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National Pg 3

49 Korogwe homes to get power



National Pg 4

Jumbos ravage 50 households



National Pg 5

Study to identify salt deposits



National Pg 6

Solving challenges facing Dar



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pays her last respects to former long-serving administrator and legislator Chrisant Majiyatanga Mzindakaya at St Peter's Catholic Church in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

PM: Restart adult classes, remove new literacy gaps

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday ordered regional and district authorities to reopen adult education classes which stopped for years to curb increasing illiteracy among grown-ups.

Officiating at an international symposium on adult education at the University of Dar es Salaam, the premier directed that thousands of qualified teachers who are yet to be employed be engaged in the programme.

"Adult literacy plays a critical role in national development. It is important to educate them so that they can contribute effectively in the building of the country," he said.

He also directed authorities in respective regions and districts to set aside funds to pay allowances to the teachers who will be

volunteering in the programme.

The premier said the two ministries - Education, Science and Technology and Local Governments must come up with a solution on the best way to eliminate adults who can neither read nor write.

He also called on the Institute for Adult Education in collaboration with other education stakeholders to research on adult education gaps and come up with recommendations.

Other directives the premier issued include improving databases to get accurate information related to adult education countrywide, where experts will present recommendations on the best way to produce a fully literate populations.

Dr Eugenia Kafanabo, Dean of Adult Education at the University of Dar es

TURN TO PAGE 2



Dr Athumani Ngenya

TBS vehicle inspections see 1.5bn/- April-June earnings

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) collected 1.5bn/- between April 15 and June 8 from the inspection of imported vehicles offloaded at the Dar es Salaam port.

The amount was collected from mandatory inspection fees paid on imported vehicles, as during the period TBS inspected 4,779 imported vehicles, handling 480 vehicles per day from 96 earlier.

The TBS Director of Quality Control, Said Mkwawa, said at a one-day forum with media personnel from different outlets on the role of the standards watchdog, noting that the scope of inspecting imported vehicles has increased, enabling higher

TURN TO PAGE 2

WB praises TASAF, pledges more funds

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE World Bank has pledged to continue funding the Tanzania Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) project which falls under the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), saying it has proved to be one of the best ways to reduce poverty.

Dr Taufila Nyamadzabo, Executive Director for the World Bank's 'Africa Group One Constituency,' expressed this sentiment yesterday during a field visit to PSSN II projects at Mwanjantaa in Dodoma city.

"The World Bank remains committed to continuing supporting TASAF and we even think of increasing the funds since the programme is changing the lives of many people and boosting



The projects are aimed at uplifting economic situations of the beneficiaries, being part of the plan to have them form savings groups

development," he said.

Dr Nyamadzabo said he has visited Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania where similar programmes are being undertaken, noting that Tanzania's project implementation showed greater promise.

He stated that TASAF operations were in line with the bank's key objectives of poverty reduction and development promotion, underlining that Tanzania has made a lot of progress in terms of enrolment and achievements.

One of the success stories is that TASAF beneficiaries "are given time for their own assessment to continue with the programme or graduate out of it and evidently those who have reached a better level of economic income move

TURN TO PAGE 2

Transportation disturbed as police sideline buses

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

HUNDREDS of people destined to travel from Mbeya city to various other regions by bus early yesterday had to postpone their journeys or find other means of transport after traffic police blocked 12 buses that failed an impromptu roadworthiness test.

The national traffic police commander, ACP Wilbrod Mutafungwa, was on the spot at Mbeya city's main bus station in carrying out a directive by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro for inspection of all passenger buses to prevent road accidents.

ACP Mutafungwa (pictured) conducted those inspections in the



company of senior officers, with 12 buses found with serious defects. Their number plates were removed and the drivers told to make thorough repairs.

Five other buses were found with routine defects and the drivers thereof were instructed to rectify the faults before proceeding with their journeys, while 15 buses were cleared of any defects.

ACP Mutafungwa told the drivers

TURN TO PAGE 2

TREE PLANTING

Page 2



EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY

Page 7



WILDLIFE INFECTIONS

Page 11



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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Education, Science and Technology Pro Joyce Ndalichako (2nd R) listen to Open University Tanzania (OUT) communication and marketing director Dr Omari Maguo (R) when the delegation visited the OUT pavilion during the 50th anniversary of Adult Education held at University of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is OUT deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Prof Deus Ngaruko (3rdL). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

PM: Restart adult classes, remove new literacy gaps

FROM PAGE 1

Salaam, said that the contribution of adult education was high in different sectors.

The symposium was vital as it reflects the goal and vision, plus work done and contributions made by founder president Julius Nyerere in battling illiteracy and ignorance as a whole after independence, she stated.

The first phase contribution in adult education was the foundation for later efforts, she said, pointing out that at independence, over 70 percent of adults were illiterate.

Since the Arusha Declaration in 1967, adult education became a major instrument in national development as programmes in literacy, health care and hygiene

depended on basic literacy, she elaborated.

Acquisition of technical competence has been particularly successful because adult education was taken up as an intrinsic and meaningful part of the learner's life, as its purpose has changed from the learning of literacy skills to learn how to be self-reliant.

This involves the improvement of life at individual and community levels, she stated.

In imparting basic literacy skills, the content is drawn from material relating to health, agricultural techniques, authority and responsibility, along with response to demand as the learners become aware of its functional importance, she added.

Ruvuma Region to plant 40,000 commercial trees

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Region plans to plant 40,000 commercial trees by 2025.

Ruvuma Region's Natural Resources and Tourism consultant, Afrikanus Challe said the ongoing project of ten years and began 2015, and will involve tree planting in central and local government areas, colleges, schools and in villages.

Challe mentioned species of trees being planted as those fit for raw materials in the wood industries including pine, eucalyptus and teak.

"By 2020 a total of Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) planted trees in 4,785 hectares, local councils in 425 hectares, colleges and schools 420 hectares and individuals 23,964 hectares".

Meanwhile, the consultant said Ruvuma Region was implementing the value adding project for forest products in collaboration with Forestry and Value Chains Development

Programme (FORVAC) in all the five districts.

Challe said the project will enable villages to take care of village reserve forests for profit creation and so far Tunduru District has received one chain saw that has begun operating in Sauti Moja village.



By 2020 a total of Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) planted trees in 4,785 hectares, local councils in 425 hectares, colleges and schools 420 hectares and individuals 23,964 hectares

FROM PAGE 1

revenue collections.

Savings have been made by the change in procedure, as previously when cars were inspected abroad, the government was receiving around 600m/- per month, he said.

Payment is made through the e-government payment system rather than handing the cash to TBS, with costs of inspection put at 350,000/- per vehicle.

About 85 percent of defects detected in inspections are on tires, lights and minor items that are fixed by local garages, meanwhile as next month TBS expects to import 12 vehicle inspection equipment from Germany priced at 3bn/-.

Using such equipment will enable TBS to inspect 1,200

TBS vehicle inspections see 1.5bn/- April-June earnings

vehicles per day from its inspection centre at the BRT yard adjacent to the port, while vehicles failing to comply with the requirements must be upgraded to obtain a roadworthiness certificate, before the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) clears it for routine use.

TBS information and communications technology (ICT) director Jabir Abdi said the local inspection procedure has helped provide employment to young people in areas where cars found

to be damaged are being repaired, and increased car dealer incomes.

Vehicle inspection ensures that garages get business and the government gets revenues; it also creates employment for Tanzanians who then gain experience on the work, he said.

TBS Director General Dr Athumani Ngenya urged members of the public to order vehicles through reputable clearing and forwarding companies to avoid the high costs that they will incur to repair cars if they are found to

have defects.

"If a car importer finds that there is a defect in the car then the company he/she used will be responsible for the maintenance and if the person does not use that method then he will incur a loss as it will have missed the required standards," he said.

TBS is determined to ensure that all used cars imported into the country comply with the set requirements for such cars before they can be allowed on the roads, he added.

WB praises TASAF, pledges more funds

FROM PAGE 1

out," he said.

Availability of food where people can afford three meals per day and the extent of health where people get healthy food are some key great points of the programme, he stated.

He also cited improvement of education, school attendance by children of the beneficiaries, as another milestone, while increasing pupils' enrolment in schools from 60 to 98 percent "was not a mean achievement."

Earlier, TASAF Executive Director Ladislaus Mwamanga had asserted that the PSSN program has contributed to the country's economic growth, affirming that this achievement is owed to development partners along with the World Bank.

About 1.2m people are registered in the PSSN project, with many engaged in several projects, as

PSSN is meant to empowering poor households raise income and access social services like education and health, he stated.

Many people whose lives have changed for the better are scheduled to leave the programme, with some 30,000 self-help projects taken up countrywide by the programme beneficiaries.

"The projects are aimed at uplifting economic situations of the beneficiaries, being part of the plan to have them form savings groups," he said, elaborating that through such groups, beneficiaries

saved over 5.9 bn/- that is now revolving in the groups.

Until the end of the first phase in 2019, 23,000 groups with 311,000 members had contributed 5.9bn/- in savings that is used as a base to extend loans, he said, with many households benefitting directly by working on projects like digging dams and building roads.

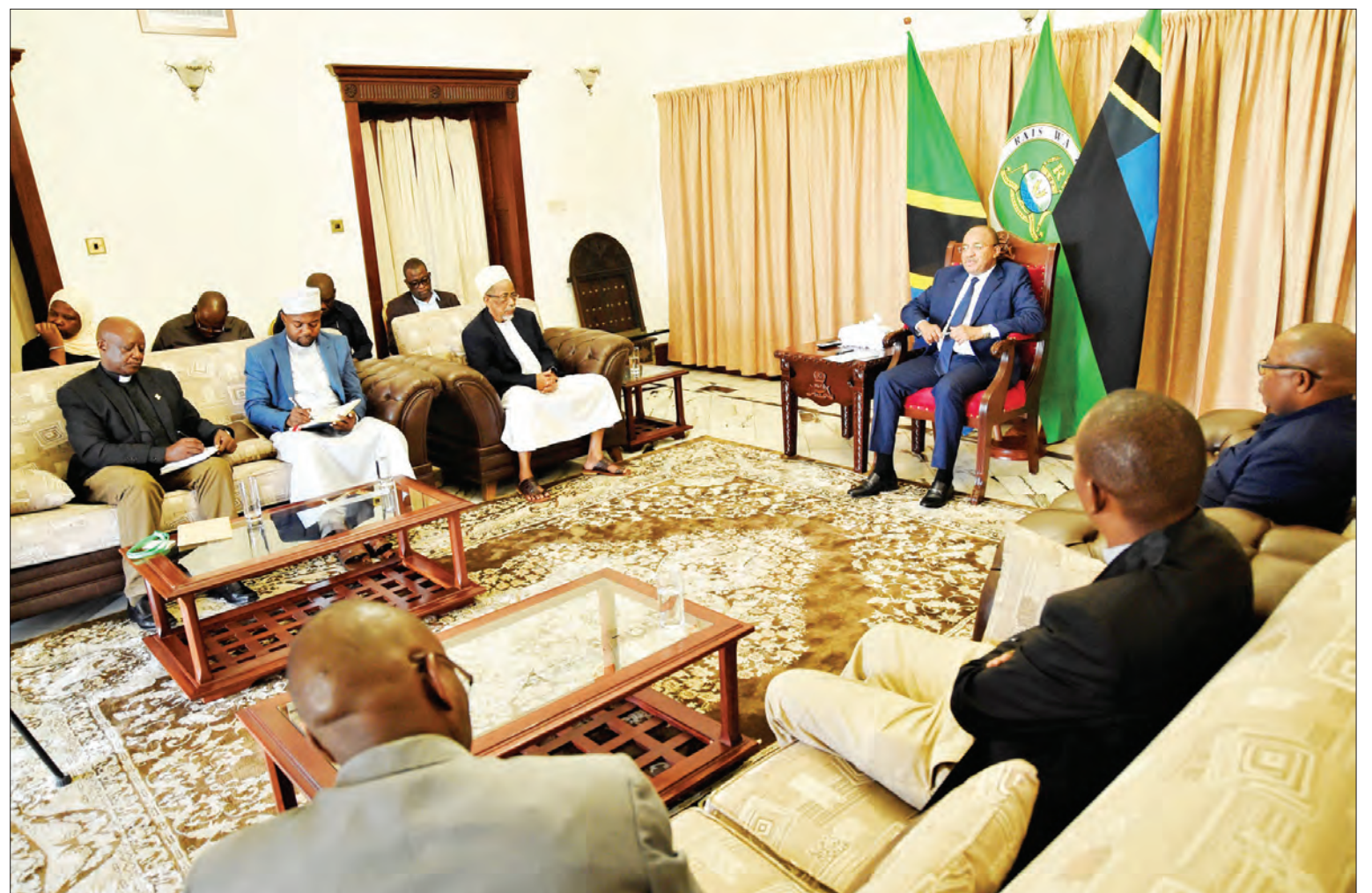
TASAF beneficiary Winfrida Mbago was joyful, saying through the programme she has managed to do a lot of things, obtaining 20,000/- each two months, saving part of it for a chicken project more than a year later.

TASAF (III) was launched in 2012 for ten years to 2023 in two terms of five years, where poverty alleviation would be evaluated.

The second phase of the project is aimed at reaching a third of villagers not yet connected with the project. Its earlier phase ran from 2005 to 2013 during which 12,347 social projects taking up 430bn/- were implemented in 126 districts, benefiting up to 18.6m people in all.

The first stage of the third phase folds up later this year, paving the way for the second stage, up to 2023.

A total of 4.1trn/- has so far been spent in implementing social projects, including the construction of classrooms, rural roads, health centres, teachers' houses, irrigation systems and water reservoirs, benefiting residents in 40 districts in both parts of the Union.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi talks with clerics in Zanzibar led by Chief Sheikh Saleh Omar Kabi at State House yesterday. Photo: State House

Transportation disturbed as police sideline buses

FROM PAGE 1

to make sure they rectify the defects after which they would go for inspection before starting on their trips.

The police will continue monitoring drivers on the roads to ensure they abide by the traffic laws without having to be pushed

to do so, he said, appealing to drivers to eschew overtaking other vehicles along dangerous stretches.

This habit is the cause of many road accidents that have cost many lives, the commander noted.

He also warned drivers who tamper with speed governors,

saying those found will be severely dealt with.

For his part, Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said the bus inspection exercise will be occasionally repeated to ensure passengers travel without hitches.

"It is a big problem," he said, pointing out that of 32 Mbeya based buses make journeys to

other regions, only 15 were found to be without defects.

"This is dangerous," he further observed, appealing to passengers to understand what the police was doing in conducting that exercise.

"It is not our intention to prevent passengers from travelling but we want them to travel safely," he emphasised.



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdalah Ulega responds to questions from Members of Parliament in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

WB opens window to assist Tanzania in COVID-19 fight

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank (WB) has opened a window for Tanzania to assist in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic in various sectors including tourism, trade and the government budget.

This was revealed in Dodoma on Tuesday by the Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba when he met for talks with WB executive director representing the Africa Group I Constituency (AfGI) Dr Taufila Nyhamdzabo.

Dr Nchemba said Covid-19 has had an adverse effect to the government budget in general because in case of challenges involving nations that trade with Tanzania, it affects revenue collection - especially in regard to tax on imports.

"In addition, WB has pledged to open up projects that were stuck for a long time, including the country's projects in strengthening secondary education infrastructures," he said.

He also said other issues discussed include the country's inflation rate which has remained at between three to five per cent, the country's national debt that is sustainable in ratio to the 27.9 per cent GDP, while the limit is at 70 per cent according to criteria set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the world Bank.

He also praised the WB Board of Directors for providing Tanzania with four concessional loans totalling USD 1,017 billion (2,339,3bn/- towards development projects).

He mentioned the projects as including revamping road infrastructures, improving

teaching environment and training in higher educational institutions, and expanding quality electricity supply services in the Isles.

For his part, Dr Taufila Nyamadzabo praised Tanzania government for its development efforts aimed at poverty reduction.

He also said the government is required to continue gather up resources in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as fully utilizing the resources for implementing various projects, including those funded by the World bank and to involve the private sector in the projects.



He also said other issues discussed include the country's inflation rate which has remained at between three to five per cent, the country's national debt that is sustainable in ratio to the 27.9 per cent GDP, while the limit is at 70 per cent according to criteria set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the world Bank

Govt sets aside 12.85bn/- to connect power to 49 homes

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has set aside 12.85bn/- to take electricity to the remaining 49 villages in Korogwe District, Tanga Region.

Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemani said this when responding to a question by Korogwe rural Member of Parliament Timotheo Mnzava who asked when the

government will finalize a process to take electricity to the remaining 49 villages in the district.

In response the minister said the task to take electricity to the remaining villages in Korogwe started in May this year and will be finalised by September 2022.

He said the task to implement the project involves construction

of a 33KV line which is 289.4 kilometer, another 0.4 KV line which is 45 kilometer long.

Other issues include inserting a transformer with a KVA 50 capability and connecting 990 households.

The programme is part of the rural electrification initiative announced by the government in 2016 where it was implementing in Phases and the project aims to

electrify more than 7,873 villages in rural Tanzania for 5 years. 7,697 villages will be connected to the national grid, while the remaining 176 will be connected to other energy sources.

The project is implemented by private contractors and supervised by REA, the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and Trust Agent.

Z'bar on funds drive for 200bn/- hospital project

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has embarked on a process to raise funds - 200bn/- for the construction of a modern referral hospital at Binguni in Unguja Central District.

Zanzibar Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender and Children Nassor Ahmed Mazrui said when responding to a question posed by Special Seats Representative Mwanaidi Kassim Mussa who wanted to know

when would Binguni hospital project begin.

Mazrui said at present the government has suspended the hospital's construction as the main task now is to seek funds from various donors for the project.

He said since last Financial Year the Zanzibar government set aside 6bn/- budget for the project, even though the money was not acquired.

Hon. Speaker, President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has directed us to seek funds from various sources, including

loans amounting to 200bn/- to build the hospital within three years," he said.

He said the decision of the government to build the hospital is in the 2020-25 CCM manifesto that strategized in having the hospital to provide health services to the people of Zanzibar.

"House Members should not harbour any fears over the hospital's construction, I have been given the task to source funds from anywhere to have the hospital built," he said.

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- Interested applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Tender documents at Amref Health Africa Tanzania, Plot No.1019, Ali Hassan Mwinyi Rd, P.O.Box 27730 Dar es Salaam from 08.30 to 15.00 hrs local time. A complete set of Tender documents in English may be purchased by interested applicants upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tshs.100,000: One Hundred Thousand Only] paid to Account **No.011103000446 NBC -Amref Health Africa.**
- All quotations in one original plus a copy and soft copy in Flash Disk, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes marked "Tender No. [AMREF/2021/GF/G/01 for Supply of Sanitary Pads", must be delivered to the **Secretary, Amref Health Africa Tanzania, P.O.Box 2773, Dar es Salaam.**
- Deadline for submission will be on Friday 18th June, 2021 at 12.00 hours local time. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter by the Tender Committee, Amref Health Africa Tanzania.
- Late, partial and electronic quotations, and quotations not opened at the quotation opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director,
Amref Health Africa Tanzania,
P.O.Box 2773, Dar es Salaam.
Tel:+255 22 2116610/2131981/2136731

Verify abandoned farms for title deeds revocation, says govt

By Guardian Reporter, Mvomero

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi has ordered the verification of 86 undeveloped farms in Mvomero District so that recommendations for title deeds revocation should be submitted to the president for those which are undeveloped.

He gave the directives on Tuesday this week when speaking at different times, to ward leaders and officials in Mvomero District during his two-day visit in Morogoro Region.

He said in Mvomero District there were 85 farms whose development was doubtful hence it would be better to conduct verification.

"I will be pleased if in the period of two months - June and July this year - verification exercise should be conducted in order to reduce land conflicts pitting owners thereof and the residents in order to take appropriate steps," he said.

He added: "The problem with Mvomero District is that the land was taken up and their owners stay with title deeds without paying land rent or even developing the land, hence verification exercise is the right thing to do."

For his part, Mvomero Member of Parliament Jonas Van-zeland said the district is home to numerous land conflicts including the issue of abandoning the farms, the situation, he said, has hindered residents to engage in economic and other social activities, and added that many land owners are even not known by the residents.

During his visit, Lukuvi said Mvomero District has many land conflicts including those involving

village and district boundaries, and added that the responsibility to solve them are vested on district and regional officials.

Meanwhile, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has continued to hand over farms to the residents of Morogoro Region, this time she has revoked title deeds of nine farms of 13,900.5 acres in Mvomero District, which she said should be given to those in need.

The Lands minister said out of the farms whose ownership has been revoked, 9,700 acres are to be given to the people, while 4,100 acres should be earmarked for investment purposes, and stressed that those given land are not supposed to sell it to anyone else.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner Martine Shigela thanked the lands minister for the great job well done in the last five years in the lands sector, especially for land conflict resolution, which he said targets to benefit the majority.



The problem with Mvomero District is that the land was taken up and their owners stay with title deeds without paying land rent or even developing the land, hence verification exercise is the right thing to do



Singida Regional Commissioner Dr. Binilith Mahenge talks with Iramba council civil servants after inspecting a laboratory at Old Kiombo hospital yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale

Jumbos ravage 50 households

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

ELEPHANT herds invaded Igoweke ward, in Igunga District, Tabora Region and consumed 66 acres of food crops including maize, millet and rice causing 50 households to go without food.

Speaking here at Igunga councillors meeting, Igoweke Ward Councillor Omari Hamisi said the jumbos invaded two

villages - Igoweke B and Buggingija D and devoured the crops.

Hamisi said he appealed to the government authorities to come to the area to chase away the beasts so as to stop them from destroying their crops devastation.

For his part, Igunga District natural resources officer Jahulula Edward confirmed the incident saying the crops destroyed include 42 acres of maize, 17 of

millet and seven of rice but could not mention the financial loss involved.

He stressed that already he had informed the game warden unit for the West Zone which was expected to arrive in the ward soon to remove the animals and return them to Unyambiu Forest Reserve.

He said the 25-hectare Unyambiu Forest Reserve is estimated to hold 800 jumbos

and called the residents to stop the habit of inciting the beasts

However, he added that many households are situated near the Reserve area where they easily get invaded by wild animals.

For his part the acting Igunga District executive officer Paecrates Kweyamba mentioned adverse effects experienced by the residents from the jumbos include the loss of food for 50 households.



National Electoral Commission Director Dr. Wilson Mahera talks to women from 14 political parties moments after they visited NEC headquarters in Dodoma on Tuesday. The delegation was coordinated by the Registrar of Political Parties. Photo NEC

Use of technology in teaching and learning

By Guardian Reporter

Technology ushers in fundamental structural changes that can be integral to achieving significant improvements in productivity. Used to support both teaching and learning, technology infuses classrooms with digital learning tools, such as computers and hand held devices; expands course offerings, experiences, and learning materials.

Technology also has the power to transform teaching by ushering in a new model of connected teaching. This model links teachers to their students and to professional content, resources, and systems to help them improve their own

instruction and personalize learning.

Teaching using technology will soon be introduced in a few peripheral schools in a special pilot project to be launched jointly by the Tanzania ICT Commission, Education Ministry and Estonia, the commission's acting Director Engineer Samson Mwela has revealed.

He did not give the date when the project will be launched or the schools to benefit from the project but said preparations are smooth and have advanced.

"This kind of teaching has been very successful in the developed world and has been behind the great reforms in the education systems in that part of the world.

We shall start using this kind of teaching in Tanzania, albeit in pilot form in a few peripheral schools. Success in those schools will help us know how to launch our project to cover all schools in the country in the future," he explained.

He said Estonia has advanced in using technology in many areas of life, adding that the country is cooperating with Tanzania in executing the pilot project. The project will succeed because, he explained, already over 50 million Tanzanians are using technology in their everyday life and the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) is covering over 94 per cent of the Tanzanian population.

Using technology in teaching allows student to read online books and questions and can download internet materials they need, he explained.

Further, he said, the commission has established a soft centre in Dar es Salaam in which innovators will display their innovations, increase the use of technology by Tanzanians and promote efficiency in production.

Mwela appealed to Tanzanians to use technology to acquire knowledge, increase production in their varied fields, especially agriculture, look for markets for their products and refrain from negative and unlawful use of technology.

Avocado growers invite TADB appraisers to assess their needs

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

In a development pointing to growing popularity of Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), Ruvuma Region avocado growers have requested TADB assessors to inspect their farms and determine their loan requirements. Ruvuma Region is struggling to introduce avocado as a third cash crop alongside maize and beans.

The campaign to introduce avocado as a cash crop in a largely conservative society, is spearheaded by Lusitu Agro-Business Company with the support Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (Sagcot) and avocado exporting companies --- Tanzanice Company Limited and Pro-Organic Company Limited.

The Lusitu Agro-Business Managing Director Beno Mgaya told agricultural reporters here yesterday that seven out of the ten pioneer groups growing avocado in Songea District have resolved to invite TADB assessors to inspect their farms and suggest the kind of loans they deserve to grow the crop for local and export markets.

"We have ten pioneer groups with 200 members. Seven out of 10 with whom we have reviewed progress of their farming strategies needs loans as a form of external push to take off and grow avocado for export on a firm footing. We have advised them that at this juncture the bank to turn to is the TADB. Tanzania and Pro-Organic have pledged to buy the entire crop for their European markets," Mr Mgaya said.

He said growers have a ready market and therefore have a genuine cause to turn to TADB because, he further said, a farmer has to spend 1.2m/- to prepare an acre for efficient avocado growing. He said 1.2m/- is a big amount for Tanzania smallholder, explaining that such a farmer needs an external push from an understanding and sympathetic

agricultural lender. "That is why we suggested to them to turn to TADB; it is the right bank at the moment."

He said each farmer has contributed 105,000/- as initial capital for getting seedlings, soil tests and proper planting of 100 seedlings in an acre.

Mr Mgaya said their company will cooperate fully with TADB officials in solving the farmers' current challenge, saying TADB's intervention will make a difference in making Ruvuma Region have a third cash crop and make farmers' dream come true. "This is possible," he said.

Mr Mgaya's company spearheaded growing of avocado and Irish potatoes in Njombe Region, turning round the lives of Njombe farmers and raising their livelihoods. It is trying to do the same in Ruvuma Region.

Last month Sagcot Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Kirenga said Sagcot will support fully the efforts of the Lusitu Agro-Business Company because, he said, it helping farmers grow a crop with a ready market. He called on other agricultural stakeholders to help Ruvuma farmers get a third cash crop, explaining that widespread production of avocado in the region will increase farmers' wealth and earn the nation foreign currency.



We have advised them that at this juncture the bank to turn to is the TADB. Tanzanice and Pro-Organic have pledged to buy the entire crop for their European markets



NMB Bank chairman Dr Edwin Mhede (L) gestures at a one day seminar for Members of Parliament in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt conducting study to identify amount of salt deposits in Bahi'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government is conducting a study to identify the amount of salt deposits available at Ilindi in Bahi District, Dodoma Region to be used for promotions to woo investors in the sector.

Deputy Minister of Trade and Industries Exaud Kigahe said in a written response to a question by Bahi Member of Parliament Keneth Nollo saying the ministry was working together with relevant stakeholders to see if the deposits were enough to supply raw materials for an industry.

The MP wanted to know the government plan to construct a salt factory at Ilindi Ward in the district is to create jobs for the youth and women.

In response the minister said the government is currently advocating for construction of industries that add value to raw materials that are in abundance in the country including salt to create jobs and facilitate economic growth.

The minister said data shows, salt activities in Bahi has employed 400 people including youth and women.

"The government is researching to know the amount of salt deposits available in the area so

that we market it to both local and international investors," he said.

The minister said the aim was to see if the area has enough water to facilitate industrial activities but also if it has enough deposits to supply raw materials to a middle level salt producing industry.

The minister said also that the government was collaborating with Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) on the best technology to help youth and women produce quality salt from the area.



The government is researching to know the amount of salt deposits available in the area so that we market it to both local and international investors

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

Arumeru residents, students to benefit from rain water project

MORE than 7,000 households and over 800 students of Majengo and Engatani primary schools in Arumeru District, Arusha Region will benefit from rain water project implemented by Save the Rain organisation.

This was disclosed recently by Majengo Ward Councillor, Bernard Kivondo at a short event to thank Save the Rain for implementing the project.

The councillor said the households and students will get

clean, safe water to be harvested during rainy periods and stored in tanks.

"I thank the institution for the assistance because the children's bones were soft and brittle due to high level content of fluoride," he said.

In the past, the availability of safe, clean water was a challenge to the residents of the area as the Nasula-Majengo water project was inadequate due to the increase of the number of the residents.

"In the circumstances, the

government came up with the World Bank funded project involving the digging of deep wells believing they would yield safe water, but unfortunately the water that came out had a high fluoride content," he added.

For his part the Save the Rain

Managing Director, Masudi Joseph, said their project was conceived following the effects of well water to humans.

He added that his institution has erected water storage tanks to ensure students of government primary schools and the residents

in general get clean and safe supply of water harvested from rain.

He said they have spent a total of 180m/- on the entire project, that being 60m/- for each of the three villages - Kaloleni, Engatani and Majengo.

He added that they have erected 40 water storage tanks for the schools and the residents.

For his part, the Engatani Village chairman Kisaruni Lomnya said they will work together with the residents to take care of the project's infrastructure.

By Correspondent James

Kandoya

Govt insists on compliance to health regulations to limit Covid-19 spread

THE government has insisted that the public must observe all health regulations to prevent them against the coronavirus (Covid-19) in the country.

The Director for Preventive Services at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Leonard Subi said yesterday when interviewed by a private radio station that despite the fact that Tanzania is safe, there was need for them to take precautions.

He was reacting to the interview on what measures Tanzania has taken in order to ensure the community is prevented from a new wave of the pandemic.

"Although Tanzania is safe, we are obliged to continue to take precaution against the pandemic which has affected the globe for almost eighteen months," he said.

"Our duty as the ministry is to emphasize people to take precautions against the pandemic. In the first wave in 2020, the public highly responded by washing hands, wearing masks, social distancing, doing exercise and eating a balanced diet," he added.

He insisted that the public should adhere to washing hands and wearing masks culture as it was practiced during the first wave in centres.

The director called

on institutions including financial institutions to restore all precaution as per health regulations to prevent spread of the pandemic. "Our achievement should be sustained. The government will continue tracing and make follow up in the bus terminal, and airport terminals to take precautions adding that the arrivals at all borders are tested for covid-19," he said.

"We are all aware that the big threat is new virus from India, South Africa,

UK and Brazil which has cost the lives of dozens," he added

Dr Subi said currently, the government was collaborating with local government authorities to increase awareness in their localities about the pandemic.

He said fighting against the pandemic is a must and not voluntary adding that all health teams were working hard to ensure the country is affected by the new wave.




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A CALL FOR PROPOSALS
TERMS OF REFERENCE TO UNDERTAKE

A Value Chain Analysis of Competitiveness and Trade Diversification in the Rice Sub Sector in Tanzania

Overview
REPOA welcomes interested parties to send a proposal (a maximum of 20 pages) in PDF format to repoa@repoa.or.tz or in writing to:
The Executive Director, REPOA

157 Mgombani/REPOA Streets, Regent Estate P.O. Box 33223, Dar es Salaam
Phone: (22) 2700083 / 0784 555 655 Fax: (22) 2775738

The deadline for applications is **5:00 pm, Tanzanian Time** on Friday, **June 25th, 2021**. In case you have questions, please feel free to contact REPOA at the email address listed above. The deadline for receiving queries on this call is **5:00 pm, Tanzanian Time** on **Wednesday, June 16th, 2021**. Please reference all communication with respect to this call for proposals adequately. The following examples can be used when communicating with REPOA:

RE: A Value Chain Analysis of Competitiveness and Trade Diversification in the Rice Sub Sector in Tanzania Submission of Proposal;
or
RE: A Value Chain Analysis of Competitiveness and Trade Diversification in the Rice Sub Sector in Tanzania Submission of Query;

Proposals are invited from individuals and/or organisations that will comprehensively respond to the Terms of Reference outlined below. Proposals must contain the following information:

- i. Expression of Interest
- ii. A technical proposal explaining your experience relevant for the assignment advertised.
- iii. A workplan outlining the timing and duration of aggregate activities to be undertaken in the course of the assignment.
- iv. Name and CV of the team leader (maximum 3 pages).
- v. A financial proposal (budget) with a detailed breakdown of costs per activity and engagement of personnel and other resources.
- vi. The names and details (client, project description) of 3-4 similarly themed assignments undertaken by your organization.
- vii. Description of the subcontractor(s), if any, that would assist your organization in completing the assignment.

Selection will take place based on price, quality of the proposals, and demonstration of relevant work experience in implementing similar assignments. It is expected that the selected respondent will begin the Assignment in July 2021, and that the duration of execution will be for no longer than 30 workdays spread over two calendar months from the date of signing the contract.

Only selected applications that meet the above requirements will be considered. Those who do not hear from REPOA two weeks after the expiry date should consider themselves unsuccessful. More information regarding ToR is found on the link below www.repoa.or.tz/?cat=5

REPOA is an equal opportunity employer. Organizations are encouraged to put up project teams comprising of both men and women.

Sunflower farmers to engage in contract farming through outgrower schemes

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

BEGINNING this financial year Tanzania's sunflower farmers will start practicing contract farming through outgrower schemes which has shown a promising future to small holder farmers by assuring them reliable markets, better prices and quality harvests.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe said this in a written response to a question by Singida urban Member of Parliament Ramadhan Sima.

The MP asked what were the government plans to strengthen contract farming through outgrower schemes to assure smallholder farmers of available markets.

In response, minister Bashe said contract farming assures farmers of reliable markets to their produce but also guarantee buyers high quality crops.

He said contract farming is aimed at addressing availability of farm inputs, access to capital due to agreements between farmers, financial institutions and buyers depending on the market needs.

According to the deputy minister, the ministry has already issued a directive to MPs, regional commissioners and district commissioners to oversee the implementation of the new systems in their areas.

"Contract farming has brought positive results on others crops such as wheat in Manyara, Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions.

He said companies such as Pyxus Agriculture Tanzania Limited, Mount Meru Millers Ltd, Mwenge Sunflower Oil Mills Company Limited and Jackma Company Limited have also done better through contract farming in regions of Manyara, Dodoma and Singida.

"The government in collaboration with the private sector is emphasizing farmers to practice contract farming which has shown a new direction in assuring reliable, better prices and quality produce," he said.

The deputy minister said the ministry was implementing the plan in line with the ruling CCM's manifesto which stipulates that the agriculture sector must be self-sufficient.

Despite having some of the best agricultural research institutes in Africa, Tanzania has not followed best practices that can lift farmers out of poverty.

Tanzania produces 1.8 million tonnes of groundnuts yearly, but this end up being sold at a small scale because farmers keep them in their houses for lack of markets.

Data from the Tanzania Edible Oil Association shows the country spends \$230,000 to import oil despite being one of the leading countries in research and production of the crops.

The government has blamed businesspeople of importing refined cooking oil and labeled it crude to access the country's borders.



A representative of F&S Company Henry Chami (C) cuts a ribbon to officiate LG electronics second shop at Mlimani City shopping mall in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Left is the firm's East Africa executive director, Sa'young Kim and Mohammed Enterprises Tanzania Limited Group (METL) director of sales Hussein Dewji. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bosch Group ready to invest in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

BOSCH, a German firm says it is ready to invest in Zanzibar in various economic fields.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by the firm's President for Africa Zone, Markus Thili during his discussion with the Minister of State in the President's Office (Labour, Economy and Investments), Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga and the Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, Omar Said Shaban.

Dr Thili hailed the hospitality accorded to him by Zanzibar officials, saying apart from investment, it will also provide training to youth to enable them

enter job markets.

"We have done that in many African countries depending on the need. This issue is more important as investment in human resources was better than material things," said Dr Thili.

Bosch Group of Companies is among world's renowned firms providing technological services and has employed more than 375,000 people worldwide whereby in 2015 it made Euro 70.6 billion sales in goods and technology.

For his part, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Labour, Economy and Investments), Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga said in order to boost the pace in

investment it has seen it better to have in place an environment that would mobilise investment.

"The coming of this firm will attract other investors to think about investing in the country and pledged that they would get appropriate services from its investment within and outside the African continent," said Soraga.

He said apart from allocating special areas for investment, there are various other attractions including tax remission incentives as well as firms producing modern technological equipment that spur the investment pace that in turn increase job opportunities and enhance economic growth.

For his part, the Minister

for Trade and Industrial Development, Omar Said Shaban, said Zanzibar needs big firms to invest in industries, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), spare parts for vehicles and machineries, the step that will spur the country's economic development.

Earlier, speaking about the coming of the German firm, the Chairman of Zanzibar Oil and Gas Stakeholders (ZAOGS) Amb Abdulsamad Abdulrahim, said the firm that has investments in various world countries has expressed the need to work together with the Zanzibar government to implement Isles 2050 development goals.

RC spells out priority areas in solving Dar challenges

By Guardian Reporter

DAE ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Amos Makala has spelled out several strategies, some of which are currently under implementation, in finding solutions to various challenges that hinder the region's development.

Speaking here on Tuesday at Kinondoni Municipal Council meeting, he said he had plans in the near future to visit various areas in the region to inspect development projects including mobilizing officials to execute their responsibilities in finding solutions to challenges facing the people.

He said in all four regions he served in various capacities, including Kilimanjaro, Katavi, Mbeya and Dar es Salaam he had in place a procedure to involve all officials to solve people's problems, hence he appealed to officials in this area to also adopt and continue the practice.

"I am a 'site' man, if you go to all the regions I served you will find my history and I believe that you will also accord me the opportunity to adopt the same procedure as for those areas.

He said the aim is to ensure they stay close to the people in finding solutions to the challenges they face.

This is the first priority as it is the basic foundation for the people to engage in their development activities and economic production, hence the ongoing anti-crime agenda should be sustainable.

He directed all Defence and Security Committees to work together to ensure crime, including armed robberies are eradicated in the region to let the people live in peace.

RC Makala said at the beginning of the week he met with health and environment officials and told them about his intention to make the environmental cleanliness issue to be sustainable.

He said after the directives the officials have prepared guidelines

that will be used to monitor the issue of cleanliness in the region, hence officials should make efforts to work together towards that end.

"The main stakeholders in my expectations are the councillors and Members of Parliament as they are the people's representatives, therefore if you understand me, the people will also understand me, as it is quite evident that the City of Dar es Salaam is not clean at all," he said.

He added: "In accomplishing this, I will soon announce an appropriate plan for small entrepreneurs in regard to their businesses.

"How can you make the city clean when you find it has built a business stall on top of the drainage where one has to first remove the drainage cover? We have to reallocate these small traders; else we shall fail to make the city clean."

He added that he has not come to kick out the small traders, but I have come to relocate them so that they operate in peace without hassles.

"We cannot go on with the situation whereby some of these traders move with cookers and gas cylinders and pick any open spot to cook food and wash utensils while spilling dirty water on the streets."

In regard to development projects, RC Makala instructed officials to closely supervise them to enable them be completed as planned.

He said the people become angry whenever they see some of the projects are implemented below standard, as the government spends a lot of funds towards them

Makala also gave directives to Councillors to ensure they supervise revenue collection and expenditure especially in regard to all challenges that need funds to be solved.

He also called upon them to be creative in initiating development projects that would provide income in areas with such opportunities.



Traffic police led by the country's traffic commander Wilbrood Mutafungwa (not in the picture) talk with passengers' at Mbeya stand who were expected to travel with up country buses which were stopped to travel due to mechanical faults Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Reporter

STANBIC Bank Tanzania partnered with LoungeKey to bring you a new and innovative programme that helps transform travelers' airport experience.

The platform allows eligible Stanbic Bank Visa Platinum Cardholders to choose how to best use their time at the airport.

Bank's head, personal and business banking, Omari Mtiga described LoungeKey as an airport lounge programme that allows you entry at participating lounges by showing a valid Visa Debit Platinum card all without

Bank launches new platform, facilities for Stanbic visa platinum cardholders

the need to carry an additional membership card.

"Our customers will have access to over 1,000 lounges, in over 500 airports worldwide, regardless of their airline, frequent flyer membership, or class of ticket. They will be able to enjoy unique experiences and offers in dining, spa, and retail outlets within the airports."

Commenting about the new product, Mtiga, said: "Stanbic

remains fully committed to delivering best services to our clients and our partnership with Loungekey represents another exciting development in this journey. There is tremendous interest from our customers, and we are confident that our Visa Platinum cardholders will respond enthusiastically to the LoungeKey platform offer."

"This key benefit is deployed with website and smartphone

apps made available for Cardholders. In addition, the cardholders will have access to the customer contact center, should they need assistance in locating a participating LoungeKey lounge."

"We are very excited to be able to offer our valued cardholders access to the LoungeKey platform when they plan for their travels. We look forward to continuing to create innovative solutions for our customers," added Mtiga.

By Beatrice Philemon

Mara farmers introduced to improved banana agriculture

HUNDREDS of farmers in Tarime District, Mara Region, have been introduced to advanced skills in banana agriculture. This is for the sake of helping them produce products that meet international standards.

Benefiting from Jatu Public Ltd Company, these agriculturalists will now be able to farm and process the cash crop in accordance to the required criteria stand a chance to face the competition in the overseas market.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JATU Public Ltd Peter Isare said that banana fruits to be harvested will be processed, packed and exported and this will not only allow farmers to benefit from what they grow in their localities but also improve their livelihood as a means of alleviating poverty.

"We called on farmers and JATU's shareholders in all areas to use this opportunities and maximize sales because the demand for banana products is very high for export market," he said.

He ensured farmers that the company is ready to provide banana suckers and extension services for those willing to engage in the agri-business as a means of facilitating the farming process.

"Right now farmers are invited to register their names in our office located in Tarime district for banana production, the company will provide experts who will train them on modern farming, how to grow banana suckers and other issues relating to good agricultural practices," he encouraged.

He reminded that the project targets farmers who have at least one acre of land and above to engage in this farming.

Isare also announced that the construction of a banana processing plant is ongoing at Nyanungu ward in Tarime district. He added that, this plant will help employ farmers who have undergone the requisite training as they will be allowed to work in various sections of the factory relating to their job description thus helping them benefit from what they grow.

He further challenged farmers to use this as an opportunity to secure local markets for their banana produce especially in regions like Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mtwara and Dodoma where JATU Plc. has partnered with five supermarkets.

He also said that the company has also been contributing to combat unemployment in the

country as it currently has 10,264 people including those with disabilities who are employed in the different sectors within the enterprise.

"Besides this, we hope to reach more people providing them with knowledge on investment opportunities and services provided by JATU through JATU Talk Programme which aims at exposing university students to self-employment opportunities found within the company," he mentioned.

For his part, JATU's Board Chairman, Zaipuna Yonah added that the enterprise has been providing exceptional agricultural and marketing services to farmers and customers who are shareholders or members for three years now since its existence.

"They continue to farm collectively through JATU Plc products produced from JATU's milling factories through our digital platform that is implemented with a marketing strategy that ensures customer's satisfaction on the type and quality of services offered and the profit sharing on every purchase customer makes through the digital platform," he emphasized.



Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold mine workers clean their mining environment to mark World Environment Day 2021 held recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Mining firm empowers Tanzanian women in the extractive industry

"THERE is a say that, educating a woman is equivalent to educating the nation, the same applies to the concept of empowering women, meaning an economically empowered woman is an asset to a whole community," said Zuwena Senkondo, a Sustainable Communities Superintendent for Barrick Gold Bulyanhulu - Shinyanga.

She said that despite this, developing countries still struggle to implement inclusive programmes for women especially in decision-making positions at workplaces.

Speaking recently at a dialogue on gender and women empowerment which was organised by a platform of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)-HakiRasilimali, Senkondo said: "To sustainably address this challenge of living the girl-child behind, it is vital for girls to study hard and utilize opportunities to prove that women are actually capable."

She said that institutions and corporate companies ought to believe in women's capabilities and qualifications in leadership positions, arguing that women who engage themselves in entrepreneurial activities, agriculture, animal husbandry and other economic activities have to believe in themselves and conduct their businesses effectively with a goal to achieve financial freedom and improve their livelihoods.

Senkondo said she is proud to be employed by Barrick, a company that has been in the forefront to create equal opportunities for its employees regardless of gender and age, and

the mining company also has an active policy to give back to its surrounding community whereas most beneficiaries are women.

A graduate in Business and Community Development from a university in South Africa, Senkondo expressed her enlightenment to be chosen by Barrick to participate in the conference for gender related issues which she believes she has learned a lot from and the knowledge acquired will help implement her official duties even more efficiently.

She said through the conference she had the opportunity to encourage women to that they can work in any of the extractive industry and hold senior positions, adding that, apart from that, she could also share with participants various opportunities that are available through the mining policy that requires mines to implement sustainable community projects that would engage more women in the extractive industry.

"I am proud to work with Barrick on account that they are keen to observe efficiency at work, and that allowed me to urge various groups of policy makers to utilize this opportunity provided by Barrick to engage women. I had the opportunity to share with participants some of the key requirements needed to prepare a woman to take part in the extractive industry in all fields, how to benefit from the value chain as well as benefiting directly from employment," she said.

Commenting on community projects implemented by Barrick

that are beneficial to women, she noted the projects that are meant to improve educational infrastructures in order to provide convenient environment for girls to acquire education including building hostels at Bugarama, Mwingiro, Msalala, Nyang'hwale and Bulyanhulu secondary schools.

Other projects are those tailored to assist women groups to officiate their businesses so that they can work with the mine and contractors (agriculture and animal husbandry), building capacity for women groups to acquire markets for the products they make, provide assistance in educational programmes that would help improve performance of girl students as well as the establishment of a business forum that provides entrepreneurial skills.

In her spare time, Senkondo likes to read books, surfing the internet for news and current affairs and spending time with her family. She called on women to further improve themselves through education, believe in themselves and do away with the mindset that men are more capable than women, "I know there are countless challenges that we encounter as women, nevertheless, we shouldn't put ourselves behind men in everything, once we manage to overcome this mentality then we can move further ahead, there are examples of women here in the country who continue to shine in their professions even more than men because of their education and self-esteem."



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES 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 various Service and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below service.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01217	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CUMMINS SPARE PARTS FOR ENGINES QSK19, KTA38 AND QSK45 MODELS.

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 2 references from the applicant's bankers 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	
Warranty Terms	15%
Dealership Proof with TEREX O&K	15%
Ability to supply TEREX O&K Parts	25%
OEM Maintenance Support	20%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. 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 16TH JUNE 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=

THURSDAY 10 JUNE, 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Samia's women uplift call for ideas is a test for institutions

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has shown an encouraging predisposition to seek for ideas and usable suggestions where she doesn't honestly believe that she has credible answers for a problem that she needs to solve as the country's foremost leader. This is what she did upon taking office, in relation to what to do about the Covid-19 pandemic, which thankfully has spared Tanzania its worst vagaries so far. The new issue is what to do about women's empowerment, where the president on Tuesday asked key women executives in financial and project design organizations to help find a workable model, tighter formula.

The point of departure was a worry raised by the president in preliminary observations leading to that appeal for ideas, namely the fact that during the past three decades a total of 2.2trn/- has been issued in loans, benefitting around 5.3m women. The president was however uncertain as to its actual impact, thus challenging women to assess themselves as to what extent has been durably achieved by the funds. In other words the president is trying to avoid a situation where one trillion shilling is sunk into the project, and at the end of the day there is little to show of -and current designs don't promise actual difference.

There is a senior African lady economist, Dambisa Moyo of Zimbabwe whom the president is likely not just to have read but must have met, as she also worked for the World Bank many years earlier. The Zimbabwe scholar has questioned foreign aid as a whole, saying it merely boosts the consumption patterns of elites (here, the purchasing of sumptuous vehicles for top officials of non-governmental

organisations just like government officials), training and often questionable use of cash on the project site via procurement flaws, etc. None of this can be wished away in the next round of empowerment projects, in which case the president wonders if the same model should continue, or there are new ideas.

For a certain school of thought, such tendencies are corrected by resolute government, with what is known as 'zero tolerance for corruption.' But experience shows that zero tolerance can never be total, as those who stamp down on the corrupt become the walking sticks of those in power, and when they are themselves engaged in corruption, those in office will understandably hesitate to take requisite action, as they doubt the loyalty of those who definitely would expect that the axe falls on the spot. In that way, finally only democracy is sustainable, but it ruins accountability if it relies on enforcement by the state.

In other words, those of us who believe that democracy is a necessity despite its flaws must also go a step further and accept that private property is the way out, despite its flaws. When empowerment funds are placed in the central bank, borrowed by women empowerment banks, loaned out and returned, the good thing is that they will be loaned out again in the second and even third round, depending on the loan maturity average period of time. It becomes a never ending stream of loans, while project funding as such dries up the original amount on a project, and the result - as the president intoned - is sustained poverty.

Those the president directly asked them to help her include top women executives like Ruth Zaipuna of NMB Bank, and others. Let's hope for the best.

Long investigations make bail more likely

THERE is a general perception that armed robbery is becoming more common, partly driven by the side economy that is run on cash transactions because people do not want to use the banking system for various reasons or wish to avoid coming to the notice of the tax collectors.

The police are doing a fairly good job of rounding up likely suspects, quite often at considerable risk to themselves since some gangs want to fight it out although the police now seem to be better prepared for this, ensuring that they have adequate back-up when they do affect an arrest.

The trouble starts after the arrest. The accused are taken to court promptly, as required by law. Magistrates are not allowed to grant bail in such cases so the suspects apply at the High Court. Usually the state makes a good case for denying bail and usually manage to get the judge to agree, at least for a while.

But then little happens. After a decent interval the High Court has little option, but to grant bail since people cannot be held indefinitely in the remand cells while what seems to be a very slow process in completing the investigation, at times with little further evidence that the accused was arrested in the company of others who are also suspects.

Bail is always touchy and there is a perennial dispute between police, prosecutors and judicial officers over when it should be granted. Police, correctly, point out that there are a fair number of

suspected robbers who have been granted bail and who then fail to turn up for their next remand hearing.

Unfortunately that is not a legal argument. A judge has to look at each individual case, not at patterns. Even if a majority of robbery suspects skip bail, that cannot influence a judge faced with a particular individual making an application.

Each application has to be decided on its own merits in terms of the law and precedent.

Added to this there are other factors, such as a Constitutional ban on detention without trial which precludes keeping a prisoner "on ice" in a remand prison indefinitely. Remand prison in many ways is the exception, not a convenience and is certainly not a punishment.

It is meant basically to hold someone against whom there is already a very strong case for a serious crime for a short time before a trial is held and guilt or innocence is decided.

When a court is faced with opposition to bail on the grounds that a lot of further investigation is required there is bound to be a need to find out how much evidence is already available and just what still needs to be done to tie up the prosecution case. And when there is not very much evidence available, except a strong belief that the accused is the person who committed the crime, a court is likely to take a bail application seriously, allowing the person to be at liberty with some restrictions while the investigations continue.

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By Fatou Haidara and Helen McEachern

G7 Summit: Time to put women front and centre of global economic recovery

THE leaders of the G7 group of nations will soon gather in Cornwall, United Kingdom, (June 11-13) to devise plans to 'build back better' from the COVID-19 pandemic. The summit takes place in the wake of a crisis that has both revealed and further exacerbated existing economic and social inequalities, including gender inequalities.

This meeting and the run-up to the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in November 2021 provide an opportunity to put women front and centre of global economic plans.

This crisis should be used as a wake-up call to evolve from business-as-usual. It is time for governments and the international community to embrace measures to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs and ensure their knowledge, experience and great untapped potential are at the forefront of national economic recovery plans, including for sustainable, green and inclusive economies and societies.

Impact of COVID-19 on women entrepreneurs

For women entrepreneurs, the pandemic has meant reduced incomes, temporary and permanent business closures, the dismissal of employees, missed business opportunities and reduced access to often already limited finance and capital.

Women-owned enterprises are overrepresented in sectors most vulnerable to the detrimental impacts of COVID-19 - such as retail, hospitality and tourism, and services, as well as manufacturing such as in the textile industry.

With children being homeschooled and heightened care needs for older people, there is also an increasing amount of unpaid care work which is disproportionately carried out by women. (Even before the pandemic, most women-owned businesses were on average smaller and had less capital than those owned by men - which results in limited resilience to the economic hit created by the pandemic.)

Data analyzed by the COVID-19 Gender and Development Initiative suggests that in every region of the world women are more likely to have been forced to close their businesses because of the pandemic.

Recent research by the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, based on responses from 125 women entrepreneurs in 32 low- and middle-income countries,

provides critical insights into women entrepreneurs' experiences and challenges in 2020.

Most women entrepreneurs responding to the survey reported that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their businesses, and nearly four in ten responded that their business may have to close as a result.

Over a third of these women reported they would struggle to afford necessities like food if their business closed down, and almost half of them reported that they have lost out on formal financial investment opportunities due to the pandemic.

With regard to the type of support required, a UNIDO survey¹ on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on women and youth entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector and manufacturing-related services recorded responses of more than 1100 entrepreneurs (759 of them women) from 34 countries.

It showed that access to finance, customer retention, market diversification and product development are the areas where women entrepreneurs need the most assistance to recover from the economic repercussions of the pandemic. Also, women entrepreneurs indicated more need for support than men entrepreneurs, again suggesting that the pandemic has had a disproportionately negative impact.

Investing in women entrepreneurs critical

The playing field for women entrepreneurs already needed levelling before the pandemic. The World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2021 report shows that laws and restrictions continue to prevent women from entering the workforce and starting businesses.

Around the world, women still have only three-quarters of the legal rights afforded to men on average.² Women entrepreneurs are also less likely to have access to human, financial and social capital, and globally, only one in three businesses are owned by women.³

In addition, women are less likely than men to start and operate a business, both in OECD4 and low- and middle-income countries.⁵

While investing in women entrepreneurs is first and foremost a critical issue of economic justice and women's rights, there is also a strong economic incentive. Joint research by the Boston Consulting

Group and the Cherie Blair Foundation from 2019 found that if women and men participated equally as entrepreneurs, global GDP could rise by 3-6%, boosting the global economy by USD 2.5-5 trillion.

Unlocking the untapped potential of women entrepreneurs to boost the world economy should therefore be a priority in the post-pandemic recovery.

Time to step up commitments to support women entrepreneurs

Gender-neutral macroeconomic policies and recovery packages will not reach those most in need. In fact, they continue to reinforce existing gender inequalities and contribute to the discrimination against women in economic participation and entrepreneurship. This will leave women - and their families, communities and wider societies - worse off.

Since the Leaders Declaration of the G7 Summit of 7-8 June 2015 identified women's entrepreneurship as a key driver of innovation, growth and jobs, and respective commitments were formulated in the G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment in 2017, successive G7 Presidencies have continued to advance this cause.

The meeting in Cornwall is an opportune moment to further strengthen these commitments and adopt concrete measures for a green economic recovery that empowers women and benefits all. Both national policies and international cooperation should prioritize building more gender-responsive, just and resilient economies, with policies and fiscal packages that address deeply-ingrained inequalities.

In particular, we call on leaders at the upcoming G7 Summit to ensure that post-COVID-19 recovery efforts and fiscal packages support sectors where women are strongly represented and that have been hit hard by the pandemic, such as hospitality and tourism, manufacturing, retail, health and social care. We need concrete budgetary commitments. In addition, measures need to be put in place so that women entrepreneurs have equal access to market opportunities, such as through public procurement, as well as access to finance.

Yet, even these actions will not be enough if structural inequalities persist and discriminatory social norms and legal barriers are not tackled through transformative policies. There is a further

need to ensure more gender-targeted and universal social protection mechanisms which are missing in so many countries around the world, and to ensure that macroeconomic policies recognize and address the gender inequalities in unpaid care and other domestic responsibilities.

It is also essential that the voices of women entrepreneurs and their organizations are heard by the international community, including the G7, and that women entrepreneurs are involved in any policy negotiations seeking to 'build back better'.

Today, women make up only 24% of governmental COVID-19 task forces globally,⁶ thus creating the risk of perpetuating gender inequalities and leaving women's needs unattended.⁷

The international community faces a unique opportunity to shape a post-COVID-19 economy to which women and men have equal access and can equally contribute to through their businesses. Our organizations stand ready to collaborate on this endeavour.

1 UNIDO, "Assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on women and youth entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector and manufacturing-related services", 2020.

2 World Bank 'Women, Business and the Law 2021', 2021

3 World Bank Enterprise Surveys. Retrieved from The World Bank Gender Data Portal: Share of small, medium, and large firms with a woman among the principal owners (%), latest data available for 2019

4 OECD (2019). The Missing Entrepreneurs 2019 - Policies for Inclusive Entrepreneurship.

5 World Bank Enterprise Surveys, World Bank Data Portal, as presented in the World Bank Blog of Daniel Halim (5 March 2020): Women entrepreneurs needed--stat!

6 "COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker", UNDP

7 Further reading: "Vienna Discussion Forum 2020 - The future is gender-inclusive: Global responses in crisis management and recovery", 27 November 2020, UNIDO.

Fatou Haidara is Managing Director, Directorate of Corporate Management and Operations, United Nations Development Organization (UNIDO); Helen McEachern is Chief Executive Officer, Cherie Blair Foundation for Women

Workplace chronicles

I HAD a doctor's appointment, show up and delayed in the queue.

I hear my name called out and wobble into the doctors' office. I find some young lady nurse seated in the same room and she hands over my file to the doc.

As we settle to focus on my condition, the young nurse chooses to swing the computer screen so that we review the digital file that the previous doc was working on during the previous consultation. Then the screen is turned towards her considering she was to my left. When the screen is turned on and obscene images pop out the Doc looks up at us through his thick scholarly dark old fashioned eye glasses and then asks "What is this?".

I did not even respond to him. The lady nurse was so embarrassed and thank God for the quick mouse movement reaction that millennials have and voila... my medical report was on screen.

Immediately as a HR practitioner my antenna is on high alert and swinging making noise like a police siren chasing after Raymond Reddington in the streets of Paris - I digress. So seriously, the screen had non work related websites and it looks like the person forgot to close the tab - lady nurse, stone faced doc or just someone in that office? Hmmm. None of was my business there but let us get back to work ours.

So this is where I ask, "What are you busy doing at work when you are left alone - especially now that after the covid-19 situation has left us with lessons?" "What is occupying our down time or is it part of the pomodoro technique break time?" I kind of feel like we are thinking / doing things that we should not be thinking / doing and not thinking / doing things we should be thinking / doing - see what I did there?

Are we monitoring the stuff that our staff are doing or are we easy to allow this covid situation to relax



the laid down rules and regulations? Do our systems in the work place have an audit trail that give a report of the sites that our staff are visiting? Are we responsible enough to know, what can be viewed where and with which gadgets - office given? Do staff have 'personal space' in the work space? Is there a law against such behavior in the work space? I can only imagine if it was an old woman / man who may have been subjected to such a screen? Suppose I raised it up with the management of the hospital - does it really concern me in any way?

We claim to be professionals while at work and the same is expected of us in view of our assumed behavior - read this as internet surfing habits. Does your organization have a fire wall that detects such inappropriate / private sites and how many hits they have had per day and how long one has been on them?

So, anyway, I told this episode to someone, they asked me why I was making such a big deal out of it. I was livid to think that they thought it was a minor thing. Like seriously, the few seconds of exposure to such material has henceforth polluted my otherwise very innocent mind. I repeat, Imagine if it was a much elderly person or even a child and this is the screen they were exposed to, what images would that person be left with? Do you know that there are some images one cannot unsee? Unless one has poor eyesight

Transparent face masks make communication easier for Zimbabwe's hearing impaired

HARARE

IN a classroom in Harare, Gerald Hara, a sign language teacher delivers a sign language lesson to a group of students who eagerly follows his instructions.

The small size of the class enables Hara to give more individual attention to each student's particular needs, at the same time fostering better communication between the teacher and the students.

To ensure that communication remained uninterrupted as sign language is a visual language, Hara and his students donned special transparent face masks.

Hara is a sign language interpreter and teacher at Harare-based Sunrise Sign Language Academy (SSLA), a non-profit organization that aims to bridge the communication gap faced by the deaf. The youthful teacher noted that while mask-wearing and social distancing are imperative in defeating the pandemic, such infection control measures are getting in the way of communication for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Reading a person's lips and seeing facial expressions are imperative for those who rely on visual communication such as sign language or lip-reading, Hara noted. To plug the communication gap, SSLA has come up with initiatives such as the use of transparent face masks and holding awareness campaigns about the pandemic targeting people with hearing impairments.

The transparent masks, made with a double layer of fabric and a plastic sheet, have become handy for those with hearing impairments.

Asides from protecting them from the contagious coronavirus, the masks are also keeping communication channels open. Hara said COVID-19 has increased the communication barriers faced by the deaf.

"By being hearing impaired already there is a challenge in communication and expression of their feelings, wants and needs, but during COVID it became worse because now when the first mask came it actually dampened their communication more.

"And now the introduction of this mask (transparent mask) it kind of liberated them to come back to the ordinary set-up of communication which shows lip-reading, which is a crucial part of their communication pattern," Hara said.

He noted that communication using sign language or lip reading relies on seeing someone's face clearly to understand their facial expressions or other non-verbal cues.

"For example, if I am happy, they can see, but if I am using the other previous mask, I can't show the facial

expressions and question markers like 'What?'

'Where', but now you can see because I am wearing the correct one, so that has been a great deal for communication for the hearing impaired community in Zimbabwe," said the sign language teacher.

In Zimbabwe face masks are mandatory in all public spaces, and violators can be fined up to 500 Zimbabwean dollars (about 6 U.S. dollars).

While access to information is the first line of defense in battling the global pandemic, getting information to the deaf can be tricky. Douglas Mapeta, chairman and founder of SSLA, said for the general public information about the pandemic is widespread, but not enough has been done to make it available to the deaf in mediums easily accessible to them.

Tawanda Matende, a sign language lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe's Department of Languages, Literature and Culture, said it's crucial to involve sign language in all national discourses since it is a fully-fledged language just like any other spoken language.

"So sign language is not an exception in as far as national development is concerned, in as far as combating the virus, in as far as issues to do with vaccination," Matende said.

Sign language is one of Zimbabwe's 16 official languages and all public documents are required to be available in all languages. However, the lack of codification for Zimbabwean Sign Language means the deaf community is largely left out in many national conversations.

Xinhua



Where', but now you can see because I am wearing the correct one, so that has been a great deal for communication for the hearing impaired community in Zimbabwe

they need to share screen contents. Most important is to educate staff that the office is a place for the designated business of the owners and that their private lives desires should not be fulfilled or acted out during company time. The IT department needs to be conducting random audit reports that will allow the viewing of deleted history files from the desk top.

Let it be very clear that the staff who portrays such behavior shall face very serious disciplinary action and may lead to removal of internet privileges if not suspension from work. In case a member of staff feels offended in any way and the effects are documentable, then the staff who facilitated this indecent exposure may loose their job.

As we navigate life, the workplace is part of the pit stop for the day and we need it as much as the rest of the route plan for the day. Let us make it better every day not just for self but for others, let people not be uncomfortable around you due to certain habits. Afraid that when they touch your computer for use, the pop ups will give then the jitters and not the ones from my doc. There is no real privacy in the work place and so come on, a few hours off your phone to get some real work done, will not hurt you, after all it is that real work you do that ultimately pays your bills.

College Comfort Zone
With
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INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS TRAINING 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 training for root cause analysis and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below service.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01192	PROVISION OF ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS TRAINING

II. 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	5%
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	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.7%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.7%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.7%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
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)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01192)	75%
Proof of ability and Experience to provide Theoretical and Practical Training	18.75%
Proof of having certifications to provide Root Cause Analysis Training	18.75%
Proof of ability to provide Reference material to trainee	18.75%
Proof of ability to teach RCA process (e.g. level of detail/granularity)	18.75%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. 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 **08:30 A.M 18TH JUNE 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=

Local people protect nature in Tanzania's biodiversity hotspot

By Beatrice Philemon

IN 2001, German biologist Viola Clausnitzer was working in the Amani-Sigi Forest in Tanzania's East Usambara Mountains when she spotted something special. At a small, boulder-strewn stream in the dense forest, she had found a kind of dragonfly that had not been seen since 1962, when it was first described for science.

"It was exciting," says Clausnitzer. "Virtually nothing was known about its ecology, behaviour and habitat."

The dragonfly was an Amaniflatwing (Amanipodagrion gilliesi). It is today known from just one location and is considered to be critically-endangered. But it is just one of many rare and threatened species that are found nowhere else on Earth than in the East Usambara Mountains. They include birds and snakes and frogs and plants. With threats to these species increasing, local people are now working together to increase habitat and safeguard this special place.

The East Usambara Mountains are part of what scientists call a 'biodiversity hotspot' because of the rich variety and uniqueness of the species that live there. This includes more than 340 bird species and ten times that many species of plants. But many of the region's species are at risk from logging, gold mining, pollution and the expansion of agriculture into forest areas.

These threats are particularly acute for endangered species such as the Usambara spotted worm snake,



Amani flatwing (amanipodagrion gilliesi) / Credit: German biologist Viola Clausnitzer

Usambaragarter snake, Giant East Usambara blade-horned chameleon, Mazumbai warty frog and Usambara blue-bellied frog and, among birds, the Usambara akalat, Usambaraweaver, Usambarahyliota, and the critically-endangered Long-billed forest warbler (Hope for rare species as villagers remove invasive umbrella

trees).

"Many more species of flora and fauna are threatened in these mountains," says ornithologist Martin Joho. "That's why we want to conserve the area and plant indigenous trees to improve biodiversity and the natural environment".

Caring friends

Joho is a member of the Amani Friends of Nature, an organisation created by local people after they recognised the environmental problems and became concerned about the future of this important area for biodiversity and the communities that live there.

The organisation was officially registered in 2020, and is based in Amani ward, Muheza district, Tanga region. Its activities include planting trees, conducting research and training future eco-tourism guides in communities near the Amani Nature Reserve, which at 8,380 hectares is the largest block of forest in the East Usambara Mountains.

"Learning about, sharing and conserving our resources will build cooperation among local communities that will sustain our future," says Joho.

Amani Friends of Nature aims to plant at least 10,000 indigenous trees each year to reforest degraded areas. The aim is to conserve and increase forest habitat, including by connecting forest fragments. As Joho explains, indigenous trees create important habitat for birds, as they provide food, breeding sites and nesting materials.

"Right now, we will start planting indigenous trees in almost 20 acres [8 hectares] of open land that villages have asked us to restore back into forest," says Joho. "Where appropriate, the agroforestry system of farming will be encouraged, for example by mixing crops such as cinnamon, black pepper and clove with native trees."

The trees will be planted at Ubiri and Sakare villages located in Mbomole village 50 kilometres from Muheza district council. During the project, Amani Friends of Nature and local villagers will also remove invasive umbrella trees that harm native species of plants and animals (see Hope for rare species as villagers remove invasive umbrella trees).

Amani Friends of Nature has extended its activities to the West Usambara Mountains, which have also suffered from extensive habitat loss and fragmentation. In Lushoto district, 80 hectares of land at Magamba Nature Reserve have been allocated for indigenous tree planting to connect two blocks of forest.

"Establishing a forested linkage between the two largest forest fragments in the Magamba Nature Reserve will increase the effective population size of species by expanding available habitat," says Martin Joho.

He says the reforested linkage will also permit species to more readily move upslope in response to climate change, whose adverse impacts on the demography and distribution of forest bird species have been recently documented in the Usambara Mountains.

Joyneth Mbogo, executive director of Amani Friends of Nature, says the organisation is looking for financial support from donors in Tanzania and across the world, as it needs at least USD 35,000 so it can fully implement its plans.

Local support and benefits

Meanwhile, there is strong support for conservation among local communities, according to Hamis Barua, chairman of Shebomeza village. He says that so far 20 villages alongside Amani Nature Reserve have embarked on activities aimed at conserving the reserve's biodiversity and water resources, which include tributaries of the Zigi River, whose water people across the Tanga region depend on for home use and farming.

In Shebomeza, villagers have formed an environment committee that regularly patrols the boundaries of the nature reserve to keep out encroachers who enter it to cut down trees, conduct illegal mining and agricultural activities, or pollute water sources.

The village has also formulated by-laws that prohibit anyone from cutting trees for timber inside the reserve. Its residents now practise agroforestry in the nature reserve's buffer zone and on their farms to sustainably manage forest products, reduce local dependence on biodiversity in the reserve and control the spread of the invasive tree (Maesopsis eminii).

All of this conservation activity is not just good for wild species. Local people benefit too. Planting trees helps to protect the water catchment, control soil erosion, regulate the climate and increase supplies of building materials. Healthy, diverse forests also attract eco-tourists in search of birds and other species that are found nowhere else on Earth.

Fikiri Maiba, chief conservator of Amani Nature Reserve, says the current number of visitors is low because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but in a normal year the reserve would receive visitors from many countries in Europe, as well as from Australia, Canada, China and the United States. He adds that 20 percent of revenue generated from eco-tourism is shared with local villages.

"Conservation is only sustainable if done with local communities and people," says Clausnitzer, the biologist who re-discovered the Amaniflatwing. When I asked her why people in Tanzania should care about that species of insect, she reminded me that the viable populations of this species are known only from one small stream in the Amani-Sigi Forest.

"If something happens to that stream, such as pollution or forest clearing, the Amaniflatwing might easily become extinct," she says. "Extinction is forever and we, the people inhabiting every corner of the planet, using and often over-using most of the resources, have to take care of species and our planet."

"Every living being has an intrinsic value and a right to be here," she says. "The people of Tanzania should be proud that there are still so many rare and special animals in their country."

This story was produced with the support of Internews' Earth Journalism Network.

JOB VACANCY



BANK

KCB Bank is the biggest and oldest bank in East Africa, starting its operations in Zanzibar in 1896 and later moving to Kenya and back to Tanzania in 1997. KCB is currently operating in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Burundi and Ethiopia. The Bank employs about 300 staff, exports talents from Tanzania to East Africa, a good tax payer, offers great support to the community in the sectors of education, health, enterprise, development, environment and children living in difficulties.

Job Title	: Unit Head Treasury Sales
Department	: Treasury
Reports line	: Managing Director Head of Treasury
Job Number	: IRC10640
Location	: Tanzania
Category	: Full time

Job Summary:

Provide treasury solutions to CORPORATE and RETAIL clients, to meet clients desired FX, hedging and investment requirements and increase bank's share of wallet.

Job Details:

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Actively support in marketing the defined product offering e.g., in Spot, Forward and FX Options to SME clients and enhance the business turnover and profitability.
- Help Treasury Sales team develop a robust and loyal core CORPORATE and RETAIL customer base through building relationships with stakeholders.
- Strengthen the CORPORATE and RETAIL customer penetration in foreign exchange / Treasury Products.
- Support Treasury Sales team in cross-selling of FX products & referrals from other units within CORPORATE and RETAIL through various campaigns, incentive structures, training etc.
- Contribute and provide inputs in the new product development tailor-made for CORPORATE and RETAIL segments
- Maintain a high standard of customer service to increase the Bank's market shares vis-à-vis existing customers and enlarge the customer base.
- Keep abreast of the latest market developments, Competitors' tactical mapping and market intelligence.
- Support marketing activities of the defined product offering i.e., in Spot and Forward to Corporate clients and enhance the business turnover and profitability.
- Monitor the performance & productivity of the assigned desk developing and rolling-out requisite MIS.
- Keep track of Product Sales and RM performance on an on-going basis.
- Keep track of products and marketing initiatives of key market players.

DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Perform daily market survey, analysis and report on competitors' actions
- Prepare Daily Exchange rate sheet and circulate to Branches before commencement of business to ensure that all trades are done as per the day's defined currencies trading strategy.
- Review, monitor and manage the Banks Foreign Currencies positions and trading activities to ensure compliance with Internal and External Statutory requirements to achieve FX Trading revenue targets.
- Trade within approved Dealers' limits in the Interbank for profit or covering positions in accordance with MM trading and Local Counterparty Authorized Credit lines

REQUIREMENTS:

- University degree in Banking/ Finance/ Accounting.
- Relevant professional qualification in ACI dealing certificate.
- Minimum 10 years of experience.
- Master's degree in Business related studies is an added advantage.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

- Only candidates who meet the specified requirements need apply via our website: www.kcbgroup.com
- The closing date for receiving applications is **Sunday, 20 th June, 2021** KCB Bank Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its employment and selection practices based on race, colour, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, citizenship status, matriculation, family responsibilities, personal appearance, credit information, or other protected classifications or non-merit factors.

www.kcbbank.co.tz



25,000 goats, sheep being vaccinated to avert livestock-wildlife infections

By Marc Nkwame – Monduli

OVER 25,000 livestock belonging to over 1000 households within the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem are being vaccinated against infections in efforts to protect the adjoining Wildlife corridor from possible eruption of diseases.

Administered through the Manyara Ranch, the 30,000 vaccine doses target to safeguard mostly goats and sheep in the precinct, from the deadly 'Peste des Petits Ruminants,' (PPR) virus which according to veterinary experts, usually cause sheep and goats plague.

It was stated during the vaccination exercise at Manyara Ranch, that PPR happens to be a highly contagious animal disease affecting domestic and small wild ruminants, being caused by a virus belonging to the genus Morbillivirus, family Paramyxoviridae.

"Once introduced, the virus can infect up to 90 percent of animals in particular heard, with the disease being able to kill up to 70 percent of infected animals," pointed out Dr Raphael Mwampashi, the acting officer in charge of the Zonal Veterinary Research Centre in Arusha.

The officer explained that PPR was among the 13 diseases that the Tanzanian government through the Ministry of Livestock and fisheries has prioritized in its national livestock vaccination drive.

"In order to conduct successful vaccination exercise, we have been compelled to go through the Manyara Ranch management in order to reduce any resistance from community members who usually don't trust outside intervention regarding their kept animals," added Dr Mwampashi.

As it happens, the Manyara ranch, whose conservation programs are coordinated by the African Wildlife Foundation, has hatched good, mutual cooperation with the surrounding communities, making it easier to collectively manage the health of the livestock populations in the



Consignment of PPR vaccines for livestock being presented by Pastor Magingi, the programme manager for the African Wildlife Foundation in Tanzania (C) to representing the Monduli District executive director, Kaiza Victor (L) at the Manyara ranch yesterday as Lemaly Sigr Ole Kibinti (R) who presented local communities in the area looks on. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

precinct.

The Tanzania office for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) has identified the Manyara Ranch as one of its Implementers in the ongoing FAO Livestock Vaccination Campaign.

Mapped within 48,000 hectares striding mostly Monduli and Babati Districts of Arusha and Manyara regions, the Manyara Ranch established back in 2001 is supported by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and plays a vital role in conserving the wildlife corridor as well as taking proper care of livestock belong to local communities living in the area.

"There is a high rate of interactions between livestock and wildlife at the Manyara Ranch," explained Pastor Magingi, the Program Manager for the African Wildlife Foundation in Tanzania.

According to Pastor Magingi, vaccinated goats and sheep in the precinct will reduce the spread of the disease and create safer conditions for both domesticated and wild ruminants grazing or passing through the corridor.

Manyara Ranch is a mixed-use ranch, hosting key wildlife populations including Lions, Elephants, Zebras and wild ruminants, while also hosting a thriving commercial livestock

program currently consisting of more than 840 herds of cattle and 540 sheep.

"The ranch also supports the livestock managerie from two neighboring communities, Oltukai and Esilalei, with pasture and water points during the dry season. In addition, the local grazers benefit from improved cattle breeds under AWF assistance," explained Lemaly Sigr Ole Kibinti, the Deputy Ranch Manager.

The ranch also plays the role of protecting the wildlife corridor, which is an important animals' passage connecting Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks.

A representative of Esilali and Oltukai Villages, Lelia Medoti said that in conjunction with local communities, the AWF has successfully cut down poaching and illegal harvesting of natural resources in the area

"We have benefited from this vaccination exercise and from AWF's management of the ranch. Wildlife populations have recovered and the ranch is well-maintained and clean. We appreciate the livestock operations on the ranch which have helped to improve the communities' livestock herds, thereby improving the health of the ecosystem at large," said Medoti.



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS) FOR HEALTH FACILITY, COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL-BASED ITN DISTRIBUTION IN TANZANIA MAINLAND AND ZANZIBAR (RFQ 0028-2021)

1. Background and project description

Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (Referred as 'CCP') is an American NGO registered to operate in Tanzania as an Organization limited by guarantee and is domiciled in Tanzania. On 22nd January 2008, the Organization was issued a Certificate of Compliance No 1982 as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), having met the requirement of the NGO status.

The USAID Tanzania Vector Control Activity (TVCA) is a USAID-funded project that implements proven, evidence-based vector control approaches in Tanzania, focusing on insecticide-treated nets (ITNs). TVCA works with the Government of Tanzania sector ministries and malaria partners, providing state-of-the-art reviews, advice, and plans concerning developments in vector control and their implementation.

2. Purpose of the consultancy services (RFQ 0028-2021)

As part of TVCA's role of supporting continuous and equitable access to ITNs, the project has supported the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), President's Office – Regional Authority and Local Government (PORALG), and Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Programme (ZAMEP) to revise the existing implementation guidelines for health facility-based, school-based, and community-based ITN distribution. The revised guidelines reflect the current best field practices, lessons learned from past implementation, and challenges from the past implementation of these distribution channels.

The revised guidelines will be used to develop brief and concise Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) documents for health facility-based, school-based, and community-based ITN distribution. The SOPs will serve as simple, handy, and readily available reference material (in electronic form) for reference, orientation, and re-orientation on implementing these channels at all levels. Implementers will use the SOPs at national and sub-national levels.

CCP would like to invite interested, competent, registered, and reputable individual Consultant or company to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) to provide consultancy services to convert the revised implementation guidelines for health facility-based (for both Mainland and Zanzibar), school-based (for Mainland only) and community-based (for Zanzibar only) ITN distribution into brief and concise Standard SOPs documents. The SOPs will cover relevant content on all aspects of implementation for these channels. The SOPs will be developed in both English and Kiswahili.

3. Timeframe

Work will commence after the execution of the agreement by both CCP and the Consultant. All deliverables should be completed within eight weeks of the execution of the agreement.

4. Required Experience

Previous experience in developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the health facility, community, and school-based is highly desirable.

5. Application Requirements

Interested applicants may request a full RFQ document. To info.tvca@jhuccptz.org, and the deadline for requesting the RFQ document is **15th June 2021 at 5 pm**. The deadline for application submission will be on **17th June 2021 at 5 pm**.



Johns Hopkins University CCP Tanzania Limited
Off Mwaya road, Masaki, Plot. No. 1486,
P.O. Box 105303, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 78 416 4710
Website: <http://www.jhuccp.org>

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

PRINTING OF DATA COLLECTION FORMS (RFQ 0029-2021)

1. Background and project description

Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (Referred as 'CCP') is an American NGO registered to operate in Tanzania as an Organization limited by guarantee and is domiciled in Tanzania. On 22nd January 2008, the Organization was issued a Certificate of Compliance No 1982 as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), having met the requirement of the NGO status.

The USAID Tanzania Vector Control Activity (TVCA) is a USAID-funded project that implements proven, evidence-based vector control approaches in Tanzania, focusing on insecticide-treated nets (ITNs). TVCA works with the Government of Tanzania sector ministries and malaria partners, providing state-of-the-art reviews, advice, and plans concerning developments in vector control and their implementation.

2. Purpose of acquiring printed forms for data collection (RFQ 0029-2021):

CCP would like to invite interested, competent, registered, and reputable company to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) to provide service to print the data collection forms used during the School Net Program distribution.

The purpose of this procurement is to acquire the printed forms for data collection at schools during distribution of nets.

3. Timeframe

Work will commence after the execution of the agreement by both CCP and the Vendor. All deliverables should be completed within two weeks of the execution of the agreement.

4. Required Experience

Previous experience in printing work, specifically printing and arranging of the data collection forms used during the School Net Program distribution.

5. Application Requirements

Interested applicants may request a full RFQ document. To info.tvca@jhuccptz.org, and the deadline for requesting the RFQ document is **15th June 2021 at 5 pm**. The deadline for application submission will be on **17th June 2021 at 5 pm**.

Relocated poor resident embraces better life through embroidery

By Wang Weijian, Xu Liwei

At 9 a.m., Li Ting'e, who had been relocated to a new house in southwest China's Guizhou province under the country's poverty alleviation program, arrived in a factory near her home and started to make embroideries. With the movements of her hands, a lifelike peony gradually took shape.

She seemed so skillful and confident that it's hard to imagine that she had just learned the craft and was struck by polio.

"I can make 50 yuan (about \$8) by embroidering such a flower," Li said, adding that her monthly income, which comprises basic salary and performance-related pay, exceeds 2,000 yuan. "As long as you are diligent, you can earn a living here," she said.

Sometimes Li still can't believe her family has moved from the mountains to a tall building in Wangjia community, Wanshan district, Tongren city of Guizhou, a resettlement site for people who used to live in the mountains.

Her hometown, Yangjia'ao Miao and Tujia township, is situated in the remote mountains of Sinan county, Tongren. It took her two hours to get to the county hall from her home, and another two hours to the city.

"Because there was no bus route, my daughters needed to get up before daybreak and walk through the mountain road for over one hour to school, always exhausted from climbing the two mountains," Li recalled.



Photo shows trained embroiderers working in a factory near a resettlement site in Wanshan district, Tongren city, southwest China's Guizhou province. (File photo)

What's worse, Yangjia'ao suffered from severe water shortage. According to Li, the water her family used to wash vegetables and rice would be reused for washing faces and feet, and then watering livestock.

Li's family moved to Wangjia community in 2019. Her new house is not only equipped with a TV, induction cooker, and other electrical appliances, but guaranteed safe water supply, freeing the family

from the predicament in using water. Her daughters have been enrolled at a public school near their home. It takes them merely several minutes to get to school by bus, which means the major troubles

bothering Li in the past have all been resolved.

In 2013, Suzhou city in east China's Jiangsu province started to help Tongren alleviate poverty under the country's "pairing assistance" program. Suzhou national high-tech industrial development zone has paired up with Wanshan district of Tongren and rolled out a plan to help the latter improve the income of poor residents through embroidery.

Suzhou national high-tech industrial development zone sends embroidery masters to Wanshan twice every year to teach local residents embroidery skills.

Because of the plan, Li was able to observe Suzhou embroidery closely and was soon enchanted by the craft. She took pictures of the stitches, procedures, and embroideries and studied carefully at home.

She has also watched embroidery videos via her mobile phone whenever she had time and repeatedly watched the patterns of Suzhou embroidery.

Her hard work has paid off. Li has mastered various kinds of stitches, and the peonies she embroiders, with layers of petals and delicate stamens, look as if they would give out scent in the breeze.

Li's husband is also hardworking. "Before we moved to our new home, he was a migrant worker in a place far away, and only went back home twice or three times every year. He has now gotten a job on a nearby construction site, and our family can have meals together every day," Li said happily.

Li's family bid farewell to poverty in 2019, and is now living a more comfortable life in their new house.

People's Daily

COVID-19 lockdown offers opportunity to Rwandan student's online bakery

KIGALI

On a shiny afternoon in the quiet neighborhood of Bwiza area in the Rwandan capital city Kigali, finance student Johnson Runuya was busy mixing a wide range of ingredients to make a chocolate fruit belt cake, as the delicious aroma from kitchen made one gets hungry.

"Baking is easy and fun. I loved baking as a child. Good and beautiful cake cannot be rushed, while just requires patience and creativity," said Runuya as he put the mixture into a saucepan before heating it. He then let the mixture simmer for ten minutes.

His bakery Johnson The Baker now mainly offers birthday cakes, wedding cakes and corporate event cakes and the price varies depending on a cake's type, size and flavors from 2,000 Rwandan francs (about 2 U.S. dollars) to 27,000 Rwandan francs (about 27 dollars).

Just less than a year after the online bakery was established, it received more than 20 orders daily, which generated a monthly turnover of over five million Rwandan francs (about 5,000 U.S. dollars).

Runuya started baking in 2018 during high school after his family bought a house with an indoor kitchen, while balancing schooling and baking. Lockdown measures effective from March 21, 2020 aimed to contain the spread of COVID-19 forced many businesses to close door, but gave the university student time and inspiration to start online business.

"Due to movement restriction measures aimed to protect public health and the growing demand of consumer preference to avoid physical stores, I realized that I could make money by selling my cakes online. I started an online portal where I could post photos of my cakes. The website also has an option where customers can make their orders online," said the 19-year-old, who was doing an internship at a bakery before the lockdown. He launched the bakery's website just days after the lockdown started, and started receiving a few orders from friends, family and his schoolmates at the university. The orders started flooding in from April as he marketed his business through social media.

"As my business grew, with many orders and only myself to rely on, there were times when I would bake for hours from morning to late in the night just to get orders finished on time. This, however, prompted me to employ three more professional bakers in order to accommodate large orders," he said.

More orders also motivated him to work harder to meet the demand.

"I have to make sure that all my customers receive their orders on time. My sole aim is to make my customers happy and to create something I look forward to doing every day," he said, adding that his dream since he was a boy of owning his own baking business has become a reality. The young entrepreneur attributed his success to quality and consistency of his work, affordability, quality service and innovation.

Operating and expanding a business at such a young age put pressure on his shoulders as he was still pursuing a bachelor degree as a first year student at the University of Kigali, but for him this was doable with "dedication and hard work". He even looked forward to making his bakery the market leader in Rwanda in the next few years. *Xinhua*



Johnson Runuya, a Rwandan finance student and entrepreneur of an online bakery, poses with a cake ready to be delivered in Kigali on May 26, 2021. (Xinhua)

Supa Breakfast

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Thursday 10 June 2021

Dr Nchemba promises to meet bankers to discuss policy shift to lower interest rates

By The Banker Reporter

ALL policy and regulatory hurdles frustrating efforts by financial institutions to lower interest rates charged on loans will soon be addressed when Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Mwigulu Nchemba meets bankers.

Addressing CRDB Bank Plc's 26th annual general meeting last week, Dr Nchemba said the government wants to see interest rates charged on loans lowered possibly to single digit so that financial institutions can lend to the private sector and create jobs.

"I will start meeting with bankers and probably with those where the government has a stake to identify these bottlenecks and see how we can address them," Dr Nchemba said saying President Samia Suluhu Hassan has ordered that regulatory bodies and government agencies should facilitate growth of the private sector.

"I want to see how we can reduce these rates so that corporations borrow more and invest in job creation. If there is any company which promises me that it will create 100 jobs for youths then I can lower corporate tax to facilitate the move," he said.

He said Bank of Tanzania has a key role to

play in addressing the hiked interest rates charged on loans saying as a regulator body the central bank should come up with suggestions to Treasury on necessary policy and regulatory changes to realise the goal.

He commended CRDB Bank for continuing to make profit annually saying Treasury is proud to be associated with the country's largest bank by net assets value. "I expect to get my dividend after shareholders endorse the proposed amount this year," he pointed out while challenging CRDB management and board to extend services to more countries in southern Africa region.

He paid tribute to CRDB Managing Director, Adulmajid Nsekela and Board Chairman, Dr Ally Laay for sustaining growth of the market's largest bank by net assets value and network saying Treasury is happy to learn that this year's dividend will dwarf that of last year.

Bank of Tanzania Deputy Governor, Dr Bernard Kibesse backed Dr Nchemba's observation and called on bankers to address concerns of hiked interest rates in the market. "We need to work together to address this challenge of interest rates," Dr Kibesse said adding that the central bank has been addressing the issue hence some movement has been made. Currently interest rates charged on loans are hovering around 12



Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba addressing CRDB Bank shareholders during the 26th annual general meeting held at Arusha International Conference Centre last week photo courtesy of CRDB.

and 16 percent thanks to various measures taken by BoT.

In their welcoming remarks, Nsekela and Laay said CRDB has been making profit and paying dividend to shareholders including Treasury for the past three years or so when the former took over as chief executive.

"Last year, we paid dividend of 17/- per share but for this year, if shareholders endorse the proposed dividend for this year during the annual general meeting tomorrow, then it will be more," Nsekela said. Management

and board are proposing a 22/- per share dividend this year. The bank made 236bn/- gross profit last year compared to 176bn/- in 2018. Nsekela urged Tanzanians to invest in stocks saying CRDB's shares have been appreciating since being listed at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. "Our shares are currently selling at 290/- each which is a lot more compared to the same period last year," he noted.

Seconding Nsekela, Dr Laay said Tanzanians are not investing much in listed companies and other government securities compared to their peers in East Africa, notably Kenya. "The public should now start considering investing in listed companies serious, especially in CRDB Bank which is money minting," he charged.

Digital lenders eye CRB listing return with vetting tool

JOHANNESBURG

The Credit Reference Bureaus (CRBs) have proposed a vetting tool for digital lenders before their return to share data on customer loans.

The bureaus said their lobby, the Credit Information Sharing (CIS) and Financial Sector Deepening (FSD), an independent trust focused on attaining an inclusive financial system, had presented to the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) a criterion of screening the digital lenders before re-admitting them to sharing information on loan payments and defaults.

"Approval has been sought through submissions by CIS Kenya to CBK on behalf of the industry. It is anticipated that CBK shall give its approval to allow for a full roll-out of the Onboarding Procedures," FSD says in a report.

The CBK locked out 624 digital lenders and credit-only providers from sharing information on loan payments and defaults last year in the wake of customer complaints about the misuse of the CIS mechanism. The CBK also kicked out credit-only microfinance institutions from sharing borrower's data.

CRBs are allowed to contact third parties, including digital lenders for information on loan payments and defaults, for onward sharing to banks, microfinance institutions, and Saccos. The bureaus said the vetting criterion had proved effective with only five of the 16 digital lenders getting past the test.



CBK governor, Dr Patrick Njoroge.

The new tool was also tested on nine unregulated micro-finance institutions, two trade creditors, four saccos, and 16 leasing companies. Some of the digital lenders who participated in the new FSD vetting tool failed because they could not address customer concerns in person, had no physical location, or did not disclose terms and conditions.

They also failed the test because they only wanted to use the CRB mechanism to leverage loan recovery by threatening to list clients and although they captured a lot of data electronically, their data submissions had errors that required corrections hence the low completion rates. The new model proposes a checklist comprising a questionnaire that captures infor-

mation on the legal, operational, technical, and staffing capacity of the credit provider.

Upon completion of the checklist stage, the credit provider is taken through the data submission template and their data capture process reviewed to determine minimum liquidity and capital adequacy requirements for digital credit providers akin to conditions set for operating a bank in Kenya.

mal relatives and friends with messages regarding the default and asking third parties to enforce repayment.

This has been partly attributed to the fact that digital borrowers are twice as likely to default as those that take conventional loans as a result of multiple borrowings and use of the funds for consumption, according to research by Digital Credit, Financial Literacy, and Household Indebtedness.

The low-value loans and short repayment period have resulted in high rates of default and negative listing and digital borrowers made up 90 percent of the black-listed Kenyans before the regulator intervened.

The lock-out of digital lenders from CRB listings saw a 50 percent decline in loans issued over mobile phones with the Digital Lender Association of Kenya (DLAK) estimating that the value of loans issued each month fell by half to Sh2 billion.

In a bid to tame rogue players, the government has proposed a new law in which digital lenders will be licensed by the CBK. A key aim of the government-backed CBK (Amendment) Bill 2021, which is before Parliament, is to curb the steep digital lending rates that have plunged many borrowers into a debt trap.

It will also seek to push out rogue players amid concerns of unethical practices such as money laundering, illegal mining of customer private data, and shaming of borrowers who default. The banking regulator will be expected to determine minimum liquidity and capital adequacy requirements for digital credit providers akin to conditions set for operating a bank in Kenya.

E-payments are the catalyst for a global cashless societies

JOHANNESBURG

COVID-19 has ramped up the role digitisation plays in the financial lives of more and more of the world's population, sparking a massive transformation in the financial services industry with electronic payments at the epicentre.

Payments are increasingly becoming cashless, and the industry's role in fostering inclusion has become a significant priority. As digital money draws a stronger interest, the financial services industry must recognise the entire infrastructure of payments is being reshaped, with new business models emerging.

A PwC survey reveals how even before the pandemic, cashless payments like sending a text to pay for a bus ticket in Turkey, or using a QR code to buy groceries in China are evidence of a steady shift to a digital economy - a shift that might ultimately lead to a global cashless society.

Global cashless payment volumes are set to almost double from 2020 to 2025, from about one-trillion transactions to about 1.9 trillion.

According to findings, Asia-Pacific will grow the fastest, with cashless transaction volume growing by 109% from 2020 to 2025 followed by Africa (78% from 64%) and Europe (64% from 39%), Latin America comes next (52% from 48%), and the US and Canada will have the least rapid growth (43% from 35%).

"A cashless world is in plain sight. The Covid-19 pandemic reinforced an already growing shift to digital payments and likely drove a three- to five-year acceleration in their use.

The acceleration towards digital payments will create new opportunities for the entire payment ecosystem, including banks. But it will also expose weaknesses for those not prepared to adapt," says Kurtis Babcozenko, global banking and capital markets leader, PwC.

"Covid19 is a catalyst for change - we have seen the rapid deployment of payment services across Africa. Current market conditions have given rise to the need for more financial inclusion, as well as greater innovation and collaboration among financial services players.

"As an emerging market, unencumbered by large amounts of legacy technology, South Africa has the potential to develop a modern payments infrastructure and a cutting-edge payment platform that places customers at the core," says Chantal Maritz, strategy & payments transformation lead Africa at PwC, says.

Latest fintech alliance targets 100m mobile wallets in Africa

LAGOS

GLOBAL Technology Partners (GTP) and MFS Africa have entered into an agreement to deepen financial penetration across Africa.

MFS Africa will leverage on GTP's prepaid platform and Pan-African network of BIN sponsors to launch virtual and physical prepaid/companion cards to over 100 million mobile wallet owners. According to the partners, this relationship will also facilitate the funding of prepaid cards across the continent using mobile wallets and bank accounts. The cards will run on Visa and Mastercard networks.

In a statement released to the media, the partners say that 57% of Africans don't have access to basic

banking and that statistic also hides a gender gap - in Sub-Saharan Africa only 37% of women and 48% of men have a bank account. Historically, Africa has a low density per capita of bank branches and this is even more pronounced in rural areas.

Africans' rapid take up of mobile phones coupled with digital banking/fintech is a game changer in tackling this. "We see this relationship as another indication of the strategic alliances required to fulfil the promise of bringing financial inclusion to every eligible African," said Rich Bialek, GTP CEO.

"One of the key strategies we have had from the onset is to connect Africans with financial services that speak to their everyday lives. This relationship is adding another layer

to this as it affords wallet holders the ability to purchase domestically and internationally from millions of merchants," said Dare Okoudjou, MFS Founder & CEO. In March this year MFS Africa announced that it had reached over 320 million mobile money wallets on the continent.

According to MFS Africa, based on the 2021 State of the Industry report on Mobile Money released by the GSMA, it effectively covers 60% of all mobile money wallets in sub-Saharan Africa. In May this year ITWeb Africa reported that according to the GSMA, cross-border remittances processed via mobile money increased by 65% in 2020 to US\$12-billion in 2021.



Rich Bialek, GTP CEO.

Absa regional operations chief basks in global awards glory

By The Banker Reporter

ABSA Regional Operations recognition by Global Banking and Finance Review magazine which awarded the Absa Group segment with seven awards is a reflection of excellence and dedication by employees and management to deliver the best in banking services.

Absa Regional Operations CEO, Charles Russon said the awards which recognise areas of expertise and excellence, ground breaking achievement and strategic innovation within the global financial community, will only push employees of the Johannesburg based lender to work harder.

"These awards are a reflection of the passion, dedication, and hard work of all our ARO colleagues, and bear testament to our commitment to excellence and an obsession with putting the client at the centre of everything we do," Russon said in a statement when commenting on the latest success.

He said Absa RO which include Absa Bank Tanzania is well positioned as a digital-first and proudly African bank in the communities here it has presence. "These achievements are even more remarkable given the tremendous challenges our clients, colleagues and communities are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic," Russon added.

Global Banking and Finance Review magazine accorded ARO the "Best Banking Technology Africa 2021 and "Best Corporate Social Responsibility Africa 2021" awards. "I am also particularly proud of our CSR award as this speaks of our commitment to communities across Africa during this time of great adversity," he said.

In other categories, the bank's other accolades also include: Banking CEO of the Year Mozambique 2021 - Absa Bank Mozambique Managing Director, Rui Barros; Best Digital Bank Mozambique 2021 - Absa Bank Mozambique; Best Life Insurance Company Kenya 2021 - Absa Life Assurance Kenya Limited; Best SME Bank Seychelles 2021 - Absa Bank Seychelles; and Best Retail Bank Seychelles 2021 - Absa Bank Seychelles.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the important role that our implementation partners have played in supporting the vulnerable sectors of society," the ARO CEO noted.

Absa's extensive citizenship response to the pandemic included providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food parcels to vulnerable communities and



Absa Regional Operations CEO, Charles Russon.

providing essential personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers and relief efforts, totalling over ZAR55 million. In addition, ARO offered customer and client payment relief measures in excess of ZAR15 billion to more than 60,000 customers

across Africa.

More critically, ARO responded to customers' changing needs by developing and launching a range of innovative digital product solutions that speak effectively to a transformed environment. "Our digital products have

been designed to meet and exceed the needs of our existing customers and to offer innovative, convenient and accessible banking products and services to prospective clients in Africa who are excited by offering," Russon stated.



Founded in 2017 by Gabriel Ekman and Yussouf Ntwali, the BAG (Building a Generation) platform serves as a learning tool for students while providing companies in need of talent.

How Rwandan start-ups can attract more venture capital funding

KIGALI

WITH African start-ups expected to attract up to \$2.8 billion in financing 2021 according to projections by various indexes, what lessons can Rwanda pick from previous years of venture capital? A recent report by AfricaArenas, which is involved in fostering the availability of capital to African tech founders, revealed unique characteristics of markets that propel venture capital.

Demographic advantage

Various aggregators and indexes show that markets that have been able to attract the highest number of venture capitalists and funds have demographic advantage as it is indicative of the market potential of the start-ups scale and growth.

For instance, Nigerian start-ups received investment of \$307M in 71 deals in 2020, an average of \$4.3M per deal and \$747M in 2019.

The report's authors say that while the West African nation does not fair as well in most indicators such as ease of doing business, the estimated population of about 200M is a big incentive for venture capital.

"Foreign investors are likely attracted to the Nigerian market due to the perceived favourable demographics which would result in increased demand for investment. Private equity and venture capital investors seem to be attracted by the size of these economies and the opportunities that have emerged in these countries," the report read in part.

With the East African region perceived as highly integrated, Rwandan Start-ups stand a better chance to attract more venture capital by targeting the region with their products and solutions.

The East African region has a population of about 175M and over 250M including DR Congo. "It therefore appears that the East African market is highly valued. This is as a result of a more mature ecosystem that was initially supported by impact investors," the report read in part.

Legislation

The report also observed that countries that ease processes required for foreign investors to set up offices and settle in the country have ability to attract more capital as it is the more pru-

dent way that Seed stage investments are made.

"It is very difficult to invest remotely into seed stage startups, so it is best for VCs to have a base where they are investing in order to understand the market better and deploy capital quicker.

There is therefore an increasing need for countries to enact legislation to make it easier for businesses to incorporate locally, making it easier to start a business as an entrepreneur, but also to start a local investment fund and invest in seed stage businesses from the country," the report noted.

Rwanda was listed among countries that have eased the process for investors to set up operating bases in the country. Marketing and promoting the aspect could see Rwanda positioned to attract more capital.

"Developments associated with the efforts of national governments within Africa to implement supportive public policy to streamline business regulation for small businesses may attract more and more interest from investors and more VC investment in these countries.

Implementation of the Start-up act

With Rwanda set to soon have a startup act aimed at supporting the entrepreneurship and business ecosystem in the country, experts say that it makes it easier for all parties to raise capital, set up companies and deploy capital.

Experts say that with the start-up act rolling out strategic incentives and interventions will accelerate the formation and sustained scale of innovative and high-growth firms and consequently capital investment.

"A good example is Rwanda, who has positioned itself as the hub for East Africa.

So you find that many businesses go there to try and validate their business model, because it has an environment that is very conducive for foreigners to get in, to test their business models to find proper product market fit, and position themselves to scale into the larger East Africa.

So I think there's a realization as well, among governments in East Africa, particularly to provide an environment that can attract investments," report noted.

Pakistan's first digital bank to begin operations in June after \$5.5 million fund raise

ISLAMABAD

TAG Innovation is set to become Pakistan's first digital bank when it starts operations this month in the world's fifth most populous nation where 70 per cent of adults don't have a bank account.

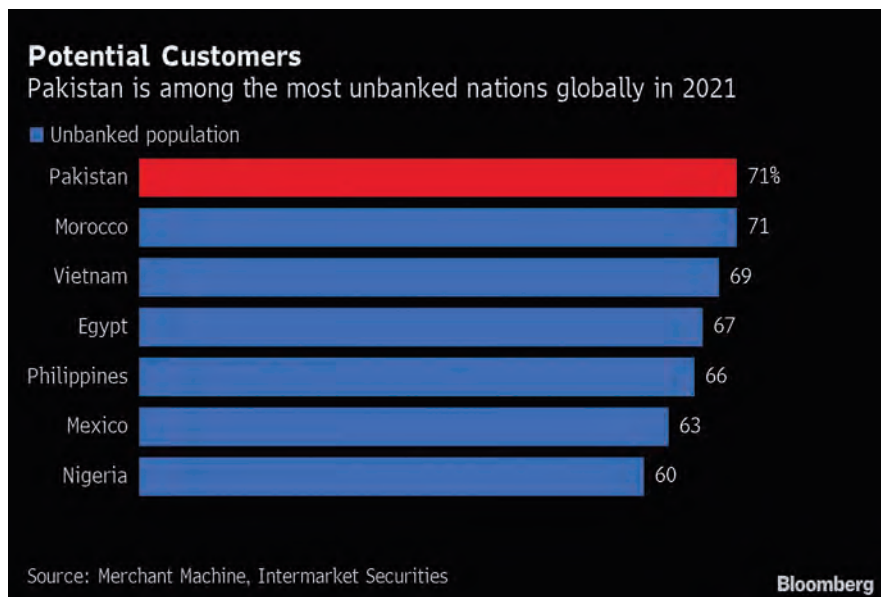
The Islamabad-based FinTech start-up will launch with a limited number of customers and start commercial operations in two to three months, chief executive Talal Gondal said in an interview. It aims to have millions of customers in the first few years, he said.

The company has raised about \$5.5 million in pre-seed funding, making it one of five biggest deals in the Middle East, Africa and Pakistan region, according to data from Crunchbase.

The funding round was led by Quiet Capital Management, Liberty City Ventures and Fatima Gobi Ventures. TAG also received strategic angel investments from general partners of Andreessen Horowitz, Khosla Ventures, Canaan Partners and Mercury's Immad Akhund.

TAG joins other digital payment start-ups in raising funds as digital banks take off in emerging markets where millions lack access to banking services.

Razorpay, an Indian start-up that facilitates digital payments, said in April



Pakistan has one of the world's most unbanked population hence the need for a digital bank.

it was raising \$160m, while Egyptian digital banking app Telda raised \$5m last month.

Pakistan has the third largest unbanked adult population globally with about 100 million adults without a bank account, according to the World Bank.

About 70 per cent of the population doesn't have a bank account, according to Raza Jafri, head of equities at Intermarket Securities.

Potential customers complain about the lengthy documentation process and multiple branch visits needed to open an account.

"In Pakistan, the system is broken," said Mr Gondal. "Some banks don't even have a banking app. It's that bad." TAG plans to make the process simple with potential customers needing just a copy of their national identification card and a selfie. Accounts should be opened within three minutes, Mr Gondal said.

The start-up received a provisional electronic money institution licence from the central bank last year that allows basic banking services such as cash transfer, online shopping and a debit card.

Kenyan president urges Ethiopia to open up mobile money market

ADDIS ABABA

KENYAN President Uhuru Kenyatta on Tuesday urged Ethiopia to open up its telecommunications sector to private mobile money business investors, a move that would complement a process already underway to reform the sector and bring in foreign investment.

Ethiopia is opening up its telecoms sector, hitherto a monopoly of the state-owned Ethio Telecom, and last month authorities awarded the first private operator licence. The licence was handed out to a consortium led by Kenya's Safaricom, Vodafone and Japan's Sumitomo. Currently only Ethio Telecom is allowed to offer mobile financial services while foreign operators are barred by law from participating.

"I am hopeful that your government will consider, in the near future, opening up the opportunity for mobile money in Ethiopia," Kenyatta, who is on a visit to Ethiopia, said at a ceremony in the capital Addis Ababa where the consortium was officially awarded its operating licence.

"This move will be particularly timely, as it will offer the millions of Ethiopian people avenues for financial inclusion." Mobile money services, which were pioneered in Kenya more than a decade ago, have become a lucrative segment of telecoms services in many sub-Saharan African countries.

Ethiopia is hoping that the opening of one of the world's last major closed telecoms markets will create millions of online job opportunities. The Safaricom consortium plans to invest up to US\$8.5-billion in the country's infrastructure among other areas.

As part of opening up the sector, Ethiopia is also planning to sell a 40% stake in Ethio Telecom to private investors and 5% to Ethiopian people. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said at the same function his government was in the final stage of starting the tendering process.

Shareholders of most profitable bank expecting fatty pay cheques this month

By The Banker Reporter

FOR many NMB Bank Plc shareholders getting dividend has become a usual experience for the past three years. The payment however has been on the increase annually but this year has set a new record in the market.

"I am very happy that I am making money in retirement without doing anything thanks to my shares at NMB Bank," said Mzee Makame Mshamu, a resident of Tanga who bought the bank's shares soon after retirement over five year ago.

The 71 year old man bought 800 shares in 2015 and expects to earn 109,600/- in dividend this month thanks to NMB shareholders' endorsement of a proposed 137/- per share payment this year following 206bn/- record profit in 2020.

"It's a dream come true, this amount is several times bigger than my monthly pension payment," he noted while pointing out that he has been buying more shares of the bank from Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange to beef up with hold on the country's most profitable bank.

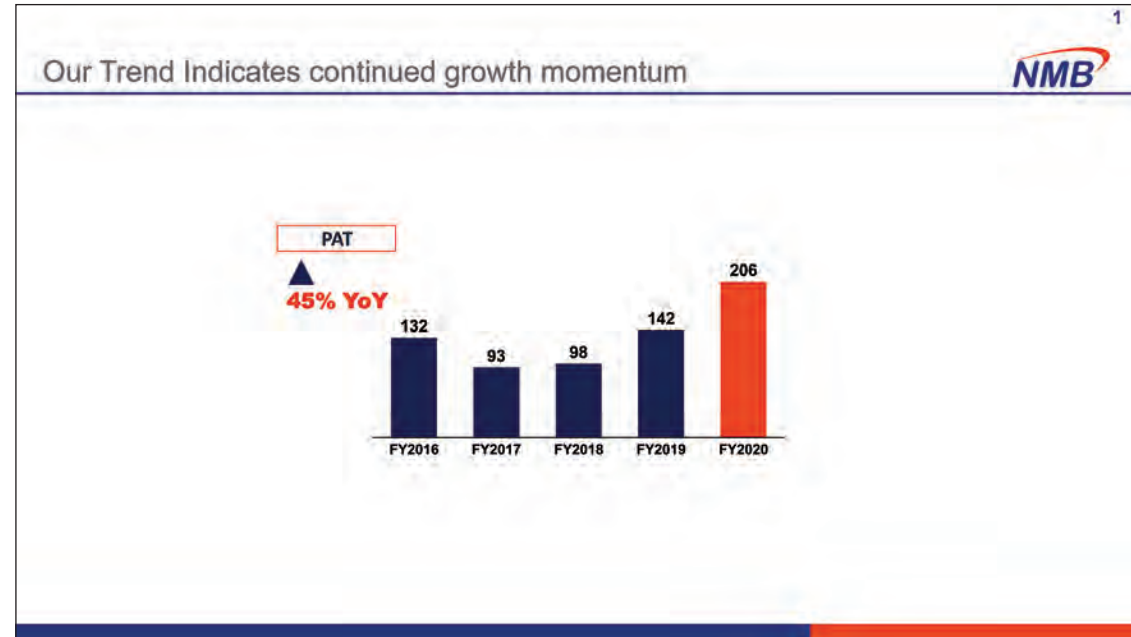
Addressing shareholders

during the hybrid AGM which involved both physical attendance and online participation, NMB's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna said the bank has set a new record on profitability hence the colossal 68.5bn/- total dividend payment for the year.

Zaipuna said the 206bn/- in net profit surpassed its for 2020 by almost 50 percent. "The 68.5bn/- dividend payout is a 43 percent increase compared to 48bn/- paid for the year ended 31 December 2019," Zaipuna said during a post the 21st AGM press briefing held at the lender's head office in Dar es Salaam.

"This marks the third consecutive annual increase in the company's dividend," she explained adding that NMB shareholders got 96/- per share as dividend in 2019 when the lender made net profit of 142bn/-. In 2018, the bank made 98bn/- net profit with dividend payout of 66/- per share.

The NMB chief executive said shareholders who include Treasury will get their pay cheques starting mid June. Treasury and Netherlands based strategic investor, Arise which represent the largest shareholders will earn a combined 45.7bn/- in



A graph depicting NMB Bank Plc's sustained profitability since 2016.

dividend payout. Arise which is the largest single institutional shareholder with 34.9 percent will get 23.9bn/- while Treasury takes home 21.8bn/- pay cheque.

She also assured the shareholders that 2021 will be another record breaking year based on first quarter results which have shown further improvement. "In 2020, we delivered a solid financial performance in the context of a challenging broader operating environment. Our continued strong performance into 2021 shows good progress along our strategic plan and provides reassurance on the direction we have taken," Zaipuna noted.

She with net profit of 65bn/- for the year ending March 2021, the bank has increased the amount by 33 percent compared to a corresponding period in 2020. "Continued strong performance in 2021, affirms disciplined execution of the bank's operational strategy and readiness to capitalise on its firm foundations for sustainable business growth," she added.

According to her, NMB has a healthy balance sheet and maintains solid capital levels that are well-above regulatory bench-

marks, which makes it internationally recognised as a stable and sound bank. "Through our pool of talented and disciplined staff, we remain committed to playing a key role in supporting the country's socio-economic development agenda by providing best-in-class service to our customers and strong returns for our investors," she pledged.

Commenting on the bank's sustained impressive performance since 2018, NMB Board Chairman, Dr Edwin Mhede said the approved dividend payout reflects consistent delivery of strong returns to shareholders.

"The good performance by the bank continues to transform lives and contribute meaningfully to national building efforts," Dr Mhede said while noting that the lender has seen a 43 percent increase in dividend payout during the three years which reflects better management.

The bank's Chief Finance Officer, Juma Kimori said despite the outbreak of the novel coronavirus which has disrupted the global economy, the 2020 historic net profit was a 45 percent increase over the previous year.

"We had targeted a profit after tax of 138bn/- which means that with 206bn/- realised, we surpassed the target by 68bn/- being an increase of about 49.3 percent," said Kimori who added that with strong first quarter results this year, the bank will also record another wind-fall.

Succession issues raised at Absa AGM



Absa chair, Wendy Lucas-Bull.

JOHANNESBURG

ABSA'S annual general meeting turned out to be something of a damp squib last week with not even the remuneration votes garnering much opposition.

In the weeks running up to the meeting there was growing talk of a shareholder backlash against the board because of its handling of former CEO Daniel Mminele's departure. In April Mminele shocked the banking community when he announced he would be leaving the group at the end of the month.

Chair Wendy Lucas-Bull was reported

to have been involved in near-constant engagements with shareholders during those weeks; a fact that might have helped to ensure the AGM ran smoothly. It might also have helped that Lucas-Bull, who has been chair since 2013, reminded shareholders early on in the meeting that she would be stepping off the board at the end of the year. Lucas-Bull was appointed chair of Shoprite in November 2020.

Stability issues

But little emerged from the meeting that would have encouraged shareholders to hope that Absa's leadership was now on a firmer footing. Even Lucas-

Bull's pending departure will not help much. As shareholder activist advisor Active Shareholder notes in its voting recommendation for the meeting, the average tenure of non-executives on the Absa board is just over three years and only five directors have served for five or more years. One of these five directors retired at the AGM and the second, the chair, retires at the end of the year.

In addition, the acting CEO is not only the fourth in the role in as many years, but has only served at Absa for four years. The evident lack of succession planning at both non-executive board level and executive

level was raised by Zwelakhe Mnguni, chief investment officer of Benguela Global Fund Managers, who pointed out that the banking group is relying on both an acting CEO and an acting CFO.

"Can you please provide some perspective on why the business was not able to make an immediate appointment of a successor to Mr Mminele especially given that the board had repeatedly stated in the past that succession planning is in place within the group. Lucas-Bull explained, without much conviction, the reason a permanent successor has not been appointed is because Mminele's departure was unexpected.

If the meeting had been in-person and not virtual, Mnguni might have had an opportunity to ask a follow-up question pointing out that the great advantage of succession planning is that it enables the board to deal expeditiously with unexpected events. As it is, Lucas-Bull's unimpressive response was left hanging.

'Unexpected'

"The reason for not making an immediate announcement was that in the first instance we were not expecting to have to agree to part ways with Daniel," Lucas-Bull told the meeting in response to Mnguni's question. "It wasn't a planned thing, we exercised best efforts to avoid it, until we reached the conclusion that it was in the best interests of the business to part company." The chair also pointed out that it is important to have an appropriate process to consider the permanent appointment.

"We didn't go out immediately with a permanent appointment because it's important to demonstrate and go through a proper board process to finalise a permanent successor," said Lucas-Bull, again overlooking the fact that succession planning would involve the appropriate board process.

Karpowership contract

On a more encouraging note the country's fourth largest bank by assets did commit to being cautious in its evaluation of any proposal to fund Turkish company Karpowership's delivery of the emergency power procurement contract it recently, and controversially, won from government.

"We are not about to give away our reputation on one transaction," said Absa's acting CEO Jason Quinn in response to a question from shareholder activism organisation Just Share. Quinn assured shareholders that Absa has not made any commitment yet and any commitment would be subject to independent legal, technical, environmental, insurance due diligences as well as credit processes.

BANKING & FINANCE

World Bank sees strongest rebound in 80 years despite divergence

WASHINGTON

GLOBAL gross domestic product will expand 5.6% this year, up from 4.1% forecast in January, the Washington-based development organisation said.

Emerging market and developing nations will continue to struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath even as a few major economies spur the strongest post-recession global growth in 80 years, the World Bank said.

Global gross domestic product will expand 5.6% this year, up from 4.1% forecast in January, the Washington-based development organisation said in its semi-annual Global Economic Prospects report. That will be fueled largely by a 6.8% expansion in the US and 8.5% in China. The World Bank revised its historical data to reflect updated GDP weights.

Though most advanced nations are projected to return to their pre-pandemic per-capita income levels in 2022, two-thirds of emerging and developing nations are projected to remain below it. Growth in low-income

countries is expected to be the second-slowest of the past 20 years at 2.9% – down from the 3.4% forecast in January, held back by lack of access to vaccines.

"It's the tale of two recoveries," Ayhan Kose, director of the World Bank group that produced the report, said in an interview. "On the one hand, advanced economies, big countries, are delivering fast growth, record growth. On the other hand, you have these low-income countries struggling to generate growth."

The World Bank warned of substantial uncertainty beyond 2021. The global recovery could falter once policy support is withdrawn and pent-up demand runs out, particularly if the pandemic lingers, according to the report. Sustained inflation pressures could cause a tight sharpening in financial conditions, adding to high debt vulnerabilities.

Under these circumstances, activity in both advanced and emerging and developing economies could slow global growth to 2.7% in 2022 and 2.1% in 2023. That would leave the recovery on par with the anaemic



World Bank director, Ayhan Kose.

one that followed the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. On the other hand, the global

rebound could prove stronger than expected if the surge in growth in 2021, together with

faster and more equitable distribution of vaccinations worldwide, spur expansion in

the private sector.

To help ensure the best outcome, policy makers should seize the moment of benign global conditions to implement overhauls that increase the resilience of financial systems, improve fiscal sustainability and create the foundations for a green, resilient and inclusive recovery, the World Bank said.

Other highlights from the report: While global inflation is likely to keep rising this year after a rebound in the first half of 2021, it probably will remain within target bands in most countries; While half of inflation-targeting emerging market and developing economies could see inflation above target ranges, it may be temporary and not warrant a policy response if expectations remain well-anchored; Due to record-high debt, emerging and developing countries remain vulnerable to financial market stress, if investor risk sentiment worsens due to actual or perceived inflation pressures in advanced economies; Higher global agricultural prices are likely to present inflation pressures for low-income countries in the near term, worsening food insecurity and threatening to increase poverty; and Attempts to lower food prices through subsidies or export controls risk driving global food prices higher.

WORLD

Biden's UK visit puts focus back on ties

LONDON

THE signs were good when Joe Biden took over as president of the United States that the so-called traditional special relationship between his country and the United Kingdom had not been irreparably damaged.

In spite of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's closeness to Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, and damage done to sectarian disputes on the island of Ireland by the UK's exit from the European Union, to say nothing of Brexit itself, Biden immediately announced his first overseas visit as president would be to the UK. That event starts today.

After his victory in November, Biden was understood to have telephoned Johnson before any other European leader. The call, according to Johnson's spokesman, included talk about "the benefits of a potential free-trade deal".

That call, and Biden's eagerness for a face-to-face meeting, will doubtless have

been most welcome to Johnson, who must have feared an icy exchange.

Now, with Biden expected in the UK for both his meeting with Johnson and for a G7 summit set for Friday to Sunday, London will, doubtless, be doing all it can to ensure the special relationship goes from strength to strength.

The White House agrees it will be a focus, saying the trip will "affirm the enduring strength of the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom".

But, while Johnson will undoubtedly want to talk about that relationship, he will be keen to get down to the specifics of a future free-trade agreement in the wake of the UK's voluntary exit from the European Union in January and the resulting falls in imports and exports.

Repairing damage

Biden, however, seems to have a trade deal low on his priority list and is keen,



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

instead, to focus on repairing damage done to Washington's reputation during the "isolationist" Trump years.

His press secretary, Jen Psaki, told reporters: "This trip will highlight his commitment to restoring our alliances, revitalizing the trans-Atlantic relationship, and working in close cooperation with our allies and multilateral partners to address global challenges and better secure America's interests."

The Financial Times said one of those "interests" is likely to be Biden's desire to restrain China.

He also showed a tough side when he announced a new 25 percent tax last week on some imports from the UK that he immediately suspended for six months, to allow time for negotiations on a global corporate minimum tax rate.

Austria, India, Italy, Spain, and Turkey

have also been threatened with a new tax on their exports to the US if they aim taxes at US technology giants, The Guardian reported.

Against that backdrop, Biden's idea of a global minimum corporate tax rate went down very well at a meeting of G7 finance ministers ahead of the G7 leaders' summit. G7 nations will now require companies pay a minimum corporate tax rate of 15 percent.

And those from G7 countries with subsidiaries in low-tax jurisdictions will be compelled to pay more tax at home to bring their contribution up to 15 percent.

The Financial Times said Biden, who will have been buoyed by the G7's acceptance of his idea, is also likely to want to talk about the situation in Northern Ireland, which has been plagued by sectarian violence ever since the UK left the EU, and the contested border between Northern Ireland and EU member the Republic of Ireland has returned to the fore.

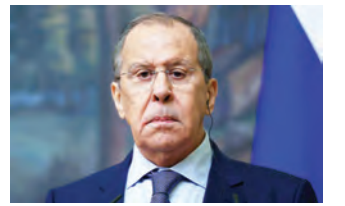
EU and UK officials have been meeting to try to resolve their differences over the implementation of the Northern Ireland protocol, which was part of the Brexit divorce deal and which aims to avoid a hard border.

One unnamed EU diplomat told The Financial Times: "Biden could be instrumental in helping to put the process back on track. There's no mystery around the fact that Biden wants this solved." **Agencies**

Russia, US share interest in strategic stability, have active contacts – Lavrov

MOSCOW

MOSCOW and Washington are conducting intensive contacts towards strategic stability, as this issue lies within the range of



common interests, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told experts, diplomats, and decision-makers at the Primakov Readings international forum in Moscow yesterday.

"We share common interests in the field of strategic stability. We maintain rather intensive contacts on what approach should be made to this aspect of world politics. I can say outright that we are for a comprehensive approach and for taking into account all factors that influence strategic stability without any exceptions in our further dialogue with the United States... Everything that influences strategic stability must be a subject matter for discussion," Lavrov said.

He stressed that he was referring to both nuclear and non-nuclear and offensive and defensive weapons, while the Americans take a far more narrow approach to this issue. The United States is interested only in certain aspects of the nuclear triad, he remarked.

"I hope that the presidents [at the Russian-US summit in Geneva] will be able to use the proposed draft solutions and the consultations we are conducting ahead of the summit to map strategic guidelines for further efforts along these tracks," Lavrov concluded.

The Kremlin and the White House said earlier that Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Joe Biden would meet in Geneva on June 16. The Russian presidential press service said the two sides would discuss the current condition of Russian-US relations and the outlook for their development, strategic stability, and also crucial issues on the international agenda, including cooperation in the struggle against the coronavirus pandemic and the settlement of regional conflicts. It will be the first

CPC leads Chinese people to create 'miracle' - Japanese politician

TOKYO

CHINA'S miraculous development is achieved under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which has always stuck to the purpose of serving the people, a Japanese politician has said.

"I went to China in 1981 to study, and now in 2021, China has developed at an incredible speed and created a miracle, which is what the Chinese people have achieved under the leadership of the Communist Party of China," said Shoichi Kondo, secretary general of the Sino-Japan Friendship Parliamentarians' Union, in a recent interview here with Xinhua.

When he was a college student, Kondo (pictured) was intrigued by China's system, which is different from Japan's,

and decided to study in Beijing. At that time, shortly after China's reform and opening up, Kondo had expected that China would grow, but its speed and sustainability still exceeded his expectation.

"China is still in development today, and at a staggering rate. This is a miracle, a result of the (Chinese people's) hard work," Kondo said, recalling the past.

Since he was first elected as a member of the House of Representatives in the Diet (national legislature) in 1996, he has visited China frequently for about 70 times, making himself a witness of the earth-shaking changes in Chinese society in the past years.

Speaking about China's success in completing poverty alleviation targets as scheduled, Kondo said: "I have also been to



many cities over the years, and I have heard or witnessed many examples of local poverty alleviation. I think the role of politics is to solve the gap between the rich and the poor, and the Communist Party of China has faced up to poverty and tackled it very well."

At present, countries around the world are confronted with many difficulties such as the

outbreak of COVID-19 and uneven economic development. "China's development experience can be used by its neighboring countries, and in fact China is already doing so," Kondo said.

Global issues such as climate change and pandemic prevention and control cannot be solved without international cooperation, he added.

"In this sense, the Belt and Road Initiative is to strengthen cooperation with other countries and call on all countries to develop together," he said. "This is a great idea!"

Recalling the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting he attended in Beijing in 2017, Kondo expressed his sincere admiration for the CPC for inviting political parties and organizations from

other countries to attend the grand gathering.

Kondo said Chinese President Xi Jinping's thoughts, such as calls for mutual exchanges, promoting trade and multilateralism, are "very admirable."

For the 100 years since its founding, the CPC has experienced all sorts of difficulties and hardships, he said. "It fundamentally solved the problems needed to be solved, listened to the voice of the people."

"In the 100 years, the cadres and party members of the CPC made a huge effort and received fruitful results," he added.

Kondo expressed sincere congratulations on the upcoming centenary of the CPC, and the hope that the CPC would continue to contribute to the development of Asia and the world. **Xinhua**

South Korea's land speculation scandal roils Moon's party

SOUL

SOUTH Korea's ruling Democratic Party said yesterday it was trying to regain public trust by asking 12 lawmakers to leave the party over a property scandal that has alienated voters.

The insider land trading scandal, alongside skyrocketing home prices and deepening inequality, has contributed to President Moon Jae-in's approval ratings plunging to record lows and his party's abject defeat in key mayoral elections in April.

Offering a public apology last week, Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum said 20 people had been arrested and 529 referred to prosecutors, including 90 members of the parliament and high-level and local government officials, as part of an intra-

agency investigation.

And on Tuesday, the ruling party said a state watchdog had found that 12 of its MPs or their families were suspected of unlawful property dealings, and had advised them to withdraw their membership.

Six agreed to leave saying they would return after clearing their names, while three rejected the request, claiming innocence. The other three said they will cooperate with the investigation, without elaborating.

Many Koreans have expressed disgust over the scandal with the taunt "naeronambul", which translates to: "If I do it, it's a romance. If you do it, it's adultery."

Mounting disillusion with the government could threaten Moon's efforts to achieve policy goals, and



has left the party in need of an image make-over before next year's presidential election.

Speaking yesterday, Democratic Party chairman Song Young-gil said the decision to ask the MPs to leave was

not a disciplinary action but a step that had to be taken prior to a formal investigation, which is needed to regain public trust.

"It's an inevitable measure to relieve people's distrust over the 'naeronambul' attitude and the property issue," he told a televised meeting. "It's heartbreaking, but a desperate attempt for change."



It's an inevitable measure to relieve people's distrust over the 'naeronambul' attitude and the property issue," he told a televised

UN Security Council endorses Secretary-General Guterres for second term

UNITED NATIONS,

THE UN Security Council on Tuesday endorsed Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for a second five-year term.

Estonia's UN Ambassador Sven Jurgenson, as Security Council president for the month of June, announced the endorsement after a private meeting of the council.

The Security Council, in its private meeting, adopted a resolution by acclamation, he said.

"The Security Council, having considered the question of the recommendation for the appoint-

ment of the secretary-general of the United Nations, recommends to the General Assembly that Mr. Antonio Guterres be appointed secretary-general of the United Nations for a second term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2026," reads the one-sentence Resolution 2580.

Jurgenson said the General Assembly is likely to hold a session on June 18 on Guterres' appointment for a second term.

Guterres was the only official candidate as no state has nominated any contender, said Jurgenson. Jurgenson said Guterres has



proven worthy of the post of secretary-general with his performance in the almost five years in office.

"We all have seen, actually, the secretary-general in action. I think he has been an excellent secretary-general," he said in a press encounter.

Jurgenson lauded Guterres as a bridge-builder and commended him for his views on the conflict zones in the world.

"He is able to speak to everybody, I think this is something that is expected from a secretary-general," he said.

Guterres thanked the Security

Council for its endorsement.

"The decision taken today by the Security Council to recommend to the General Assembly that I serve a second term as secretary-general of the United Nations is a great honor. I am very grateful to the members of the council for the trust they have placed in me. My gratitude also extends to Portugal for having nominated me again," he said in a statement.

"It has been an immense privilege to be at the service of 'we, the people' and at the helm of the amazing women and men of this organization for the past four and a half years,

when we have been facing so many complex challenges," Guterres said.

"Pursuing, as secretary-general of the United Nations, the purposes and principles of the (UN) Charter is a most noble duty. I would be deeply humbled if the General Assembly were to entrust me with the responsibilities of a second mandate," he added.

Guterres, 72, became the ninth UN secretary-general in 2017. Prior to that, he was the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for 10 years. Guterres served as prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002.

Xinhua

NATO meddles in Russia-Belarus affairs to prevent their integration – diplomat

MOSCOW

EFFECTIVE Russian-Belarusian cooperation is not part of NATO's plans, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova wrote on her Telegram channel, commenting on a statement of NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who voiced concerns over cooperation between Moscow and Minsk.

"Here is the answer to a question why the West is dealing with Belarus so fiercely. Normal effective cooperation between the two countries is not part of NATO's plans. It needs to constantly interfere in domestic affairs of one or another country, or to simultaneously meddle in the affairs of both, just to prevent a natural course of mutually beneficial integration.

In comment on NATO's readiness to "protect each member of the alliance from a threat posed by Moscow and Minsk," the diplomat wished NATO chief good health, noting that this was "directly linked to overcoming old phobias and getting rid of persecution mania."

The diplomat also noted that domestic terrorism in the United States has been added to the problems that have not been resolved by NATO for decades. "This is what the member-states need to urgently tackle rather than fake threats."

Agencies

With G7 summit the 1st stop, Biden embarks on 8-day trip to Europe

US President Joe Biden departs for Britain yesterday on his first trip abroad since taking office, an eight-day mission to rebuild trans-Atlantic ties strained during the Trump era and to reframe relations with Russia.

The trip represents a test of the Democratic president's ability to manage and repair relationships with major allies who grew disenchanted with then-president Donald Trump's trade tariffs and withdrawal from international treaties.

"Will the democratic alliances and institutions that shaped so much of the last century prove their capacity against modern-day threats and adversaries? I believe the answer is yes. And this week in Europe, we have the chance to prove it," Biden said in an opinion article published in the Washington Post.

His summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 16 in Geneva is the capstone to the trip, an opportunity to raise US concerns directly with Putin about ransomware attacks allegedly emanating from Russia, Moscow's aggression against Ukraine and a host of other issues.

Biden will make his first stop at the seaside village of St. Ives in Cornwall where he will participate in the G7 summit. The meeting is expected to be dominated by vaccine diplomacy, trade, climate and an initiative for rebuilding infrastructure in the developing world.

Biden may face pressure to do more to share US vaccine supplies with other countries after an initial pledge of 20 million doses announced last week.

His push for a global minimum tax on multinational corporations faces opposition at home. G7 finance ministers agreed before the summit to pursue a global minimum tax rate of at least 15 percent and to allow market countries to tax up to 20 percent of the excess profits - above a 10 percent margin - generated by about 100 large, high-profit companies.

Republicans came out against the plan this week, potentially complicating the US ability to implement a broader global agreement.

Agencies

Wife of 'El Chapo' to 'plead guilty to helping him run drug cartel'

EMMA Coronel Aispuro, the wife of Mexican narcotics kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, is expected to plead guilty this week to federal charges of helping him run the notorious Sinaloa drug cartel, the New York Times reported on Tuesday.

The Times, citing an unnamed person familiar with the case, reported that Coronel would appear in Federal District Court in Washington on Thursday morning to enter her plea.

Her plea agreement will not require her to cooperate with US authorities or provide information about her husband's allies, business partners or relatives, the Times reports.

Reuters could not immediately confirm the report. A spokesman for the US Department of Justice declined to comment, and the Drug Enforcement Administration had no immediate comment. Lawyers for Coronel did not respond to requests for comment.

Coronel, a 31-year-old former beauty queen, was arrested at Washington's Dulles International Airport in February.

Prosecutors accused her of working with her husband in running the drug cartel and conspiring in his infamous July 2015 escape from Mexico's Altiplano prison through a mile-long tunnel dug from his cell.

After a high-profile trial in a federal court in Brooklyn, New York, Guzman, 63, was convicted in February 2019 of masterminding a multibillion dollar drug enterprise. He was sentenced to life in prison plus 30 years and incarcerated in the federal Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado.

Coronel, a dual US-Mexico citizen, married Guzman in 2007 at age 18. The couple has twin daughters.

In 2019, Coronel launched a clothing brand in the United States and she also appeared in a US reality show about mafia families.

Agencies



Kenyan slum youth abandon crime to reclaim green spaces

NAIROBI

FREDRICK Okinda grew up in the sprawling Korogocho slums on the eastern fringes of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, at a time when it was the embodiment of urban decay including crime and pollution.

The 32-year-old father of three escaped jail by a whisker nearly a decade ago when his youthful peers introduced him to the criminal underworld under the guise of striking a fortune and escape from the jaws of poverty.

Okinda's colorful past has nevertheless offered him free tutorials on reinvention and self-discovery, attributes that aided his quest to transform his immediate habitation choking with environmental pollution.

The founder and chairman of Komb Green Solutions, a grassroots environmental lobby based in Korogocho slums, said that he has no regrets abandoning crime to support reclaiming of green spaces in his neighborhood.

"We decided to come together as reformed youth and embark on cleaning up Nairobi River and later establish a green park on its banks that has become a popular recreational site," Okinda said during an interview Wednesday ahead of World Environment Day to be marked Saturday.

He said that Komb Green Solutions, established in 2017, has enlisted more than 70 Korogocho youth whose volunteerism has paid dividends as evidenced by reduced pollution on the Nairobi River and its riparian land.

Lush green bamboo trees, bougainvillea, bottle brush and sunflower dot the 500 meters long green park that used to be a garbage dumping site and a hiding den for criminals.

Okinda said the well-tended and tranquil green park that sits next to the Nairobi River has been a treasured destination for individuals looking for recreation and emotional healing.

His teammates were in their element as they scooped mountains of garbage from the river using



Fredrick Okinda takes care of the garden on June 2, 2021. (Photo: Xinhua)

rakes even as balmy weather enveloped Korogocho slums.

Okinda said that about 15 kilometers of Nairobi River riparian land have been reclaimed in the last three years even as its cleanup continues on a regular basis.

The once pristine freshwater body has been choking with garbage for decades but thanks to the relentless devotion of Korogocho youth, its pollution load has reduced.

According to Okinda, Komb Green Solutions has mobilized women to collect, sort, recycle and sell biodegradable carrier bags scooped from the river. He said the green park is now a crown jewel for the Korogocho community that is always a venue for parties and forums aimed at promoting security and harmonious coexistence.

"Youth from other parts of Nairobi and beyond often visit the park for benchmarking," said Okinda, adding that his organizations bagged 1,000

U.S. dollars prize money after emerging overall winner among groups that have championed greening of Nairobi's landscape.

The prize money was used to set up car washing stations that have been providing daily wages to members of Komb Green Solutions, said Okinda.

According to him, his organization is also mentoring children in Korogocho slums to inspire them to embrace environmental conservation and decent lifestyles despite growing up in difficult circumstances.

Okinda said the theme of 2021 World Environment Day, "Ecosystems Restoration," should serve as a wake-up call for Nairobi youth to rise up and reclaim its fading ecological beauty linked to pollution. "We have lined up cleanup activities on Saturday to mark World Environment Day to help restore the beauty of our neighborhoods," said Okinda.

Members of Komb Green Solutions

who are also generating some revenue through urban farming are keen on support from the government and well-wishers to facilitate their growth.

Some youth have benefited from vocational training funded by well-wishers and are now eking a living through masonry, carpentry, or plumbing, said Okinda, adding that his organization's future plans include establishing additional green spaces along the Nairobi River besides enlisting more young people to boost its restoration.

John Gicheha, a 25-year-old volunteer with Komb Green Solutions, said that he has fully disengaged from criminal activities and is on a mission to improve the ecological health of Korogocho slums where he has lived for more than two decades. The father of one said that participating in cleanup activities along the Nairobi River alongside the restoration of nearby landscapes through planting trees has been part of his recovery from a broken past.

Xinhua

Thousands of nurses go on strike in New Zealand

ABOUT 30,000 nurses in New Zealand walked off their jobs yesterday in a nationwide eight-hour strike after negotiations with the government for better pay and working conditions failed.

The strike action came after the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) rejected a 1.4 percent pay hike proposed by the District Health Board earlier

this week.

The government says the nurses' demands amounted to a 17 percent increase that it can't afford, but pledged to continue negotiations.

The stand-off comes as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern faces criticism for not doing enough to address rising inequality,

despite the economy bouncing back from the COVID-19 pandemic more swiftly than expected.

Thousands of nurses marched on the streets holding placards, while others gathered at parks and outside hospitals around the country.

"Nurses are the glue who

hold care services together," Dr Julian Vyas, president of Association of Salaried Medical Specialists said, according to online news portal Newshub.

"If they are on strike, you can be sure there's a big problem which needs to be fixed," he added.

Nurses have complained of

being underpaid and burnt out, with conditions worsening with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current pay rates do not attract people into the profession or retain the people, and staffing levels have stretched them to breaking point, putting them and their patients at risk, NZNO has said in a statement.

Agencies

China vigorously promotes protection of marine biodiversity

JUNE 8 marked the 13th World Oceans Day, whose theme this year is "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods". The day also marked the 14th National Marine Awareness Day of China, which has paid close attention and made continuous efforts to protect marine biodiversity.

China is one of the countries with the richest marine biodiversity in the world. It has over 28,000 marine species on record, which account for about 13 percent of the world's total, ranking third in the world.

In recent years, China has vigorously pushed ahead with the promotion of marine biodiversity and reaped the rewards for its efforts.

There are more than 35,000 known fish species in the world, among which over 32,000 live in the ocean. China has recorded over 4,500 fish species, including more than 3,700 kinds of marine fish.

The country has conducted investigations into marine fish biodiversity and carried out researches on the protection and restoration of marine fish biodiversity in the Bohai Sea, Yellow Sea, East Sea, and other waters in China.

In the East Sea, China has undertaken research on the protection and restoration of large yellow croaker resources. Relevant researchers analyzed the reasons behind the decline in large yellow croaker resources in such aspects as characteristics of hydrological environment, biological features of the marine fish population as well as trophic structure of the food web in the ecosystem, and adopted measures like optimizing artificial enhancement and releasing of large yellow croakers and setting up marine protected areas in a bid to protect marine fish biodiversity.

Mangroves, a typical marine ecosystem, can be found in over 100 countries, including China.

Over 800 species of benthic animals, including many endangered species, have been found live in China's mangrove trees, which mainly grow in the country's Guangdong province, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, and Hainan province.

China is one of the few countries in the world with a net increase in the area of mangroves. Strengthening the protection and restoration of mangroves has always been an important part of the country's marine ecological protection and restoration efforts.

Under the guidance of China's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), local



Nearly 100 high school students and volunteers participated in an educational activity that promotes the protection of wetlands in Meilan district, Haikou, south China's Hainan province, March 11, 2021. (File photo)

governments in coastal regions have implemented the Blue Bay Initiative, which aims to improve marine ecology. Driven by the initiative, China has established over 50 protected areas for mangroves.

Chinese white dolphins are sometimes seen swimming in the waters near Xiamen city, southeast China's Fujian province.

Over the past more than one decade, the Third Institute of Oceanography under the MNR has conducted long-term field investigation into the Chinese white dolphins in the Xiamen Bay near the city.

Latest research data from the institute show that the population of the animal stands around 60, and has basically maintained stable.

Chinese white dolphins mainly inhabit the nearshore waters and estuaries along the southeastern coast of China. As an alpha predator in its surrounding ecosystems, the animal indicates the condition of the ecosystems in coastal waters and estuaries.

Coral reefs are considered one of the ecosystems with the richest biodiversity and highest productivity, and hailed as tropical rainforests of the sea.

Relevant institutions in China have carried out plenty of research on and achieved many results in the comprehensive observation of coral reefs, breeding of hermatypic corals, coral reef degradation and adaptation mechanisms, and coral reef ecological restoration technologies.

China's coral reefs, which rank eighth in the world in terms of area, are mainly found in the country's Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, and the South China Sea islands.

Since 2000, China has conducted many biological survey voyages, during which the country has continuously improved its survey platforms and equipment, and made new breakthroughs and progress in exploration as well as research and development.

Based on these breakthroughs and progress, China has gradually built resource pools including a database of deep-sea bacteria, completed a great deal of research on the classification and systematic evolution of many new marine microorganisms, and evaluated the potential of microbial resources for application in marine biological medicine and biotechnology.

People's Daily

Handmade reusable sanitary pads gaining popularity among girls in Zambia's low-income communities

LUSAKA

THE introduction of reusable sanitary towels is, without a doubt, helping many adolescent girls in Zambia's vulnerable communities to maintain good menstrual hygiene.

This is because the pads are cost-effective as they can be washed and reused over a period of time, which helps to save resources.

Thus a number of organizations seeking to advance the welfare of youths are investing in programs that aim to empower girls to be able to make reusable sanitary pads.

Among the beneficiaries of such programs is 15-year-old Anastasia Kapumba of Chipulukusu compound, an informal settlement located in Ndola, the capital of Zambia's Copperbelt province.

Kapumba and about 30 other youths in her community recently received training to make handmade sanitary pads to help address menstrual hygiene challenges among girls.

"Community members organized training aimed at empowering youths with life skills and the making of handmade sanitary pads was part of that program," explained Kapumba while sewing a reusable sanitary pad. She revealed that she decided to run with the idea of making handmade sanitary towels because she wanted to teach other girls the craft, as she believed it would greatly help them maintain good menstrual hygiene at a minimal cost.

"In this compound, a lot of girls have challenges accessing sanitary pads. They will no longer have to worry about getting money to buy the pads when they learn how to make reusable sanitary pads," she said.

The pads, which are fitted with a button to ensure that they stay in place, are made from soft fabric made from cotton and wool. "It is better to use new pieces of fabric for durability. However, one can still use an old well-kept garment if they are not able to purchase new materials," Kapumba said.

Fridah Chushi, 18, who also benefited from the training, said a growing number of girls in Chipulukusu compound have demonstrated great interest in making handmade sanitary pads. "A lot of girls are beginning to appreciate reusable sanitary pads because they have realized that aside from helping to maintain menstrual hygiene, one can also earn a living from making handmade sanitary pads," Chushi asserted.

Her sentiments were repeated by 38-year-old Mary Mutale, a resident of Ndola's Mapalo area, who added that reusable sanitary pads are helping a lot of girls especially those from low-income communities to have access to affordable sanitary towels.

According to Mutale, many parents in vulnerable communities would be happy with the idea of handmade reusable sanitary pads as they help to cut down household expenditure. "Conventional sanitary pads are a luxury that majority if not all younger women and girls in places like Mapalo and Chipulukusu cannot afford, more so now when households are struggling to make ends meet," she said.

Xinhua

SPORT



Bongo Flava songbird, Faustina Mfinanga, also known as 'Nandy' (C), signs a contract with Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL)'s Commercial Director, Vedastus Mwita (2nd L), in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The TTCL will support the musician's festival, dubbed, 'Nandy Festival 2021'. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

TTCL strikes deal with Nandy to sponsor countrywide festival

By Guardian Reporter

BONGO Flava songbird Faustina Mfinanga, popularly known as 'Nandy', has signed an agreement with Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL) to sponsor her nationwide gig tour, 'Nandy Festival 2021'.

Vedastus Mwita, TTCL's Commercial Director, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the deal moreover involves Eastwave Marketing who are organizers of the festival.

He disclosed following the deal, the event will now be known as 'TTCL Nandy Festival 2021'.

"This festival will be held in nine regions and Zanzibar and TTCL as main sponsors will supply its products and services to the market," he stated.

Mwita mentioned the regions, which will host the festival, as Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Kigoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Shinyanga, and Tanga.

"We urge music lovers to turn up in large numbers to witness Nandy showcasing

her best in music show at global standards," he disclosed.

Mwita disclosed that new TTCL mobile phone subscribers will get 50 minutes of the voice call, 150 megabytes, and 50 text messages for a week free of charge during the duration of the festival.

He further explained that Nandy's followers, who buy their entry tickets through T-Pesa will get price reductions as an incentive.

The singer's Manager, Moko Biashara, thanked TTCL for the sponsorship, saying the festival will lure more clients to choose the state mobile communications company's products.

"I can assure you that thousands of Nandy's fans will flock to the stadia that will host the shows and in the process use TTCL products and services," Biashara promised.

Nandy backed her manager by calling on her fans in the regions to come and support her gig tour while also backing TTCL as main sponsors.

"I can only assure TTCL's management that I and my dancers will perform to the best of our skills while observing professionalism," she stated about her superb performance in Kigoma, a region she has already visited.

Mohamed Hussein: Yanga has to put spirited displays in 2020/21 ASFC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Yanga forward, Mohammed Hussein 'Mmachinga', has advised the outfit to increase efforts to clinch the 2020/21 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), noting it is silverware the team has what it takes to lift.

He noted Yanga should not be counted in this season's Premier League title race, given they can not match age-old rivals, Simba.

He said if Yanga needs to clinch a trophy this season, then that can only be achieved in the ASFC.

Hussein noted the Jangwani Street-based side has a great opportunity to organize themselves and ultimately lift the competition's title.

Yanga will confront Biashara United in the ASFC last four's tie, to be played at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora later this month.

If the Dar es Salaam squad comes out victorious in the match, it will face winners of the last four clash, pitting Azam FC against Simba SC, in the final.

Azam FC will lock horns with Simba SC who will meet in the second semi-final of the

showpiece at Majimaji Stadium in Songea.

Although Yanga initially had hopes of winning the Premier League title which they have not clinched for three seasons, Hussein said this season is difficult for them to win.

"Yanga's success lies in the ASFC, that's where we have to plan well if we want to win a trophy this season, but in the Premier League, let's just play for second place, the top honour should be left for Simba," he revealed.

Winning Premier League's top honour was in the outfit's plans since the start of the season, it was out of reach when the club was knocked off the tournament's top spot by Simba.

Although Yanga technical bench and management have set out to win three points in each of their remaining top-flight matches, lifting the tournament's silverware looks to be a tall order.

The ASFC champions will join the third-placed side in Premier League to take part in the next season's CAF Confederation Cup.

This season's Premier League winners and the second-placed squad will represent the country at the CAF Champions League.



SPORTS

Usambara Development cricketers demolish Macechu Stars in TCA T20 Tanga League

By Guardian Reporter

USAMBARA Development cricketers have kept on holding sway in 2021 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) T20 Tanga League, walloping Macechu Stars by eight wickets in the region early this week.

Top order batsmen, Mohammed Simba, skipper Amos Daniel, and Anaely Thadeo, put spirited showing, seeing to it Macechu Stars notch 133 runs for three wickets in 20 overs when they went in to bat first.

Simba that opened the innings with Daniel was the batsman that was most impressive given he scored 38 runs, which included three fours.

Daniel notched 29 runs not out, hitting two fours, with Thadeo chipping in with 27 runs that included two fours.

Yusuph Saidi's 18 runs not out had Macechu Stars making their way back with the triple-digit score once they completed their innings.

Omary Hilal ended with two wickets in four overs during Usambara Development's turn with the ball.

In response, Usambara Development exhibited their batting prowess, which saw them emerge victorious, scoring 134 runs for the loss of two wickets in 12.5 overs.

Riziki Kiseto, Usambara Development team's skipper, led the successful chase given the cricketer recorded unbeaten 89 runs.

The opener almost single-handedly won the clash for the youthful squad,



Usambara Development cricket squad.

cracking 13 fours in his impressive outing.

Fellow opener Hilal executed good knocks and contributed to the eventual success, as he scored 21 runs which consisted of four fours.

Macechu Stars' efforts to defend their total hit a snag, with Said and Simba so far posting a wicket apiece.

The resounding win has helped Usambara Development tighten their grip on the five-team tournament's first spot, as they have notched a victory in three fixtures and lost one.

The league leaders have notched 550 runs and gave away 369 runs, recording 4.4784 in net run rate.

Annadil Burhani Tanga cricketers sit second, as they have come out victorious in three clashes they have taken part in.

Third-placed Tanga Women Combine, the only

women squad in the competition, recorded three wins and defeat in two games to hold on to the spot.

Amboni Stars cricketers sit fourth, given they have notched a victory in one tie and lost four matches.

Bottom-placed Macechu Stars have as well posted victory in one duel, they have though an inferior net run rate, -4.2809, as they have notched 420 runs and gave away 605 runs.

Serengeti Premium Lager forecasts Taifa Stars' win over Malawi



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars'.

By Guardian Reporter

RECENTLY, Kim Poulsen, Tanzania's senior men national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, named a 27-man provisional squad that will face Malawi's national team mid this month in an international friendly match, conforming to FIFA fixtures' calendar.

The match, coming as it does, is important to Taifa Stars because it is expected to sharpen the team's claws as it continues to prepare for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers that are slated to kick off in September this year.

Announcing the squad in Dar es Salaam, the tactician said: "I called a mixture of young players, senior and others that ply their trade abroad. The intention is to have a regular team that will not change every time. We called players that are technically and mentally strong to play for the Taifa Stars."

The coach added: "We are starting our early preparations for the World Cup Qualifiers. We will play Malawi, one of the teams that qualified for the next edition of Total Africa Cup of Nations. This game will show us a way forward."

Following the announcement of the squad, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), the main sponsor of the team, has rallied the team on, predicting a win against Malawi's 'The Flames', a triumph, if achieved, will not only reinvigorate the team but also quench the thirst of soccer followers who want

to see their national team excel.

"We are confident with the coach's selection of the players. We are also optimistic that Taifa Stars will turn the tables against Malawi and bring back joy to Tanzanians," the SBL's Senior Brand Manager Mainstream Beer, Wankyo Marando, prophesied while commenting on the forthcoming match.

Wankyo said that SBL is once again reaffirming its unwavering support for Taifa Stars, adding that the brewer is always there for the team.

The beer maker's love for the team is demonstrated by its acceptance to renew its sponsorship last year whereby it pumped in 3bn/- for another three years.

This came shortly after the retirement of the previous contract of the same period in which the top beer and spirits producer had injected 2.1bn/-.

Wankyo stated: "We believe that by supporting Taifa Stars, we are contributing to not only the growth of the sports sector but also in reinvigorating local football, a game that Tanzania and the world, in general, hold so dear."

"I must say that SBL is a big stakeholder of sports in Tanzania. Over the years, we have been partnering with other stakeholders in supporting the development of sports which we further believe play a pivotal role in empowering youth in the community," she said.

Commenting on the latest sponsorship deal between SBL and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) signed in October last year, she said that was a manifestation of Serengeti Premium Lager's long history of sponsorship to the national team in as many years.

The contract came to fruition after a similar three-year sponsorship spell between 2010 and 2012 and the just-ended deal that the beer entered into with TFF in 2017.

She further noted that it was also true that SBL, having made debut sponsorship to the team way back between 2010 and 2017, sought to spring back again to support the squad in 2020.

She said SBL's objective behind the sponsorship deal is to ensure the national team displays its national colours with pride without worrying about the wherewithal with which to honour its local and international assignments.

"We are happy and grateful that our sponsorship did not go down the drain because, throughout our sponsorship, we witnessed Taifa Stars registering a string of commendable successes in its various local, regional, and international fixtures that culminated in its qualifying for the 2019 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) championship that was held in Egypt after being in the continental soccer limbo for a whopping 38 years!" she noted.

Brazilian footballers criticise Copa America switch

RIO DE JANEIRO

MEMBERS of the Brazil soccer team have criticised CONMEBOL's last-minute decision to host the Copa America amid the deadly coronavirus pandemic, but said they would play in the 10-nation tournament that kicks off in Brasilia on Sunday.

Brazil was unexpectedly chosen to stage the Copa America after co-host Colombia was removed amid ongoing civil unrest and Argentina withdrew due to a surge in COVID-19 cases.

Multiple news reports in Brazil had said the players were upset at not being consulted about the decision as well as the possible public health consequences, with some players reportedly reluctant to take part.

The Brazil players said in a statement posted online early on Wednesday that they were "not satisfied" with the way the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) had handled the decision.

"For different reasons, be they humanitarian or professional, we are not satisfied with the way the Copa America has been handled by CONMEBOL," the players said. "All the recent facts lead us to believe in an inadequate process in realising [the tournament]."

They added that they did not want to make their opposition a political issue and said they had never considered a boycott.

"We are against the organisation of the Copa America but we will never say no to playing for Brazil," the statement read.

The statement came soon after Brazil had defeated Paraguay 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier in Asuncion, a result that leaves them in pole position to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar 2022.

The decision by Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro to green light the hosting of the tournament was met with surprise, given the country has recorded more than 476,000 deaths from COVID-19 -- more than any other country outside the U.S.

England boss Southgate speaks of 'pride' on eve of Euro 2020

LONDON

ENGLAND manager Gareth Southgate has spoken of how his grandfather's service in World War II shaped his own identity and values, expressing his pride in representing his country on the eve of Euro 2020.

Southgate's side launch their campaign against Croatia at Wembley on Sunday, with the manager aiming to build on their run to the World Cup semi-finals in 2018.

All three of England's group matches are at home and Wembley is hosting some of the knockout matches at the delayed tournament, including both semi-finals and the final.

Former England international Southgate, writing in the *Players' Tribune*, said different people had different ideas of what it "means to be English".

"For me, personally, my sense of identity and values is closely tied to my family and particularly my granddad," he wrote.

"He was a fierce patriot and a proud military man, who served during World War II. The idea of representing 'queen and country' has always been important to me.

"We do pageantry so well in Britain, and, growing up, things like the queen's Silver Jubilee (in 1977) and royal weddings had an impact on me."

Southgate, early in his tenure as England boss, took his players to train with the Royal Marines.

"Because of my granddad, I've always had an affinity for the military and service in the name of your country -- though

In response to Bolsonaro's decision, Brazil's top court has scheduled an emergency session for Thursday to decide whether the Copa America should be allowed to kick off on Sunday.

Chief Justice Luiz Fux confirmed on Tuesday that a special Supreme Court session had been scheduled so that he and 10 other justices could cast their votes electronically.

Justice Carmen Lucia said there was "exceptional urgency and relevance in the case, requiring a quick conclusion."

The case was brought by the Brazilian Socialist Party and a trade union of metalworkers. The trade union argues Brazil should not hold international sporting events while social distancing is required.

President Bolsonaro is a staunch advocate of his country holding the tournament after a last-minute request by CONMEBOL. He has spoken against social-distancing policies, and has claimed that the economic impact of shutdowns kills more people than does the virus.

The Brazilian Socialist Party said in its request to the court that "intense circulation of visitors in national territory will obviously disseminate the COVID-19 virus in several states, as well as potentially allow entry of new variants."

The tournament will be played in three states, including populous Rio de Janeiro, plus the country's Federal District that includes Brasilia.

Earlier on Tuesday, health minister Marcelo Queiroga defended Brazil as host of that Copa America before a Senate inquiry on the federal government's handling of pandemic response.

"With no attendance in the stadium we will not have the risk of gatherings and bigger contagion," Queiroga said. "The risk for a person to contract COVID-19 will be the same with the matches on or without them. I am not saying there will be no risks; I am saying there is no additional risk."

(Agencies)

the consequence of my failure in representing England will never be as high as his," he said.

"My granddad's values were instilled in me from a young age and I couldn't help but think of him when I lined up to sing the national anthem before my first international caps.

"My belief is that everyone has that pride. And that includes the players."

Southgate, who missed a penalty in England's semi-final shootout defeat by Germany at Euro 96 on home soil, also spoke of how he felt "parental instincts" kick in as manager.

"I can't help it," he said. "After all, I'm old enough to be a father to most of my players."

"I see players scrolling on their phones straight after the final whistle and I think... hmmm, is that a particularly good idea?"

"Reading abusive comments on Twitter or Instagram is never going to help performance."

The England boss said he understood the coronavirus pandemic had "put added pressure on everyone" but did not understand abusive messages.

A number of players in his Euro 2020 squad including Marcus Rashford and Raheem Sterling have suffered racist abuse online. "Why would you tag someone in on a conversation that is abusive?" said Southgate.

"Why would you choose to insult somebody for something as ridiculous as the colour of their skin? Why?"

"Unfortunately, for those people that engage in that kind of behaviour, I have some bad news -- you're on the losing side."

AFP

How Euro 2020 will cope with COVID: protocols, testing, fans and venues

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

EURO 2020 is finally set to start -- 12 months after it was originally scheduled due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. One year on, the 24-team pan-European tournament has one fewer host city, reduced stadium capacities, strictly enforced coronavirus protocols and a labyrinth of travel restrictions and testing requirements.

It all adds up to the reality that there could still be significant disruptions between now and the final in London on July 11.

But the good news is that the European Championship will kick off as planned on Friday when Italy face Turkey in Rome. From that point on, who knows what unexpected problems will arise during the 51-game football feast?

UEFA resisted calls to stage the tournament in one country, preferring to stick with the blueprint of a continent-wide competition, with the withdrawal of Irish capital Dublin ensuring that the 12-venue plan has been reduced to 11, with Seville stepping in to replace Bilbao as Spain's host city.

With Europe still attempting to deal with the pandemic amid spikes in some countries and concerns over new variants in others, UEFA faces the acid test of its decision to go ahead in the original format.

How will COVID-19 protocols work?

We have already seen one significant change designed to reduce any potential impact of a COVID-19 outbreak, with UEFA increasing squad sizes from 23 players to 26.

This is to ensure that competing nations have enough depth within their squad to fulfil their fixtures, even if a number of players test positive for the virus or are forced to self-isolate as a consequence of coming into contact with an infected person.

Scotland were forced to omit six players from their pre-tournament friendly against Netherlands last week as a precaution after midfielder John Fleck tested positive for COVID. Fleck is isolating at Scotland's training camp in Spain and may miss their opening game against Czech Republic on June 14.

Spain's Sergio Busquets is also in isolation after testing positive. The Barcelona player is unlikely to be



able to play against Sweden in Seville on Monday. Spain have called up four new players to take part in a parallel training bubble in case Busquets has to be replaced.

If any teams are hit by positive tests during the tournament, players or staff will have to just isolate as Fleck and Busquets have done.

There is scope within the schedule for games to be delayed by up to 48 hours if teams have fewer than 13 available players and for additional players to be called up, but only if quarantined players are "definitively withdrawn," from the 26-man squad, according to UEFA. However, if a team can't fulfil a fixture within 48 hours of its original kick-off time, the game will not be played and the team with the positive tests will forfeit the game 3-0.

The hope within UEFA is that the existing protocols of secure bubbles including players, staff and key personnel, as used throughout the club game last season, will ensure minimal disruption.

Players and staff will not be expected to fulfil media commitments in person, in order to reduce the prospect of transmission, so press conferences will continue to be done via video link and there will be no mixed zones for players to speak to media.

What about the fans? Will the stadiums be full?

All venues have committed to hosting a reduced number of spectators within stadiums, with only Budapest preparing to have a 100% full stadium, though with enhanced safety procedures and entry requirements for everyone who attends.

Local regulations have limited Munich's Allianz Arena to 14,500 fans (approximately 22% capacity) while Wembley will house a minimum of 22,500 fans (25% capacity).

In Seville, Estadio la Cartuja will be 30% full for its four fixtures, with 18,000 fans in the stadium, while in Baku and Saint Petersburg the stadiums will be 50% full.

Some venues may increase their numbers as the tournament progresses, depending on the easing of restrictions in each country. Wembley, which will host both semi-finals and the final, could be at full capacity of 90,000 fans for the latter stages if the U.K. plan for an end to all COVID regulations on June 21 remains in place. However, sources have told ESPN that, even without government-imposed restrictions, it is unlikely that Wembley will stage the final with a full stadium.

A 12,500-capacity fan zone at Trafalgar Square will be open for England games as well as the semi and final, but only fans with a ticket will be admitted. COVID testing is not required for fan zones, leading to Dr. Sakthi Karunanithi, a public health director in England, describing fan zones as potential "super-spreader events" unless fans are tested before entry. Fan zones in each city are subject to local regulations.

In terms of accessing stadiums for games, each venue has different testing requirements for fans. For instance in Budapest, a valid match ticket and negative test or proof of vaccination are required to secure a COVID-19 wristband. Across the board, ticket holders will be given 30-minute time slots to enter the stadium, with temperature checks or rapid COVID tests also possible, depending on the venue. It means some fans could be inside venues three hours before kickoff.

What about travel between venues?

While competing teams have sporting exemptions enabling all accredited players and staff to travel freely between venues, movement between games is likely to be the

most problematic area for fans due to the differing regulations in each of the 11 host cities.

Azerbaijan has granted a quarantine exemption to fans from teams playing in Baku, provided they return a negative COVID-19 test. Hungary has an identical policy for the games in Budapest.

The Russian government has waived quarantine for visiting ticket holders in St. Petersburg, but due to concerns over the so-called Delta variant in the United Kingdom, any fans travelling from Great Britain must quarantine in a Russian hotel for 14 days. England could play a quarterfinal in St. Petersburg on July 2, which would prove problematic for fans, as they'd be unable to successfully isolate that long before the potential last-eight fixture. In Munich, the Delta variant has also led to arrivals from the U.K. being forced to quarantine for 10 days.

But while English, Scottish and Welsh fans may find it difficult to travel to some venues, the U.K. is also a tough place for fans of competing teams to enter.

The U.K. government has adopted a strict testing regime for all arrivals, but with all Euro 2020 nations on the U.K.'s "amber list," visitors from those countries must quarantine for 10 days on arrival. They can self-release after five days, but must still post negative tests on days 2, 5 and 8 after arrival.

The U.K.'s refusal to offer exemptions to UEFA staff and sponsors resulted in last month's Champions League final being staged in Portugal rather than at Wembley, following the decision to move the game from Istanbul.

Anything else we need to know?

Sources have told ESPN that the Euros will be football's version of the so-called Austerity Games, when London hosted the 1948 Olympics just two years after the end of World War II.

Everything has been stripped back because of the pandemic. Typically, these tournaments are big parties with fans from all over the world congregating in host cities, with fan zones and pubs full to capacity. But with commitments to supporters, broadcasters and national associations, UEFA had to get the tournament on in whatever shape or form possible.

Why Tottenham are struggling to find their next manager

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

DANIEL Levy has a problem at Tottenham Hotspur. It is now approaching two months since the club sacked Jose Mourinho as manager and the chairman is finding it tough to land a replacement.

In Levy's eyes, Spurs are one of the Premier League's so-called "Big Six," with a stadium and training ground on a par with, or better, than any of their domestic and European rivals. They are a club with a proud history, a global fanbase and -- this is important to overseas players and coaches -- a team that plays in London, one of the world's great cities.

But while the game's top coaches will unquestionably share Levy's view of the stadium and training ground, they also see a team in need of a rebuild and a regime in charge which has consistently been reluctant to spend the sums required to make Spurs truly competitive.

They see a club that have won just one trophy this century, the EFL Cup in 2008, and have not brought home the league title since 1961. And, perhaps most importantly, they realise that their first task as manager is likely to be finding a replacement for their best player, centre-forward Harry Kane, who has made it clear that he wants to move to another club this summer.

Since Mourinho was sacked less than a week before the Carabao Cup final against Manchester City in April, and replaced by the 29-year-old interim coach Ryan Mason, Spurs have seen an array of top coaches either find other jobs or reject the opportunity to move to the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Massimiliano Allegri has returned to Juventus, Carlo Ancelotti

has taken charge of Real Madrid for a second time, Julien Nagelsmann has moved from RB Leipzig to Bayern Munich and Hansi Flick, who guided Bayern to the Champions League title in 2020, is expected to replace Joachim Low as Germany coach after Euro 2020.

Former Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino, now at Paris Saint-Germain, has committed himself to the French club after sources told ESPN that he was in talks over a return to Tottenham last month, while former Chelsea boss Antonio Conte, having resigned from Inter Milan after winning Serie A this season, pulled out of talks last week due to his expectations being out of sync with the club's.

The pursuit of Conte was in keeping with Tottenham's chaotic pursuit of a new manager. The Italian is a coach with a winning pedigree, but he also demands big money for top players and his abrasive approach has upset his bosses and players at previous clubs. In many ways, Conte has an even more challenging personality than Mourinho, but Spurs pursued him regardless, despite the way it ended for the

previous manager. Replacing one demanding coach with another is probably not the best way to go for Tottenham right now.

On May 19, Levy signed off an open letter to the Spurs fans in which he outlined the criteria for a new Head Coach.

"We are acutely aware of the need to select someone whose values reflect those of our great club and return to playing football with the style for which we are known," he wrote. "Free-flowing, attacking and entertaining -- whilst continuing to embrace our desire to see young players flourish from our Academy alongside experienced talent."

Read that again and try to find anything which fits with the pursuit of Conte.

Officially, the search for a new Spurs manager is being led by Steve Hitchen, the club's technical performance director. Sources have told ESPN that agents representing coaches have been informed that Hitchen is looking for a manager with a long-term vision to build the team from the bottom up, promoting the club's promising young players and, in many ways, rewinding

the clock to the start of the Pochettino era.

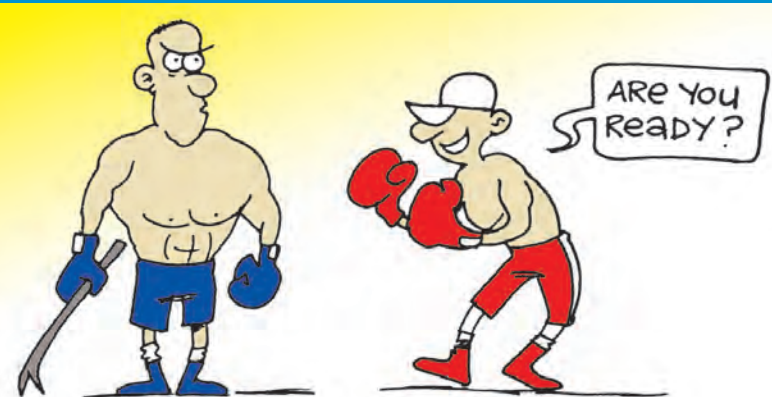
There is a preference for a British coach, or at least a coach with Premier League experience, which is why there is support internally for Brighton's Graham Potter. Belgium's Roberto Martinez, who has managed in the Premier League with Wigan and Everton, is another name under consideration.

But despite the Hitchen blueprint to take a long-term approach with a less glamorous candidate than Mourinho, Conte or Pochettino, Spurs continue to make advances for the big names.

There is a valid reason for this. With season tickets to sell and a stadium to pay for, sources said that the Spurs hierarchy believe that an established coach with a winning track record is more likely to persuade supporters to dig deep and pay to fill the stadium than a coach with a less impressive pedigree.

But the problem for Spurs is that none of the A-list coaches are interested. Why risk a hard-earned reputation by taking charge of a club that will start next season in the Europa Conference League?

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Euro 2020 will cope with COVID: protocols, testing, fans and venues

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Former Simba SC leader backs Karia to keep on leading TFF

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Simba Sports Club chairman, Swedy Nkwabi, and Philemon Ntahilaja have appeared at the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) headquarters to rally behind the federation's president, Wallace Karia, as the latter is out to defend his presidency.

The federation's election is set to take place in Tanga region on August 7.

Karia is out to defend his presidency immediately after the initial four-year term expires.

Nkwabi and Ntahilaja arrived at the TFF offices at around 8 pm with receipts for bank payments for the position's form, which costs 500,000/-.

As soon as he took the form to the TFF offices, Nkwabi opened up on their reasons for backing Karia, maintaining they are out to get him to continue the good programs he has fulfilled in the past four years.

He disclosed: "I have come to take the form on behalf of president Wallace Karia, to ask him to defend his presidency, to continue the good he has done in the next period."

Nkwabi added that Karia has largely been successful in his leadership, especially in the national team 'Taifa Stars', women's soccer, and beach soccer.

He noted: "He has been very successful, and you are witnesses. You have seen women's football come to fruition. Beach Soccer and our national team have held all the important competitions and have done well."

Elsewhere, Simba Sports Club Disciplinary Committee chairman Suleiman Kova has clarified the reasons for recommending midfielder Jonas Mkude to undergo medical tests.

He said: "After yesterday's activities I told him that even the midfielder should continue with his football activities because he has now been suspended."

He disclosed: "I have told him the best way for him to hurry so that he can get back to work quickly depends on the cooperation he will show to his Simba leaders and where he will be sent for medical procedures whether it is tests, treatment or counseling."

"He [Mkude] will be the one to help speed up that time so it depends on his readiness," Kova stated.

"We are not doctors but we have felt that there is something out of the ordinary that leads to recurring mistakes and every time the committee is indicted for misconduct we decide to look the other way."

"You may be punishing the player but there is something else wrong with him. Even if at home a child makes a recurring mistake, don't just punish him, find out the reason for the mistake."

"Mkude is a member of the Simba family, he is our boy and that is why we want to know what his problem is? If he needs medical-related measures then he will be helped."

"Priority is not punishment, priority is to help the player for his benefit and that of his outfit," he disclosed.



Tanzania Premier League Board Chief Executive Officer, Almasi Kasongo.

TPLB now solicits Premier League sponsorship

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER Vodacom Tanzania Limited had withdrawn their sponsorship from the Mainland Tanzania Premier League earlier this week, Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) said they will not be derailed by the decision to terminate financial backing for the tournament.

On Monday, Vodacom's Chief Executive Officer, Hisham Hendi, confirmed that the mobile company has stopped sponsoring the league, as a result of the loss totaling 30bn/- they made in the 2020/21 financial year.

The firm signed a three-year deal in 2019 worth 9bn/- which was slated to end next season.

In each season, the company was dishing out 3bn/-. Responding to this latest decision yesterday, TPLB Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Almasi Kasongo said many companies have shown interest to sponsor the premier league, and discussions with them will begin immediately.

He stated: "Vodacom lately have had several financial problems and as I speak now, teams parading in the top flight league have not received their transport portion as required in the signed contract."

He disclosed: "They wrote us a letter indicating that they are going through the difficult financial period as they were not making a profit hence they requested us to find other means to cover transport fares of the teams for this season so that next season, they can pay back the debts."

"Those were our internal talks and according to the formalities, we were not supposed to disseminate such information to the public," he said.

He added that the board conceded to the request by Vodacom because they are their main partners in promoting football in the country.

He stated: "They have been sponsoring the league for nearly 20 years but after we received the official letter from them about the financial constraints they were going through, we conducted a meeting with the leaders of all teams in the top-flight league updating them about the situation."

"In one voice, they all understood the challenges expressed by Vodacom in their letter and they agreed to have their transport money paid next season."

"All these were internal matters but because our colleagues have decided to come out and show intention to terminate the contract, there is nothing much to say from us," Kasongo said.

He disclosed: "There are many companies which have shown interest to sponsor the league and we have begun talks with them."

"We were simply delaying to talk to them because we had an active contract and it could have been unacceptable to let them aboard."

He added: "For us, this is not new because we already talked to them but all the time, we handled the issue internally but they have decided to go in public."

Simba SC set to extend contract with defender Joash Onyango

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA Sports Club has begun talks with the outfit's Kenyan player, Joash Onyango, over contract extension after the center-back, who is as well 'Harambee Stars' member, had attracted the interest of South African giants Orlando Pirates.

Simba's leadership has convened and held a silent meeting to discuss Onyango's issue and the decisions they have agreed not to sell him but have him renew the contract.

Reports from within Simba, indicate that the club's Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, has already informed Onyango via email, along with the footballer's agent based in Kenya about their intentions.

"We have already informed Onyango and his agent via email that we need to extend his new two-year contract which will start immediately after the current one expires," she disclosed.

"The original contract was for two years which will expire at the end of next season but due to the excellent level shown by Onyango we have decided to add another two-year term which will expire in 2024," she stated.

She disclosed: "We have done so due to the team needing his contribution but if there are those who will be looking for his services we can talk to them while he has another Simba contract."

Onyango was signed by Simba this season on a two-year deal from Gor Mahia of Kenya but his signing sparked tensions between the club's management, with some demanding a long-term contract and others seeking a short-term contract believing he was too old.

Simba SC further completed the first signing for next season, roping in Ruvu Shooting's left full-back Edward Charles.

Charles has penned two years pre-contract with Simba SC and will move to the Msimbazi Street squad come next season.

Before settling on Charles, Simba SC was chasing the signature of two more left-back in Morocco's Difaa El Jadidi's Nickson Kibabage and David Brayson of KMC FC.



Joash Onyango

With the first signing done and dusted, Simba is expected to announce four more arrivals.

According to Simba's head coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa, he is looking forward to strengthening his squad with five new signings, two of them being foreign players and three local players.

Gomes instructed Simba officials to sign him two defenders (left back and center back) two midfielders (holding midfielder and attacking midfielder) and a

striker.

In place of the five new signings, Da Rosa has issued out five other names of players to be released come next season among them, two foreigners and three local players.

Francis Kahata has already left the outfit, leaving only one target, Perfect Chikwende, on Da Rosa's target list.

Chikwende is expected to leave on loan to Azam FC or his former club, Zimbabwe's FC Platinum.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

IF I AGREED WITH YOU WE'D BOTH BE WRONG



EATV THURSDAY

MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA !
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

DADAZ. A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

eastafrica 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

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM