulator has not given a deadline for when it will award the licences.

FISCAL-ACTION

Egypt's cost of borrowing falls as inflation is brought under control

CAIRO

DECLINING inflation and a "credible monetary policy" have allowed Egypt's central bank to continue to reduce interest rates and the domestic cost of its borrowing, Moody's said.

The lower borrowing costs, a diversified economy and relatively low foreign currency debt contributed to the country's stable outlook, the rating agency said in its annual credit analysis on Egypt on Wednesday. It has a "B2" sovereign rating on the North African country.

"This credit outlook reflects the resilience of Egypt's credit profile against financing shocks despite high exposure, a positive for its credit profile. This is driven by its effective and credible government policies," Elisa Parisi-Capone, vice president and senior analyst at Moody's, said. "A lengthening track record of credible and effective fiscal, economic and debt management would also reflect positively on Egypt's credit profile."

Egypt's main credit weakness remains its very large government financing requirement of 30 per cent to 40 per cent of gross domestic product annually, with high roll-over rates that potentially expose the economy to tightening domestic or external financing conditions, Moody's said.

However, its limited exposure to foreign currency liabilities and its ample foreign exchange reserves, which can cover maturing external liabilities for the next three years, provide it with some protection from external shocks. The International Monetary Fund approved a request from Egypt in May for emergency financial assistance to help cope with the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The \$2.77 billion borrowed through a Rapid Financing Instrument was intended to address pressing financial needs in the most affected sectors, including health care, and to support vulnerable groups. The fund also approved a new 12-month \$5.2bn loan in June to help Egypt deal with pandemic-related challenges and finance its budget deficit and balance of payments shortfalls.

As with other countries, the pandemic has af-



Egypt's Central Bank governor,

ected the livelihoods of Egyptians and led to a deterioration in economic conditions. The IMF expects economic growth to "slow down considerably" in 2020 to 2021 as the tourism sector and domestic activity weaken, it said in a report on Tuesday.

"The external accounts are expected to deterio-

rate from portfolio outflows and the shock to tourism and remittances, resulting in an urgent balance of payments need," the fund said. Moody's said a "new bout of capital outflows which significantly erode the central bank's exchange reserves and threaten external stability" could lead to a ratings downgrade.

On the other hand, further improvements in debt affordability and lower gross financing needs would result in a sovereign credit rating upgrade, the rating agency said. Securing jobs for people entering the labour market remains a long-term social challenge, despite a stronger employment market, the agency said.

CYBERCRIME

CMA declines out-of-court deal with illegal online forex firm

NAIROBI

AN online currency trading company accused of operating illegally and defrauding Kenyans of millions of shillings tried to cut a deal with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to avoid prosecution.

Interweb Global Fortune Limited operated from the 14th floor of View Park towers in Nairobi before they were shut down after a crackdown. CMA, in court documents, said it rejected Interweb Global's bid to withdraw the criminal charge and settle the licence hitch out of court.

The firm committed to refund millions of shillings received from forex investors and stop tapping new clients until it obtained regulatory licence as a condition to CMA agreeing to the out-of-court settlement.

CMA turned down the offer on grounds that it would set a bad precedent and compromise a criminal investigation where there were complainants. "The petitioners have written to CMA acknowledging that

they were trading illegally and were offering to reimburse monies to investors," CMA lawyer Githendu Timothy said.

After failing to cut a deal, the company has now filed a petition against CMA and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) claiming harassment. In the petition it points out that the authorities searched and seized its servers.

The firm's boss Manases Kuria said he had been arrested and detained at Central, Nairobi Area, Kilimani, and Railway police stations and at the DCI headquarters on Kiambu Road in the guise of carrying out separate investigations about the same matter already in court. But CMA said it had not conducted a search and seizure operation on the premises and that the offices were closed before the regulator visited the premises for investigations.

It also denied freezing the company's bank accounts and claimed ignorance of the arrests and harassment of Mr Kuria stating that he had only



Interweb Global Fortune boss Manases Kuria in court in October 2019.

been arrested twice and was charged and allowed bail within 24 hours.

Mr Githendu asked the court not to grant stay orders to the company

as it was unlawfully holding funds illegally obtained from the investing public.

In May last year after media re-

ports on the operations of the company CMA launched an undercover operation that established Interweb Global Fortunes was collecting money from the public, offering a 20 percent monthly return on forex trading.

During the covert operation, the CMA sleuth said he saw several people with cheques and investment contracts issued by the company.

This led to the conclusion that the company had collected large sums of money from the public on pretence they were conducting forex trading yet they did not have a licence to conduct the regulated business.

Kenya has had a history of losing money to online forex traders who disappear without a trace. Online forex trading firm VIP Portal owned by Alfred Wangai and his wife Mercy Nkatha started out in Limuru in 2013 and within one year, it had received over Sh1 billion from people looking to improve their fortunes.

The couple was arraigned in 2014 and has since been trying to con-

vince judges to drop the charges. Last year they promised to refund investors but to date, few have been paid.

Two weeks ago CMA, Central Bank of Kenya, Insurance Regulatory Authority, Retirement Benefits Authority, Sacco Societies Regulations Authority and State Department of Cooperatives issued a joint statement warning Kenyans against falling prey to unlicensed firms offering forex trade services.



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WORLD

US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN:

Biden and Trump go on the offensive

LANCASTER / WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden took rhetorical swipes at each other on Monday as the presidential campaign entered its traditional homestretch on the US Labor Day holiday.

Trump described Biden, whom he trails in national polls, as a threat to the economy and “stupid,” while Biden took aim at Trump’s reported disparaging of fallen troops.

At a White House news conference, Trump said: “Biden and his very liberal running mate (Kamala Harris), the most liberal person in Congress by the way - is not a competent person in my opinion, would destroy this country and would destroy this economy.”

He also called Biden “stupid.” Trump has frequently referred to the former vice president as “Sleepy Joe.”

Trump pushed back again against a report in *The Atlantic* that he had referred to fallen US soldiers as “suckers” and “losers,” calling it “a hoax.” The story has dominated news coverage for days and threatens Trump’s

support among veterans and military members, a key voting bloc.

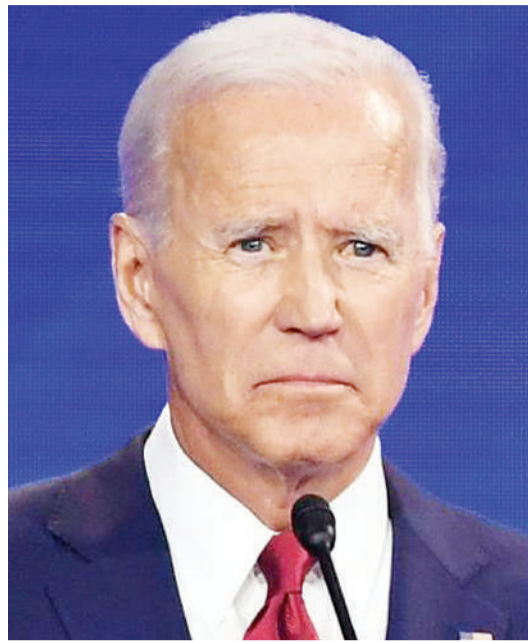
“There’s nobody that has more respect for not only our military, but for people that gave their lives in the military,” Trump said.

Biden cited the reported remarks while campaigning in the electoral battleground state of Pennsylvania.

Referring to his son Beau Biden, who served in Iraq as a member of the Delaware National Guard and died of brain cancer in 2015, he said: “Beau was wasn’t a loser or a sucker. ... He served with heroes.”

Biden’s visit to Pennsylvania on Monday kicked off a flurry of travel to battleground states this week by both Biden and Trump as some opinion polls show the race tightening with less than 60 days to go until the Nov 3 election.

With the coronavirus pandemic and civil unrest over racism and police brutality commanding attention in recent months, Biden is seeking to maintain his edge by painting the Republican president as an ineffectual leader who thrives on chaos and has left the



Joe Biden



US President Donald Trump

working class behind.

Trump has struggled to change the contours of the campaign despite highly charged rhetoric on racial polarization and “law and order” intended to motivate his base and draw new supporters in suburban parts of key swing states, such as Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Labour endorsements

Biden met with union leaders in Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania capital, and spoke virtually with the leader of the largest federation of US labor unions, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. He also took questions from union workers and met earlier in the day with union members who served in the US military.

Biden’s campaign also announced the endorsements of three unions: the Laborers’ International Union of North America, the International Union of Elevator Constructors and the National Federation of Federal Employees.

Biden promised to be the “strongest labor president” in the history of the country, vowing to hold executives legally accountable if they interfere with union organizing, and to raise the minimum wage and strengthen the National La-

bor Relations Board.

“Folks have figured out that it’s not the financial wizards of Wall Street that make this country run. It’s you, the essential workers,” Biden said during the virtual event with Trumka.

Trump said that if Biden were elected, the Democrat would mandate another economic shutdown to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

“Biden’s plan for the China virus is to shut down the entire US economy,” Trump said. “He’d be laying off tens of millions of workers and causing countless deaths from suicide, substance abuse, depression, heart disease and other very serious illnesses.”

Trump plans to visit North Carolina, Florida, Michigan and Pennsylvania later in the week, all considered crucial to both candidates’ chances of victory.

Polls in Pennsylvania, which Trump won narrowly in 2016, have consistently put Biden in the lead, but averages show that margin narrowing to roughly 4 to 5 percentage points, down from about 8 points in late June. Biden is scheduled to be back in Pennsylvania on Friday.

Agencies

China proposes global data security initiative

CHINA is proposing a global data security initiative that opposes undermining key infrastructure or data theft by using information technology and forcing firms to store data generated overseas in their home country, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday at an international symposium named “Seizing Digital Opportunities for Cooperation and Development”

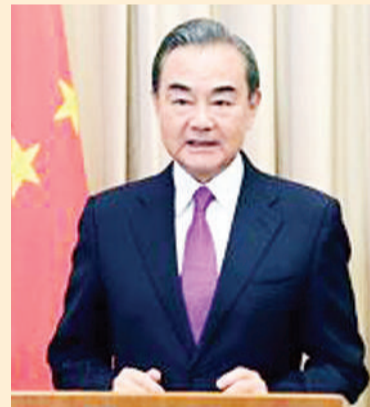
Wang (pictured) said the initiative also calls for tech firms not to create backdoors in their services or products to illegally obtain data, and calls for participants not to engage in large-scale surveillance of other countries or illegally acquire information of foreign citizens by using information technology.

The initiative comes a month

after the U.S. said it was purging “untrusted” Chinese apps under a program dubbed “Clean Network.”

The U.S. has blocked U.S. exports to Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd., and also forced third countries to stop selling chips to Huawei that have used U.S. technologies. It also plans to ban TikTok and Tencent in the U.S. citing concerns over national security and the collection of personal data, a claim both companies have rejected.

Wang stated that though countries varied in their national conditions and development stage of internet, they need to intensify pragmatic cooperation, build up mutual trust and deepen cooperation with one another rather than pursuing unilateralism in the name of national security.



Wang believes that to effectively address the risks and challenges to data security, countries should stick to several principles, including multilateralism, fairness and justice.

“Global data security rules that reflect the wishes of all countries and respect the interests of all parties should be reached on the

basis of universal participation by all parties,” Wang said.

“Some individual countries are aggressively pursuing unilateralism, throwing dirty water on other countries under the pretext of ‘cleanliness,’ and conducting global hunts on leading companies of other countries under the pretext of security. This is naked bullying and should be opposed and rejected.”

Wang advocated that protecting digital security should be based on facts and the law, avoiding the politicization of security issues, double standards and slandering of others, which seriously disrupt global digital cooperation and development.

In regard to cyber security in China, Wang stressed that “the Chinese government has acted in strict compliance with data secu-

riety principles. We have not and will not ask Chinese companies to transfer data overseas to the government in breach of other countries’ laws.”

He added that there are over 900 million netizens in China and the country has clear legal provisions to protect the lawful rights and interests of citizens and organizations, including data security and personal information.

The symposium was held by the China Internet Governance Forum. Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Kaipovich Otorbayev and UN Deputy Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin delivered speeches at the meeting.

CGTN

NSA whistleblower Snowden applies for extending Russian residence permit

MOSCOW

FORMER National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden has applied to extend his Russian residence permit for another three years, his lawyer Anatoly Kucherena told an online conference at TASS yesterday.

Earlier, Kucherena said that Snowden’s residence permit was due to expire on April 30, 2020 but had been automatically extended until June 15, 2020 amid the coronavirus lockdowns.

“Now, regarding Edward Snowden and the extension of his residence permit: Snowden is a law-abiding person, and he resides on the territory of Russia. When the coronavirus lockdowns were imposed, he stayed at home, just like everybody else, observing the self-isolation regime.

As soon as the quarantine was over, Edward and I filed documents to have his residence permit extended,” Kucherena said, adding that the application was not filed in due time because of the coronavirus lockdowns.



At the same time, he said he hopes his client will receive a positive decision on his application. In 2013, Snowden leaked information on the methods of electronic surveillance by US intelligence services, including illegally wiretapping foreign leaders.

Fleeing from prosecution, Snowden sent requests for asylum to some countries, including Russia. On August 1, 2014, he received a Russian residence permit valid for three years, which was later extended for another three years.

In the United States, Snowden is charged with two counts of violating the Espionage Act. He may face up to ten years in prison on each of the counts.

The US authorities have repeatedly stated that they consider Snowden a traitor who caused grave damage to national security.

Agencies

KHASHOGGI MURDER:

Saudi Arabia jails 8, fiancée decries trial

RIYADH / BEIRUT



A Saudi Arabian court on Monday jailed eight people for between seven and 20 years for the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, state media reported, four months after his family forgave his killers and enabled death sentences to be set aside.

The trial was criticised by a UN official and human rights campaigners who said the masterminds of the murder remained free.

Khashoggi (pictured), a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was last seen at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2, 2018, where he had gone to obtain documents for his impending wedding. His body was reportedly dismembered and removed from the building and his remains have not been found.

The murder caused a global uproar and tarnished the reformist image of Prince Mohammed, the kingdom’s de facto ruler and son of King Salman.

State media reported that five people were handed 20-year prison sentences, one person was sentenced to 10 years and two people received seven-year sentences for the killing. None of the defendants was named.

After the ruling, Khashoggi’s fiancée said the eight jailed were not the only ones responsible for the murder.

“The Saudi authorities are closing the case without the world knowing the truth of who is responsible for Jamal’s murder,” Hatice Cengiz wrote in a statement. “Who planned it, who ordered it, where is his body?”

In December, the court sentenced five people to death and three to jail, saying the killing was not premeditated but carried out on “the spur of the moment.”

Criticism from abroad

Some Western governments, as well as the CIA, had said previously they believed Prince Mohammed had ordered the killing.

Saudi officials denied he played a role, although the prince in September 2019 indicated some personal accountability, saying that “it happened under my watch”.

In May, the family of the slain journalist said it forgave his murderers, paving the way for a reprieve for the five defendants sentenced to death.

In Saudi Arabia, which lacks a codified legal system and follows Islamic law, forgiveness from a victim’s family in such cases can allow for a formal pardon and a stay of execution.

A US State Department official said Washington had seen reports of the sentencing and was “closely monitoring Saudi legal processes” in the case. “We call on Saudi authorities to ensure that all involved in Khashoggi’s killing, which King Salman rightly labeled a ‘heinous crime,’ are held accountable,” the official said on condition of anonymity.

Many Saudis hailed Monday’s ruling in comments on Twitter, a platform favoured by pro-government supporters. Some said the ruling ended one of the most difficult political cases the kingdom has faced. Others said the ruling made Saudi Arabia the “land of justice”, a “country where rights are never lost.”

Agencies

Japan’s Suga says virus will take priority in snap poll decision

TOKYO



AS Japan’s ruling party formally kicked off its leadership race yesterday, frontrunner and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said that preventing the spread of the coronavirus should take priority in any decision to call a snap election.

Suga (pictured), a favorite to succeed incumbent Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is stepping down due to poor health, also stressed that the biggest job for the new prime minister will be to revive the coronavirus-ravaged economy.

“Thinking about the dissolution of parliament and a general election, of course, we have to prioritize the coronavirus infection situation,” Suga said at a news conference on Tuesday.

“What all of our people are expecting is to see the coronavirus infection contained as soon as possible so they can feel safe and their daily lives return to normal.”

Suga is widely expected to win the Liberal Democratic Party’s (LDP) leadership election on Sept 14, a date set after Abe’s decision to step down last month due to a flareup of his chronic intestinal illness.

Agencies

Hong Kong launches massive COVID-19 screening programme

A MASSIVE screening program was launched in Hong Kong Tuesday to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and restore the normal lives of residents.

The Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP), under huge support from the Chinese central government, offers free COVID-19 testing for citizens at a total of 141 testing centers.

It is reported that as of the evening of Sept 1, over 650,000 had finished preregistration for the program, and 82,000 had been tested.

One of the testing centers is located at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium. According to the chief of

the center, all chairs in the center’s waiting area are 2 meters apart from each other, and the waiting area is also separated from the testing area by alert tapes.

Rooms are separated in the testing area, and citizens must follow the one-way directing signs on the floor during the whole process of testing to avoid cross infection, the chief told *People’s Daily*, adding that all facilities that citizens might touch are disinfected regularly by staff members.

The center received the first batch of citizens who had preregistered at 8:00 am on Sept. 1. The citizens entered the stadium after

showing their IDs and had their temperatures measured.

Tung Chee-hwa, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, also took the test on Tuesday morning at the testing center at the Hong Kong City Hall. He called on citizens to offer mutual help and jointly combat the virus. He also urged more people to participate in the program for the benefit of Hong Kong.

Thanks to the support of the central government, Hong Kong can now carry out universal community testing, said Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Admin-

istrative Region (HKSAR) Carrie Lam when receiving test at a testing center in Hong Kong’s Central Government Offices CGO with other officials on Sept. 1.

The massive testing helps epidemic response and is beneficial for the society, Lam said, adding that it will also help Hong Kong achieve an early victory over the virus, restore economic activities, and return normal lives to Hong Kong citizens.

On the same day, Gabriel M Leung, dean of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine under the University of Hong Kong, as well as respiratory medicine professor

David Hui S. C. with the Chinese University of Hong Kong went to a testing center in Sha Tin District and sampled each other.

Hui introduced that medical workers will take samples of the citizens at an anterior part of their nasal cavity or throat, which not only improves the testing accuracy, but also lowers their discomfort.

Faster tracking and more thorough testing will make it quicker to spot silent infections, said Leung, who believes the UCTP is of huge significance. He hopes regular testing can be carried out for high-risk groups after the massive screening

program. At present, UCTP advertisements are seen everywhere in Hong Kong. Social organizations also put up posters and set up stands on the streets to help citizens register for the program.

A woman surnamed Huang who participated in the program said the testing not only assures the testees, but also helps the entire society.

“The UCTP has created a better condition for the phased resumption of school to be started in late September,” said Kevin Yeung Yun-hung, the HKSAR’s Secretary of Education. The education industry might make the testing a

regular activity in the future as it helps cut social spread of the virus and control the epidemic, he added.

Spokesperson of Hong Kong Hospital Authority noted that the program dovetails with the epidemic control policy of “early identification, early isolation and early treatment,” and will help identify and eliminate the invisible transmission link in the community. By managing the epidemic, pressure of public hospitals can be alleviated and normal operation can be resumed as soon as possible, the spokesperson added.

People’s Daily

Xi presents medals to role models in China's COVID-19 fight

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday presented medals to recipients of the Medal of the Republic and the national honorary title for their outstanding contributions to the country's fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.

The meeting started with all participants rising to sing the national anthem. The participants then observed a moment of silence for every life lost due to COVID-19.

Renowned respiratory disease expert Zhong Nanshan received the Medal of the Republic, the highest state honor.

The national honorary title, "the People's Hero," was conferred on three other outstanding medical professionals:

- Zhang Boli, a traditional Chinese medicine expert who presided over the research of the COVID-19 treatment scheme combining traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine;

- Zhang Dingyu, head of Wuhan's designated coronavirus-treating Jinyintan Hospital;
- Chen Wei, a military medical scientist who made major achievements in COVID-19-related basic research and development of vaccine and protective medicine.

"I would like to sincerely thank the Party and the state for granting this honor to us four medical workers," Zhong said at the meeting. "This represents the full acknowledgement of the healthcare professionals' work by the Party and the state."

Zhong said there should be no relaxation in epidemic response despite the initial victory in China's COVID-19 fight, and pledged to cooperate with colleagues around the country and the world to continue working on tracing virus sources, blocking transmission routes, and developing fast diagnosis, medicines and vaccines.

Xi signed a presidential order on Aug 11 awarding the four persons af-



In this screen grab from CGTN, Chinese President Xi Jinping (center) poses with Medal of the Republic recipient China's top respiratory expert Zhong Nanshan (2nd right), and recipients of medals for the national honorary title, "the People's Hero," to Zhang Boli (2nd left), Zhang Dingyu (1st right) and Chen Wei yesterday at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. (PHOTO / CGTN)

ter the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress voted to adopt a decision to confer the national medal and honorary title on the four renowned specialists.

In addition, 1,499 individuals, 500 groups, 186 CPC members and 150 primary-level Party organizations were commended for their roles in fighting the epidemic. Another 14 Party members were posthumously awarded.

Xi and other Chinese leaders met with the role models and had a group photo taken with them.

Supporting WHO in virus fight

In the meeting, Xi also stressed that China will continue to support the World Health Organization in playing a leading role in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

China will continue to support the World Health Organization in playing a leading role in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Xi said, stressing that no efforts will be spared to strive for full victory in the fight against COVID-19.

Pointing out that unity and cooperation are the right choices for the international community in the face of a major crisis, Xi said China's battle against COVID-19 has demonstrated the power of core socialist values and fine traditional Chinese culture, which provides great motivation and helps build consensus as well as pool resources.

Xinhua



First batch of Sputnik V vaccine for civilian circulation produced in Russia

MOSCOW

THE first batch of the vaccine against COVID-19 known as Sputnik V was produced in Russia for civilian circulation. The supplies of the medication to the Russian regions are expected soon, the Health Ministry told reporters.

"The first batch of the vaccine for preventing the novel coronavirus infection, Gam-COVID-Vac (Sputnik V) developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry passed the required quality tests in the laboratories of Roszdravnadzor (the Federal Service for Surveillance in Healthcare) and was produced for civilian circulation. In the near future the supplies of the first batches of the vaccine to the regions are expected," the ministry said.

Earlier Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko explained that civilian production at this stage meant vaccination of citizens from the risk groups, namely teachers and doctors, which will be carried out simultaneously with post-registration clinical trials.

On August 11, Russia became the first country across the globe to register a vaccine against the coronavirus infection, named Sputnik V. The vaccine underwent clinical trials in June-July.

The vaccine was developed by the Russian Health Ministry's Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology. It is based on a well-known platform, which was used of creating a range of other vaccines.

On August 15, the Health Ministry announced the launch of the vaccine production. **Agencies**

Africans called on to hand over illegal guns in amnesty

NAIROBI

AFRICANS are being urged to hand in illegal guns during a month-long amnesty now underway.

The African Union Commission has designated September as Africa Amnesty Month, an initiative that complements the African Union's Silencing the Guns program, which aims to end conflict on the continent by the end of this year.

The plan was declared during the 29th summit of the AU held in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, in July 2017.

The efforts are aimed at encouraging citizens to help national governments reduce the illicit flow of weapons between countries.

To strengthen ties between com-



Somali security force personnel walk near the wreckage of a burning vehicle at the site of a car bomb explosion near the building of the Interior Ministry in Mogadishu on July 7, 2018. File photo

munities and law enforcement, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, with the African Union Commission, is supporting African

security, said in a statement that the African Union Peace and Security Commission, in partnership with Small Arms Survey, had undertaken a mapping study on illicit small arms flows.

The study put the number of civilian-held weapons in Africa at 40 million in 2017, Chergui said.

"This includes private individuals, registered businesses such as private security companies, and nonstate armed groups," he said.

"This is as opposed to the estimate of the continent's armed forces and law enforcement agencies that hold less than 11 million arms."

He urged governments to redouble their efforts to address the challenge, which he called a threat to peace, governance and development.

"This is a cause for concern for all of us. We need to ask ourselves how many of these unregistered weapons have been collected, whether within the framework of the Amnesty Month, or through other national disarmament programs," Chergui said.

He stressed that the possession of illegal weapons by nonstate individuals and groups contributes to the armed violence that plagues Africa and its people.

Removing these weapons from circulation is central to efforts to realize peace on the continent, Chergui added. In a statement on Wednesday, the United Nations said the success of the month-long campaign requires all parts of society to come together. **Agencies**

Guiyang digs into big data, picks up speed in smart city construction

GUIYANG, Southwest China's Guizhou Province, is tapping into big data and making it a powerful driver for digital economy and high-quality social and economic development in a new round of sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation.

Since 2015, Guiyang has held five sessions of the China International Big Data Industry Expo (Big Data Expo). The expo has gradually become an international and specialized platform as well as a weathervane of the global development of big data.

In accordance with China's big data strategy, Guiyang proposed building the Shubo Avenue (also known as Big Data Avenue) to sustain the spillover effect of the Big Data Expo in 2018.

Zhao Deming, member of the standing committee of the Guizhou Provincial Party Committee as well as secretary of Guiyang Municipal Party Committee, vowed to build a comprehensive platform for traditional culture, urban tourism and ecological leisure with the Shubo Avenue.

The Shubo Avenue is not only a road, but also an industry cluster that zooms in on the in-depth integration of the Internet, big data, and AI into the real economy, as well as relevant exhibition and exchanges.

From Beijing West Road on the south to Qingshan Road on the north, Shubo Avenue stretches about 20 kilometers, said Wu



Photo shows a robotic arm exhibited at the China International Big Data Industry Expo on May 26, 2019. The robotic arm has been applied in many automobile manufacturing industries. File photo

Hongchun, director of Guiyang Municipal Bureau of Big Data Development Administration.

It mainly runs across Guiyang's Yunyan, Guanshanhu, Baiyun districts, as well as Guiyang National High-tech Industrial Development Zone, covering a total area of 74.56 square kilometers, Wu added.

Guiyang plans to spend one year on planning and designing, two years on basic construction and three years on improvement and upgrading, concentrating efforts to build the core area of Shubo Avenue, introduced Wu.

An industry avenue, innovation avenue, ecology avenue, exhibition avenue, experience avenue and intelligence avenue will be constructed around the Shubo Avenue to better support the functions of Shubo Avenue.

The greatest value of big data lies in its capability of integration, noted Xu Hao, executive vice mayor of Guiyang, adding that Shubo Avenue emphasizes digital intelligence and integration, and will lead human society from industrial civilization to a digital one.

On August 9, 2018, Guiyang held

UK urged to extend job aid as redundancies loom

LONDON

THE British government has been urged by industry and union leaders to launch a new wage subsidy programme to avoid a surge in unemployment as companies prepare for the furlough business support arrangement to come to an end next month.

The government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, in place since the nation's lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak, is gradually being scaled back and will soon be closed down entirely.

In an interview with the Financial Times, the boss of the Confederation of British Industry, Carolyn Fairbairn, urged ministers to extend business support measures ahead of the autumn budget, warning that a rush of redundancies was expected as soon as the middle of this month.

Fairbairn (pictured) said, "The autumn is a watershed time. If we can grab that V-shaped recovery now with the right actions over the next two to three months, we have the opportunity heading into the new year feeling much more confident about the UK."

According to the Bank of



particular concern voiced for those industries hardest hit, and Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak faces pressure to act.

Risk of another huge spike

The Labour Party's Anneliese Dodds, the shadow chancellor, told The Telegraph newspaper that there was "still time for the chancellor to make his wage support programs more "flexible" and "targeted". She said, "If he carries on with this one-size-fits-all approach, we risk another huge spike in unemployment this autumn."

Unions have said a continental-style system of "short-time working" wage support, where companies receive a government subsidy for the hours a worker is away from their job, could be used in Britain, The Guardian reported.

Programs similar to this have been used in Germany, France and Austria and have been extended in recent months, according to the newspaper.

Frances O'Grady, the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said, "Working people carried the burden of the pandemic. They must not bear the brunt of this recession too. Protecting decent jobs with fair pay is how we recover." **Agencies**

WHO hails China's virus fight, warns against complacency

GENEVA

SENIOR World Health Organization (WHO) officials on Monday congratulated the front-line health workers and the people in China for having reached a successful outcome in fighting COVID-19.

"Our deepest congratulations go to the front-line health workers in China and the population who worked together tirelessly to bring the disease to this very low level," said Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, at a routine WHO press briefing.

He was responding to questions about the fact that China has had no local COVID-19 infections for more than two weeks, as all new cases have been imported from abroad but quarantined right after detection.

Ryan (pictured) attributed China's success to a "huge partnership between communities, scientific institutions, public health institutions in the government" and "a lot of cooperation, very sustained commitment to getting the job done."

"So we congratulate the front-line workers and the communities in China for having reached such a successful outcome," he said.



"But as we've learned in other countries... it's not over anywhere until it's over everywhere," Ryan said, adding that "there's no room for complacency" as China continues to

have imported cases from outside.

"As normal life returns in many countries and especially in China, there's always the risk that the disease can flare up again," he said.

Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead for the WHO's Health Emergencies Program and also a member of the international team that visited China in February, said she was impressed then by the public health infrastructure, the systems in place and the strong workforce in China to deal with infectious diseases and COVID-19, which is being activated in many other countries.

"Let's celebrate the successes

where we can, (and) not become complacent because it's not over, but be at the ready ... So we look forward to more celebrations of success in the sharing of knowledge across the world," she said.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, senior advisor to the WHO director-general and lead of the COVID-19 international experts' mission in China, said China is passing a "milestone" since it reported no local COVID-19 infections, though 20 days without local transmission doesn't mean it doesn't have the virus.

"But it provides an opportunity to reflect a little bit on what we saw

when we were in China," Aylward said.

China's success today, he said, can be attributed to three aspects -- namely investment at the state level in the public health infrastructure, the sense of individual responsibility among the Chinese people, and the incredible effort to build additional capacity and preparedness even when infection was heading down.

"I think all of those things are part of the reason that we're seeing today the very low levels of transmission that hopefully can be maintained," he added. **Xinhua**

SPORT



Prisons's midfielder, Adili Buha (R), and defenders, Nurdin Chona (2nd R) and Michael Ismail (L), blocks Azam FC striker, Prince Dube, during a friendly clash, played in Dar es Salaam recently. The clash ended in 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Simba, Yanga and Azam FC brand exposure to the rest of Africa

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

HAVING observed the 60,000-capacity Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam filled to capacity as enthusiastic Yanga fans wrapped up the week-long annual festival, known as 'Wananchi Week', a week after Simba SC fans had also painted the city white and red, a friend from a neighbouring country asked me: "How do you think the recent social media hype helps Tanzanian football given the fact that we all know the league is not that competitive?"

I told him football is no longer just a game about results on the pitch, it is business and entertainment.

Yes, football is played on the pitch but it has evolved so much from the days when it was on the back page of newspapers. Football is now showbiz.

The sport drives social media content. It has gone beyond just two hours on the pitch to a 24/7 show.

There has never been greater focus for clubs, players and brands on how they can use social media to drive both engagement and value for their corporate partners.

I had to explain to my friend that while I cannot say much about Tanzanian teams doing well in CAF competitions as a result of social media hype but business-wise it is making a lot of sense.

Many soccer fanatics have reduced football to just results on the pitch, forgetting publicity is now equally important in what is a commercialized beautiful game.

Publicity can either kill or make you break barriers that might seem impossible to many. I gave an example of Bongo Flava artiste, Nassib Abdul, alias 'Diamond'.

When he started, many dismissed him saying a Tanzanian artiste cannot make it big in Africa.

There were many bigger artistes in East and Central Africa with multiple MTV Africa Music Awards. The usual stereotypes were used to dismiss Diamond.

Diamond knew he had a significant local fan base, the way Simba and Yanga have, he only needed a bit of publicity to go big in Africa.

He milked it and the rest is history. Now every African artiste wants to feature Diamond to milk the Youtube views.

This beautiful game is all about publicity, not just results. There are many clubs with better results in CAF competitions but every week you will see a Simba SC related post in CAF social media handles.

It is a win-win situation for Simba and CAF. A post about Simba generates good engagement and interactions.

The Simba brand is also being pushed globally (or at least in the continent).

More creates more. The more CAF and other media publications about Simba, Yanga, Azam FC and Tanzanian football in general is a big plus.

Regardless of how they perform in CAF competition it is brand exposure for these teams.

Simba are the second most followed African club on Instagram, overall the top three Tanzanian clubs are doing well in all the latest published African Digital Community rankings.

All these metrics matters in business regardless of results as Manchester United will tell you with their massive online following.

It is a fact Manchester United are no longer the force they used to be under Sir Alex Ferguson but commercially they dwarf their more successful rivals, Liverpool, Manchester City and Chelsea.

The English Premier League (EPL) and Spanish La Liga provides another good example on how publicity makes a whole difference.

La Liga is arguably the World best league football-wise.

La Liga teams might win four or five UEFA Champions League titles in a row but the world is more fascinated by the more publicized EPL.

The best league in the world in terms of major trophies but does not come close to the English Premier League commercial success is now playing catch up, trying to push itself in Africa, Asia and America.

Kick off times have been changed to accommodate different time zones in Asia and America.

Whether conquering Africa is a pipe dream or not for Tanzanian clubs, the recent publicity that has captured the attention of Africa is a good thing and can be milked to create a sustained brand exposure which will help the club's coffers.

“

Simba are the second most followed African club on Instagram, overall the top three Tanzanian clubs are doing well in all the latest published African Digital Community rankings.

Peoples of Africa, Unite!

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AS this writer has pointed out a few times, Africa and the wider world are being buffeted violently by a raging storm and this storm has a name, COVID-19.

It is so frighteningly easy to let go of what I describe as those indispensable intangibles which collectively help us all to lead happy, fulfilling, rewarding and ultimately successful lives.

These intangibles include things, of course, such as hope, a steely resolve and a positive mindset.

As we toil doggedly to successfully navigate the treacherous terrain occasioned by COVID-19, I would like to hastily remind you, Dear Reader, that there are lessons drawn from sports which can aid us in this regard.

Thus, as we commence sinking our teeth into the hopefully tasty and meaty portions of this commentary, it should be borne in mind that one such life lesson that sports can afford us is adopting a never-say-die spirit, whose importance cannot be overemphasized.

One athletics icon who epitomized just such an admirable and praiseworthy attitude is Tanzanian, John Stephen Akhwari.

Akhwari will be forever remembered for his one unforgettable act of breathtaking heroism.

Competing in the men's marathon at the 1968 Olympics held that year in Mexico City, Akhwari had been making good progress until calamity struck.

Indeed, a good distance into the race, Akhwari suffered cramps, most likely because of Mexico City's high altitude.

As any longtime observer of sports well knows, cramps can be particularly excruciating for sporting competitors.

And they usually strike after the muscles have been really strained following lengthy sporting activity, in layman terms.

Let us swiftly return now to the main



Domestic athletes battle it out in the 400m race of a recent competition, organized by Athletics Tanzania (AT), at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

thrust of this sporting narrative. After suffering tortuously painful cramps, Akhwari could have easily chosen to drop out of the race.

Remember, there would be no disgrace in that move at all. After all, such things have happened at the Olympics before, both prior to and post-the 1968 Games in Mexico City.

But no, Akhwari instead gritted his teeth, mustered up every single shred of innocence that he possessed and pluckily fought through the pain barrier all the way up to cross the finish line albeit as the last man in the race.

Therefore, although we are sometimes filled with dread over when this coronavirus-induced 'new normal' will cease, we can at least take heart from John Akhwari's sterling example of courage in the face of adversity.

Another lesson from sports which can be invaluable to us during these perilous times is the immense importance of always having hope no matter what forbidding storms we may face.

At half-time during that epic 2006 UEFA Champions League final pitting AC Milan against

Liverpool, the latter were

legendarily down 3-nil.

However, in the second

half, the English giants from

Merseyside totally flipped

the script.

For not only would

Liverpool go on to level the

final at 3-3 but they would

also go on to vanquish AC

Milan in a nervy, nail-biting

post-match penalty shootout.

Indeed, it was the stuff of

high drama. Still, it also begs

the question: if Liverpool had

given up all hope at half-time,

would we have had the same

outcome? Positively not.

Thus, in a similar fashion,

although no vaccine has yet

been successfully created

and proven to work, we

should remember, like

Liverpool, that we are only half-way through this humungous battle for mankind.

And that there are still 45 minutes to go, figuratively speaking that is.

Let us presently segue neatly then to ponder about the new 2020/21 domestic premier league season, which kicked-off officially last weekend.

Following an almost frenzied spell of busy transfer activity in the off-season, it is hoped that all new signings can live up to their top billing so that the reigning champions Simba SC's vice-like grip of the league trophy can be loosened!

Aga Khan SC A cricketers thump Aces A side in 2020 Kazim Nasser tourney



Senior national cricket team's spinner, Riziki Kisetu, bowls against Nigeria when the two sides met in the 2017 ICC World League Qualifiers, Africa Region, which took place in South Africa. Kisetu put impressive displays for Aga Khan SC A squad to catapult the team to a win over Aces A side in a 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A game, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

By Guardian Reporter

YOUNGSTERS Arshaan Jasani and Dhruvit Mehta put stellar displays as Aga Khan SC A cricketers comfortably cruised to a seven-wicket victory over Aces A side in a 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A game, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Mehta had on the one hand played crucial role in weakening Aces A squad's batting resolve with his skilful bowling in the match, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue.

Jasani one the other hand put scintillating batting showing, seeing to it that his outfit later confidently chase Aces A team's score.

Aces A side had won the toss, elected to bat and were bowled out for 110 runs in 35.4 overs.

Early dismissals of Aces A outfit's three top order batsmen, opener Jumanne Mohamed, Salum Jumbe and Ally Mpeka, turned out to be a

blow to the team's pursuit of a much bigger score.

They were pegged back early on given Mohamed managed eight runs before he was bowled by pacer, Vipin Abraham, as Aga Khan SC A sought to keep their opponents in check.

Fellow opener, Ankit Baghel, showcased patience at the crease, posting 20 runs which included two fours.

Ejaz Aziz managed to push the score with his 19 runs, cracking a four.

Two quick dismissals of Jumbe and Ally left Aces A side with 50 runs after 18.2 overs, putting pressure on middle and low order batsmen in the process.

All rounder Nassib Kelvin Mapunda, to some extent, held the innings, recording 30 runs not out which consisted of two fours.

The team was again pegged back with quick dismissals of key all rounders Bhavesh Govind and Mohammad Ali, leaving the squad with 70 runs after 26.1 overs.

Both batsmen were sent back to the pavilion by Mehta, as the bowler mercilessly tormented Aces A squad.

Raza Imaam chipped in with 11 runs, which included a four.

Mehta had the best bowling figure for Aga Khan SC A, given he took five wickets and leaked 20 runs in 10 overs.

He won man of the match honour for his exploits, promising bowler Alhaj Sadick also had an impressive spell with the ball given he took two wickets in two overs, leaking eight runs.

Needing 111 runs to register victory, Aga Khan SC A chased Aces A team's score in earnest, with opening batsmen Jasani and Arsalan Premji giving their team a good start.

Premji notched 17 runs which included a four, Jasani unleashed his aggressive performance and posted 47 runs not out, which included four fours.

Aga Khan SC A side was unperturbed by Issa Kikasi's relatively short spell at the crease, given Riziki Kisetu forged an unbeaten partnership with Jasani to see to it their squad mount a successful chase.

Riziki Kisetu, an experienced all rounder, scored 24 runs not out, which included a four and a six, as Aga Khan SC A went on to amass 111 runs for three wickets with 87 balls to spare.

Much as Ali had the best bowling spell, in

which he took two wickets and leaked 20 runs in 10 overs, he could not help Aces A team avoid defeat.

Aga Khan SC A squad has, for that matter, climbed to the third spot in the 2020 KNML Division A log, pushing Aces A team to the fourth spot.

Aga Khan SC A cricketers are currently level with second-placed Caravans A side on points but the the squads are separated by net run rate.

Aces A team and fifth-placed Strikers A side have also amassed four points, only to be separated by net run rate.

Bottom-placed GP Pak Stars A are the only side that has yet to post victory in the division, having taken part in four games.

The division's leaders, Gymkhana A team, boast of a two-point margin with their challengers, having come out victorious in three outings.

Manchester City at crossroads as Guardiola faces up to the future

LONDON
MANCHESTER City head into the new campaign at something of a crossroads, having lost their Premier League crown and failed again in Europe under Pep Guardiola.

They have the obvious task of trying to regain the upper hand over Liverpool domestically and finally unlocking the door to Champions League success after another quarter-final exit.

But there is a much bigger and broader long-term challenge to be addressed as the wealthy club face some major decisions about what direction to take with the squad.

Spaniard David Silva has left after a decade of delightful light-footed, advanced midfield play and club record scorer Sergio Aguero is moving into the final year of his deal and could also say goodbye to The Etihad at the end of the season.

Even more significantly, Guardiola's deal also runs out in June, 2021. City chief executive Khaldoon Al Mubarak says that situation will be resolved "naturally" but the lack of clarity means the club must decide on a real plan for the years ahead.

The two signings so far in the transfer market indicate a move towards younger players for the future with 25-year-old Dutch defender Nathan Ake and 20-year-old Spanish winger Ferran Torres lowering the average age of the first team.

Much is expected of home-grown midfielder Phil Foden, who is also 20 and likely to see more playing time with Silva gone.

The question is whether City can combine a gradual freshening up of their squad at the same time as they fight on the domestic and international front for trophies.

There is certainly enough quality in the squad to secure a third title in four seasons - after they finished a massive 18 points adrift of champions Liverpool last term - with City's attacking options looking particularly impressive.

A fit-again Aguero will battle with Gabriel Jesus for the central striking role while Raheem Sterling, Riyad Mahrez, Bernardo Silva and Torres offer the wide options.

Ake is likely to be joined by another centre-half before the window closes as Guardiola looks to resolve a problem area given his evident lack of trust in John Stones and Nicolas Otamendi.

The danger is that the longer the season progresses without Guardiola committing his future to the club, the more his contract situation will dominate the narrative around the team, with the danger that players sense the uncertainty.

However long the Guardiola-era at City lasts, a matter entirely in the Catalan's hands, this season is sure to bring plenty more exhibitions of his entertaining football philosophy.

Meanwhile, Leeds United are back in the Premier League for the first time in 16 years with a style of play under eccentric manager Marcelo Bielsa that is as far removed from their historic "Dirty Leeds" image as it is possible to get.

During a long and varied career,

the 65-year-old Argentine coach has deployed an exhilarating, whirlwind brand of football designed to not let the opposition breathe - although it risks leaving his own players exhausted before the end of the season.

Bielsa's teams invariably deploy a high press and attack using quick, vertical passes, with his two seasons at Leeds in the Championship (second-tier) being no exception as he steered them to the title and promotion to the top flight.

For Bielsa, taking the initiative is a sacrosanct principle and he has no time for teams who sit back in defence, or "speculate" as he disparagingly describes it.

He famously displayed his dislike for negativity after his Chile side lost 1-0 to Italy in an under-23 tournament in 2008.

At the end of the match, a livid Bielsa angrily reprimanded his opposite number Pierluigi Casiraghi for alleged spoiling tactics. "Hitting long balls over the top for the No 9 - that is not football," he ranted.

Bielsa's influence is widespread, with Manchester City's Pep Guardiola and former Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino among those who regard him as their mentor, even if the contents of his trophy cabinet are modest.

Rather than big name players, Bielsa works better with those who are prepared to adapt themselves to his heavily demanding style, making Leeds an ideal club for his Premier League debut.

It will be the third of Europe's top leagues to experience Bielsa after LaLiga and Ligue 1.

He led Athletic Bilbao to the finals of the Copa del Rey and Uefa Cup in his first season there, although his second was a disappointment.

His Olympique Marseille side topped the table at the halfway mark of his only full season in charge before fading to finish fourth.

Arsenal experienced a foretaste of what is to come during a 1-0 win over Leeds in the FA Cup last season.

"They are a nightmare for any team to play against," said Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta. "It is like going to the dentist. It's tough, they make it really hard. It's man-to-man around the pitch and if you are not ready you get exposed."

It is all far removed from the 1960s and 1970s when the Yorkshire club's perceived win-at-all-costs approach under Don Revie earned them the "Dirty Leeds" nickname as they swept up trophies including the league title, FA Cup and League Cup. But even if that label no longer applies on the pitch, Leeds still quite like the concept.

"We have a history of being 'Dirty Leeds' and we actually channel that," club chairman Andrea Radrizzani told the Fifa magazine.

"We want to play great football and we are doing that but we also need to fight every time we go onto the pitch. All of our boys are willing to fight for the shirt every week and having that character is important to being a Leeds United player."

REUTERS

He's back: Messi returns to Barca training

BARCELONA
LIONEL Messi returned to Barcelona training on Monday for the first time since trying to leave the club.

Messi, 33, will train individually for the next few days, per La Liga's strict coronavirus protocols, before reintegrating with his teammates at a later date.

Barca host Gimnastic in a friendly at the Johan Cruyff Stadium on Saturday, but Messi is not likely to be involved. He could feature against Girona in another friendly on Sept. 16 ahead of the season opener against Villarreal at the end of the month.

Messi felt he should have been allowed to leave for free due to a clause in his contract. However, when Barca put up barriers to prevent him from walking away, he conceded defeat and decided to stay to avoid a legal battle against "the club of my life."

As part of his push to leave, he was absent for the start of pre-season under new coach Ronald Koeman last week. His legal team advised him that turning up for training for the new season would nullify the claim he could leave for nothing.

Messi accepted defeat on Friday, though, telling Goal he would not take the legal route to force a Camp Nou exit. It is the first time he's been face-to-face with Koeman since the two held a meeting on Aug. 21. In the meeting, Messi told the Dutch coach of his desire to leave the club.

"Now I don't know what will happen," Messi said last week when he announced he was staying.

"There is a new coach and new ideas. That's good, but then we have to see how the team responds and whether or not it will allow us to compete at the top level. What I can say is that I'm staying and I'm going to give my best for Barcelona."

Despite committing to the club for the upcoming season, his long-term future remains up in the air. His contract is up next summer and he's free to negotiate with other clubs from January. The upcoming presidential elections at Barcelona could play a major role in what he does next. Josep Maria Bartomeu cannot stand again and whoever replaces him will hope to convince Messi to sign a new contract.

(Agencies)

Liverpool seek back-to-back titles to underscore dominance

LONDON

LIVERPOOL raised the bar so high and enjoyed such a huge winning margin in claiming the Premier League title last season it would be churlish to doubt their credentials for a repeat showing.

Recent history suggests, however, that retaining the trophy will be far more challenging for Jurgen Klopp's side.

Pep Guardiola's magnificent Manchester City side did win back-to-back titles between 2017-19, but before that bragging rights had changed hands every season since 2009-10.

Klopp's side finished 18 points above Manchester City last season and an incredible 33 above Manchester United and Chelsea in third and fourth place respectively.

The German knows it will be much closer this time, not because his side are likely to regress, but because the natural evolution of the Premier League means their main rivals will have spared nothing to close the gap.

Catching Liverpool presents arguably the toughest challenge in European football right now though.

Klopp has not built a team for a one-off title smash and grab, he has assembled one for lasting dominance.

From the back to the front there are no weaknesses and, tellingly, it is difficult to pick out the team's most valuable component, such is the value every player brings to the mix.

In keeper Alisson, Liverpool have arguably the best stopper in the world while Virgil van Dijk, in his prime at 29 years of age, would walk into the central defence of any team in Europe.

The midfield, with skipper Jordan Henderson as its beating heart, will continue to stifle the life out of rivals, and when it comes to attacking width, full backs Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson are the best duo in the business.

Up front the attacking trident of Mo Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino are not about to go all goal-shy. A bench featuring experienced heads such as James Milner, Xherdan Shaqiri and precocious youth such as full back Neco Williams gives a bountiful options.

Klopp is unlikely to veer away from the formula that has worked so well, even if his side's form after the resumption of last season following the three-month Covid-19 hiatus was less impressive - probably more as a result of the title being a formality rather than any darker reason.

But Liverpool will come under attack as the likes of Guardiola, Chelsea's Frank Lampard, Manchester United's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Tottenham Hotspur's Jose Mourinho, to name a few rival managers, splash the cash and figure out their weaknesses.

"If you can limit the supply and influence of Alexander-Arnold and Robertson, it is a good starting point to stopping them," former Liverpool

By Ryan Bailey, Yahoo Sports

IF 2020-21 was a normal season, the Premier League would have already played four matches by now. Euro 2020 would have been played over the summer, preseason tours would have brought Europe's biggest teams to the United States, and players would be settled at their new clubs with the transfer deadline in the rearview mirror.

Of course, very little about 2020 has been normal. Due to the impact of the coronavirus, the Community Shield - the traditional curtain-raiser for the Premier League season - took place just one week after last season's Champions League Final.

The Premier League kicks off again Saturday, a matter of hours after some of its biggest stars have returned from international duty. The preseason is practically non-existent. Top-flight players have never had so little rest and preparation time heading into a new season.

And, unfortunately, they will barely get a moment to come up for air between now and next summer.

The 2020-21 Premier League campaign will, if all goes to plan, conclude on May 23, 2021, in order to give ample preparation time for the delayed Euro 2020 tournament, which will commence three weeks later. This means the 38-game season will be condensed by nearly a month.

Fixture congestion is a common complaint among Premier League managers, and they are about to be stuck in gridlock.

The authorities are doing what they can to ease the congestion. The winter break, which was successfully introduced last season, will not take place. The FA Cup is scrapping replays, while the League Cup is reducing its two-legged semifinals to single matches.

However, when cups and international breaks are factored in, every single midweek throughout the season has been allocated to a match day. Every single one.

Nowhere is the fixture pileup more evident than with Tottenham, whose opening game Sunday will be followed by a grueling midweek trip to Bulgaria for a Europa League qualifier and then a trip to Southampton a few days later. All told, Spurs face the potential of nine games in 20 days through Sep-



Liverpool's Jordan Henderson, teammates and staff celebrate with the trophy after winning the English Premier League in this July 22, 2020 file photo. REUTERS

player Graeme Souness said.

"Certainly, do not kick the ball long at Van Dijk's head.

"Liverpool are the favourites for the title, but I don't see them running away with it again," he added.

Klopp has so far kept his powder dry in the transfer market, signing only Konstantinos Tsimikas from Olympiakos as cover for Robertson.

That could change in the coming weeks though, as standing still in the Premier League, even for a team as dominant as Liverpool, is not a viable option.

Meanwhile, Chelsea are banking on a lavish shopping spree to give them more bite up front and much-needed solidity in defence after coach Frank Lampard spent last season relying heavily on a crop of inexperienced home-grown players.

The Londoners have been among the Premier League's most active buyers in the close season in stark contrast to a year ago when they were subject to a Fifa transfer ban, giving their youngsters a chance to shine.

Germany striker Timo Werner arrives in London having scored 28 times in the Bundesliga for RB Leipzig last season, while international teammate

Kai Havertz plays like Lampard in his pomp with runs from midfield into the box to score.

At the other end, England left-back Ben Chilwell and Brazil veteran Thiago Silva, moving from Leicester City and Paris St Germain respectively, should stiffen the defence.

Chelsea had already snapped up Morocco winger Hakim Ziyech after he bamboozled the Londoners in last season's Champions League group stage playing for Ajax Amsterdam.

"Chelsea aren't buying a team, they are buying and building a dynasty, which I think is extraordinarily exciting," former Blues winger Pat Nevin told the BBC.

He stressed the young ages of many of the signings.

There is also talk of a new goalkeeper to replace, or at least challenge, Spaniard Kepa Arrizabalaga whose erratic form contributed to the leakiest defence in the top half of the league last season.

Lampard exceeded most people's expectations in his first campaign as coach at Stamford Bridge by securing a fourth-place finish and the Champions League spot that goes with it.

As well as giving a chance to young

players from the academy, such as Mason Mount, Reece James, Tammy Abraham and Billy Gilmour, Lampard got United States winger Christian Pulisic to reproduce the moments of magic that Chelsea fans feared had gone when Eden Hazard was sold to Real Madrid.

But Lampard was left with a tinge of disappointment as the Covid-19-interrupted season finally drew to a close.

His side lost the FA Cup final to London rivals Arsenal and went out of the Champions League 7-1 on aggregate against eventual title winners Bayern Munich.

The domestic league table underscored the scale of the challenge ahead - Chelsea finished a yawning 33 points behind champions Liverpool and 15 off second-placed Manchester City. Lampard, the club's record scorer, knows he must aim higher this term, especially after such a heavy outlay on new players.

"It's Chelsea. We need to be competing for titles," he said, knowing full well that the club's demanding owner Roman Abramovich will be similarly impatient for progress.

REUTERS

Will this be the most competitive EPL season ever?



tember and October.

Jose Mourinho will almost certainly have to create two separate starting XIs to survive this early onslaught. Harry Kane, a traditional slow starter in a domestic campaign, will quite lit-

erally need to hit the ground running.

Due to their deep runs in last season's European competitions, the Champions League and Europa League, Manchester City and Manchester United have both been granted exemptions to miss the opening weekend of Premier League fixtures. United and City will instead begin their campaigns on Sept. 19 and 21 respectively.

This reprieve may be welcome for the Manchester teams, but it also means they will have to catch up during a season where there will be few viable opportunities to do so.

In 2018-19, the most recent undisturbed campaign, City played 60 games. If they had reached the Champions League final, it would have been 63. The idea of playing so much in such a condensed space will likely give Pep Guardiola anxiety; after all, his lack of depth defensively is a key reason City ceded the most recent Premier League title to Liverpool.

Ultimately, the fixture pileup could

have a detrimental effect on the Premier League's representatives in Europe. Bayern Munich played just 52 games last season while winning the treble. The additional rest afforded by a 34-team Bundesliga will put German teams at a distinct advantage.

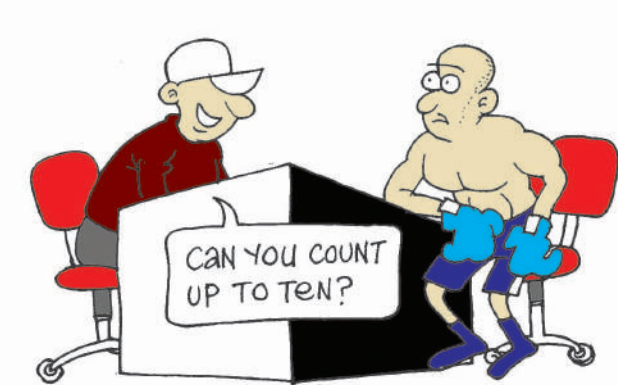
A jam-packed schedule also suggests there will be a lot more parity within the Premier League.

Given the circumstances, it seems less likely that Liverpool or City will break away from the pack and make the title race a foregone conclusion by February.

The Premier League's behemoths will be playing more matches, and will be spreading themselves even thinner.

Teams chasing them will generally have a much better chance of keeping up, and bridging the gap of financial disparity. Liverpool in particular may struggle to maintain their furious pressing game with so few respites from the action.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool seek back-to-back titles to underscore dominance

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Children with special needs take part in volleyball at Msimbazi Center in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS TANZANIA

Special Olympics Committee seeks financial backing for National Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT) Committee is in need of 90m/- for successfully hosting the National Championships, to be held in Mwanza next year.

The SOT Director Charles Rays said they have formed a committee mainly tasked with looking for funds to successfully host the championships in May.

He asked sports stakeholders to help SOT so that they can successfully host the championships.

He said that SOT values the importance of sports as they know the games' rehabilitative influence, not only on the physical body, but also in the mind.

"Sports teach independence while encouraging team work, they can be a space where those with and without disabilities can equally participate, demonstrating what real inclusion looks like to those who would try and keep them segregated," he said.

"We have formed a committee whose main task is to look for the money so that we can successfully host the championships next year."

"The committee will go out, meeting individuals, companies, organizations and all sports stakeholders."

He said in the Mwanza Championships, they expect more than 400 Special Olympics athletes and 70 coaches to attend.

According to him, SOT will use the showpiece to select athletes who will represent the country at the second Pan African Games slated for 2022 in Rwanda.

The Rwanda Pan African Games will be used as qualifiers for 2023 World Summer Games, set to take place in Germany.

Rays disclosed that he recently had a successful and fruitful meeting with Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Emmanuel Taluba, which saw the two, among others, agree on how to work together to promote sports among people with special needs.

The SOT last hosted the National Championships in Zanzibar in December 2017, where the hosts emerged as champions.

The championships ended with 15 athletes earning a place in the national side that took part in the last year's Summer World Games in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Tanzania has lately been doing well in Special Olympics. In this year's maiden Pan African Special Olympics Games played in Egypt, Tanzania collected 11 medals.

The 11 medals that the country earned were won by Khalfan Jihad, who won two gold and one bronze medal, Hidaya Vuai won one gold medal, one silver and one bronze medal, Nerverson Minja and Elizabeth Kisaka who won one gold medal and silver medal apiece, whilst Salama Kheri laid her hands on one gold medal.

The Egypt event, was attended by over 1000 athletes who competed in athletics, basketball, bocce and football.

Tanzania fielded five athletes in 200m, 400m and 4x100m relay and won six gold medals, three silver medals and two bronze medals.

"Our athletes are very good, they have been competing at many international events and bringing home medals," Rays noted.

"They can win medals at any international event, look at the Egypt event...we collected 11 medals and the same can happen in any event, what is needed is good preparations," he said.

Premier League Board now lauds VPL competitiveness

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Premier League Board (TPLB) officials have disclosed that they are satisfied with the level of competition shown by teams during the first round of league matches.

Almasi Kasongo, TPLB Chief Executive Officer (CEO), yesterday said teams have started the league campaign on a high note and he is convinced of witnessing more entertaining and competitive matches in the coming days.

"The Premier League has started very well and we are happy with both outfits' performance and officiating, this season promises to be more competitive than the previous league," he disclosed.

"So far there are no any complaints which have been raised to us, if things go the way the league has started, I'm a sure of witnessing good and competitive league," he said.

All Premier League teams were in action in the first round, played last weekend, with Namungo FC winning 1-0 against Coastal Union in Lindi, Biashara United beat Gwambina FC 1-0 in Mara.

Mtibwa Sugar's game against Ruvu Shooting, held in Morogoro, ended in a goal less draw, defending champions Simba SC won 2-1 away to Ihefu FC in Mbeya.

Dodoma Jiji FC started on a good note as they beat Mwadui FC 1-0 at the former's venue, Jamhuri Stadium, Yanga settled for 1-1 draw with Tanzania Prisons in Dar es Salaam.

Dar es Salaam's KMC FC thumped Mbeya City FC 4-0 at the former's venue Uhuru Stadium, Kagera Sugar lost 1-0 JKT Tanzania in Kagera and Azam FC beat Polisi Tanzania 1-0 at the former's ground, Azam Complex, in Dar es Salaam.

"If you can look at the results of Sunday and Monday games, you will agree with me that our league is good, Mbeya City FC is the only side which lost 4-0," he said.

Kasongo also said he is happy that the Vodacom Premier League is attracting many foreign players who are making it more attractive and competitive.

"This is the first time that we have players from 18 different countries, not only African countries but also from many other parts of the world like Brazil, with the variety of players we have our league is attracting the attention of many people," he said.

The league continues this weekend with mouthwatering games that include the Simba versus Mtibwa Sugar clash, to be played in Morogoro, and the game pitting Yanga against Mbeya City FC, which will take place in Dar es Salaam.



Namungo FC forward, Abeid Athuman (2nd L), shields the ball from Coastal Union defender when the teams met in Vodacom Premier League tie which took place in Lindi early this week. Namungo FC edged Coastal Union 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC striker, Paul Peter (L), negotiates his way past Mbeya City FC defender, Roland Msonjo, in a Vodacom Premier League game, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. KMC FC cruised to 4-0 victory over Mbeya City FC. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

KMC FC now fancies challenging for VPL silverware

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

AFTER making an impressive start to the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League with a 4-0 demolition of Mbeya City FC, Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC has bragged it is determined to successfully challenge for the top flight's trophy.

Paul Peter, Abdul Hillary, Hassan Kabunda and Emmanuel Mvuyekure netted for KMC FC against hapless Mbeya City FC in the clash which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam early this week.

Habib Kondo, KMC FC assistant coach, pointed out that they have garnered experience, thanks to their participation in the Premier League in the past two seasons, maintaining all they now need is challenging for the trophy.

"Our first season was extremely good, we went as far as taking part in CAF Confederation Cup. The following season was not good for us, we narrowly escaped relegation to First Division League (FDL)," he disclosed.

"We have in the third season felt we have gained experience and now our target is competing for the Premier League top honour."

In the Dar es Salaam club's maiden participation in the domestic top flight in the 2018/19 season, the outfit finished fourth after posting 55 points.

The following season had KMC FC ending 13th in the Premier League table after collecting 46 points.

Burundian midfielder, Mvuyekure, netted the opener for KMC FC on the 22nd minute of the match against Mbeya City FC. Striker Hassan Kabunda made it 2-0 for KMC FC on the 39th minute, midfielder Abdul Hillary put the club 3-0 up on the 56th minute and striker Peter piled misery on Mbeya City FC, drilling in the fourth on the 74th minute.

The victory has seen KMC FC enjoy the top spot in the domestic top tier after the conclusion of the first round of matches.

There is no any other outfit which has recorded more than three goals in the round's matches.

In another development,

Simba SC's forward, John Bocco, has shattered a record set by the outfit's foreign professionals that had been drilling in goals in the side's opening matches for five seasons in a row.

The lanky forward banged in the first goal for the top flight defending champions on the 11th minute of the game against Ihefu FC, which took place at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya last weekend and ended with Simba winning 2-1.

Tanzanian midfielder Muzamiru Yassin notched the second for Simba to restore their lead after forward Omary Mponda had levelled matters for Ihefu FC.

The goal has seen Bocco turn into the first domestic player to drill in for Simba this season.

In the previous five seasons, foreign professionals had netted for Simba in the outfit's first clashes in the Premier League.

Simba had last had a domestic player scoring for them in their top flight opening match on September 21, 2014.

Midfielder Shaaban Kisiga netted the opener for the side in a 2-2 draw with Coastal Union.

The foreign professionals lat-

er on held sway, when it came to netting for the club in the opening games.

In the 2015/16 Premier League season, Ugandan forward Hamisi Kiiza scored the opener for Simba against African Sports on September 12, 2015, with Simba winning 1-0.

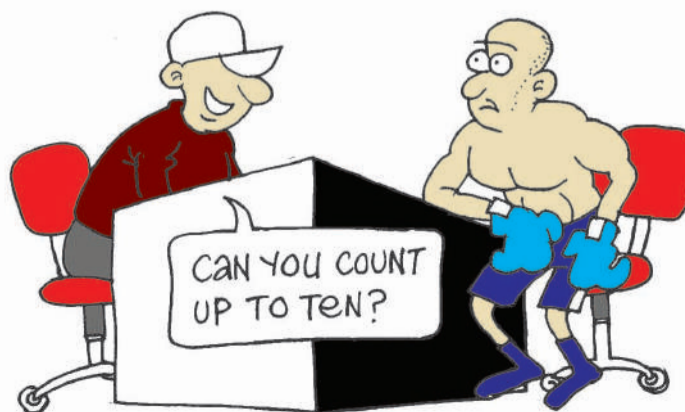
In the 2016/17 season, Burundian goal getter, Laudit Mavugo, banged in the first goal for the squad in a clash with Ntanda FC on August 20 in 2016, the former recorded 3-1 victory over the latter.

Ugandan forward Emmanuel Okwi did the same in 2017/18 season, with Simba cruising to a comprehensive 7-0 victory over Ruvu Shooting on August 26, 2017.

Rwandan forward Meddie Kagere stretched the foreign professionals' feat after netting the opener for Simba in the 2018/19 season's opening match against Prisons on August 22, 2018. Simba edged the then Mbeya-based Prisons 1-0.

Kagere once again drilled in the opener for his club in their opening game in the 2019/20 season, when Simba notched 3-1 victory over JKT Tanzania.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Sports teach independence while encouraging team work, they can be a space where those with and without disabilities can equally participate, demonstrating what real inclusion looks like to those who would try and keep them segregated

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bonga (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Saap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MUJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1 Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bonga
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM