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National Pg 2 Unfriendly beach environment



National Pg 3 Bureaucratic red tape



National Pg 4 Kilosa embarks on sisal farming



National Pg 5 Masasi-Nachingwea road plans



MPs demand surveying of all land plots, wider tax base

● Urge disbanding of TRA special task force

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday advised the government to broaden its tax base by looking into new revenue sources instead of relying on traditional ones.

One potential source of revenue, they said, is surveying of plots and collecting the resultant property tax.

The lawmakers also urged construction of processing factories using locally produced raw materials as well as coming up with cordial methods of collecting taxes.

They were debating the lately tabled national development plan 2021/2022 and the third five-year development plan (2021/2022-2025/2026).

Mlimba MP Godwin Kunambi said Tanzania has vast stretches of land but most of it has not been surveyed, which denies the government revenues which could be collected from payment of property taxes.

"The land sector has as yet to perform to required standards. There are 185 districts but we have failed to survey land in 50 districts or more," he said, citing Dodoma

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Mtama legislator Nape Nnauye (L) exchanges ideas with his Kinondoni counterpart, Tarimba Abbas (2nd-R), in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. The legislative body is in routine session. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

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'Less schooled work better than educated'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai yesterday poked holes in Tanzania's education system, blaming it for a poor work ethic among the educated compared to the less schooled.

Contributing to debate on the 2021/22 Budget outline and third Five Year Development Plan (2021/2022-2025/26), Ndogai said standard seven leavers and primary school dropouts are the engines driving the Tanzanian economy.

He asserted that from form four leavers to university graduates there is mainly a lazy lot that does not help the country move forward. This group is allergic to physical work such



What is wrong with us? We have to change attitudes of our people so that they become dedicated and aggressive when it comes to work

as farming and animal husbandry, he affirmed.

"How many educated people farm or keep animals?" he asked. "Everybody who goes beyond form four thinks they are above farming."

Ndogai asserted that the problem lies in the education system that does not prepare learners to work in any sector with opportunities such as agriculture. "Instead, education makes people look down on some jobs as is the case with majority of educated Tanzanians."

"I really don't know what we can do to get out of this mess but the fact of the matter is we produce youth who like to play snooker and chatting on smart phones. That is why I asked you

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Tourism sector earnings up by 1.6trn/- from 2015

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

REVENUES from the tourism sector reached \$ 2.6bn/- (6,071.3trn/-) in 2019, a sharp increase from \$ 1.9 billion equivalent to 4,436.7trn/- collected in 2015.

However, the government spent 269.7bn/- in five years to improve what is offered in tourist activities, including the protection of natural resources.

Presenting the national development plan for 2021/2022 and the third five-year development plan (2021/2022-2025/2026) in the National Assembly on Monday, the Minister for Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (pictured) said that following



improvements in the sector, the average number of days spent by visiting foreigners increased to 13 in 2019 compared to 10 days in 2015.

The minister informed MPs that tourists visiting Burigi National Park until December last year reached 1,171 where 996 are local visitors and 175 foreigners. Revenues collected from Burigi National Park reached 492,741,622/- by end of last year.

Dr Nchemba said the number of tourists who visited the newly established Nyerere National Park, part of what is known as Selous Game Reserve until December last year stood at 9,938 where 6,189 were foreign visitors and 3,749 locals, raking up 1,552,712,660/- in earnings.

The various initiatives undertaken to improve the tourism sector resulted in higher tourist flows, from 1,137,182 visitors in 2015 to 1,527,230

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Over 8000 farmers get 60bn/- in loans

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

NEARLY 60bn/- has been disbursed to farmers in soft agricultural loans targeting mostly smallholder growers countrywide, with the funds being issued to peasants in the space of two years.

"During that period more than 8000 recipients, mostly smallholder farmers benefitted from a variety of grant packages," explained George Nyamrunda, director of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).

He detailed these operations at the launching of the TADB Smallholder Farmers Trust Fund, a ceremony held at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium. The 4th series of empowerment funds and programs exhibition was taking place here at the national level, officials noted. The exhibition, running under the theme 'Empowerment Funds and Initiatives for National Development,' was organized by the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC).

TADB is a development finance institution (DFI) established as an apex national-level bank for agricultural financing, and is currently working with 10 other institutions including banks to support local growers with soft manageable loans.

Targeted recipients include farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen, he stated.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa lauded the gesture of support by local institutions for small scale farmers and traders, noting that the program was in-line with the policy initiatives to strengthen individual economic

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Over 8000 farmers get 60bn/- in loans

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activity with personalised credit arrangements.

"We have also seen the need to consolidate institutions with overlapping activities to get fewer organizations with more capacity to reach out to agro-sector

producers from grassroots level," he stated.

He expressed satisfaction with TADB efforts especially in capacity-building strategies and programmes for agriculture financing and crop value chain enhancement. The bank also supports policy initiatives meant

to shape agro-sector financing and rural lending generally.

"From the exhibitions here we have seen that ordinary Tanzanians can initiate and produce quality products as long as they get empowered. Our people are bankable and this is a great achievement," he added.

MPs demand surveying of all land plots, wider tax base

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Region where in three years, authorities managed to survey 2,000 land plots without support from the Treasury.

"Surveying land plots would boost government coffers through payment of property taxes. District councils may use their internal revenues to survey the land by using the registered 80 private land surveying companies. Surveying the lands would also enable title holders to use the documents to secure loans from financial institutions," he pointed out.

Geita Rural MP Joseph Kasheku said for the government to attain targeted development objectives, there should be serious investment in the agricultural sector to create more jobs and raw materials for constructed industries.

He underscored the need to ensure availability of quality certified seeds to produce quality products that can be used by factories and obtain a market outside the country.

In implementing the development plan, the government should focus on improving the business environment as some traders are now opting to close their businesses due to being overrated in tax charges, the MP cautioned.

Constantine Kanyasu, the Deputy Minister for Natural

Resources and Tourism, said that the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) must use cordial methods in collecting taxes, noting that some traders have been complaining of harassment by TRA officials

Kanyasu, the Geita Urban MP, said that to get more people to comply in paying taxes, TRA should avoid overrating the charges. Some traders importing goods from China and elsewhere complain that taxes are hiked when the goods arrive, hence failing to collect their consignments from the port.

Mtama MP Nape Nnauye advised the government to stop using the special 'task force' in collecting revenues from traders, insisting that the officers apply harsh methods which deny the government revenues as traders resolve to close business. He said TRA should use its internal officers and avoid the use of excessive force.

Musoma Rural MP Sospeter Muhongo said that since Tanzania is categorised as a lower-middle income country by the World Bank after clear development strides, there should be deliberate efforts to keep up the economic growth pace to ensure proper middle-income status is attained by 2025.

Tanzania must borrow a leaf from Kenya and Seychelles whose economic growth has surpassed the set World Bank targets, he urged.

National Assembly Speaker Job Nduagi advised the government to prioritise land surveying as a source of income. He was optimistic that land surveying would boost government coffers through various taxes.

He underscored the need to encourage the youth to work and participate in agricultural activities to produce raw materials for local industries.

"The country's economy is dominated by youth most of whom have not reached advanced secondary school level but they do not want to venture into agriculture. They should be encouraged to work in agriculture to contribute in the country's economic growth, he emphasised.

David Mwakiposa, MP for Mufindi South, urged increased production of agro-export crops for export. He said Tanzania has the potential to be leading exporter of various agricultural crops including tea and avocado, mostly cultivated in Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya regions.

The MP said Tanzania produces more avocado but exports less compared to our northern neighbour. The country exports 8,500 tonnes of avocado per year while it has a much larger potential, he told the House.

There is a huge market for Tanzanian agricultural products in China which is yet to be properly exploited, the legislator added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa receives a Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank-branded wheel cover from the bank's Principal Business Development Officer, George Nyamunda (2nd-R). It was at the 4th National Economic Empowerment Council Exhibitions held in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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in 2019, he stated.

More than \$ 2.6 billion was generated from the sector, around 25 percent of total export earnings while supporting close to 1.6m direct and indirect jobs, he pointed out.

The United States Embassy in Dar es Salaam said in November last year said that one project it supported for five years helped to reduce poaching in national parks by 80 per cent.

The project involved interregional exchange

Tourism sector earnings up by 1.6trn/- from 2015

programmes and training in the fight against poaching, mooted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and titled 'Promoting Tanzania's Environment, Conservation, and Tourism' (PROTECT). It was implemented at a cost of \$19.1 million (over 40bn/-)

"As a result, Tanzania was better prepared to fight wildlife crime

on all levels through stronger wildlife crime policies, a better understanding of how to identify wildlife trafficking and try wildlife sector crimes," it stated.

The statement was made in tandem with a virtual seminar to take stock of five-years of safeguarding Tanzania's biodiversity and develop a tourism-driven economy, officials added.



Traditional healer Said Mbogo (R) addresses journalists at Miganga in Mkonze ward, Dodoma Region, yesterday. He called on members of the public to beware what he referred to as dishonest herbalists claiming to have come up with a natural 'cure' for Covid-19. With him is herbalist-cum-researcher Benjamin Mzuri. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavilia

Fisheries ministry set to review regulations

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is reviewing all the fisheries regulations in efforts to help solve challenges facing the sector, minister Mashimba Ndaki has said.

Addressing a press conference, the minister noted that several stakeholders in the fisheries sector have raised pertinent issues that can only be solved by reviewing the regulations and specifically overhaul the Fisheries Regulations, 2009.

The minister added that the ministry decided to take action following complaints raised by other stakeholders, including fishermen along the Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika on the amendment of the Fisheries Regulation, 2020.

He mentioned some of the challenges raised by stakeholders

such as using ring nets during the day in the Indian Ocean, measuring fishing nets using mesh gauge as outlined in the regulation and full moon fishing of sardines.

"In effort to solve the mentioned and other challenges, the ministry will review the Fisheries Regulations, 2020 and other areas that derail sustainable fishery development in the country," said the minister.

Minister Ndaki assured the public, especially fishery stakeholders that include fishermen, fish traders and traders on fishing equipment that the ministry is doing all it takes to ensure all players in the sectors operate through common understanding.

He issued four directives for immediate implementation as the ministry awaits recommendation from a team of experts formed to look into the challenges raised by

stakeholders.

He directed the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) to conduct a research on fishing using ring nets within two weeks and submit its report to the ministry, thereafter the ministry shall issue a statement.

On the measurement of fishing net size as outlined in the 2020 regulations, the minister said his ministry in collaboration with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) shall determine the right measurement, stating that stakeholders should revert to using venier caliper and not mesh gauge.

The minister stated that the ministry shall issue guideline on the full moon fishing of sardines, adding that it is estimated to occur within six to seven days in a month.

He stressed the importance of solving challenges facing

the fisheries sector, noting that employs many Tanzanians. According to the minister, statistics show that in 2020, the sector provided 202,053 direct jobs to fishermen and some 4.5 million other people indirectly.

While expressing his readiness to address challenges faced by stakeholders in the sector, the minister called for cooperation in the fight against illegal fishing in the country's water bodies.

H also called for cooperation to help stop illegal exportation of fish products and control of revenue generated by the sector.

On the same note, he warned traders of fishing equipment and manufacturers to produce and sell the fishing gear legally. He urged local government authorities to cooperate with the fishing communities at their areas and strongly oversee fisheries resources in accordance with the law.

'Less schooled work better than educated'

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honourable members to think of how we can use this plan to fix this problem," he emphasised.

Ndugai then turned on civil servants, saying many do not help President John Magufuli. Though the Head of State is a hard worker, his efforts are hampered by the majority of civil servants with a poor work ethic.

"That is the truth; civil servants are the worst. We must now have a system whereby everybody is appraised," he stated.

"We must be able to establish if extension officers do their job; if at all our community development officers do not draw salaries for nothing. You MPs know

community development officers, what do they do?"

The Speaker then turned to Tanzania's poor performance in sport and blamed the same for general lack of passion at work. Citing the national football team that was recently eliminated from the African Nations Championship tournament, he said the team did not put up efforts compared to others.

"They (players) were not as hungry for goals like their competitors," he observed.

"What is wrong with us? We have to change attitudes of our people so that they become dedicated and aggressive when it comes to work," the veteran parliamentarian added.

Minister irked by hostile environment in tourism

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Tourism and Heritage minister, Lela Mohamed Mussa, has said she is not happy with unfriendly surroundings in some tourist attractions including beaches.

She said filth in tourist areas could make Zanzibar lose its prominence as a tourist destination as well as threatening visitors' health.

The minister issued the remarks when launching a campaign for cleanliness for the development of tourism in Kwale Island in Zanzibar Urban West Region. She called on District Commissioners to suggest a day for cleaning the tourist attractions including beaches and other islands for visiting tourists. She called on District Commissioners to set a special day at the end of each month for cleaning tourist attractions in order to fight environmental destruction that could make the tourist spots lose their pull.

"Filth also threatens the health

for visitors especially those being served with food while on their way, hence cleanliness should be stressed," she said.

She said Zanzibar is among few islands that have greatly benefitted from the tourism sector, an important sector that contributes 30 per cent to its national income.

She however praised Zanzibar Empowerment Organisation for making the youth obtain employment as well as employing themselves, including investors in the tourism sector for enabling the cleanliness campaign in tourist attraction areas that would be sustained countrywide for developing and supporting efforts towards the blue economy.

Zanzibar Empowerment Organisation Secretary Fatma Sarahani praised the minister for supporting them in agreeing to launch the project that would assist the youth to solve the unemployment challenges as well as maintenance of clean environment for the tourism sector.



Stephen Kigaigai (2nd-L), Clerk of the National Assembly, receives gifts from Workers Compensation Fund head of PR Laura Kunenge shortly after talks in Dodoma city yesterday. Looking on are WCF senior PR officer Sarah Ruben (R) and monitoring manager Rehema Kabongo. Photo: National Assembly

TVLA wins tribute from parliamentary committee

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water has commended Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) operations, calling on the government to increase the agency's budget for more efficiency.

Members of the committee were of the opinion that the government need to invest fully in the agency to enable it produce more vaccines and save the livestock sector in the country.

Speaking after the agency's presentation about its operations and the future plans, TVLA acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Stella Bilangi said the law makers were of the opinion that the government should do a lot more to increase vaccines and enable farmers access services.

Committee chairperson, Dr Christine Ishengoma noted that improving animal health is a crucial matter since animal diseases can also affect human beings.

"As we boast of having big number of livestock in the continent, it is also important to consider health of the animals," she said, adding that Tanzania should be one of the leading countries in exportation of animal products.

She also expressed the need for the government optimism to invest more money in the agency so that it can do research in terms of making new vaccines.

Muleba North MP, Charles Mwijage while speaking at the meeting argued that there is need to look at the health of animals that Tanzanians keep, saying that Tanzanian livestock are much lower in health than those from the neighbouring country.

He said TVLA should request for more money to ensure it produces vaccines that cover the whole country. "You should ask

the government to give you 10bn/- in order to produce vaccines that can serve animals in the whole country," he said.

Earlier, while making presentation before the Members of Parliament TLVA acting CEO, Dr Bilangi said the agency was asking for 2bn/- from the government.

She said if approved, the amount would enable the agency produce vaccines enough to cover 40 per cent of all animals in the country.

Dr Bilangi noted that the Agency was formed by merging the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL), Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research Institute (TTRI), Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research Centre (TTRC) and laboratory activities of seven zonal Veterinary Investigation Centres (VICs).

TVLA has by now a total of 12 centres following the establishment of a new Sumbawanga TVLA Centre in West Southern Zone.

The other 11 centres are, Centre for Infectious Diseases and Biotechnology (CIDB), the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL), Tanzania Vaccines Institute (TVI), TVLA Arusha, TVLA Dodoma, TVLA Iringa, TVLA Mtwara, TVLA Mwanza, TVLA Tabora, VVBD Kigoma and VVBD Tanga.

According to the TVLA animal health is crucial in the process of modernising the livestock sector in Tanzania.

She added that the existing and newly emerging livestock diseases, which impede livestock development need to be identified and controlled.

She said TVLA make sure that the core functions and roles of improving animal health and productivity by ensuring delivery of quality laboratory diagnostic services, enhancing vaccine production and distribution, performing animal feeds analysis and conducting animal diseases research.

RC hits at red tape, bureaucratic delays

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Region authorities have called on public institutions that issue permits and collect taxes from investors to stop bureaucratic red tape when performing their duties in order to push up the region's development drive.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila issued the caution early this week when inaugurating a new fuel station built by Manyanya Oil Company at Kadege area in Mbeya City.

The RC said there have been complaints from investors in

Mbeya Region over rampant bureaucratic red tape by public institutions the practice that discourages them with others even preferring to invest in other regions.

He stressed that some institutions against which investors have complained over issues of bureaucracy include TRA, NEMC, OSHA and urban and local councils.

"I have come here to say that our institutions should stop bureaucracy on investors, we want them to be friendly to investors by assisting them to invest or expand their investments and should not be

their enemies," Chalamila said.

He said in case the practice continues, the region would not go far and the government stands to lose the appropriate revenue as the investors could shift to other areas.

Speaking at the event, Mbeya City Director Amede Ng'wanidako said many investors in Mbeya city were beneficial to the residents as they pay levies and increase the council's revenues.


He said the money collected from investors is used for providing basic services to Mbeya residents including construction of schools and other infrastructures.

For his part Manyanya Oil Company's representative Priscus Mwanya said the company has a total of six fuel stations in Mbeya City that have been connected to all government revenue collecting systems.

He said from the investment, they have provided both direct and casual employment to Mbeya residents, enhancing their incomes as well as those of the government.

He appealed to the government to continue putting in place friendly environment to investors to enable them expand in supplying fuel to Mbeya City residents.

TANZANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS UNION



Tender No. TALG/PROC/01/2021
For
SUPPLY OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Invitation to Tenders

Date: 10th February, 2021

- Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU) has set aside funds for the financial year 2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract No. TALG/PROC/01/2021
- The Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (hereafter referred to as "the Union") now invites sealed tenders for the Supply of 9 (nine) Motor vehicles.

LOT NO	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
01	Toyota Land cruiser Prado	9

- Tendering will be conducted through the OPEN TENDER procedures specified in the TALGWU Procurement Manual, and is open to all bidders.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at the office of the Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU), Tender Board, P.O. Box 16097, Dar Es salaam, located at Plot No 63& 65 Temeke Municipality, Dar Es Salaam from 08:30am to 03:30pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English Language and additional set may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tshs.100,000/=. Payment should be made by either cash or depositing at NMB Bank account number 20606600115 payable to KATIBU MKUU TALGWU. Deposit in Slip should be submitted for verification.
- All tenders in one original plus TWO copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU), Tender Board, P.O. Box 16097, Dar Es salaam, located at Plot No 63& 65 Temeke Municipality, Dar Es Salaam on Wednesday on or before 10.00am Local time on 10th March, 2021. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU), P.O.Box 16097, Dar es salaam, located at Plot No 63& 65 Temeke Municipality, Dar es Salaam
- All tenders must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of bid price.
- Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, and tenders not received, tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

.....
Rashid M. Mtima
GENERAL SECRETARY
TANZANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS UNION



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40,000	1,500	500	1,000	31 GB	30 Days
50,000 Tanzanite	200 mins every day		1,000	40 GB	30 Days

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142 girls in Arusha Region flee their homes to escape FGM

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

A TOTAL of 142 girls from pastoral communities in Longido Arumeru, Monduli and Ngorongoro districts in Arusha Region have escaped female genital mutilation (FGM) and being married off at small age after they fled their families.

Addressing reporters during the

event to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation at the weekend, the Director of Health Integrated Multisectoral Services (HIMS) Mackrine Rumanyika said they rescued the youth from FGM and being married off after they fled their families opposing what was lined up for them.

However, she said in the plan

to fight against FGM in the pastoralists communities 245 circumcisers surrendered their blades and other FGM devices and became mobilisers against FGM.

"Since 2015 we spoke with the circumcisers and agreed to abandon their trade on the condition of being given two female goats as investment capital

and so far 245 circumcisers have abandoned the profession," she said.

She said as for now, they used the former circumcisers to provide education in mobilizing the communities to abandon the practice as it was harmful to girls.

She also said they are working together with local councils in Arusha Region to control FGM to

infants, which has now become a new practice.

Namayani Mollel, a former circumciser said he practiced FGM for three years and added:

"Within the Maasai communities we believe a woman who has not undergone FGM is not a complete woman and that she would be smelling like a male goat."

He said in one year he was able

to conduct FGM to more than 700 girls and every time he does so, he receives a sheep as pay.

"In a year we used to conduct FGM two times and we usually wait until when schools are closed and the customers always examine your dexterity in conducting FGM, and if the wound heals quickly, then you get more customers," he added.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY



NOTICE TO ALL EPZA DEBTORS

1. The Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) hereby issues NOTICE to all its DEBTORS to pay their outstanding arrears and payments such as rent, fees, charges within a period of SEVEN WORKING DAYS from the date of this NOTICE.
2. The Authority further urges all its DEBTORS to pay their outstanding balances within the period stipulated in this NOTICE failure of which the Authority shall invoke all available remedies under the law, including but not limited to suspension of facilitation services institution of cases in Court and other appropriate forums where other costs and default interest rates shall be applicable.
3. The Authority express its sincere appreciation to all EPZA Customers who have cleared their debts and arrears on time.

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10TH FEBRUARY 2021.

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Manfred Kayala (C), NMB Bank Plc's senior manager - card business, briefs journalists during the bank's ninth 'MastaBata siyo Kikawaida' promotion draw held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is flanked by Gaming Board of Tanzania official Joram Mtafya (L) and NMB customer service officer Neema Kazoviyo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilosa

SISAL stakeholders in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region have been putting their heads together to exchange ideas to revitalise production of the crop in order to provide employment opportunities for the youth within and outside the district.

The remarks were issued here yesterday by the Tanzania Sisal Board (TSB) acting director Dady Kumbona, saying since the crop grows well in the district, they have decided to restore its lost glory.

"Kilosa District is well known

Kilosa District stakeholders chart strategies to restore glory for sisal

for sisal cultivation in the entire Morogoro Region, but it was abandoned for many decades but following government's intervention, the crop is now back in the limelight," he said.

Kumbona said due the crop's importance in the country, its stakeholders have met with various government officials in the district to discuss on how best to revive the crop and become widely cultivated.

He said the decision follows the directive of the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to revive the crop in all districts and regions that cultivate the crop, hence Morogoro Region is among those regions.

He said the crop is well known in the country and in the past it started to lose its lustre but the fifth phase government has decided to make it a strategic crop.

Kilosa District Commissioner Adam Mgoji called on the people to grab the opportunity for income generation for their own wellbeing.

For their part, many Kilosa District residents praised the government for its decision to revive sisal cultivation that had lost its importance and added that they will make sure they invest heavily in the cultivation of the crop.



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Vacant Position

About CRS:
Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official overseas relief and development organization of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and has served people living in poverty and situations of vulnerability in over 100 countries since 1943. In Tanzania, CRS has served vulnerable communities for over 50 years and accomplished this through development programs of emergency response, HIV, health, agriculture, education, microfinance, and peacebuilding.

CRS is inviting experienced and qualified citizens of Tanzania to apply for the following post.

Human Resource and Administration Officer - Dar es Salaam based (1 position)

Reports to: Operations Manager

Job Responsibilities:

- Provide support to the Operations Manager in his/her daily responsibilities with regard to the overall management of HR programs and Administrative Services for the CP.
- Coordinate and report on activities and required resources to ensure cost-efficient and quality service delivery from administrative support functions.
- Help coordinate and support HR processes, activities, and service delivery, to ensure they meet the latest agency, donor, and local legal requirements and standards and reflect best practices.
- Engage with relevant external stakeholders (i.e. government officials, landlords, service providers) on assigned administrative matters and help ensure required authorizations and documents are up to date.
- Collect and organize input on HR and Administrative systems, processes, and policies and participate in the review and update of various systems, manuals, guidelines, and tools.
- Support professional development needs assessment and helps ensure the provision of precise development programs for CRS staff and partners.
- Maintain record keeping through personnel files and/or Insight that adheres to required CRS, donor, and local law regulations. As needed provide support on analytical reports on HR-related data, metrics, and trends to support decision-making, workforce planning, and development.
- Supports the country program on compliance and registration issues related to NGO laws and amendments per the requirements of the government of Tanzania.
- Help ensure HR and Administrative systems, processes, and policies are in line with agency standards and donor and local laws and regulations.
- Coordinate the efficient use of CP assets and fully compliant of office materials and asset management systems. Monitor, review, and analyze inventory accounting records and data entries in the inventory tracking for accuracy and completeness. Report accounting discrepancies and irregularities.

Basic Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management/

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- Minimum of 3 years work experience in HR and Administration, preferably with an international or local NGO and good knowledge of HR best practices and standards.
- Experience with, understanding the local labor law employment laws, regulations, policies, principles, concepts, and practices.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Strong relations management abilities. Strategic ability to relate and approach people at all levels internally and externally.
- Strong customer service ethic and abilities, very good analytical skills with the ability to detect and report inconsistencies
- Very good planning, coordinating, and organizing skills
- Ability to maintain confidential information
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; Proactive, resourceful, solutions-oriented and results-oriented

CRS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Female candidates, people with disabilities, and people from other recognized marginalized backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply for this position. CRS Tanzania recognizes many people do not have access to university education, limited capacity to travel, women take career breaks to care for family, and physical access for people with disability is limited in some workplaces including in the field. In all recruitments, CRS Tanzania uses a competency-based selection process. This ensures that if a candidate does not have a university degree or many years of experience, their competencies, and existing expertise is assessed and valued.

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to submit their applications to CRS Human Resources at TZ_HR@crs.org by 17h00 EAT on 19 February 2021

Disclaimer: This job description is not an exhaustive list of the skill, effort, duties, and responsibilities associated with the position.

CRS' talent acquisition procedures reflect our commitment to protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse and exploitation.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted



Muheza district executive director Nasibu Mmbaga (R) pictured yesterday addressing councillors attending a meeting on the 2021/2022 draft Budget. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Over 7 million poor people set to benefit from PSSN support

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 1,400,000 households are expected to benefit with the second phase implementation of the second part of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN II) under the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), Deo Ndejemi told the National Assembly that under the selected households, more than seven million poor Tanzanians will benefit.

Ndejemi was responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Neema Lugakingira (CCM) who was concerned that some registered beneficiaries of the programme in Bukoba municipal council are not qualified. She also wanted to know the exact objective of the programme.

Ndejemi said a total of 1,100,000 poor households have been registered for the PSSN II programme in the third phase, which will go until 2023. In Kagera Region a total of 68,915 poor households have been registered.

He said the objectives of the TASAF programme are to assist poor households to graduate from poverty in all the district councils in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. He said the TASAF's first phase was implemented between 2000 and 2005, second phase started in 2005 to 2012 and the third phase was implemented from 2013 to December, 2019.

The Deputy Minister added that TASAF beneficiaries will now start receiving their payments electronically; a move which is aimed to curb ghost recipients.

He said implementation of

the second phase of the TASAF's Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) is going to phase out the cash payment system to poor households whereby the beneficiaries will be receiving their monies through mobile phones or bank accounts. He said the adoption of the e-payment initiative is going to address several challenges encountered during the cash payment system.

He said they have so far successfully registered beneficiaries in 39 district councils and that all the 189 district councils across the country will be registered to start receiving their payments electronically.

Launching the second phase PSSN programme in Dar es Salaam in February this year, President John Magufuli directed authorities to make sure that they supervise well and control enrolment of 'phantom' beneficiaries.

Magufuli said that the verification exercise conducted from November 2015 to 2017 found a total of 73,561 ghost and illegible households being enrolled in the programme.

"The involved people are not poor and some leaders are being enrolled in the programmes, this should be addressed, the next phase has to ensure that all these challenges do not exist," he said.

TASAF beneficiaries will now start receiving their payments electronically; a move which is aimed to curb ghost recipients

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

30 women in Arumeru benefit from entrepreneurship training

THIRTY women from eight wards in Arumeru District, Arusha Region have benefited from entrepreneurship training, including increasing understanding of the 4 percent loan opportunities offered by the district council and how to invest in their pieces of land.

The one-day training was provided by the Arusha-based Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), through a project on women's access to land and property funded by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS). Women who attended the training are from King'ori, Embaseni, Ngabobo, Uwiro,

Ambureni, Kikwe, and Leguruki wards.

TAWLA's lawyer, Ekael Michael, said the training was meant to equip women with entrepreneurship skills, and exploit the ten percent loans offered by the council hence uplift their livelihoods.

"The purpose of bringing women together here is to provide education on entrepreneurship as well as empowering them with better understanding on land and property ownership for women,"

he said.

Head of community development officer from Arusha Council Angela Mvaa described women as one of the groups which for years were marginalized when it comes to accessing loans as financial institutions demands collaterals.

Lack of these collaterals was denying women to get loans that is why the government directed councils to allot 10 percent of their revenue collections for the marginalized groups such as

women, youth, and people with disabilities. In the arrangement, from ten percent women get 4 percent, youth (4 percent) and the disabled (2 percent).

"So, it is high time for you (women) to effectively use land economically. But, you should ensure that the piece of land you have is formalised," Angela suggested.

She however encouraged women to use loans wisely and in line with the project write-ups.

Plans to construct Masasi-Nachingwea road at tarmac level afoot - Kasekenya

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

PLANS are underway for the construction of a 45km road from Masasi to Nachingwea at tarmac level, Works and Transport deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya has told the National Assembly.

Eng Godfrey Kasekenya said that already, the government had in the 2020/21 financial year allocated 1.45bn/- for the implementation of the project.

He said as the government continues mobilizing funds for construction of the 45 kilometers at a tarmac level, the ministry would continue allocating budget for maintenance of various roads.

In the 2020/2021 financial year, the government allocated 232.6m/- for maintenance of the road so that it is passable throughout the year, he said.

He was responding to a question by Nachingwea MP, Amandus Chikuwile who asked about the government's plans to construct the road at tarmac level, to ease

movement of people, goods and services in the districts connecting parts of Mtwara and Lindi regions.

In another development, the government will continue increasing the budget for Vocational Education Training Institutions (VETA), the Parliament was told yesterday.

Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology Omar Kipanga made the assurance in the house yesterday as he was responding to a question by Special Seats MP Regina Qwaray who asked of plans to increase the budget for vocational training institutes in Manyara Region.

Responding, the deputy

The government shall continue adding the budget going forward, according to the need

minister said the government has been improving the budget to improve the performance of the vocational education sector and that it would continue doing the same in all colleges across the country.

He said between 2018 and 2020 the government spent more than 1.9trn/- on improving the sector for which 600m/- were allocated for construction of the related infrastructure and some 505.1bn/- were spent on buying houses for VETA college staff in Manyara Region.

"Also some 337m/- were spent on constructing a workshop and administration office for the Gorowa VTC, while 223.9m/- were allocated on procuring teaching materials for Simanjiro VTC construction and 259m/- were spent on covering short courses for all colleges in Manyara region," he said.

"The government shall continue adding the budget going forward, according to the need," he added.



Updating of records on public service retirees under way at the Tanga City Council offices on Monday. It is scheduled to end this Friday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation – Tanzania (Baylor Tanzania) is a local Non-Government Organization (NGO) registered in 2009 dedicated to supporting the provision of high-quality, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment to HIV – exposed and infected children and adolescents in the Lake and Southern Highlands Zones of Tanzania. Baylor Tanzania is a member of Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) Network which is headquartered at Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, Texas, USA. Baylor-Tanzania is funded by the United State Agency for International Development (USAID), working to support the Government of Tanzania through Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and President's Office-Regional Administration Local Government to improve provision of services for children and adolescent infected and living with HIV in Lake and Southern Highland Zones.

Baylor Tanzania is seeking applications on various key personnel positions for an anticipated United States Government (USG) Cooperative Agreement (720621-OVCNextGen-FY2021) to implement Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Next Generation activity in the 4 regions of the Lake zone in Tanzania (Mara, Mwanza, Kagera, and Geita). This potential five years OVC activity is designed to increase access to and use of health/HIV, social, and protection services among OVC and youth. More information can be found on www.beta.sam.gov. These positions are contingent upon award.

- 1. Position Title: Chief of Party (1)**
Reports to: Executive Director
Position Location: Mwanza, Tanzania
- 2. Position Title: Deputy Chief of Party-Technical Director (DCOP)-1**
Reports to: Chief of Party (COP)
Position Location: Mwanza, Tanzania
- 3. Position Title: Director Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL-Director)-1**
Reports to: Chief of Party (COP)
Position Location: Mwanza, Tanzania
- 4. Position Title: Director of Finance (F-Director)-1**
Reports to: Chief of Party (COP)
Position Location: Mwanza, Tanzania
- 5. Position Title: Grants and Compliance Manager (GAM)-1**
Reports to: Chief of Party (COP)
Position Location: Mwanza, Tanzania

For more details please visit <http://jobs.baylortanzania.or.tz>

Application should reach the Executive Director's Office not later than 25th February 2021

Applications should be addressed to:-

The Executive Director's Office
Baylor College of Medicine Children's
Foundation - Tanzania
P.O Box 5208 Mwanza

Or send by email to:
hr@baylortanzania.or.tz

Tandika councillor applauds water vendors for supporting environmental conservation

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

TANDIKA ward councillor in Temeke municipality, Dar es Salaam Region Uzairu Athumani has congratulated water vending companies on their efforts in conserving the environment in the area.

Speaking during the launching of the water vending machine at Tandika area recently, he said that the Temeke municipality is set to work with the water companies which are ready to collaborate with authorities in environment conservation.

"I congratulate Heritage Pure Drinking water company for their efforts in preserving the environment through the introduction of water vending machine, which requires a customer to refill or buy an empty bottle without polluting the area," he said.

He said the Temeke municipality has been insisting on environmental conservation and would like to work with companies that are ready to make sure that water sources are protected.

Athumani asked the management of the company to install more water vending machines in Tandika since the area is big and demand is increasing.

"Tandika ward has six streets, this is just one, I ask you to start thinking of bringing more water vending machines to areas around markets, schools since there is a huge demand for affordable precious liquid," he said.

He said the government will continue to encourage local investors who have shown interest to invest in the water sector and other areas for benefit of the nation.

The councillor asked Tandika residents to create a culture of consuming approved products such as water in order to avoid contamination diseases such as diarrhoea.

For their part, some Tandika residents thanked the company

for bringing affordable water services to their area.

Speaking, Madrik Ally, said the introduction of the water vending machine to their area is salvation to most of them since they could not afford to buy the product at higher prices.

"We use to drink water packaged in plastic sachets popularly known as kandoro, now we will refill water in our bottles through a vending machine, it would help most of us, he said.

Residents identified as Catherine Kirigili, and Hassan Rajabu thanked the company's decision to bring the service close to ordinary people.

They urged the management of the company to extend its services to areas that have a high population such as schools and bus stands.

Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer of Heritage Pure Drinking Water Dr Edwinus Lyaya, said they need to get more preparation before extending services to other areas.

"The Tandika councillor has challenged us to bring more machines to the area, we need first to get prepared before rolling out," he said.

However, Dr Lyaya asked the government to support them in order to ensure more people get the services at affordable prices.

"We need the government to support us in order to improve the services, create more employment opportunities and increase income to state coffers," he said.

Regarding the environment, he said the company has intended to remove the problem of plastic bottles.

"We have introduced the bottles which are friendly to the environment, a customer can refill the water up to four months without dispose of," he said. A liter of water is sold at 200m/-

Similar vending machines have been installed at Mwasiliano bus stand at Ubungo area, Kariakoo, Muhimbili (Muh), Tegeta Nyuki, Ilala and Mabibo hostel.



Kagera regional commissioner Brig Gen Marco Gaguti (L) makes remarks yesterday shortly after receiving 100 sets of chairs and tables from TIB Development Bank Lake Victoria Zone manager Emmanuel Bushiri (2nd-R). It was a donation by the bank in support of the improvement of secondary school education in Missenyi District. Others are Missenyi District Council chairman Projustus Tegamaisho (2nd-L) and district commissioner Col Denis Filangali Mwila. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

High Court orders sale of 4 hotel plots, spend proceeds on employees' salaries

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA Zone Judge of the High Court Mohamed Gwae has given ruling for the sale of four land plots, property of tourist class Naura Springs Hotel all valued at more than 1.8bn/-, the money of which is to be used to pay salary arrears to hotel workers who went without pay for more than one year.

Gwae submitted the ruling on Monday, executing the order of the Registrar of the High Court from the 2020 application for implementing the sale of Naura Springs and Impala hotels

to compensate for the salary arrears.

Judge Gwae gave the ruling at the sitting of the Arusha Region's High Court Labour Division sub Registrar during which he asked the National Bank of Commerce advocate Wilbard Massawe whether there was any objection in regard to property earmarked to be auctioned, to which Massawe said there were no objections, since, he added, NBC will receive the remaining sum of money from auction sale after workers are paid.

"Massawe, if you have no objections on behalf of NBC, then

I order for the auction of one wing of four land plots - Nos 20, 21, 22, and 23 on Block B Uzunguni Area to be auctioned in order to pay workers' salary arrears, and in case the amount to be realized will not be sufficient, the law should be adhered to by auctioning the other wing of the plots, we cannot sell all the plots at a go," said Judge Gwae.

He added that although the two firms - Naura and Impala were different, but the owners thereof are the same, hence they should apply wisdom to pay all the workers if the money will be sufficient.

For his part, NBC attorney Wilbard Massawe from Mawalla Advocate firm said as far as their side was concerned there are no objections in regard to the auctioning of the land plots.

Speaking after the ruling, some of the workers of the two hotels who packed the courtroom thanked the government, through its court for meting out justice as they had passed through untold hardships for a long time for not being paid their salaries.

Jacob Joel, the chairman of the workers' committee thanked the government for listening to their plight.



Work on a new toilet building in progress at the weekend at Kigera Secondary School in Musoma Rural constituency. The school is expected to enrol its first Form One class later this month. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Over 2,500 Babati residents to benefit from WaterAid project

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

OVER 2,500 residents of Sangara village in Babati District, Manyara Region are expected to benefit from the water project supported by WaterAid Tanzania.

WaterAid Tanzania Country Director, Anna Mzinga revealed this here yesterday when speaking at the official launch of the second-phase of the project.

The director said the launched project will have phases in which the first will be on sustainable availability of water in rural areas and will be funded by CocaCola foundation in which it has already started being implemented at Sangara village since January and will end in June this year.

He said another WASH programme which is also implemented in East African countries is being implemented in Babati under the sponsorship of People Postcode Lottery (PPL).

"The aim of the project is to facilitate the availability of water and strengthen the availability status.

Despite that he requested for cooperation from municipal

councils and water and sanitation authorities in all the local governments.

The coordinator for WaterAid in Arusha Upendo Mntambo said during the second phase of implementation of the project, they will work together with experts from authorities.

Commenting on the project, the District Commissioner for Babati Lazaro Twange said it will be helpful to the people in his district adding that it has come at a right time.

"If we can have organisations like these, we will make great achievements and we are ready to work with you," he said.

The chairman for Sangara Martin Duuma said in the first phase of the project, six water wells were constructed in the villages adding that the village needs four of the kind.



... we will make great achievements and we are ready to work with you

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has employed 14,479 health care workers at its health facilities across the country in five years from 2015 to 2020.

However, plans are to employ more health workers in the 2020/2021 financial year, said the Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), Deo Ndejemi when responding to a

14,479 health care workers employed from 2015 to 2020, government says

question from Hai MP, Saasisha Mafuwe (CCM).

The MP wanted to know the government's plans to employ 403 health service providers as promised by President John Magufuli during his presidential

campaigns in 2020.

Mafuwe also wanted to know when the government will pay health workers arrears.

The deputy minister said the government has already employed 75 health workers at

different levels who have been posted in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region.

He said the health workers will be posted at a District Referral Hospital, six health centres and 28 dispensaries. He said efforts

are ongoing to construct health centres and dispensaries within the district.

On arrears, Ndejemi said the ministry received a total of 137 payment requests worth 246m/- whereas it has already paid

5690m/- through treasury.

In his additional question, Lushoto legislator, Rashid Shangazi (CCM) asked the government to employ teachers and health workers for the district which faces a shortage of 1,218 health workers.

Responding, the deputy minister, said the government had in the 2020/2021 national budget allocated funds for employment of 9,500 teachers and 1, 0467 health workers.

Govt appoints coordinators to encourage, evaluate business of microfinance services

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has appointed coordinators responsible for promoting micro-finance services with a view to strengthening the management and development of the financial sector in the country.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Adolf Ndunguru said here yesterday when speaking at the opening of the first phase training for coordinators.

He said that the appointment of the coordinators is an implementation of the responsibilities of the Minister of Finance in accordance with the National Microfinance Policy 2017

and the Microfinance Act 2018 Section 15 as well as the Minimum Financial Services Regulations (Responsibilities of the Minister) of 2019.

Ndunguru (pictured) said: "Responsibilities of the coordinators will be to coordinate, encourage and evaluate the business of microfinance services at the ministry, regional and council level as well as to register microfinance business promoters as well as to prepare sub-sector information of microfinance for different periods."

He said that in order to enable the appointed coordinators to carry out their responsibilities effectively and efficiently, the



Ministry of Finance and Planning has organised the training that will be held in two phases for 212 coordinators from all regions of mainland Tanzania.

The official urged the

earners, so that they can improve their lives, eradicate poverty, increase employment and boost national economy.

The Commissioner of Financial Sector Development in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Dr Charles Mwamwaja, said the aim of the training was to create awareness among the micro financial services business coordinators so that they can fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with the micro financial services policies, rules and regulations.

He said that among other things coordinators will create and manage a database of microfinance services, promote

business of micro finance services and monitor and evaluate the progress of such businesses.

Dr Mwamwaja said the coordinators will register and deregister the mobilizers as well as prepare and submit reports on microfinance services to the minister responsible for finance and financial matters.

The training is a continuation of the Ministry of Finance and Planning's efforts in collaboration with stakeholders in addressing the challenges in the financial sector to enable financial services to reach more people living in rural areas and to fulfill the government's goal of eradicating poverty and economic growth.



RE-ADVERTISED

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF SUPPLY AND INSTALL ROOM MONITORING SYSTEM IT SERVER ROOMS TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of Procuring Room Monitoring System IT Server Rooms and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of various goods and or services for any of the below listed services.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01000	Supply and Install Room Monitoring System IT Server Rooms

1. INFORMATION REQUIRE

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 1 references from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
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)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01000)	
Expert on Room monitoring system installations/configurations (Netbotz system)	30%
Networking Skills (CCNA certificate)	15%
Registered partner of Room monitoring system (netbotz or other monitoring system)	30%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the service DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01000) of the Service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. 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 19 February 2021 (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.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES BY HOSPITALS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) AT DAR ES SALAAM, GEITA AND MWANZA, 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 Medical Services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of services listed below.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01127	PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES BY HOSPITALS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AT DAR ES SALAAM, GEITA AND MWANZA

1. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.6%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.6%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.6%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	
Proof of the Hospital being able to provide the 24/7 comprehensive medical care in an ethical manner, with demonstrable high level of medical expertise and competency among its staff offering a multi-disciplined specialized care in diagnosis and treatment of patients. The hospital should have internal advanced treatment capability extended from diagnostics to treatment. This is to include:	75%
1. Medical doctors and specialists	
2. Laboratory services in parasitology, virology, immunology etc.	
3. High skills not limited to surgical, trauma, obstetrics, pediatric and medical care	
4. Medical imaging not limited to Xray, USS and CT scan	
5. Wide range of pharmaceuticals to treat common medical conditions	
6. Outpatient capacity of > 100 clients per day	
7. In patient capacity of > 15 beds	
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01127) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. 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 23 February 2021 (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.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
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Conserving indigenous food resources will ease stunting

STUNTED growth is a reduced growth rate in human development. It is a primary manifestation of malnutrition or more precisely undernutrition and recurrent infections, such as diarrhoea and helminthiasis, in early childhood and even before birth, due to malnutrition during fetal development brought on by a malnourished mother. The definition of stunting according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) is for the height for age value to be less than two standard deviations of the WHO child growth standards median.

As of 2012 an estimated 162 million children under 5 years of age, or 25 per cent, were stunted. More than 90 per cent of the world's stunted children live in Africa and Asia, where respectively 36 per cent and 56 per cent of children are affected. Once established, stunting and its effects typically become permanent. Stunted children may never regain the height lost as a result of stunting, and most children will never gain the corresponding body weight. Living in an environment where many people defecate in the open due to lack of sanitation, is an important cause of stunted growth in children, for example in India.

Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has said that the only way to address the serious problem of malnutrition which threatens the well-being of the country at the moment is to encourage the cultivation of nutritious crops to reduce stunting from 32 to 24 per cent.

Pinda made the call this week when he speaking at the pan-African summit aimed at exploring the role of traditional

vegetables in strengthening and diversifying food systems, reducing poverty, energising the industry, and improving health and income for all citizens.

The three-day forum brought on board a number of experts on the sector from across the continent and the world at large.

He said that in order to reduce thinning to less than five per cent, the rate set by the World Health Organisation (WHO), there is a need to increase production of horticultural products from 7,230,217 tonnes to 14,600,000 tonnes by 2025.

"If we're to achieve these goals, we need to identify a number of factors, including capacity building of local government and private institutions to reduce the cost of certification of exports, especially vegetables, whose main investors are women and youth," the ex-premier said.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), a total of 821 million people suffer from malnutrition-related eating disorders.

Pinda who is also a chairman of the Agri Thamani Foundation, said in Tanzania, malnutrition is a serious problem, whereby the 2018 nutrition status data, shows that more children are the highly affected group.

Statistics show that children aged 0 to 5, three million children stunted and 1.3 million children are underweight, while at the same age group, five million are anemic. Three million children of the same age are Vitamin A deficiency—a leading cause of preventable blindness in children and increase the risk of disease and death from severe infections such as diarrhoeal disease and measles.

Land rights for women vital for African development

OWNSHIP is the state or fact of exclusive rights and control over property, which may be any asset, including an object, land or real estate, intellectual property, or until the nineteenth century, human beings. Ownership involves multiple rights, collectively referred to as title, which may be separated and held by different parties.

The process and mechanics of ownership are fairly complex: one can gain, transfer, and lose ownership of property in a number of ways. To acquire property one can purchase it with money, trade it for other property, win it in a bet, receive it as a gift, inherit it, find it, receive it as damages, earn it by doing work or performing services, make it, or homestead it. One can transfer or lose ownership of property by selling it for money, exchanging it for other property, giving it as a gift, misplacing it, or having it stripped from one's ownership through legal means such as eviction, foreclosure, seizure, or taking. Ownership is self-propagating in that the owner of any property will also own the economic benefits of that property.

Despite recent advancements in land reforms across Africa, women and girls are still hugely disadvantaged, according to a recent meeting of experts. The 2020 Africa Land Forum (ALF), which took place online between 15 and 17 September last year, brought together 500 participants to explore the theme 'Delivering on the African Union Agenda 2063 by Promoting People-Centered

Land Governance in Africa'.

Discussions revealed that when it comes to land rights the issue of inclusion and gender equality is still a massive challenge on the continent, and while women continue to provide the largest portion of agricultural labour across Africa, they do not benefit from an equitable, secure land tenure system.

In 2015, the African Union (AU) Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank launched a campaign to ensure that 30 per cent of the land in Africa is in the hands of women by 2025. Improving women's access to and ownership and control of land is crucial if African countries are to meet a number of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, ranging from Goal 1 on poverty eradication to Goal 5 on gender equality to Goal 8 on decent work.

There is little continent-wide data regarding land ownership, but according to a 2018 working paper from the World Bank, based on data representing more than three-quarters of Africa's population, just under 13 per cent of African women (aged 20-49 years) claim sole ownership of land, compared with 36 per cent of African men. And when it comes to joint ownership, just 38 per cent of African women report owning any land (alone or jointly), compared with 51 per cent of African men.

A lack of access to land leaves women and girls at the mercy of a highly patriarchal system, deepening gender inequality and severely curtailing their social, economic and political progress.

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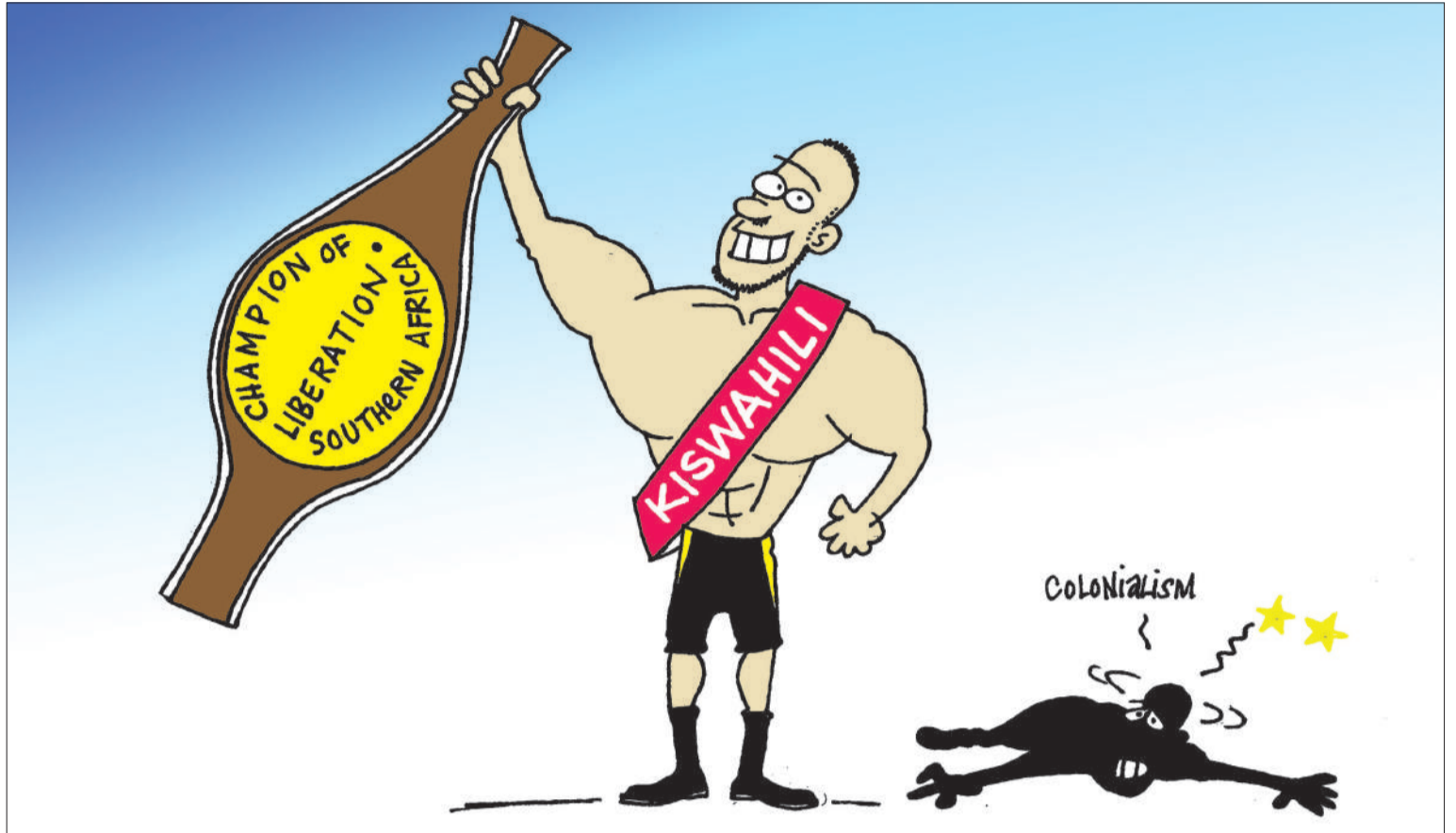
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By Harsh V. Shringla

FIVE years after the Paris Agreement, India is among the few developing countries that are not only meeting their "green" targets but also aspiring to more ambitious climate goals.

At the recent Climate Ambition Summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated the country's approach. He said that we must set our sights "even higher", even as we do not lose sight of the past. He added that India would both achieve and exceed its Paris Agreement targets.

At the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019, Modi said that an ounce of practice was worth more than a ton of preaching.

He said India was taking practical steps across all areas, including energy, industry, transport, agriculture and protection of green spaces, in its whole-of-society journey to become a leader in climate action and climate ambition.

India recognises that climate change cannot be fought in silos - through singlehanded or isolationist efforts. It requires an integrated, comprehensive and holistic approach.

It requires innovation and adoption of new and sustainable technologies. Conscious of these imperatives, India has mainstreamed climate in its national development and industrial strategies.

Energy is at the centre of all climate strategies - and we believe that India has become a clean energy powerhouse and

Moving beyond Paris: India steps up its climate ambitions

is a leader in energy transition from carbon dioxide-producing sources to renewables and non-fossil-fuel sources.

We intend to keep harnessing India's renewable energy potential. Our renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world and the capacity expansion being undertaken is also one of the largest in the world. The bulk of this will come from the cleanest energy source - the sun.

We are already seeing progress. We initially committed to 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022. We have gone further and expect to cross 220 GW in the next two years. We have an even more ambitious target of 450 GW by 2030.

We are working to ensure that 40 per cent of electric power in India is from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. This clean energy push goes hand in hand with a parallel effort to reduce the emissions intensity of our economy by between 33 and 35 per cent (from 2005 levels) by 2030.

The Ujjwala scheme - a national drive to use LED (light-emitting diodes) lamps - is reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 38.5 million tonnes every year. The scheme, under which over 80 million households have been provided with access to clean cooking gas, is one of the largest clean energy initiatives in the world.

Climate action and

sustainability is being brought into government schemes across multiple sectors. Our Smart Cities Mission is working with 100 cities to help them become more sustainable and adaptable to the challenges of climate change. The National Clean Air Programme is meant to reduce air pollution (PM2.5 and PM10) by 20-30 per cent in the next four years.

The Jal Jeevan Mission, which seeks to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India, has a strong sustainability focus.

More trees are being planted and degraded land is being reclaimed to create a carbon "sink" that can absorb between 2.5 billion and 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.

We are also working rapidly to create a green transport network, chiefly with a view to offsetting a sector notorious for its polluting emissions - particularly in our big cities.

India is building next-generation infrastructure, including mass transit systems, green highways and waterways. A national electric mobility plan is creating an e-mobility ecosystem with the aim of ensuring that over 30 per cent of all vehicles on India's roads are electric.

These initiatives are for our own good, as India is among the

countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

We recognise that there is still a long way to go, but these efforts are already paying dividends. India's emission intensity has dropped by 21 per cent over the period 2005-2014. We expect even greater reductions over the next decade.

India intends to be a responsible global citizen in the climate space. We are not only going beyond our Paris Agreement commitments. We are adopting innovative instruments to further international cooperation in climate action.

We have created international organisations such as the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure that are working on creating global low-carbon pathways. More than 80 countries have joined the ISA, making it one of the fastest-growing international bodies.

This combination of national action and responsible international citizenship makes India unique among developing countries and is placing it on the path to the realisation of its ambition of becoming a leader in thought and action on climate.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla is Foreign Secretary of India. However, the views expressed in this piece are personal.

By Special Correspondent

MR. President Adama Barrow, the 155 persons who violated the COVID-19 testing and isolation protocols, and evaded last month are a great concern to the public because it poses great health risk. This mistake of COVID-19 patients escaping quarantine should never be repeated again.

We have noticed that there is an increase in the number of deaths and an increase in positive cases these days, but yet, the majority of people don't wear masks, don't use hand sanitiser or respect social distance, which the health authorities and the police should be strict with.

Mr. President, we welcome the move by the government to increase allowances payable to doctors and PHD holders at the central level of the Ministry of Health to be comparable to their colleagues in the hospitals and

Good morning, President Barrow: Cause of concern over COVID-19

other government agencies.

This will bring commitment and dedication on the side of the health personnel, which in turn will improve service delivery in the health sector.

Mr. President, your government needs to give attention to the Gambia Ports Authority (GPA), which is of concern recently. GPA should be given subsidy to improve the ferry services or invite foreign investors like Dubai Ports or Bolore to buy shares and develop the two identities because of the tough competition in the subregion that GPA is facing.

Problems like the lack of shore handling equipment, lack of space, including berths for ships resulting in delay in deliveries of urgent commodities is now prominent at the Port. These

problems should be addressed soonest.

The Port should find ways of having its own dredger as it used to have a dredger called Malo in the past.

Government should consider selling shares of the Gambia Ferry Services and the dockyard which will help improve the services of these areas.

Mr. President, maintenance dragging is a basic requirement to any port to avoid impediment to shipping activities. Prevention is surely better than cure.

Government should look for the right experienced people in the maritime industry to be on the board of GPA and not friends, relatives or political friends.

Mr. President, all the board members of any institution

should be appointed based on their experience in that field and should reside in the country.

Gambians outside the country, who are experts in their areas and are willing to come back and work for the development of the country should also be welcomed on board the bus.

Finally Mr. President, the government should consider revitalising our River Gambia by encouraging a river steamer service.

Government should also seek aid through their bilateral cooperation with Japan, China, Greece and Turkey to help with new ferries and ferry terminals at Banjul and Barra to be modernised with better standards since the OIC summit is next year.

Good day!

China, US urged to focus on cooperation, manage differences to restore ties

BEIJING/WASHINGTON

IT was a warm spring day 50 years ago. At China's invitation, a flight with nine U.S. table tennis players on board just landed at the Beijing airport, marking a thaw between China and the United States, which had been at loggerheads for more than two decades.

Starting with what came to be known as "Ping-Pong diplomacy," China and the United States have built one of the world's most important and intertwined relations from almost scratch over the half a century.

However, while people of the world were increasingly counting on and benefiting from China-U.S. cooperation, the former U.S. administration launched relentless assault on bilateral ties, plunging them into historic low and wiping out efforts of generations on both sides within just four years.

Now, as Joe Biden assumed the helm of the United States amid the still raging COVID-19 pandemic, China-U.S. relations are ushering in another critical moment when constructive cooperation between the two countries has never been of more urgency and significance.

ANOTHER CRITICAL JUNCTURE

The past four years have seen the U.S. government under the leadership of former President Donald Trump stretch China-U.S. relations to the limits too many times.

To contain the development of China, Washington's imaginary challenger to its hegemonic position, the United States, typically portraying itself as the champion of freedom and equality, became the very force trampling on those values it touted before.

Under the pretext of reducing bilateral deficit, Washington slapped tariffs on tens of millions U.S. dollars of products coming from China, initiating trades wars in a bid to maintain its economic dominance, which however incited widespread backlash from its trade partners and created a drag on its domestic economy.

"The trade war with China hurt the U.S. economy and failed to achieve major policy goals," a recent study commissioned by the U.S.-China Business Council said. The study also indicated that the trade war reduced economic growth and cost the United States 245,000 jobs.

Suffering from paranoia about a rapidly developing China, some block-headed politicians with win-or-lose mentality have been going to great lengths to suppress China, resorting to the old tricks of isolation they played during the Cold War, despite the fact that the world has been moving steadily toward a community with a shared future for humankind.

They expelled Chinese companies no matter how many job these companies have created for local communities, they slandered Chinese government based on rumors and groundless accusations, they interfered in the internal affairs of other countries despite protests and oppositions, and they tried to totally decouple with China no matter how



deeply intertwined the two countries have become.

Time and time again, these politicians have proved how short-sighted they were as they were obsessed with building walls, cutting ties, breaking promises and quitting treaties in a world of inclusiveness and openness.

While the Trump administration has now stepped down from the historical stage, the wounds and losses it inflicted are surely to linger long, among which were the already battered China-U.S. relations and the worn U.S. authenticity.

Forty-two years on, bilateral ties are now standing at another critical juncture.

COOPERATION IN URGENT NEED

While the challenges to bilateral relations posed by the former Trump administration have been unprecedented in decades, so has the urgency for the two countries to bring the derailed relations back on the track of healthy and stable development.

If the past is any indication, no country could stay unscathed while others

were still in plight. Cooperation and solidarity have always been the key to resolving common challenges in human history.

During the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2008 global financial crisis, China and the United States stayed in close cooperation with the rest of the world and made significant contributions to safeguarding international financial stability and jump-starting global recovery.

In 2014, in joint efforts to fight the Ebola virus in Africa, China and the United States also forged close partnership in treating patients and directing medical supplies, which played an important role in turning the tide against the deadly virus.

As the world is still wrestling with the once-in-a-century pandemic which has already infected more than 100 million people, killed over 2.3 million and throttled global economy, the cooperation between China and the United States, the world's two largest economies, in navigating the world out of the mess has never been more

imperative.

Cooperating with China would also be a wise and rational choice for the United States per se, as the Biden administration is leading the U.S. people to fight for the resumption of normal life and recovery of economy from the pandemic.

"In fact, China can be part of the solution to help the U.S. combat the pandemic and revive its economy," Zhu Zhiqun, a professor of Political Science and International Relations at Bucknell University told Xinhua.

WAY OUT OF DEADLOCK

In a phone conversation on Saturday between senior Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, China and the United States have made it clear that they recognize the importance of bilateral ties, and are ready to develop "stable and constructive" bilateral relations, offering a little relief to people expecting a thaw.

But in this fraught moment when uncertainties still loom over the pros-

pect of the two countries' ties, to find a way out of the deadlock, more concrete measures need to be taken to ease tensions and rebuild trust between the two sides.

While the Chinese government has pledged a stable and consistent policy toward the United States, Washington needs to put a hold on its hostile policies toward China, and correct its wrongdoings which have already dealt severe blows to bilateral ties.

First of all, the new U.S. administration should take a rational view toward the development of China, which is neither a process that can be stopped nor a threat to the international position of the United States.

With the purpose of creating better lives for its people, the Chinese government is willing to work with Washington to push the relationship forward along the track of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

Secondly, to enhance public foundation of bilateral ties, Washington needs to expand avenues for communication with Beijing, remove the stumbling blocks hindering people-to-people exchanges, and restore normal interactions between the two sides.

Most importantly, the two should properly manage their differences, shift the focus of bilateral ties toward cooperation, and respect each other's core interests and major concerns, as well as the choices of political system and development path.

After returning from his historic visit to China in 1972, then U.S. President Richard Nixon said that with China, the United States shared a "common interest" that trumped the two states' ideological differences.

Nearly half a century later, Nixon's words still hold the key to the future of China-U.S. relations.

Xinhua

Japan vaccine czar outshines Suga to rise as potential successor

By Bloomberg

ONE of them is a seasoned public communicator, as comfortable debating his Davos counterparts in English as he is explaining the potential side-effects of coronavirus vaccines. The other is Japan's prime minister.

Just as Yoshihide Suga is facing a pivotal moment in his premiership, he is finding himself being eclipsed by cabinet member Taro Kono, an outspoken politician appointed three weeks ago to lead an imminent vaccine rollout. Polls show Kono is already voters' favorite for premier, an ominous sign for Suga ahead of a party leadership vote in September that will determine whether he stays on or joins the long roster of short-lived leaders.

The contrast between the two has been on full display this month as Japan tries to turn the corner on record coronavirus cases and launch its vaccination program. Both efforts are crucial to keeping on track its plans to host the Summer Olympics from July in Tokyo.

Last week, Suga, 72, stumbled his way through a news conference, triggering social media jokes about his discomfort with what he told reporters was his first experience with a teleprompter. On the same day, Kono, 58, uploaded a video to Twitter that garnered about 400,000 views in which he smoothly explained the potential side effects of the vaccines ahead of a mid-February campaign.

"The Suga administration is seen as being a bit slow on the vaccine and virus policy in general," said Tsuneo Watanabe, a senior fellow at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in Tokyo. "Sometimes you need a knack for moving things forward, and if you want to do that, Kono is the right person."

Suga has seen his support halved since taking office five months ago, as his emphasis on the economy jarred with voters more concerned about controlling the virus, while a series of scandals sullied his image. The latest included revelations last week the government was investigating tabloid allegations that Suga's businessman oldest son illicitly wined and dined Internal Affairs Ministry officials.

Kono, a former foreign minister and defense chief, became the country's most-followed politician on Twitter over the weekend, adding to evidence he could be a strong election contender. His tally of more than 2.2 million followers edged above that of former premier Shinzo Abe on Sunday, the Nikkei newspaper reported, leaving Suga far behind, with less than 400,000.

Kono was also the public's top choice to become the next prime minister in a poll published by the Nikkei last week. About 25 percent of respondents picked him, compared with just 6 percent for Suga. Perhaps more importantly in the factional politics of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Kono enjoys the backing of one of its most influential blocs.

While the public doesn't get to vote in the party elec-



This combo photo shows Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga (left) and Japan's Administrative Reform Minister Taro Kono. (PHOTOS / AFP)

tion, its preferences could sway members, with a general election due by October. Kono's public persona has found broader appeal with the younger generation, boosted by attacks on antiquated practices such as the custom of hand-stamping official documents.

For both politicians, much will depend on the virus in the coming months. A limited state of emergency has so far proved effective in bringing daily cases in Tokyo down to 276 on Monday, compared with a peak of 2,447 on Jan 7.

The son and grandson of high-profile LDP politicians, Kono attended the private Suffield Academy boarding school in Connecticut before en-

tering Georgetown University. After spending several years working at Fuji Xerox Co., he won election to parliament in a district next to his father's seat.

By contrast, Suga, the son of a strawberry farmer from a chilly northern prefecture, spent two years working part-time jobs in Tokyo after high school to save up his college entrance fees. He toiled his way from lawmaker's secretary to regional assemblyman before entering parliament, and has spent little time outside Japan.

Kono could be a rare Japanese premier who brings an international image to the office. The LDP has for decades chosen its leaders through

consensus, seeking internal balance among its factions. That's often resulted in unpopular premiers, including Yoshiro Mori, now the head of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee, who came under fire last week for disparaging remarks about women.

Kono has advocated cuts in health and social security spending, which has ballooned as the population ages. He has also shown willingness to make big decisions - last year canceling a US\$4 billion land-based ballistic missile defense project unpopular with local residents. It has since been replaced with a ship-based system that the Nikkei newspaper reported would cost even

more.

Suga, meanwhile, served as Abe's right-hand man for eight years and has pledged to continue his policies. The continuity helped send the Nikkei 225 Stock Average to an all-time high in dollar terms last month, even as the economy staggered back from the worst downturn on record. Suga added his own focus on pocket-book issues like mobile phone charges.

Hiroshige Seko, the LDP's secretary-general in the upper house of parliament, said in a Feb 1 interview that Suga was just being honest with the Japanese people.

"People often talk about communication. That's the kind of person Mr. Suga is. He's not good at making speeches, nor is he the type for performances," Seko said. "But in parliament, he's saying what he really thinks. He says he's doing everything he can, but it's not going well. That's why he has to apologize and ask for restraint from the people."

Agencies

The West vs the Global South: You have the numbers. We have the money

By Thalif Deen

OVER the years, Turkey has survived three Coup d'état in which its military forces took power, in 1960, 1971 and 1980. The coup in 1997, was carried out in a "post-modern way", where generals sat down with the then prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan and forced him to resign. However the turning point in Turkey has been the failed coup attempt in July 2016, which has till date been one of the bloodiest coup attempts in its political history, leaving 241 people killed, and 2,194 others injured.

When the 134-member Group of 77, the largest single coalition of developing countries, was trying to strike a hard bargain in its negotiations with Western nations years ago, one of its envoys famously declared: "You have the numbers. We have the money."

But that implicit threat- signifying the power of the purse- did not deter the G77 from playing a key role in helping shape the UN's socio-economic agenda, including sustainable development, environmental protection, universal health care, South-South cooperation, eradication of extreme poverty and hunger—all of them culminating largely in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 and targeted for a 2030 deadline.

The People's Republic of China, the world's second largest economy after the US, has remained an integral part and a strong supporter- of the G77, going back to the historic 1992 Earth Summit in Rio.

At that summit meeting - which marked a battle between the West and the global South over funding to promote development while protecting the environment - a G77 delegate told his colleagues in a closed-door gathering: "We have to confront them with an iron fist cloaked in a velvet glove."

The G77's strength in numbers—with over two-thirds of the UN's 193-member states —provides it with an unparalleled political clout ranking ahead of the Non-Aligned Movement (with 120 members), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (57), the Asian Group (55), the African Group (54), the Latin American and Caribbean Group (33) the European Union (27) and the Eastern European Group (23).

While the G77 focused on achieving sustainable development, NAM pursued the hard-core politics of the global South, including human rights, neo-colonialism, international security, military conflicts and UN peacekeeping.

Speaking from Beijing, Dr Palitha Kohona, Sri Lanka's ambassador to China, told IPS that while many countries in the Western camp have tended to dismiss the G77 and China as irrelevant to contemporary economic/political developments, the Group has provided the platform for developing countries to make a profound input to contemporary global economic policy formulation.

In its heyday, he pointed out, the G77 and China contributed significantly to the development of the New International Economic Order (NIEO) and the Law of the Sea regulatory framework.

"Today, the Law of the Sea Convention is considered to be the Constitution of the oceans and seas," said Dr Kohona, a one-time Chief of the UN Treaty Section and a former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations. More recently, he noted, its influence on the Rio Process, the conventions on Climate Change, Biological Diversity, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been seminal.

He said the G77's influence on global policy development in these major areas of importance to humanity remain undiminished and cannot be underestimated.

"These global rules are now impacting on policy formulation in the Bretton Woods institutions as well", he added. The role played by individual intellectual giants from the developing world in highlighting the G77 and China



When Palestine made history as Chair of the Group of 77 in 2019. The current chair is the Republic of Guinea.

needs to be acknowledged, he argued. "Today China has assumed a lead role in addressing the challenge of climate change affecting the very survival of humanity," he declared.

Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the G77, told IPS the integral role played by the Group in economic diplomacy and projecting the development interests of the global South is a testimony to its continued relevance in the ongoing global development dialogue.

When it was established on Jun. 15, 1964, the signing nations of the well-known "Joint Declaration of Seventy-Seven Countries" formed the largest intergovernmental organisation of developing countries in the United Nations to articulate and promote their collective interests and common development agenda.

Since the First Ministerial meeting of the G-77 held in Algeria in October 1967, and the adoption of the "Charter of Algiers", he pointed out, the Group of 77 laid down the institutional mechanisms and structures that have contributed to shaping the international development agenda and changing

the landscape of the global South.

Over the years, he said, the Group has gained an increasing role in the determination and conduct of international relations through global negotiations on major North-South and development issues.

The G-77 adheres to the principle that nations, big and small, deserve an equal voice in world affairs... Today the Group remains linked by common geography and shared history of struggle for liberation, freedom and South-South solidarity, said Ahmia.

The Group has a presence worldwide at U.N. centres in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Paris, Rome, Vienna, and Washington D.C., and is actively involved in ongoing negotiations on a wide range of global issues including climate change, poverty eradication, migration, trade, and the law of the sea. The G-77 remains the only viable and operational mechanism in multilateral economic diplomacy within the U.N system. The growing membership is proof of its enduring strength.

Chakravarthi Raghavan, the former Chief Editor of the Geneva-based SUNS, told IPS since its founding in

1964, the G77 came into being, along with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as an organ of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and brought about several changes for the better in the international economic system.

With UNCTAD came the scope for "alternate view" to "liberal/neoliberal economics and Generalized System of Preferences (GSP schemes) - - "True, they are voluntary, not mandatory."

The principle of non-reciprocity, and Special & Differential treatment in trade relations with developed countries (initially non-binding, Part IV of GATT-1947, but contractual for developing countries after 1994 Marrakesh Agreement for WTO) that the US now is trying to eliminate as part of its proposals for "WTO Reform", said Raghavan, a former Editor-in-Chief of Press Trust of India.

The Jamaica accord (following the collapse of international money and finance system with (former US President Richard) Nixon's repudiation of dollar-gold convertibility at \$35 an ounce) - and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

The G77 also created the concept of "development" as against the original IMF Bretton Woods concept of "Reconstruction and Development" for war-ravaged economies of Europe, said Raghavan, winner of the 1997 G77/ UN Development Programme (UNDP) Award.

In the immediate post-war order, the major Industrialized countries decided on policy (with US holding a veto on most decisions) that others were forced to accept. Now there is at least an attempt at dialogue (from G7 to G20). Initially, said Raghavan, the G77 concerned itself only with economic issues; the much earlier NAM dealt with political and security issues.

But gradually, individual G77 members, brought their political and security issues and alliances with Great Powers, to influence the G77 decision-making. This has resulted in weakening the G77 positions and influence in international economic matters, declared Raghavan. **IPS**

Trade volume between China and 17 CEECs exceeds 100 bln USD for first time

By Luo Shanshan

TRADE volume between China and 17 Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs) reached \$103.45 billion in 2020, passing the \$100-billion mark for the first time, according to data from China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

The trade figure represented a year-on-year growth of 8.4 percent, higher than the growth rates of China's foreign trade and the country's trade with Europe last year.

Since the establishment of the China-CEEC cooperation mechanism in 2012, China and 17 CEECs have enjoyed an 8-percent average annual growth rate in foreign trade, which is over three times the growth rate of China's foreign trade and more than twice that of the trade between China and the European Union (EU), said Gao Feng, spokesperson of the MOC at a recent regular press conference of the ministry.

Besides foreign trade, investment cooperation between China and CEECs has also seen continuous progress. Data from the MOC shows that as of the end of 2020, China's industry-wide foreign direct investment in 17 CEECs totaled \$3.14 billion, covering such sectors as energy, mining, infrastructure, logistics, and automobile parts.

During the same period, the 17 CEECs invested \$1.72 billion in China accumulatively.

In addition, connectivity between China and CEECs has been improved constantly. Last year, China-Europe freight trains made a total of 12,400 trips, with such countries as Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Slovakia becoming important passages and destinations of the freight trains.

In 2020, Chinese companies signed \$5.41 billion worth of project contracts with the 17 CEECs, up 34.6 percent from 2019.



Photo taken on July 9, 2019, shows young representatives of various circles from China and 17 Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs) posing for a photo at the third Bridge of the Future China-CEEC Youth Exchange Camp that lasted for five days in 2019 in Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang province.

Sub-national cooperation between China and CEECs has been deepened increasingly.

According to the MOC, Ningbo city in east China's Zhejiang province has made active efforts to advance the construction of the China-CEEC demonstration zone for economic cooperation and trade in Ningbo, making CEECs its priorities in further expanding opening-up; Cangzhou city in north China's Hebei province has established the China-CEEC SME Cooperation Zone to boost cooperation between the two sides in fields including aviation, agriculture, and high-end manufacturing; and northeast China's Liaoning province has been actively building the coastal economic belt China-CEEC demonstration zone for economic cooperation and trade.

China is ready to make joint efforts with CEECs to further unleash the potential of cooperation and bring their economic and trade cooperation to a higher level, Gao said.

People's Daily

African ministers meet with IMF and ECA on immediate economic response to COVID-19

ADDIS ABABA

THE Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Vera Songwe has met with African ministers in charge of finance and the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva, to discuss immediate economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the virtual meeting, which was convened by the ECA and IMF, the ministers were unanimous in their call

for additional liquidity, \$500 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDR), better market access, more concessional resources and an extension in the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), given the prolonged nature of the pandemic.

"We all know that the COVID-19 pandemic will persist for the next 2-3 years. Why are we extending the DSSI for 6 months and not 24 months?" said Ken Ofori-Atta, Ghana's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

Ofori-Atta said the cascading effects of COVID-19 were "a frightening thing for a finance minister to witness when they don't have the means to respond."

On access to the markets, Egypt's Minister of Finance, Mohamed Maait, said "there's a strong case for vulnerable countries to access the markets at affordable rate to afford essentials such as PPEs and food for their populations."

Equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines was highlighted as an imperative for building

forward better.

"The world stands to lose an estimated \$9 trillion if only the rich get COVID-19 vaccines. 40 per cent of this loss will be in advanced economies," said Georgieva.

In addition to vaccine availability, ECA's Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe, stated that the issue of distribution and deployment were also worthy of serious attention. And for this reason countries needed additional fiscal space and less austerity.

Georgieva noted that in or-

der to build forward better, there is need for "bold and immediate action for response, recovery, and reset of African economies," adding "liquidity and financing response is the bridge to vaccines and recovery."

The objective of the meeting was to "seek IMF support in forging a way out of the crisis by transforming existing liquidity instruments and easing market access to alleviate the debt burden and provide much needed liquidity for the continent," said Songwe.

Noting that Songwe's call together with Finance ministers' to triple concessional financing was "critical in the spring meetings' conversations last year," Georgieva urged the ministers to prepare for a focused and practical discussion during the 2021 spring meetings.

"Now is the moment to demonstrate that SDR allocation can be part of a comprehensive support framework, together with debt reduction, debt relief and policy support actions in the countries," said

Georgieva.

Minister Vera of Angola emphasised the importance of country reforms and in particular good governance reforms as an important component of the response and recovery plan. Angola she said she committed to continuing on its reform path.

The meeting agreed on the need for a concerted effort to accelerate reforms to increase revenues, improve expenditure and manage debt to attract more private sector investments into Africa.

Agri-entrepreneurs urged to seek PASS Trust's Credit Guarantee scheme to boost production

By Guardian Reporter

AGRIBUSINESS entrepreneurs who are unable to access finances have been asked to reach out to PASS Trust as a link to accessing funds.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made the call here yesterday when speaking during the official opening of the national economic empowerment exhibition.

He acknowledged the role that PASS Trust is playing in ensuring agribusiness entrepreneurs get financing through the PASS Credit guarantee scheme.

PASS Trust supports agribusinesses in the country by assisting clients in developing solid and bankable investment project write ups as well as facilitating access to finance through credit guarantee scheme with commercial banks covering the entire agribusiness value chain.

He acknowledged that PASS offers a partial 20-60 per cent (up to 80 per cent for women and youths) credit guarantee cover to collaborating banks as a means of topping up inadequate collateral, and this enables clients to receive financing.

"I have seen how PASS Trust has made it possible for an entrepreneur to access funds from NMB Bank through their credit guarantee scheme and purchased a tractor, this is very encouraging. I wish to encourage other agribusiness entrepreneurs who have difficulties accessing funds to look out for PASS Trust support

so that they boost productivity," Premier said.

Majaliwa used the opportunity to officially hand over a tractor to a beneficiary Hamisi Twalib from Babati who received a PASS Credit Guarantee for a loan from NMB which enabled him access funds and acquired a tractor. A delighted Hamisi told the Prime Minister how he had struggled to secure funds but was unable to because of lack of collateral until PASS came in to guarantee his request.

"I am very happy that PASS guaranteed me this loan and made it possible for me to access funds at the NMB Bank. Prime Minister, without PASS Trust assistance, it would have been very difficult for me to acquire this tractor," said Hamisi while talking to the Prime Minister who had visited PASS Trust stand at the exhibition.

During the exercise, PASS Trust also presented PASS Credit Guarantee certificate to NMB Bank on behalf of 20 small scale agribusiness entrepreneurs worth 96m/- with a PASS Credit Guarantee of 76m/-. The certificate is to allow NMB Bank offer them loans with PASS Trust Credit Guarantee. The loans acquired are for boosting agricultural production for various enterprises being undertaken by the various entrepreneurs. "We are happy that since inception in the year 2000, we have been able to support at least 42,000 agribusiness projects in the country worth 1bn/- that has benefited a total of 1,593 agribusiness entrepreneurs among them women," said Anna Shanalingigwa, PASS



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa receives PASS Trust's Credit Guarantee Certificate for NMB on behalf of 20 small scale agribusiness entrepreneurs in the northern zone who have been given loans by NMB and guaranteed by PASS Trust. Together is PASS Trust acting managing director Anna Shanalingigwa and NMB northern zone manager Aikansira Muro

Trust acting managing director.

PASS trust also told the Prime Minister that they have been able to create at least 2.5 million jobs as a result of its guarantee facility.

Shanalingigwa assured participants that PASS will

work towards ensuring that small scale entrepreneurs continue to benefit from PASS credit guarantee facility.

PASS Trust is among 54 institutions exhibiting at the ongoing NEEC exhibition that kicked off in Arusha on Sunday.

Bank donates 100 sets of chairs and tables to boost secondary education in Missenyi District Council

By Guardian Reporter

TIB Development Bank has donated 100 sets of chairs and tables to the Missenyi District Council, Kagera Region as part of the bank's contribution to the improvement of the secondary education sector in the district.

Handing over the donation, the bank's Lake zone manager, Emmanuel Bushiri Bushiri said that the bank has demonstrated its commitment to support the education sector through improvement of infrastructure after donating secondary school teaching and learning materials to the

council.

He said that the lender recognizes the importance of education as one of the crucial sectors for country's development.

"We believe this support will contribute to the government's goal of continuing to improve the education pro-

vided so that it can provide adequate knowledge and skills to graduates," Bushiri said.

He added TIB Development Bank continues to support the Government's commitment which through President John Magufuli's speech when he officially

opened 12th Parliament in Dodoma on 13 November 2020, said the government will continue to improve infrastructure in school including construction and renovating infrastructure including schools, classrooms, dormitories and others.

"I call on other financial in-

stitutions to support the government's efforts to further improve the education sector in the country," he added.

Kagera Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General Marco Gaguti commended the bank's donation adding that it will contribute to region's target of increasing

students' enrolment and issuing better education to them.

"I appeal you to protect the donated sets of chairs and tables that aim to contribute to the improvement of the provision of secondary education in Missenyi District Council," he appealed.

CEOrt graduate: Our skills will accelerate expansion, growth of Tanzanian economy

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzanian economy is growing rapidly, and for businesses to keep up, adequate investment in human capital is urgently needed in order to develop competent and forward-thinking leaders to successfully guide Tanzania's economy forward.

This comes as President John Magufuli took office in November 2015, and continues to cement the government's philosophy of "Hapa Kazi Tu" which has led Tanzania to become the second country in East Africa, after Kenya, to be declared a lower middle-income country (MIC) by the World Bank.

Due to this accelerated growth in the economy, the government recognizes the need for experienced leaders to implement major national strategic projects. In support of this, in 2019, the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt) in partnership with Strathmore University Business School (SBS) launched the CEO apprenticeship programme; an initiative aimed at identifying and grooming the next generation of Tanzanian executives, who will be ready to lead the country's economic growth and ensure sustainable economic development.

The programme inception came about after CEOrt conducted research and found that 60 percent of companies wanted to hire local Tanzanians to hold CEO positions. However, identifying Tanzanians with the right leadership skills proved to be a challenging task.

"Leaders need to make wise decisions that balance short term considerations with the achievement of long-term objectives. This demands that the leaders are aware,

not only of their local challenges, but are also prepared to fight it out on an international arena". Dr George Njenga, Dean, Strathmore Business School (CAP Strategic Partner)

In just its pioneering year, the CEO Apprenticeship Programme (CAP) has witnessed the succession of three of its participants who have attained positions at the C-level.

The chairman of the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania - CEOrt, Sanjay Rughani, says Anael Samuel of Songas Ltd, has recently been promoted to the position of Managing Director at Songas Ltd.

Julius Ruwaichi of Access Bank has been appointed as the bank's Chief Executive Officer and Anna Shanalingigwa from PASS Trust has most recently been appointed acting managing director.

Sanjay Rughani says: "It is with tremendous joy that the CEOrt congratulates these participants on their leadership achievements thus far and looks forward to witnessing the continued success of other members of the programme's first Cohort in the months and years to come".

After completion of the programme, participants are then equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to graduate into C-Suite level executive positions within the region and beyond which says the

Anael Samuel who has recently been promoted to the position of Managing Director at Songas Ltd says: "Even with all of my executive experience, I fully endorse the CEO apprenticeship programme as a fundamental learning experience."

Anael further said: "You might be an ex-



Executive Director of the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt), Santina Benson (L) and TPB Bank PLC Chief Executive Officer, Sabasaba Moshingi (R) at the graduation of the CEO apprenticeship programme. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

pert in your field, - whether that be working in finance or marketing, however that is not enough take you to the next level. You need to have the whole picture, a deeper understanding of the business as well as the leadership skills and human understanding. You need to be well rounded, and that's exactly what this programme provides."

Samuel makes the point that an executive can be highly skilled and specialised in his area of expertise, but to lead a national business, you must be a fully rounded leader. The business simulation model within the CAP initiative allows the programme participants to grow their experience in all aspects of leadership, integrating Research & Development (R&D), marketing, operations management, accounting, finance, hr and organisational behaviour to ensure the apprentices have a full comprehension of

all aspects of the business.

After completing the programme, Samuel admits to having been altered for the better. He said, "We've seen people come in here, very good at what they are doing, and yet they are just the raw material before becoming a CEO. But they are being shaped and being exposed in all aspects of the business. We've witnessed transformation and I am an example of this..."

In addition, another one of the programme's success stories, Ms. Anna Shanalingigwa, who was promoted internally during the training programme and is now the acting managing director of PASS Trust.

"The CAP programme has widened my thinking capacity and knowledge on how I can tackle leadership positions," she said. She said in order to achieve these goals; a woman needs the full support of the com-

munity to be a better leader for the benefit of the company and society at large, further commenting that achieving these goals requires additional strength.

The CEO apprenticeship programme (CAP) comprises mentorship, one-to-one sessions and the right skill set training delivered through a goal-oriented curriculum.

The main aim of the 12-month programme is to help identify and then nurture experienced Tanzanian executives whose career trajectories lead them to senior executive positions. The programme has been specifically designed to equip executives with all the skills and knowledge required to succeed as visionary Tanzanian executive leaders, within East Africa and globally.

CAP is designed to attract experienced Tanzanians both within the public and private sectors to establish peer and CEO networks, and prepare them to become future CEOs.

The main objective of the CAP initiative is to facilitate the succession of CAP graduates into CEO positions over time, and in turn create a pipeline of competent, experienced, and visionary leaders in Tanzania.

Senior executives from within government, private sector and non-profit organisations are eligible to participate in the programme to participate in knowledge forums that inspire participants to expand their thought capacity from an operational to a strategic lens.

South Africa reassesses its vaccine strategy: What you need to know

By Estelle Ellis

THE National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) says levels of immunity, vaccination coverage and the impact of the 501YV2 mutation of the coronavirus, first identified in South Africa, are some of the key factors they are studying to determine the likelihood and severity of a third wave of coronavirus infections in the country.

Apart from population behaviour and adherence to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as the washing of hands, mask-wearing and social distancing, vaccination coverage, the NICD said, would play an important role.

"While there is considerable uncertainty regarding many of these parameters, another resurgence of SARS-CoV-2 is likely. Predicting the timing and scale of further resurgences is, however, difficult," the NICD said.

The co-chairperson of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Covid-19, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, said on Sunday that South Africa was emerging from the second wave of infection with decreasing infection numbers across the board.

However, the country hit a major stumbling block last week when data from the South African trial examining the safety and efficacy of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine, known as Covidshield, showed that it was not efficacious in fighting the new 501YV2 strain of the virus.

What vaccines will South Africa be procuring?

Apart from the one million doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine already procured from the Serum Institute, the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, said the government was looking at procuring Johnson & Johnson vaccines through an implementation study, the Sputnik V vaccine from Russia, the Sinopharm vaccine from China, the Moderna vaccine from the US and also needed to explore the Novavax vaccine that is manufactured by a US company and has produced good results in a South African trial.

What vaccines are on their way to South Africa through the Covax agreement?

The international vaccine alliance Gavi last week announced its allocation of additional doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine as well as the Pfizer vaccine to qualifying countries, including South Africa through the Covax agreement.

Covax is the financial instrument used to pay for Covid-19 vaccines with the intention of making sufficient doses available to low and middle-income countries.

An additional 2.9 million doses will be made available to South Africa as well as 117,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

What is South Africa looking for in a vaccine?

Karim said there is currently pub-



lished information on four of seven clinical trials and there are three levels of evidence available to show how well vaccines work against the 501YV2 variant. The variant is a mutation of the original virus that made it more transmissible.

The first level was laboratory tests. Here, he said, different vaccines were seeing "diminished neutralising activity" against the 501YV2 variant, meaning the vaccine must produce more antibodies to kill this mutation of the virus.

The next two levels are clinical trials. He said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine provided a reduced risk of mild and moderate disease against the 501YV2 variant but there was no data yet on the other vaccines.

AstraZeneca and Novavax trials have shown that clinical efficacy is diminished against the 501YV2 variant.

"We need the data on severe disease," Karim added.

What are the different types of vaccines that have data to show efficacy against the coronavirus?

Some of the vaccines are using novel technology to teach the body to attack the virus's spike protein.

This is the part of the coronavirus that attaches to human cells.

The messenger-RNA vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, train the body to destroy the spike protein by using single-stranded messenger RNA. The body reads the RNA message and starts to manufacture the spike protein. This then prompts an immune response. The RNA does not alter the recipient's DNA.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine uses a double-stranded DNA code to deliver the message.

The vector used by the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was also used successfully in vaccines for the Ebola and Zika viruses. This vaccine also uses a double-stranded DNA code and is delivered to the body by a harmless modified virus.

Researchers have been working on mRNA vaccines for the past decade to develop a vaccine against cancer.

With the Novavax vaccine, the recipient is directly injected with the spike protein and a substance that boosts the body's immune response. This technology is also used in vaccines against whooping cough (pertussis) and diphtheria.

The Sinopharm vaccine uses an

inactivated virus. This technology is also used in the polio vaccine.

More than 40 vaccines are in the human trial phase around the world at the moment.

How well are these vaccines working against the original virus and against the 501YV2 mutation?

Karim said most of the vaccines worked well against the original virus. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine prevented clinically apparent Covid-19 in 66% of cases, Pfizer in 95%, Moderna in 94% and the AstraZeneca vaccine in 67%. The results looked even better for the prevention of hospitalisation and severe Covid-19. Johnson & Johnson showed 85% efficacy, Pfizer 90%, Moderna 100%, the Sinopharm vaccine 100% and the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine also 100%.

All the vaccines showed diminished efficacy in preventing mild and moderate disease caused by the 501YV2 mutation. But the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine had the worst outcome, with only 22% efficacy. Johnson & Johnson showed 57% efficacy against the mutation and the Novavax vaccine 49%.

In laboratory tests, Pfizer showed a one- to threefold diminished efficacy, Moderna 6.4-fold and Sinopharm 1.6-fold.

What did the Oxford/AstraZeneca trial use?

The study tested the efficacy of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, known as Covidshield, on 2,000 "relatively young" healthy participants aged 18 to 65 with a median age of 31.

The main purpose of the study was to test the vaccine's safety and to see if it would protect the recipient against Covid-19 two weeks after the second dose.

The lead investigator in the Oxford/AstraZeneca trial, Professor Shabir Madhi, said the trial was not designed to determine whether the vaccine would protect against severe Covid-19.

He said the majority of people in the trial who got sick had mild to moderate disease.

Did the vaccine work against the 'original' coronavirus?

Madhi explained that most of the approved vaccines currently available were designed using the original coronavirus and created antibodies with "a great affinity" for the virus's

spike protein.

When the 501YV2 mutation was first identified in the Eastern Cape scientists discovered that its spike protein was different from that of the original virus and as a result, the vaccines became less effective.

Madhi said the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine had worked very well until the end of October and data from the trial showed that those who received it had a 75% reduced risk of being infected by the original virus.

"It showed tremendous potential to prevent infection, mild and moderate disease."

Why do the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and others not work against the 501YV2 mutation?

Madhi explained that to ensure its survival the virus had to evade the body's immune responses. He said they discovered through experiments done in laboratories that the antibody produced by the vaccine was not "active" against 501YV2. Further data in human trials showed that the vaccine only offered a 22% lower risk of infection.

What data do we still need for the Oxford/AstraZeneca trial?

Madhi said the trial data does not yet tell investigators how well the vaccine protects against severe disease, hospitalisation and death.

Will we be able to use the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine at all?

Madhi said several studies were underway to investigate the use of this vaccine in combination with another. In the UK, he said, investigators are looking at combining the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine with the Pfizer vaccine as a second dose.

"It might well be that we will explore combining the Johnson & Johnson vaccine with the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine in South Africa," he said.

Madhi said that as South Africa expected another resurgence in the winter there should be a conversation on whether the country can afford to take the risk of not vaccinating those at high risk simply because there is uncertainty whether the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine will protect against severe disease.

"It will be reckless to discard a million doses of the vaccine while the probability exists that it can protect against severe disease, hospitalisation and death."

Karim said the "mix and match"

study in the UK would provide important clues. "Given that we will be vaccinating [some] people with past immunity it bodes well, but we need empirical evidence to assess if it can be done safely," he said.

What are the body's killer cells and why is their response good news for South Africa?

Madhi said that the data on the body's T-lymphocytes or killer cells gave grounds for optimism that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines might protect against severe disease, hospitalisation and death due to Covid-19.

T-cells kill infected host cells and activate other immune cells and are especially important to protect against severe disease. He said the body's T-cell response is largely unaffected by the 501YV2 mutation.

Why has the South African government decided to allow for an implementation study of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

Professor Glenda Gray, the principal investigator for the Johnson & Johnson Phase 3 Ensemble trial said their vaccine, administered as a single shot, does not protect against "the sniffles" but has a high efficacy against severe disease and death, also for the 501YV2 variant.

One of the strengths of the vaccine is that it was tested in a large trial of 43,783 people in the US, South America and South Africa. Around a third of the participants were older than 60, 19.6% were older than 65, 3.5% were older than 75 and 1% were older than 80. Many of the participants also had comorbidities: 28.5% were obese, 7.3% had type 2 diabetes, 10.3% had hypertension and 2.8% had HIV. Gray said the study had included others with compromised immune systems.

She said their trial was conducted at a time when infections were very high and new variants of the disease were emerging.

She said investigators saw efficacy after 14 days and an increase in immune response through to day 56 after the vaccination.

The data showed the vaccine provided high levels of protection against severe disease and hospitalisation (77% after a week and 85% after 28 days) - and it showed a 57% efficacy against the 501YV2 variant.

Has the vaccine been approved by Sahpra?

Gray said there is a rolling submis-

sion before the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (Sahpra) and the investigators are adding data to it as it goes along. They have applied for emergency use of the vaccine from the US Food and Drug Administration as well as other international regulators.

What is an implementation study?

Both Gray and Karim stressed that there was an urgent need to further evaluate vaccines in large trials in South Africa to get more data.

Gray said they were in advanced negotiations to roll out the vaccine to South African health workers to evaluate its efficacy in the field.

"We can't wait. We already have good data," she said.

Does that mean that health workers will be guinea pigs for the vaccine?

Health Minister Mkhize has been adamant that allowing for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to be rolled out in South Africa as part of an implementation study did not mean that doctors, nurses and other health workers would be used as "guinea pigs".

"The vaccine has already been proven to be safe and effective. We are doing something extra. It is not the same as the original trial. We will vaccinate everyone and monitor what happens.

"We know that a single shot will stop hospitalisations and death," Gray said. "We want to protect our healthcare workers. The quickest way to bring this vaccine to them is to use this programme."

What about the Novavax vaccine?

Madhi is also the principal investigator in the Novavax vaccine trial. He said this trial showed that past infection with the original coronavirus did not protect against mild and moderate infections with the 501YV2 mutation.

However, he said this vaccine, that is a different type of vaccine from the Oxford/AstraZeneca one but was tested in a similar demographic, showed a 60% reduced risk against mild and moderate disease.

Will the existing vaccines be adapted to fight the 501YV2 variant?

Karim said new vaccines are being developed to accommodate this mutation.

Will the virus mutate again?

Madhi said viruses do mutate, sometimes by accident and sometimes to ensure their survival in populations where a high level of infection had occurred.

The NICD said that expert laboratories throughout South Africa are increasing their sequencing capacity and monitoring the 501YV2 virus in real-time.

"For example, the detection of the variant currently prevalent in the United Kingdom has now also been identified in South Africa. Ongoing mutations are expected and we expect the virus to evolve over time, the 501YV2 lineage to change, but also new lineages to emerge.

"Positive cases identified throughout the country are analysed daily and weekly. We review exactly these details to assess how the epidemiology of the disease is changing.

"Currently, rates of disease are stabilising or decreasing in most provinces. We will continue to monitor these data to identify any new changes or clusters of disease over the next weeks and months," the NICD said.

DM/MC



MILESTONE

Airtel to deploy Supa-4G network to hundreds of townships in the country

By Guardian Reporter

IN a race against time to dominate the market with high speed communications, Airtel Tanzania will deploy Supa-4G network to an estimated 500 townships, district and municipal areas of the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday while launching the Supa-4G network, Airtel Tanzania Communications Director, Beatrice Singano said with the latest technology, customers will now receive much higher quality services with faster downloads and 4G coverage.

"We have invested significantly to meet our commitment to deliver a world class mobile data and voice experience to customers," Singano said adding that the 4G services on dual bands of 700MHz and 2100 MHz, will enable high speed communication of above of 40 megabytes per second.

"With the launch of Supa-4G network, Airtel looks forward to further strengthening its bond with customers," she added while revealing that as part of its 4G network deployment in the country, Airtel will soon deploy its high speed Supa-4G network across Tanzania.

She noted that the latest network will boost communications for local communities and enable residents to enjoy digital services like HD quality video streaming, superfast downloads and uploads and high speed internet browsing, among other benefits.

The Airtel Tanzania Communications Director further noted that to support the Supa-4G network roll out, the telco has made it affordable for customers to experience superior service cheaply. "Airtel launched three new benefits for customers to experience the high speed service," Singano noted while urging subscri-



Airtel Tanzania's director of communications, Beatrice Singano, speaks to journalists during the launch of Airtel Supa-4G network in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Airtel's data manager, Ezekiel Kahatano. Photo courtesy of Airtel.

ers to upgrade in order to benefit from the new technology.

Among the benefits include seven gigabytes free to all existing Airtel customer offer for those still using 3G SIM when upgrading to 4G; double data on bundle purchases for all new smartphone customers and reduction of Air-

tel MiFi device price to 45,000/- with an upfront 40 GB free.

"As you are aware, we recently launched Airtel smartphone double data for all smartphone customers, an offer that gives customers double data on every weekly and monthly data packs for all bundle purchases over the

next six months," she underlined.

On his part, Airtel Data Manager, Ezekiel Kahatano said Airtel 4G-Supa network launch introduces latest form of technology in the market.

"The affordable 4G offer is part of Airtel's initiatives of improving communication services and promoting use of smartphones among Tanzanians," Kahatano said.

ACTIVISM

Forest Group donates 15 modern beehives to Mvomero School

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

IN order to nurture a culture of forest conservation among pupils, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has donated 15 modern beehives to Msufini Primary School in Mvomero District of Morogoro Region.

The school's Head Teacher, Jonas Mhoka said over his mobile phone yesterday that the hives will enable them make money from honey which will be sold with proceeds being used to purchase food for pupils but also solve other challenges facing the public school.

"We have a school feeding programme that benefits about 447 pupils currently which has helped boost attendance hence improving examination results," Mhoka said.

He paid tribute to TFCG for the

donation saying apart from encouraging conservation of trees, it has also helped the school address several challenges including cash crunch.

"These beehives have capacity to produce 20 litres each which is a very good source of income to us," he added while thanking Danish Government backed Danish Outdoor Council for financing the initiative through an Eco-Schools Programme.

The Msufini Head Teacher further noted that the beehives also benefit the community surrounding them because villagers are learning beekeeping and conservation from the initiative which helps address global warming.

He however urged TFCG and other well wishers to assist with training of the community on the art of beekeeping and honey harvesting, processing, handling, storage, packaging and market-



Beehives hanging from trees at Msufini Primary School in Mvomero District. The school received 15 modern beehives from Tanzania Forest Conservation Group last week.

ing of the commodity. Msufini is one of the 34 public primary schools in Mvomero district that have benefited through Eco-schools programme.

Currently, about 75 percent of honey produced locally is sold to European countries notably Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Italy and a few African countries.

REGULATE

New bid to place digital lenders on CBK watch

NAIROBI

THE Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) will license all mobile loan providers if Parliament passes a proposed law seeking to weed out predatory lending.

Digital lenders without operating licences will be barred from business in a bid to push out rogue players amid concerns of unethical practices such as over pricing of loans, illegal mining of customer private data and shaming of borrowers who default on repayment. The Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill of 2020, if passed, will also compel the CBK to publish the names of all digital lenders every four months to review those that are compliant.

"The proposed amendment seeks to achieve the following objectives; prohibit any person, institution or firm from lending money to Kenyans unless licensed by the Central Bank of Kenya," says a notice of the Bill sponsored by nominated Member of Parliament Gideon Keter.

The CBK currently regulates banks and micro-lenders but the proposed changes will now grant it supervisory and licensing powers to oversee hundreds of digital lenders operating in the country. There has been a proliferation of digital lenders targeting the banked and unbanked alike, saddling borrowers with high interest rates and leaving regulators scrambling to keep up.

The digital lenders have been accused of listing individuals with credit reference bureaus (CRBs) over very small amounts and failing to reveal their terms and conditions that include lifetime of SMS notifications, full surrenders of their personal data to third parties and waiver of their right to dignity.

Last year the CBK revoked the approval of digital lenders, barring 337 unregulated digital mobile lenders from forwarding the names of loan defaulters to CRBs. An internal memo showed that only 39 banks, 14 microfinance banks, 1,353 unregulated sacco, 164 regulated sacco were allowed to continue using the mechanism from the end of August.

OPTIMISM

Rising electric vehicle demand puts Africa on the cusp of a mining boom

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA is about to experience a battery investment bonanza, necessitated by a mass transition to electric vehicles that will require large amounts of minerals.

As major car makers rev up their electric vehicle ambitions, demand for lithium, graphite, cobalt, copper, nickel and other metals - all crucial for batteries - is set to soar.

The International Energy Agency expects EV sales to reach 44 million annually by the end of this decade. Demand for lithium is set to balloon to \$60 billion by 2025 from \$8bn in 2018, according to trade body United Nations Conference Trade and Development.

"It's crucial to remember that building and securing the battery supply chain, from mine to gigafactory is key," said Simon Moores, chief executive of Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, which monitors the metals supply chain. Last year, the UK set a target to ban new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030. Mr Moores said in order to meet the demand for new vehicles, the country will need at least 4 large scale battery production factories.

"For its 4 gigafactories, the UK will need the equivalent of the half of all lithium produced in 2020, and more than the entire world's supply of graphite anode in 2020." Benchmark's research shows at least 175

battery super-factories have come online over the past five years, with more on the way. In 2020 alone, China announced another 38 battery plants, Europe two and at least three are planned for the US. This puts African countries in the front line to supply the raw materials.

"There's no other land mass that has such a large concentration of critical minerals," said Nechan Naiker, group chief executive of Megamillion, a Johannesburg-based lithium battery supplier. "Everything in the value chain is found in this region."

Zimbabwe has large quantities of lithium, northern Mozambique has some of the world's largest deposits of graphite, South Africa has the world's largest known reserves of manganese and platinum, as well as substantial nickel deposits.

Copper, another crucial mineral for electric vehicle production, is found in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Cobalt, crucial to the current generation of battery technology is also produced in the DRC, which now accounts for 73 per cent of world production.

However, getting the minerals out of the ground will take time, and money, noted Mr Naiker. "The supply chain could kill this industry. You can build a beautiful factory, but without the supply chain in place, it's just a building."

Often, mines need to build not just their



Nechan Naiker, group chief executive of Megamillion.

own immediate operations, but support logistics and infrastructure such as ports, railways and power stations. Due to this, mining activities have tended to focus on high-value minerals such as gold and diamonds, or low-cost extraction base metals such as iron ore and coal.

Now, with demand for battery minerals

set to grow exponentially, the economics of building extraction capacity has come into line. An example is AVZ Minerals, an Australian-listed company developing the Manono mine in southern DRC. The project will cost at least \$545 million and will be one of the world's largest producers of lithium. "This is the largest hard rock lith-

ium deposit in the world," said AVZ chief executive Nigel Ferguson. "It's a world class project."

The mine is capable of meeting 25 per cent of Europe's current lithium demand, but will need substantial infrastructure investments to get the metal to market. Rail routes will have to be introduced to move product from the land-locked region to the coast at least 1,600 kilometres away.

The mine will also consume vast amounts of electricity to run its extraction plants to retrieve lithium from crushed ore. An old colonial era hydro dam is being completely refurbished to supply the needed electricity to the mine and to the surrounding community.

"This will be enough to power our sulphate plants as well as one or two towns down the road," Mr Ferguson said. The mine will also deploy EV in its operations, to obviate the need for flying in diesel, at great cost. This, along with hydro power, will greatly reduce the mine's carbon footprint.

"From an operational view, we will be one of the greenest producers in the industry worldwide, Mr Ferguson said. In the meantime, analysts see a crunch in supply until production catches up, which in turn can drive up prices. According to Benchmark data, the price of battery grade lithium in China spiked 40 per cent, as consumers increased their purchase of EVs as they emerged from Covid-19 lockdowns.

MARKETING

NMB Bank clients take home 93.6m/- in material prizes

By Guardian Reporter

AS the three months NMB Bank Plc's 'MastaBata' campaign nears its climax, a record 384 clients have won cash and materials prizes including electronic products.

The campaign which started in November last year encourages NMB clients to use their Mastercard and Masterpass QR has witnessed 40 clients win 100,000/- each in weekly draws and 2.4m/- Samsung smartphone promotion in monthly draws.

"Through our weekly draw, we have so far seen 360 winners or a total of 36m/- in cash while 24 winners in two monthly draws, have won 57.6m/-," said NMB's Senior Card Business Manager, Manfred Kayala.

Kayala urged NMB clients to continue paying for goods and services using their cards so that they stand a chance to win cash and materials prizes with a possible grand prize of

a paid up trip to Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park or Spice Islands of Zanzibar.

Other prizes on offer include refrigerators, microwaves, laptops, flat screen television with a three months paid up DSTV subscription.

"I encourage our customers to continue using Mastercard and Masterpass QR at any point of sales to qualify for the grand finale prize," he added while noting that here are optional prizes worth 8m/- to forgo the paid up trip.



Through our weekly draw, we have so far seen 360 winners or a total of 36m/- in cash while 24 winners in two monthly draws, have won 57.6m/-



NMB Bank Plc's senior manager for card business, Manfred Kayala (C) addresses the media during a weekly draw for 'MastaBata' promotion held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him are Gaming Board of Tanzania inspector Joram Mtafya (L) and NMB customer care officer Neema Deus. Photo courtesy of NMB

VICTORY

Tigo customers to get free airtime daily in new promotion campaign

By Guardian Reporter

CUSTOMERS on Tigo Tanzania will get 10 minutes of voice call daily between 6-9am to call peers who are also subscribers of the telco.

In a new promotion dubbed, 'Amka na Tigo,' is aimed at enabling Tigo Tanzania customers to kick-start their daily business activities without the hassle of running out of airtime to make calls.

Tigo Tanzania Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the promotion is also a way of giving back to the community who support the telco's business. "We value our customers hence want to ensure that they talk to their families and business partners without any hitches," said Shisael.

She added, "Tigo is a brand that understands its clients hence the decision to award them airtime to communicate easily at the start of the day." Shisael further noted that Tigo has been a market leader in offering its clients solutions to their daily needs hence decision to launch 'Amka na Tigo,' promotion.

"Traditionally Tigo Tanzania has been a pioneer in giving clients ac-



Tigo Tanzania communication manager, Woinde Shisael, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the telco's promotion dubbed, 'Amka na Tigo.' Left is commercial manager Ndevoaeli Eliakimu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

cess to unique products such as Facebook in Kiswahili, a smartphone with Kiswahili language and the latest product, 'Amka na Tigo' is just

another innovation along the same line," she noted.

With over 12 million subscribers, Tigo remains one of the largest telecommunications company in the market.

According to Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, Tigo is

one of the top three companies in the market with its mobile money platform, Tigo Pesa also being among the top three.

CONTROVERSY

Global health officials back AstraZeneca vaccine after SA study rings alarm

JOHANNESBURG

HEALTH officials around the world gave their backing to the AstraZeneca vaccine against Covid-19, after a study showing it had little effect against mild disease caused by the variant now spreading quickly in South Africa rang global alarm.

The prospect that new virus variants could evolve the ability to elude vaccines is one of the main risks hanging over the global strategy to emerge from the pandemic by rolling out vaccines this year.

South Africa, where a new variant now accounts for the vast bulk of cases, initially announced a pause in its rollout of a million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

But it said on Monday it could still roll it out in a "stepped manner", giving out 100 000 doses and monitoring it to see if it prevents hospitalisations and deaths.

"It is vastly too early to be dismissing this vaccine," said Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a foundation that co-leads the global COVAX programme to provide vaccine doses in poor countries.

More than 330 million doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine form the overwhelming majority of doses that COVAX aims to begin rolling out in a first phase in poor countries beginning as soon as this month. "Obviously the world is full of the wild type virus that this Astrazeneca vaccine is known to work against," Hatchett said.

Professor Salim Abdool Karim, co-chair of South Africa's Ministerial Advisory Committee on Covid-19, said it was too early to conclude that the AstraZeneca would not prevent serious disease caused by the variant prevalent there.

If the vaccine does not work well against new evolving variants of the virus, it could be an ominous sign for other vaccines as well, showing that the virus can potentially thwart the efforts of scientists to fight it.

The overall message from the World Health Organization and others was: don't panic.

Several global health officials noted that the South African study was small and had tested the vaccine using a short four-week interval between the first and second doses, despite evidence having since emerged that it works better if there is a longer wait.

It was becoming "more and more clear, the longer the interval between the two doses the higher the efficacy," said Kate O'Brien, head of immunisations at the WHO.

RELIEF

Mixed reactions as Kigali reopens after three-week Covid lockdown

KIGALI

IT was a race against time for many businesses and shoppers in the capital Kigali on the evening of the first day of reopening following a three-week lockdown. The lockdown has been lifted and replaced with a raft of tough restrictions designed to help contain the spread of Covid-19, with businesses now required to close at 5p.m while curfew starts at 7p.m.

But some traders in downtown Kigali closed as early as 4p.m on Monday, to afford themselves enough time to go catch a bus and head home in time. At the Downtown Bus Terminal, passengers formed long queues awaiting buses, which are restricted to carry half their normal capacity to ensure social distancing onboard.

"The closing time is too early be-

cause that's around the same time we usually do business, that's when people are returning from office and come to shop," said Justine Ingabire, who deals in shoes close to the bus terminal. She added: "We are actually not waiting until 5p.m to close, most people are closing an hour earlier and then head down to the bus terminal, remember everyone is supposed to be home by 7p.m."

Another passenger, Elie Havugimana, who sells footwear for children on the same block, said he had served only one client the whole day as opposed to previously when he would attend to an average of 20 buyers a day.

"Clearly, we are still grappling with the effects of Covid-19. But this is necessary in the fight against the pandemic, our hope is that people comply with preventive measures against the virus so that business



People and vehicles move around in Kigali's central business district yesterday.

hours can be extended as soon as possible," he told The New Times. Generally, there was minimal activity and movement on the first day of reopening in areas that are usually teeming with people and business activity.

Only few businesses like hair salons saw a huge turn up of clients. Business operators in the Nyabugogo, a major business hub for the city, told The New Times that they suspect most office employees worked from home on Monday given the reduced flow of shoppers.

Public offices remain closed with employees working remotely, while government has asked private employers to recall not more than 30

per cent of their staff to office and let the bulk of workers continue to work from home on any given day.

Traders in Nyabugogo, a key gateway to the city, also reckon that the ban on travel between Kigali and the countryside has also affected their business. Nyabugogo bus terminal is used by most commuters heading to or departing from the city.

WORLD

Leaving no one behind in continent's health battle

BY OTIATO OPALI

AFRICA'S top political grouping has vowed that no country will be left behind in the continent's collective response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Leaders of the African Union, meeting via video link over the weekend, made commitments to ensure that all members of the bloc are part of an African effort against the coronavirus, especially for the distribution of vaccines.

The key pledges were made on Saturday, during the assembly of heads of state and government for the 34th African Union summit. The event ended on Sunday.

At the meeting, the union committed to strengthen the collective response to the COVID-19 crisis, marshaling resources for the benefit of all.

Felix Tshisekedi, the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, was selected as the incoming chairman of the African Union, taking over from Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa's president. Tshisekedi applauded the ingenuity and resilience shown by African countries in the fight against the pandemic.

"Let us organize together, with our international partners, for a great offensive against these various scourges," Tshisekedi said. "It is imperative that our organization can strengthen the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in order to respond effectively to emergencies and complex health challenges, as a specialized technical institution of the African Union."

Action plan

While highlighting his plan of action during his mandate as chair of the union, Tshisekedi said the African Union can work with the continent's regional economic communities to strengthen peace and security.

He said the bloc can also help to ensure the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which started last month. Additionally,



Democratic Republic of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi attends the 32nd African Union (AU) summit in Addis Ababa on Feb 10, 2019. (File photo)

it can promote a renaissance of African culture, arts and heritage.

"It is from this perspective that I intend to anchor the theme of my chairmanship of the African Union in the following vision, an African Union at the service of the peoples," Tshisekedi said. "My Vision is to see an African Union at the service of the African peoples."

"I promise that with the support of every one of you, we will take our organization out from the conference rooms, the hard drives of our computers and the well-crafted files of our secretariats, into the classrooms, the refugee camps, the markets of our cities and in the fields of our

respective villages."

Ramaphosa highlighted the African Union's establishment of a COVID-19 response fund to raise resources for a continental vaccination response. He thanked African countries for being the first contributors to the fund.

"We established the groundbreaking Africa medical supplies platform to assist AU member states to access affordable medical supplies and equipment," Ramaphosa said.

"In establishing this platform, we have given practical meaning to the mantra we often repeat, that we are committed to developing African solutions to African problems."

Xi: China ready to cooperate with CEE countries on vaccine

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said yesterday that China stands ready for vaccine cooperation with Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC).

So far, Serbia has received 1 million doses of vaccines from a Chinese company, and there is ongoing cooperation between Hungary and Chinese vaccine companies, Xi said at the China-CEEC Summit held via video link.

China will actively consider such cooperation with other CEE countries if there is the need, he added.

'17 plus 1 could make more than 18'

Xi lauded the cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC), saying that "17 plus 1 could make more than 18."

Xi made the remarks while delivering a keynote speech at the China-CEEC Summit held via video link.

China-CEEC cooperation is based on mutual respect

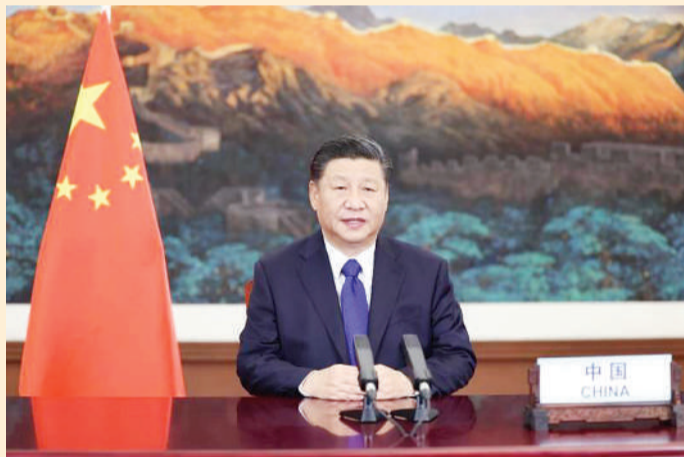
and has no political strings attached, Xi said, adding that all countries involved, regardless of their size, are equal partners in a cooperation mechanism featuring extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

"Guided by the conviction that '17 plus 1 could make more than 18,' we have set up a multi-dimensional cooperation framework led by the leaders' summit and covering 20-plus sectors to ensure the participation of all CEE countries," he said.

Xi also said that cooperation between China and CEEC has developed some principles that are reflective of its distinctive features and accepted by all parties.

The principles are making decisions through consultation; delivering benefits to all cooperation partners; pursuing common development through openness and inclusiveness; and achieving bigger growth through innovation.

Progress in BRI cooperation lauded



President Xi Jinping addresses the Climate Ambition Summit via video link on Dec 12, 2020. (PHOTO/XINHUA)

Xi added that openness and inclusiveness are the key to the sustained vibrancy of cooperation between China and CEEC, and lauded China-CEEC progress in Belt and Road cooperation.

Acting in an innovative and pioneering spirit, China and CEE countries have taken steps early on to explore the possibility of aligning cross-regional cooperation with Belt and Road cooperation, making Central and Eastern Europe the first

region where all countries have signed agreements on Belt and Road cooperation, Xi said.

Call for deepening customs cooperation

It is important for China and CEEC to deepen customs cooperation to ensure trade security and faster clearance, Xi said.

China will work toward the establishment of a China-CEEC customs information center and a focal point for customs clearance coordination for

countries along the China-Europe Land-Sea Express Line, Xi stressed.

"We could also explore cooperation on a pilot basis under the 'Smart Customs, Smart Borders and Smart Connectivity' Initiative," said Xi.

More imports from CEEC

China intends to import, in the coming five years, more than US\$170 billion of goods from CEEC, Xi said.

"We need to deepen agricultural cooperation, in a bid to double CEE countries' agricultural exports to China and raise two-way agricultural trade by 50 percent over the next five years," Xi said.

Today, trade between China and CEE countries is nearly 85 percent bigger than nine years ago, and the number of mutual tourist visits has grown nearly four times, noted Xi.

Xi added that the China-Europe Railway Express has reached most of the CEE countries, running more than 30,000 freight services so far.

Xinhua

Slapping sanctions on Kremlin officials 'nonsensical' – spokesman

MOSCOW

COUNTRIES who introduce sanctions against members of the Russian presidential administration are making a mistake, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday. He noted that the sanctions mechanism is a double-edged sword that causes damage to both sides.

"You know that in their sanctions hysteria, many countries even announced sanctions against the leadership of the [Russian presidential] administration. Of

course, this is simply nonsensical, there's no other way to put it," the spokesman told reporters yesterday.

The spokesman commented on the joking statement made by Russian President Vladimir Putin, in which he said that some of his acquaintances get offended for not being included on the sanctions list despite being close to the Russian leader.

"As for the statement of the president, you realize that this is a figure of speech. And it is true, some joke about it," the spokesman said. "Other



members of the administration often joke and say that they feel uncomfortable when such important people [the leadership of the presidential administration - TASS] are under sanctions, and they aren't.

Those are just jokes, just a figure of speech." He added that practice shows that "more often, this is a double-edged sword, which deals a blow not only to the interests of those falling under the restrictions, but of those who

introduce these restrictions as well."

"Sanctions can't be for the best. Sanctions are always bad," Peskov stressed.

"However, while being under some absolutely unlawful restrictions, we get an opportunity to mobilize our domestic resources and do what, perhaps, we would have needed much more time to do under normal conditions: establish our own production, our own electronic systems, strengthen our banking and financial infrastructure and so on."

Agencies

WHO experts meet to review efficacy of AstraZeneca vaccine

GENEVA

EXPERTS from the World Health Organization (WHO) met on Monday to review the efficacy of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19, after a study showed it was less effective against a new variant, according to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Earlier on Sunday, South Africa, where the new variant, B.1.351, was found, announced that the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine in the country would be temporarily put on hold until more clinical efficacy information becomes available.

At Monday's WHO press briefing, Tedros said although the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is one of the several that have been shown to be effective in preventing severe disease, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19, the emergence of new variants of the virus has raised concerns about their potential impacts on the efficacy of vaccines.

He announced that the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) has met to review the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and discuss these new developments. Tedros noted that he will meet with the chair of SAGE on Tuesday to discuss its recommendations.

Also at the briefing, Kate O'Brien, director of the Department for Immunization, Vaccines, and Biologicals at the WHO, said SAGE had met with investigators from the trials being conducted in Britain and Brazil, as well as AstraZeneca and investigators from South African trials. In looking at evidence on the AstraZeneca vaccine across a number of trials, it is very clear that it has efficacy against severe disease, hospitalizations and deaths among different variants, said Dr. O'Brien, while admitting that "there are some indications of reduction in the efficacy, some more some less, depending on which variant, which population, and also the neutralizing antibody responses."

"But we also have evidence that there is the likelihood that the retention of meaningful impact against severe disease is a very plausible scenario for the product against the B.1.351 variant," she added.

O'Brien also noted that "we really have to sort of sail a steady ship, based on the preponderance of evidence and not lurch from one particular report or another report."

Meanwhile, the GAVI, a global Vaccine Alliance and a major player in the WHO-led COVAX initiative for COVID-19 vaccines, has decided to continue to roll out the AstraZeneca vaccine.

According to GAVI CEO Seth Berkley, the AstraZeneca vaccine is efficacious and has been reviewed and approved by a number of stringent regulatory authorities.

"Therefore we suspect that we will continue to roll that out, and we'll continue to follow the effects of that vaccine over time," Berkley said.

WHO has been pushing forward the COVAX initiative which is expected to include a large portfolio of COVID-19 vaccine products in the future.

Last week, China decided to provide 10 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to COVAX in response to the urgent needs of developing countries.

According to WHO Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan, China has several vaccines under development and the WHO is speaking with all the developers. **Xinhua**

Myanmar inoculations move ahead despite unrest

By Yang Han

MYANMAR'S efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 have got back on track with the resumption of its vaccination program despite political unrest and street protests.

Myanmar approved Russia's Sputnik V vaccine on Saturday, making it the first country to do so in Southeast Asia, said a statement issued by the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), Russia's sovereign wealth fund that supports the development of the vaccine.

"Myanmar has become the 21st country in the world to approve Sputnik V," the RDIF said.

The country recorded 54 new cases on Sunday, bringing its total tally to 141,423, a release of the country's Ministry of Health and Sports said.

Though the country entered a yearlong state of emergency on Feb 1, Myanmar resumed the vaccination program against COVID-19 across the country on Friday.

On Jan 27, the country began vaccinating more than 103,000 frontline medical staff and volunteers, in the first phase of its vaccination program.

The country will strengthen existing COVID-19 containment methods and continue the ongoing vaccination program, said government officials. It will also try to buy more vaccines through bilateral commercial arrangements and the global vaccine sharing initiative COVAX.

China expressed its support for Myanmar's COVID-19 fight. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said in a news conference last week that China is providing vaccine aid to Myanmar and a dozen other countries.

Agencies

China's forest carbon reserve hits 9.2 billion tonnes

CHINA recently announced to increase the forest stock volume by 6 billion cubic meters from the 2005 level by 2030 to contribute more to tackling the global climate challenge.

This message excited Zhang Guobin, a researcher of the ecological conservation and restoration department under China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA). "Forest carbon sinks will play a more and more important role in achieving the goal of carbon neutrality," he said.

There are two major ways to slow down climate change. The first one is to improve efficiency and lower energy consumption in industries and the energy sector, which reduces the emission of carbon dioxide. The second one is to restore forests, grasslands and wetlands, which increases the planet's capability to absorb carbon dioxide.

"Just like a bank that receives cash deposits, forests can store carbon dioxide by the photosynthesis, which is also called carbon sinks," said Zhu Jianhua, an associate researcher with the Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection under Chinese Academy of Forestry.

Forests, as a major part of the terrestrial ecosystem, is the largest carbon sink in the system. Carbon sinks are also one of the most economical and effective ways to cope with climate change. It's a natural process that doesn't cost too much, and also protects biodiversity, enhances water conservation and prevents desertification.

China attaches high attention on the role of carbon sinks in coping with climate change.

As early as 2009, the country had proposed to increase its forest stock volume by 1.3 billion cubic meters by 2020 compared to the 2005 levels.

In 2015, it once again vowed to increase the forest stock volume by around 4.5 billion cubic meters on the 2005 level by 2030.

In recent years, the country launched massive campaigns to green its territory, protect natural forests, and advance "grain for green" projects.

So far, forests have covered 23.04 percent of its territory, and the forest stock volume has surpassed 17.5 billion cubic meters, 4.5 billion cubic meters higher than the 2005 level.

"We have over-fulfilled our 2020 targets,

and the 2030 goal of increasing 4.5 billion cubic meters of forest stock volume was also completed in advance," Zhang said.

When global forest resources experienced contraction, China's forest coverage rose from 12.7 percent in early 1970s to the current 23.04 percent. Both forest areas and forest stock volume kept expanding for more than three decades.

"Massive tree planting and revegetation are conducive to improving the carbon sink intensity of China's terrestrial ecosystem, and have a prominent role in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases," Zhu said.

The NFGA and Ministry of Ecology and Environment jointly estimated China's carbon sinks. According to Liu Dongsheng, deputy

director of the NFGA, China's forest carbon reserve has totaled 9.2 billion tonnes, representing an increase of over 200 million tonnes on average each year, which is equivalent to a carbon sink of 700 million to 800 million tonnes.

"Upon calculation, every 100 million cubic meters of forest stock volume can fix 160 million tonnes of carbon dioxide," said Xu Huaqing, head of the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation. China still needs to make a lot of efforts to reach its new goals, he added.

"The country shall protect existing forests, and to reduce deforestation is to reduce carbon dioxide emission," Zhu remarked. He noted that the reduction forest dieback caused by floods and insect pests is also an important method to improve carbon sinks.

People's Daily

Time to promote healthy, stable development of China-US relations

BEIJING

FEW would disagree that China and the United States, the world's top two economies, could greatly benefit both themselves and the world at large by steering the bilateral relationship to the right course.

On Saturday, senior Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi held a phone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, saying that the Chinese government implements a stable and consistent policy toward the United States, and urging the U.S. side to work with China to uphold the spirit of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation, so as to push forward the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations.

In 1971, Dr. Henry Kissinger made his secret trip to China and began the great process of ending the estrangement and resuming the engagement between the two countries. Since then, China-U.S. relations have maintained steady development momen-

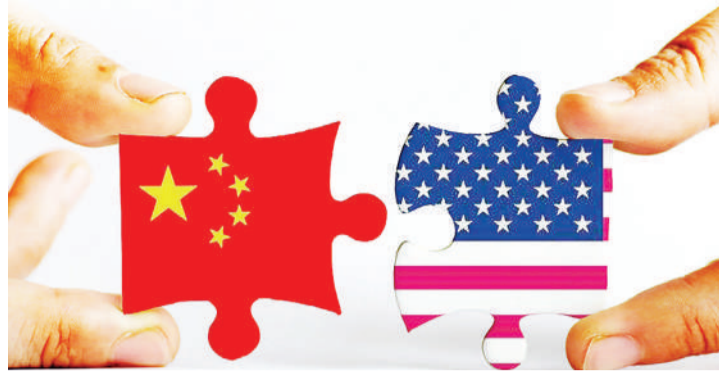
tum as a whole and have become one of the most important relationships in the world.

However, over the past several years, some U.S. politicians have withdrawn into Cold-War thinking and adopted a completely wrong policy toward China.

They have dragged the bilateral relationship down to its lowest ebb by smearing China's anti-epidemic efforts, interfering in China's internal affairs and sanctioning Chinese hi-tech companies.

These actions have not just seriously harmed the interests of the two peoples, but also caused severe disruptions to the world.

History has proven that the shared interests between the two sides far outweigh the differences. In this highly connected and interdependent world, it is imperative for the world's top two economies to step up cooperation, and more efforts are urgently needed for the United States to rebuild a strategic framework for the healthy and



stable development of relations with China.

Priority should be given to enhancing mutual respect between the two sides. In the spirit of seeking common ground while reserving differences, it is hoped that China and the United States can respect each other's social systems and development paths, take care of each other's core interests and major concerns, and adhere to the international norms of non-interference in internal affairs.

China hopes to have practical cooperation with the United States, but it will never make concessions on issues related to its sovereignty, security and development interests.

Candid and constructive dialogue is needed to better understand each side's strategic intentions and rebuild mutual strategic trust. Instead of regarding China as a threat, the U.S. side should view China's development with a positive and constructive attitude, real-

izing the fact that China adheres to the path of peaceful development and hopes to achieve common development with all countries in the world, including the United States. Only by abandoning ideological prejudice and zero-sum game thinking and adopting a rational policy toward China, can bilateral relations grow steadily.

In Kissinger's book "On China," the former U.S. secretary of state wrote, "what a culmination if, forty years later, the United States and China could merge their efforts not to shake the world, but to build it."

Now China-U.S. relations are standing at a critical point, and it is time for the United States to follow this advice, work with China to enhance cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, restoring the global economy and tackling climate change, and foster bright prospects for the two peoples and the world at large.

Xinhua

ROK's top diplomat confident about US coordination on DPRK

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea (ROK)'s new foreign minister said yesterday he was confident about coordinating policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) with the United States despite earlier signs of differences.

Chung Eui-yong, 74, took office as the ROK's top diplomat, replacing Kang Kyung-wha, who had held the post for nearly four years. As President Moon Jae-in's first national security adviser until last year, Chung helped facilitate Moon's summits with DPRK leader Kim Jong-un and sought to mediate between Pyongyang and Washington.

Chung's nomination came two days after Moon called for US President Joe Biden to hold a dialogue with the DPRK to build on progress made by Kim and former US president Donald Trump at their first summit in Singapore.

Chung played an incremental role in arranging the 2018 Singapore summit between Kim and Trump. But he was accused of misleading both Pyongyang and Washington about the potential for agreement ahead of their failed second summit in Vietnam in 2019.

The allies have shown signs of friction since then, with Seoul keen to reopen inter-Korean economic initiatives while Washington urges those projects should keep step with DPRK's progress on dismantling its nuclear programs.

Chung expressed confidence in coordinating with the new US administration of President Joe Biden, saying an early denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is a shared goal.

"Resolving the issue a very key task that can no longer be postponed," Chung told reporters.

Agencies

WHO: Virus may have taken 'convoluted path' to Wuhan

WUHAN

A MEMBER of the WHO-China joint team studying the origins of COVID-19 said bats remain a likely source and that transmission of the virus via frozen food is a possibility that warrants further investigation.

At a press conference in China's city Wuhan on Tuesday, Peter Ben Embarek said the team's work had uncovered new information but had not dramatically changed their picture of the outbreak.

"The possible path from whatever original animal species all the way through to the Huanan market could have taken a very long and convoluted path involving also movements across borders," Embarek told a nearly

three-hour media briefing. He said work to identify the coronavirus's origins points to a natural reservoir in bats, but it is unlikely that they were in Wuhan.

Huanan market 'may not be site of earliest outbreak'

Wuhan's Huanan seafood market may not have been the site of the earliest COVID-19 outbreak, the team said.

Liang Wannian, a member of the team, said that in retrospect, the first COVID-19 case in Wuhan had no relation to the Huanan seafood market. "We can't say it was the starting point of the epidemic," he said.

The market drew considerable attention after an early cluster of cases was traced to people working in the market. Embarek also

said the exact role of the Huanan seafood market was unclear.

Embarek noted that while the market was probably a setting where the virus could have easily spread, this is "not the whole story." "There was also spread among individuals that were not linked to the market," he said, adding that some cases were linked to other markets while some had no links to any markets whatsoever.

Lab incident 'extremely unlikely'

Embarek also said laboratory incident is "extremely unlikely" the cause of COVID-19.

Experts from the team identified four hypotheses for the source of the transmission of

the novel coronavirus to the human population, including direct zoonotic spillover, an intermediary host species, the food chain, and a laboratory-related incident, said Embarek.

Initial findings suggest that introduction through an intermediary host species is "the most likely" passway and one that will require further study and more specific targeted research, he said.

"For us it was important to develop a system to evaluate all these hypotheses where we could take a rational approach and look at facts and evidence in a rational way," he added.

Scientists have concluded that it was impossible the virus was man-made, said Liang Wannian,

another member of the WHO-China joint study team.

"There was no novel coronavirus in the Wuhan lab at all, so how could the virus leak from the lab?" Liang said.

Tracing COVID-19 origin not bound to any location

The joint study by WHO and Chinese experts in Wuhan will lay the foundation for COVID-19 origin-tracing work globally, Liang said.

The global origin-tracing of COVID-19 will not be bound to any location, Liang added.

Liang also said there is no indication of the transmission of the novel coronavirus before December 2019 in Wuhan.

Xinhua

China strives to protect, pass down ethnic culture of Hezhe people

HEZHE people, one of the smallest ethnic minority groups in China, are now embracing prosperity as they keep alive their culture and heritage.

People of Hezhe (which means "people in the east" in the local language) ethnic group in China lived on fishing and hunting for several thousand years and have inhabited areas along the Heilongjiang River, Songhua River and Wusuli River in northeast China.

Jiejinkou Hezhe township in Tongjiang city, northeast China's Heilongjiang province, is one of the three existing ethnic townships of the Hezhe people in China.

You Wenfeng, a resident in the township as well as an inheritor of the craft of making fish-skin clothes, always introduces the craft to visitors in details passionately. As the only inheritor of the intangible cultural heritage, the woman in her late sixties considers it her mission to bring the traditional skill of Hezhe to more people.

She has lent most of the fish-skin clothes she made to museums for exhibition, and now has two pieces left at home, according to her.

"The skill of making fish-skin clothes has been passed down for generations in our ethnic

group," said You, adding that she learnt the technique from her mother.

Basically all Hezhe women in her mother's generation could make clothes from fish skin, according to You.

However, as Hezhe people no longer depend on fishing or hunting for their livelihood, fewer people wear fish-skin clothes.

"If too few people can make fish-skin clothes, the traditional technique would become extinct," You said.

Worrying about the inheriting of the intangible cultural heritage, she started to teach residents in her township the traditional craft. As time went by, people started to visit her from outside the township to learn the skill. She has also been invited to introduce and teach the technique in classes held in cultural promotion centers in Tongjiang city.

Her students include both people of Hezhe ethnic group and Han people who are interested in the fish-skin clothes making technique.

As more and more people, with their ages ranging from 20 to 60, have started to learn about making fish-skin clothes in recent years, the traditional craft of Hezhe has been introduced to various



A contestant introduces an article of handmade clothing made from the skins of five different kinds of fish at a traditional festival of Hezhe ethnic group held in Raohe county, northeast China's Heilongjiang province, June 17, 2017. File photo

areas of the country.

Liu Lei, a woman of Hezhe ethnic group and also the only deputy of the ethnic group to the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, has tried to promote the skill of making fish-skin clothes in front of the cameras during the annual sessions of the NPC and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee every year since she became a deputy to the NPC in 2008, when she was

only 23. She always attends the important annual sessions, which are normally held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, in Hezhe ethnic clothes with fish skin elements, including waistcoats and hats.

During the "two sessions" in 2016, she showed a wallet and accessories made from fish skin in front of reporters, introducing Hezhe people's special technique to more people.

People's Daily

Putin orders launch of world's most powerful source of neutrons in Leningrad Region

ST. PETERSBURG

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has ordered the energy launch of the world's most powerful source of neutrons at St. Petersburg's B.P. Konstantinov Institute of Nuclear Physics, affiliated with the Kurchatov Institute research center.

"I am asking you to put the reactor into energy operation," Putin told the participants in the launch ceremony in a video conference mode.

The research reactor PIK is one of the six projects the Russian government included in the program for creating mega-science class facilities in Russia. In contrast to most foreign projects the reactor PIK has greater neutron fluxes in the reflector, a high flux neutron trap and the possibility of irradiating materials in the reactor core.

After the launch Putin congratulated the participants in the science experiment.

"Here is my message to your team. I wish you successful and fruitful work.

My congratulations upon Russian Science Day. I am inviting you to participate in the meeting of the Council for Science and Education. You institute has vast tradi-



tions and boasts specialists of an unprecedentedly high level. You have surprised the country with your discoveries more than once. I am certain that this step forward will benefit our great country," Putin said.

Reactor history

The project for building a PIK reactor with a compact core and heavy water reflector began to be created in the early 1970s as a source of highest intensity fluxes of neutrons.

The first phase of construction was completed successfully 70% by 1986. "After the

Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, the project was fundamentally revised. Its safety was considerably improved. The expert scrutiny lasted up to 1991.

For several years the construction project remained frozen. The situation changed when the St. Petersburg Institute of Nuclear Physics was included in the pilot project for creating the Kurchatov Institute center.

After the first unit was completed in February 2011 the reactor's physical launch followed. The reactor achieved a capacity of 100 watts.

Agencies

Spy chief: Iran could seek nuke weapons if 'cornered' by West

DUBAI

IRAN'S intelligence minister said persistent Western pressure could push Tehran to fight back like a "cornered cat" and seek nuclear weapons, which the Islamic Republic has for years insisted it has no intention of ever developing.

The remarks made in a television interview are a rare suggestion that Iran might have an interest in nuclear weapons, which Western nations have accused Iran of pursuing.

Iranian officials have repeatedly dismissed this charge, citing a fatwa or religious decree issued in the early 2000s by the Islamic Republic's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that bans



Iran's intelligence minister Mahmoud Alavi (center) attends a parliament session in the capital Tehran on Feb 4, 2019. File photo

The United States and other Western powers which originally signed up to a 2015 nuclear deal

with Iran appear to be at an impasse over which side should return to the accord first, making it unlikely US sanctions that have crippled its economy can be quickly removed.

"The Supreme Leader has explicitly said in his fatwa that nuclear weapons are against sharia law and the Islamic Republic sees them as religiously forbidden and does not pursue them," the minister, Mahmoud Alavi, told state TV.

"But a cornered cat may behave differently from when the cat is free. And if they (Western states) push

Iran in that direction, then it's no longer Iran's fault," Alavi said in the interview broadcast late on Monday.

Details from the interview were published by Iranian news websites yesterday.

Iran has insisted its nuclear program is to generate power and for other peaceful purposes.

But US intelligence agencies and the United Nations nuclear watchdog believe Iran once had a nuclear weapons programme that it halted.

US President Joe Biden's administration is exploring ways to restore the 2015

nuclear deal that Iran signed with major world powers but that was abandoned in 2018 by former president Donald Trump, who restored sanctions. Iran retaliated by breaching the terms of the accord in a step-by-step response.

Biden has said that, if Tehran returned to strict compliance with the pact, Washington would follow suit, using that as a springboard to a broader agreement that might restrict Iran's missile development and its regional activities.

Tehran has insisted that Washington must first ease sanctions before it resumes compliance. It has ruled out any negotiations on wider security issues.

Agencies

SPORT



Lameck Nyambaya

DRFA Chairman calls on Dar clubs to dominate Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

LAMECK Nyambaya, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Executive Committee's member representing Dar es Salaam, has called upon all clubs in the city, which feature in this season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL), to see to it they compete to retain the top flight's top honour.

Dar es Salaam squads taking part in the league are Simba, Yanga, Azam FC and Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

Nyambaya, who is also Dar es Salaam Regional Football Association (DRFA) Chairman, was adamant he wants to see his region gain respect via putting good showing in the VPL.

The DRFA boss noted that it was pleasure for him to see his region's outfit, Simba, clinch the VPL's title for three seasons in a row during his tenure.

He requested other teams to work hard in the VPL's second phase in a bid to once again lift the VPL's top honour.

He stated he was happy Simba recently hosted a special tournament 'Simba Super Cup', which involved three teams, namely Sudan's Al Hilal, Democratic Republic of Congo's TP Mazembe and hosts, Simba, in the city.

Azam FC took on TP Mazembe in an international friendly clash shortly after the culmination of the 'Simba Super Cup'.

He said: "It is pleasure for DRFA to see our city's clubs feature in international matches, the approach will help the sides shape up for international tournaments and keep on putting good showing in the league's second phase."

"I loved the way Simba invited Al Hilal and TP Mazembe, and how Azam FC requested an international friendly match against TP Mazembe. All that was done so

the VPL's trophy remains in Dar es Salaam, and excel in the CAF Champions League."

Simba played a 2-2 Draw with Azam FC in VPL duel, which took place in the city on Sunday, dropping two points in the former's quest to close their points' gap with VPL leaders, Yanga.

"I believe Yanga are also well prepared to ensure they achieve their goals after playing friendly matches to prepare for the second phase' matches, so I urge Dar es Salaam supporters to come out in large numbers to support their teams," he stated.

Yanga lost 1-0 to First Division League's squad, African Sports of Tanga, in a friendly match, which took place at Azam Complex on Saturday, but there is always room for improvement for the VPL club.

Nyambaya also expressed his desire to develop youth talents in the city, as youth soccer promotion is given much emphasis intentionally.

He stated: "Youth football is the key to having a strong national team, so investment in football is a key factor."

"During Jamal Malinzi (former TFF president) tenure, I was the vice-chairman of the federation's Youth Football Committee, Ayoub Nyenzi was the committee's chairman, we did well as our national U-17 squad qualified to play for the 2017 Africa U-17 Cup of Nations tournament held in Gabon."

"TFF has also continued to do well in youth football and successfully organized the 2019 Africa U-17 Cup of Nations tournament, which was named the most successful by the Confederation of African Football (CAF)," he said.

"TFF has a policy of investing and producing young people despite the fact that the club is required to have an academy and the TFF should remain the sole guardian."

He disclosed: "Currently there are U-14, U-17 and U-20 forces and TFF is working to nurture and continue."

“

During Jamal Malinzi (former TFF president) tenure, I was the vice-chairman of the federation's Youth Football Committee, Ayoub Nyenzi was the committee's chairman, we did well as our national U-17 squad qualified to play for the 2017 Africa U-17 Cup of Nations tournament held in Gabon

SPORTS

Msuva out to help Wydad thrash Kaizer Chiefs

By correspondents Ismail Tano & Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN forward, Simon Msuva, who turns out for Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club, has vowed to step up when his side takes on South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs in the CAF Champions League's Group C match, to be played on Saturday.

The group stage of the premier continental competition at the club level is expected to kick off this weekend, with Tanzania's Simba heading to DR Congo to face AS Vita Club in Group A tie on Friday.

Msuva's Wydad Athletic Club will be at home to host Kaizer Chiefs.

He disclosed the preparations they were making when their domestic league was postponed due to Morocco's participation in this year's African Nations Championship (CHAN), he is optimistic they can really surprise their opponents.

"We had a good preparation period and a few of our outfit's players went to Cameroon for the CHAN, so a large percentage of us were preparing. I kept training with my team mates and learning more tactics that could help us as a team," he said.

"Personally I gave myself the task of reading our opponents by watching some of their matches' videos via video tapes to see what kind of defenders I'm going to face," he noted.

"I think this will help me because I know the importance of this tournament for me, I need to show the potential," he said.

"A great player is seen in big games, this kind of match is what I was dreaming of and with the size of the team I'm in I believe I will be seen because playing here is an opportunity for me and I need to move forward yet," he said.

Commenting on Kaizer Chiefs' level of performance, he said they are not currently doing well in South Africa's DStv Premiership but that should not be the reason for them to undermine



Simon Msuva

their opponents heading into the match.

He disclosed: "There is no weak team in the CAF Champions League, even if they are not at their very best in their domestic league, they can be dangerous and hurt us if we undermine them in that perspective."

Wydad Athletic Club booked a place in CAF Champions League group stage after notching 4-2 aggregate victory over Mali's Stade Malien in the first round.

The Moroccan big guns conceded 1-0 defeat to Stade Malien away in Mali before winning 3-0 in the reverse fixture at home.

Wydad Athletic Club is currently placed second in Morocco's Botola Pro League with 12 points after participating in five matches.

They are a point behind league leaders Raja Casablanca who sit on top of the table with 13 points.

Wydad Athletic Club, commonly known as WAC or

simply as Wydad, also called 'The Reds', are a Moroccan sports club based in Casablanca, Morocco.

The squad is considered to be one of the best and most successful football teams in Africa, the most popular club in Morocco. Wydad have won 20 Moroccan league titles.

Msuva is the top scorer with 45 goals in the history of foreign players who played in Botola Pro League.

He joined Wydad from Difaâ El Jadida, also featuring in Botola Pro League, where he netted 43 goals in 90 appearances, with already two goals under his sleeves for Wydad.

Msuva, who started his career with Tanzania's Azam FC, served the club in the 2010/11 season with 35 appearances and 11 goals, before moving to Moro United where he played for one season, again scoring 15 goals in 37 games.

He, later on in 2012, joined Yanga. He spent six years at the side, playing 94 matches and scoring 43 goals. Msuva has made 61 appearance with Tanzania's national squad, Taifa Stars, since his debut in 2012 and he has managed to score important 13 goals for the team.

He netted in Taifa Stars' participation in Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers and in the 2019 AFCON tournament in Egypt.

Mtibwa Sugar coach opens up on outfit's poor displays in 2020/21 VPL

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MTIBWA Sugar's coach, Thierry Hitimana, has said that his players were found wanting in stamina and the situation led to the outfit's below par performance in the first phase of this season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

He noted that when he joined the squad at the end of the first phase, he found the players in a breath of fresh air.

"If you look at a lot of goals we were conceding later in the games it is clear the players were overwhelmed because they weren't able to fight for 90 minutes," he noted.

The tactician clarified that his players, since the league came to a standstill, had not had time to rest, considering they were continuing with the camp knowing they were required to prepare for the second phase games.

He pointed out his team, this week, expected to play two friendly matches to test his lads and find out if they will put the skills he has given them for three weeks in the camp to show.

"We will announce the games later as to which team we will play because we wrote an application to the management asking them to prepare us for two games before starting league matches," he said.

Mtibwa Sugar were scheduled to face Simba once the league resumes, but since Simba are to feature in Champions League fixture, the former will now face Ihefu FC at the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro.

Recently Mtibwa Sugar have issued warning to opposing teams in VPL.

The Morogoro outfit, through the team's information officer Tobias Kifaru, stated they are determined to put spirited showing in their games, so they can achieve the goal they set Kifaru said they do not want to repeat the mistakes they made last season.

In the 2019/20 season, the team were struggling to escape relegation.

He said: "We are really prepared, we will not be sympathetic to any team we will face in the second phase, we do not want to repeat the



Mtibwa Sugar's coach, Thierry Hitimana.

previous season's misery."

He stated: "We are determined to do well with our new coach Hitimana, who has already been informed of Mtibwa Sugar's needs at this stage."

In the VPL's standings, Mtibwa Sugar stay 11th after playing 18 matches and accumulating a total of 22 points, losing four matches and posting draw in eight.

Ruling keeps Ronaldo hush-money case with US judge in Nevada

LAS VEGAS

A U.S. appeals court is letting a federal judge in Nevada decide claims by a woman suing soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo over a \$375,000 rape case hush-money settlement reached more than a decade ago.

U.S. District Judge Jennifer Dorsy said last September she would decide whether Kathryn Mayorga was mentally fit to enter the confidentiality agreement with Ronaldo's representatives in 2010.

Mayorga's attorney, Leslie Mark Stovall, appealed part of Dorsy's ruling that said a dispute over the legality of the agreement was eligible for arbitration. The ruling also allowed Ronaldo's attorneys keep documents out of the case and stated that the case was not eligible for a jury trial.

The order by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco was dated Jan. 13 and an attorney for Ronaldo in Las Vegas, Peter Christiansen, declined comment Monday about the case being returned to Dorsy.

Stovall did not immediately respond to telephone and email messages seeking comment.

The Associated Press generally doesn't name people who say they are victims of sexual assault, but Mayorga gave consent through Stovall in 2018 to be identified.

Mayorga, now 37, is a former teacher and model who lives in the Las Vegas area.

Stovall acknowledges she received money not to talk about meeting Ronaldo at a Las Vegas nightclub in 2009 and going with him and other people to his hotel suite where she alleges he sexually assaulted her in a bedroom. She was 25 at the time. He was 24.

Mayorga went public with the account in a lawsuit filed by Stovall in Nevada state court in September 2018. The case was moved to federal court a few months later.

Mayorga alleges that Ronaldo or

his associates violated the confidentiality agreement by allowing reports of it to appear in European publications in 2017.

Ronaldo, 36, is Portuguese and is one of the richest athletes in the world. He plays in Italy for the Turin-based soccer club Juventus and captains his home country's national team. Through his lawyers, he has maintained sex with Mayorga was consensual.

His attorneys have said that media reports about the 2009 encounter were based on electronic data that was illegally hacked, stolen and sold by cyber criminals.

Christiansen has said they believe documents have been altered, and complain that Mayorga's lawsuit damages Ronaldo's reputation.

Mayorga's lawsuit claims conspiracy, defamation, breach of contract, coercion and fraud and seeks to void the 2010 deal. Stovall maintains Mayorga didn't break the agreement, that Ronaldo should pay at least \$200,000 more, and the case should be decided in a courtroom.

Ronaldo's legal representatives have succeeded in keeping details of the settlement sealed, arguing that Mayorga agreed to out-of-court mediation to resolve disputes. Stovall has said that Mayorga was pressured by Ronaldo's representatives to accept the deal while she was mentally unfit and not in condition to consent. Mayorga's attorney has said she had learning disabilities as a child.

Dorsy said in October she plans to decide whether Mayorga lacked the mental capacity to sign off on the settlement agreement.

If Mayorga was fit, the judge said, the agreement binds her to confidentiality and an arbitrator's decision about whether the contract was legal and valid.

No hearing date has been set for the case to continue under Dorsy's supervision.

AP

Man City still working on Messi transfer - sources

LONDON

MANCHESTER City have not given up on signing Lionel Messi on a free transfer this summer but will wait until March or April before sounding out the situation regarding the Barcelona forward, various sources have told ESPN.

Messi, 33, is out of contract in June and has been free to negotiate with other clubs since Jan. 1. City led the chase for the Argentine international last August when he asked Barca to let him leave but the Premier League leaders have kept a low profile in recent months.

In contrast, Paris Saint-Germain have been making a lot of noise about their desire to sign Messi at the end of the season.

City will bide their time and see how the situation develops, even if PSG have taken a different approach, an approach which sources at Barca have told ESPN is completely the wrong way to try and seduce Messi.

"PSG are making a mistake with the strategy they're using," one source said. "Leo doesn't like all that noise in the media and even less the type of comments [which have been made]."

PSG's sporting director Leonardo has confirmed the French champions are monitoring Messi's situation, while coach Mauricio Pochettino and players Neymar and Angel Di Maria have publicly stated that they would welcome the Barca captain with open arms.

Di Maria even said there was a "big chance" of Messi signing for PSG -- which led Barca coach Ronald Koeman to brand the French club "disrespectful" -- but City will provide stiff competition if Messi does leave Camp Nou after 20 years in Catalonia.

Sources have told ESPN that City are still tracking Messi but have decided to adopt a less aggressive tactic in their pursuit of his signature.

They employed a similar strategy last year when they did a lot of the

groundwork. Pep Guardiola spoke with Messi on the phone to sell him City's project, while sources have also told ESPN that a few members of the club's staff remain in regular contact with Messi's people.

After working on what was considered a long-shot for several months, with no leaks, everything bubbled to the surface in the wake of Barca's 8-2 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

When it became clear Messi wanted to leave Barca, they made their move in August, with Messi sending a burofax to the Blaugrana asking them to let him go. City had done extensive work on the numbers involved in the deal -- keeping in mind Messi's most recent four-year contract at Barca netted him up to €555 million -- and believed they could sign him while adhering to UEFA's financial fair play rules.

Barca president at the time Josep Maria Bartomeu refused to let Messi go, though, pointing to his €700m release clause. Messi believed he could leave for free but backed down rather than taking the issue to court, ending City's chances.

The situation is different this time with Messi into the final six months of his deal. However, Messi has insisted he will not make any decision about his future until the season is over and sources close to him have told ESPN that he is only focused on helping Barca end the season strongly.

Koeman's side are in good form, unbeaten in 11 games in La Liga, and have a Copa del Rey semifinal against Sevilla and the first leg of their Champions League tie against PSG to come next week.

As well as success on the pitch, Messi's future could also hinge on who comes in as the new Barca president, with the election penciled in for March 7. Messi will listen to the plans of the incoming president, with Joan Laporta, Victor Font and Toni Freixa the three candidates.

Bayern Munich into Club World Cup final after Lewandowski double

DOHA

BAYERN Munich advanced to the Club World Cup final after goals in each half by Robert Lewandowski sealed a 2-0 victory over African champions Al Ahly in Monday's semi-final.

The European champions face Tigres in the final on Thursday after the Mexican club saw off Brazilian giants Palmeiras in Sunday's other semi-final.

"It was a very good match and we're ready for the final," Lewandowski said.

He gave Bayern the lead with just 17 minutes gone at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, a host venue for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The Poland star then headed home a pinpoint Leroy Sane cross four minutes before the whistle to book Bayern's place in the final.

Lewandowski, the Bundesliga's top scorer, has now scored 29 goals in 27 club matches this season.

Bayern are bidding to become only the second team after Barcelona in 2009 to win all six domestic and international titles up for grabs in one season.

The German giants lifted the Bundesliga, German Cup, Champions League, German Cup and UEFA Super Cup trophies in 2020.

"We want to claim another title -- title number six during this season," Lewandowski added.

"This is a World Cup, which is always something special.

"I hope we can play even better in the final and that we will have more goalscoring chances."

The European champions ended Ahly's 32-match unbeaten run in all competitions under their South



Robert Lewandowski (C) celebrates scoring for Bayern Munich in Monday's Club World Cup semi-final against Egypt's Al Ahly. (Agencies)

African-born coach Pitso Mosimane.

The African Champions League winners struggled to get near the Bayern goal as the Germans enjoyed 70 percent possession.

Despite the efforts of two defenders lunging to block his shot, Lewandowski put Bayern ahead with a crisp finish from a Serge Gnabry pass.

The Poland striker could have made it 2-0 towards the end of the first half when Joshua Kimmich drew the defence, but Lewandowski fired over the bar.

Ahly grew in confidence at the start of the second half and created half-chances as the Bundesliga leaders showed signs of fatigue.

Heavy snow in Berlin on Saturday meant Bayern had a seven-hour delay to their flight to Doha and the Germans' tempo dropped after Lewandowski's early goal.

With an eye on Thursday's final in Al Rayyan, Bayern coach Hansi Flick replaced forwards Thomas Mueller and Gnabry for the final half-hour.

It was the fresh legs of Gnabry's replacement Sane which created space to serve up a late cross that Lewandowski headed home to wrap up the win.

Meanwhile, a drive-in cinema opened during Qatar's coronavirus crisis to offer respite from strict distancing rules switched from horror films to football fever on Monday to show Bayern Munich's Club World Cup semi-final against Al Ahly.

Egyptian expats cheering Ahly gathered alongside Doha's Bayern backers to watch on the big screen as the African and European champions slugged it out at the Ahmad Bin Ali stadium 25 kilometres (15 miles) away.

"Actually we did not choose the stadium because of (the requirement for) Covid-19 tests," said Egyptian Wael Abdelhady who has lived in Doha for 10 years.

"The other option was watching it at home and we prefer to be here!"

Around him, food delivery drivers dropped off takeaway meals to hungry

fans as they sat back in their pick-up trucks and off-roaders, watching Robert Lewandowski score twice to give Bayern a 2-0 win.

The Germans will face Mexican side Tigres in the final on Thursday.

Bayern fan Jad Rzek said the drive-in was "better to be with the family".

"It's also a different experience than what we have at the stadium so it's a new adventure," he said as children ate popcorn from a bucket nearby.

- 'Smart idea' -

The drive-in, which can host more than 150 cars, had previously shown Disney family favourites like "Bambi" and horror movies including "The Blair Witch Project" and the 1931 Boris Karloff classic "Frankenstein".

It launched in November during the annual Ajyal film festival when cinemas, as they are now, were subject to strict limits on attendance and tough distancing rules.

"It's amazing, it's a very smart idea with the cars -- even more with Covid and all. It's better," said Bayern supporting Frenchman Talal Saoudi as the brightly-lit skyscrapers of the new Lusail district twinkled behind the big screen.

The venue, which also showed Tigres' surprise win over Brazil's Palmeiras in the other semi-final on Sunday, charges \$40 per car which makes economic and practical sense for family groups who would all have to take a coronavirus test in order to watch the match live.

"Bringing audiences together at safe social distances, the open-air experience of drive-in cinemas is a perfect way to bring the excitement of the game to the community at a time when it's challenging for many to go to a game," said Doha Film Institute chief executive Fatma Hassan Alremaihi.

AFP

Klopp scrambles for answers as Liverpool's season unravels

LONDON

LIVERPOOL's Premier League title defence is in tatters after a 4-1 humbling at home by Manchester City, with Jurgen Klopp facing an uphill task to stop the champions' season imploding.

The bedraggled red-shirted players trudged off the pitch at Anfield on Sunday after their third consecutive home defeat left them 10 points behind Pep Guardiola's men, having played a game more.

Goalkeeper Alisson Becker made two costly blunders after Mohamed Salah had cancelled out Ilkay Gundogan's opener, before Phil Foden blasted home a fourth at an empty Anfield.

It means after a run of 68 league games unbeaten at home, Liverpool have now lost three consecutive league games at Anfield for the first time since 1963.

Former Manchester United midfielder Roy Keane, now a Sky Sports pundit, gave a withering assessment of Liverpool's efforts to retain their title.

"They are making a lot of excuses," said Keane, who won the Premier League seven times at Old Trafford. "To me they've been bad champions and I don't just mean today.

"You can lose a game of football but there is a way to get beaten. I don't see that and I think maybe they have all believed the hype over the last year or two."

A stubborn Klopp defended his side's performance up until Alisson's first error allowed Gundogan to restore City's lead 17 minutes from time, with his second of the match.

"We scored our goal and in that moment it was possible the game goes in our direction, but Alisson made two massive mistakes," said Klopp.

"Apart from that the game ends 1-1. The performance was good enough at least to draw, and that's it."

- Liverpool collapse -
The figures make grim reading for the Liverpool hierarchy.

After 23 games this season, Liverpool have 40 points -- 27 fewer points than they did at the same stage last season.

That is the biggest drop by any reigning champion at this stage of a campaign in English top-flight history.

Despite his upbeat words, Klopp knows he has a monumental task on his hands to repair the shattered confidence of a team who just months



Jurgen Klopp

ago romped to their first English top-flight title for 30 years.

Instead of the title, which now appears to be City's to lose, Liverpool are glancing nervously over their shoulder as the race for Champions League qualification becomes their priority. Chelsea and West Ham are only a point behind, with Everton, who have two matches in hand, just three back. Tottenham and Aston Villa are also within striking distance.

Liverpool have a few days off this week to regroup as they are not involved in FA Cup action but they then face a tricky trip to third-placed Leicester before a Merseyside derby at Anfield against high-flying Everton.

In between those matches they travel to Hungary for a Champions League match against RB Leipzig, sec-

ond in the Bundesliga, after the game was moved from Germany.

So what has gone so wrong at Anfield for a side that topped the Premier League table just last month?

Liverpool's problems at the back are well-documented.

Defensive talisman Virgil van Dijk has been out of action since October and has been joined on the long-term absentee list by Joe Gomez and Joel Matip. That has forced Klopp to rejig his team, playing Jordan Henderson at the back, depriving the team of the captain's drive from midfield. Midfielder Fabinho has also been pressed into defensive duties.

Klopp signed two centre-backs -- Preston's Ben Davies and Schalke's Ozan Kabak -- on transfer deadline day and he must surely blood one of

them now. Even Liverpool's fearsome front three are not firing on all cylinders.

Salah still tops the Premier League goal-scoring charts, with 16 goals this season, but Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino have managed just 13 between them.

But the biggest problem is recapturing the swagger and belief that made Liverpool an unstoppable force last season -- without the support of the vocal Anfield crowd.

A frenzied Kop would have acted as a 12th man for Liverpool after they equalised on Sunday, roaring the team forward.

Instead Liverpool were left to contemplate the collapse of their title ambitions in near silence.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Bayern Munich into Club World Cup final after Lewandowski double

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Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

Anderson, Leach consign India to rare home defeat

CHENNAI

ENGLAND inflicted a 227-run defeat on India in Chennai thanks to a dominant fourth-innings bowling performance, with Jack Leach and James Anderson taking seven wickets between them on the final day as they wrapped up victory before tea.

After removing Rohit Sharma on the fourth evening, Leach struck the first blow on the fifth morning by drawing an edge from Cheteshwar Pujara, and returned to help mop up the tail, but it was Anderson's spell before lunch that ripped out India's middle order and set the win in motion.

With the ball reverse-swinging and keeping low from a length, Anderson sent the off stump cartwheeling out the ground twice in his first over of the day to remove Shubman Gill and Ajinkya Rahane, and induced a leading edge from Rishabh Pant to leave him with figures of 5-3-6-3 in a spell that defined the day.

Despite a near-faultless innings of 72 from Virat Kohli, India's chances were quashed by the loss of five wickets in the first session, and after a grubber from Ben Stokes snuck under Kohli's bat, Leach and Jofra Archer finished the job to seal a sixth consecutive away win for England. This was only India's second defeat at home since their 2-1 series loss to England in late 2012, and leaves them needing at least two wins and a draw in the remaining three matches if they are to reach the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC) final.

Gill had started the day by working the first ball he faced for four through midwicket, punishing Leach as he dropped a fraction short. But if India had hoped that would be a sign of things to come, there was evidence early on that the pitch would not prove straightforward: Gill had to jam his bat down on a shooter from Leach, and was beaten by some extra bounce from a length two overs later, while Archer found inconsistency in carry while bowling to Pujara.

Pujara's wicket looked the crucial one, after his rearguard efforts in Australia and with his impeccable record against left-arm spin. But he was gone within half an hour: he closed the face looking to work Leach into the leg side, but the ball turned and bounced to take the shoulder of the bat and loop up to Stokes at slip.

Gill continued to score freely, picking off Dom Bess' loose balls and reaching a fluent half-century, at which point Joe Root threw the ball to Anderson, hoping he could get it to reverse-swing. He could. His second ball was full, and hooped in from outside off stump. It breached the gap between Gill's bat and pad, and crashed into the off stump, sending it cartwheeling and England into exuberant celebrations.

But Anderson was not content with a single breakthrough. The fourth ball of his over rapped Rahane on the pad, again hooping in towards the stumps from wide on the crease and keeping low. Umpire Nitin Menon was unmoved so England reviewed, and while the ball was shown to have been crashing into the base of middle, the decision was upheld with its impact shown as 'umpire's call'.

Namungo FC ready for C.D. Primeiro de Agosto clash, says head coach



Namungo FC's head coach, Hemed Suleiman.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

LINDI's Namungo FC's head coach, Hemed Suleiman, has said his players are ready for the first leg of this season's CAF Confederation Cup play offs against CD Primeiro de Agosto of Angola.

Namungo FC will confront the Angolan side in the first leg of the play offs in Angola on February 14.

The Tanzania side made it to the CAF Confederation Cup play offs following victory over Al Hilal SC Al Obayed of Sudan in the first round.

On February 7, Namungo FC notched 2-1 victory over Ruvu Shooting in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at Majaliwa Stadium.

They had earlier lost 3-0 to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in the top flight tie, which took place at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam early this month.

Before playing KMC FC, Namungo FC had registered draw in five games in a row, dismaying the squad's fans that have had high hopes for their team in continental competition.

Victory over Ruvu Shooting was turned out to be a boost for the team after they were in disappointing form heading to the encounter.

It has not been plain sailing for Namungo in the Premier League this season, as opposed to their debut season in 2019/20, a situation which makes it difficult for Suleiman, aka 'Morocco', to regain the team's edge.

Morocco said he knows the game against C.D. Primeiro de Agosto will be tough but his club will fight to get a positive result on the pitch.

He disclosed: "Every player realizes that we have a job to do internationally, that enables us to add strength for our international game."

"Our players' failure to be clinical in front of opponents' goal has been bothering us and we do not convert chances we get, but this has been dealt with and we keep working on other parts of the field everyday so it's our time to be strong and work hard to find positive results within the field," he said.

Commenting on the current form of his side in Vodacom Premier League, the coach said he believes they will do well in their remaining matches to get positive results on the pitch.

"The competition is fierce and every team need positive results so it's time for us to reorganize and address weaknesses in an effort to get positive results," he said.

The squad advanced into the CAF Confederation Cup's play offs after notching 5-3 aggregate win over Al Hilal SC Al Obayed.

Namungo FC's opponents, C.D. Primeiro de Agosto, are a multisports club from Luanda, Angola.

The club, founded on August 1, 1977, is attached to the Angolan armed forces, which is its main sponsor.

Its main team competes in men's football, and its professional basketball team is also noteworthy within the club.

The club's colours are red and black. The club won its first title in football, the Angolan League, in 1979 and in basketball in 1980. Handball and volleyball outfits have also won many titles to the club.

They are 13 times Angolan league winners, with their last title having been achieved in 2018/19 season.

Their greatest achievement in the CAF Confederation Cup came in 2009 when they made it to the quarterfinals.

KMC FC takes aim at Prisons

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League (VPL)'s Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC left for Rukwa on Tuesday to lock horns with Prisons at Nelson Mandela Stadium on Friday, with kick off at 14pm.

The KMC FC headed to Rukwa with 20 players, five officials and a technical bench.

They will be gracing the Nelson Mandela Stadium for the first time in a VPL clash.

The KMC FC leaders said their side has prepared to ensure it wins the game and post three points.

According to the leaders, there are no injuries in the side.

In the league's first phase clash pitting KMC FC against Prisons, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam, KMC FC notched 2-0 victory over their opponents.

In the VPL's table, KMC FC is placed sixth with 25 points after playing a total of 18 matches.

The squad posted a resounding 3-0 victory over Lindi's Namungo FC in a recent top flight clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

The encounter's eventual winners netted their goals via Matheo Anthony on the eighth minute, Charles Ilanfya on the 58th minute and Rodgers during the added on time.

The defeat has seen Namungo FC stay 15th in the VPL's log, having taken part in 15 matches and collecting 18 points.

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The encounter's eventual winners netted their goals via Matheo Anthony on the eighth minute, Charles Ilanfya on the 58th minute and Rodgers during the added on time

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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Flexibles by David Chikoko

