



National Pg 2 Kibaha motorcycle syndicate theft



National Pg 3 Vaccination campaign gets underway



National Pg 4 800,000 acres under sunflower cultivation



National Pg 5 Police pounce on drugs suspects



Chinese, Egyptian firms in green transport drive

CAIRO, Egypt

WEICHAI Group, a Chinese engineering firm, and Egypt's Geyushi Motors early this week signed cooperation deals on green transportation, the manufacturing of gas cylinders, and other plans.

The Chinese Embassy in Egypt said in a statement on Tuesday night that Ambassador Liao Liqiang (pictured), Trade and Industry minister Nevine Gamea, and Mohamed Morsy, the Minister of State for Military Production, attended the signing ceremony on Sunday.

During the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, it was announced that



The national strategies for transformation and sustainable development coincide between the two sides

China and Africa will jointly implement nine major projects to promote trade, investment, and green development, the statement recalled.

"This coincides with Egypt's national strategy of promoting the green transformation of energy and industrial structure and achieving sustainable development," it affirmed.

"The national strategies for transformation and sustainable development coincide between the two sides," the envoy noted, explaining that China will continue to encourage and support the active participation of Chinese companies in Egypt's green development projects, benefitting people of the two countries.

For his part, Gamea said trade and industrial cooperation is an important part of the comprehensive strategic partnership between Egypt and China as the Arab country is committed to developing clean and renewable energy and striving to achieve sustainable development goals.

"The Egyptian side welcomes more Chinese companies to invest and start businesses in Egypt, especially participating in green cooperation and localized production projects," he declared.

Morsy also expressed Egypt's willingness to further expand and deepen cooperation with China in various fields, especially clean energy and localized production projects. This will help to promote greater development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between Egypt and China, he added.

'Parents must play their roles in schooling drive'

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has reaffirmed the government's objective to ensure Tanzanian children have access to basic education, calling upon parents to fulfil their parenting responsibilities.

The premier made this remark when addressing leaders from across Lindi Region who showed up to welcome him upon arrival at Nachingwea airport on Tuesday, for end of year holidays at his Ruangwa constituency.

"We have repeated this several times; every Tanzanian child has the right to basic education. Parents must ensure that they are all enrolled in school," he said, noting that the decision to introduce free education up to secondary school was meant to facilitate the provision of basic education for all eligible children.

The ongoing construction of classrooms across the country shall enable all children being enrolled for primary and secondary education to start going to school from next month, he said, insisting that the government does not want to see children being out of school.

"It is unfair to let them engage in small businesses at recreation centres and bus stands," the premier declared, praising



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, who is also Chancellor of State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), confers the Doctor of Philosophy in Kiswahili degree to Saade Said Mbarouk, at its 17th graduation ceremony in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

Villagers build makeshift school after hyena attacks

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

RESIDENTS in Imalange hamlet, Sabasabini ward of Ushetu district in Shinyanga Region have appealed to the government to help them end increased hyena attacks in the area, saying those attacks have affected the lives of many people, threatening school children walking through outlying bushes to reach school.

The residents made this appeal yesterday at a public meeting with the Ushetu legislator Emmanuel Cherehani convened to discuss challenges facing the constituency in education, health and agriculture.



...With the distance, and now wild animals, some pupils have been failing to attend school regularly and others dropping out altogether

Anastazia Sonda, one of the villagers said the dangerous animals come from the nearby Ushetu forest reserve, and their presence was compelling parents and relatives to accompany children to school, daily.

As a result, the villagers moved to set up two informal classrooms and a teachers' office to offer tuition with the village, diminishing teaching effectiveness and morale of pupils, she stated, as not every parent relishes confronting hyenas on the way to school.

Another villager, Tungu Mashija said the residents initiated a fundraising exercise to build the classrooms, bothered by

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Work had attained 100 per cent is Nachingwea district which received 1.1bn/- for construction of 69 classrooms, 57 for secondary and 12 for primary schools, with a balance of 33.7m/- on hand

Lindi Region leaders for insisting that residents properly use surplus food in stores as the region is among regions not yet receiving seasonal or annual rains.

"Let us keep what we have and use it properly," he said, pointing out that the region has food crops which can be used as cash crops, urging residents not to use preserved food crops to make alcohol especially during the festive season.

Regional leaders to reach out to residents to educate them on the importance of maintaining the food crops now in stores, he said, whereupon Regional Commissioner Zainab Tellack said the region has auctioned 63 tonnes of cashewnuts worth 131bn/-. What remains is a few tonnes which will be sold in the coming few months, she stated.

Responding, the premier urged leaders to similarly harp on the need to use monies from cashewnuts sales to put up small investments instead of channelling the cash to entertainment.

"We cannot direct people how to use their money; but we can educate them on how they can spend it wisely. They only need to be educated on how they can invest, build houses and purchase requirements for school children," he elaborated.

He similarly praised classrooms construction work with Lindi Region Development Fund cash, noting that reports received from the various districts show that there are areas where the work

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Brazil to uplift vanilla farming

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Government says it welcomes investors to invest in the farming sector including spices cultivation, the step that will enable farmers make big strides in the development of the revolution in the agriculture sector.

Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga (pictured), the Minister of State in the President's Office (Economy and Investment), made this observation in discussions with a



Brazilian investor accompanied by the country's honorary consul in Zanzibar, Abdulswamad Abdulrahim.

He said the Zanzibar government wants to see the farming sector play a much bigger role in uplifting the Isles economy, help improve the living standards of farmers if they switch to modern farming practices.

Spices cultivated including vanilla whose world market prices are currently high and could change the farmers' income

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Mining minister Dr Doto Biteko speaks with Kinyambwiga small miners at Guta ward in Bunda district, Mara region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Parents must play their roles in schooling drive'

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has been completed 100 per cent.

In other districts work had attained 97 per cent and in at least one district the work stood at 75 per cent, he stated, noting that at several places there are funds remaining after the projects have been completed.

"One district has remained with 35m/-, another with 33m/- while others have more than 10m/- . This is a good sign that the work was properly supervised, I congratulate all regional and district officials as well as the people who contributed with their labour," he said.

He expressed great appreciation for President Samia Suluhu Hassan for vast efforts in procuring funds that have facilitated finding solutions to challenges facing the provision of social services in the region.

Given the Lindi region example, the government expects to hear that other regions completing their projects retain funds remaining, especially in regions where construction materials are cheaper or not sought from far away, the premier declared.

In her welcoming remarks, RC

Tellack said the work still remaining relates to purchasing school desks, painting and in just a few cases, roofing. Most of the work has been done, but some districts have funds remaining and several remained with building materials like iron rods, paint and cement, she explained.

The region is seeking a permit to use the remaining funds and materials to refurbish infrastructures in other areas, while district commissioner Shaibu Ndemanga said the district received 2.26bn/- out of which 1.1bn/- was directed to building 56 classrooms in Lindi municipality and 58 classrooms in Mtama district, at a cost of 1.16bn/-.

The municipality needed 35 classrooms in secondary schools and 21 in primary schools and all these have been completed, with accounting officers remaining with 35m/-," he said, noting that in Mtama district 27 classrooms out of 58 are finished and 31 nearing completion.

Work had attained 100 per cent in Nachingwea district which received 1.1bn/- for construction of 69 classrooms, 57 for secondary and 12 for primary schools, with a balance of 33.7m/- on hand, he added.

Brazil to uplift vanilla farming

FROM PAGE 1

situation, he stated, pointing out that in uplifting spices cultivation there are various projects being implemented by community based and international organisations, where the grand spices project is anchored.

For his part, consul Abdulrahim said there are investors lined up for high end commercial farming of spices, underlining that Zanzibar's geography and environment offers usable development opportunities

in commercial spices farming.

That will bring positive changes to the lives of Zanzibar farmers, he said, elaborating that vanilla cultivated in some areas in Pemba is already of high quality like the crop cultivated in the Comoros, which experts say ranks high in global market standing.

"Investors from Brazil have displayed their intention to invest in spice cultivation, notably with regard to vanilla as its price in global markets is high," he added.

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having to abandon other work to accompany children to school and return to bring them back home. The temporary school lacks various services available at school, he said.

Ward councillor, Emmanuel Makashi said the hamlet is lying next to an expansive forest area with scores of wild packs of dangerous animals, making the village less and less livable unless the government takes drastic action.

Kabanga Primary school head

Villagers build makeshift school after hyena attacks

teacher Charles Mussa said pupils from Imalange hamlet walking a long distance every day to reach the school, and even without the new challenge, they already faced

problems.

With the distance, and now wild animals, some pupils have been failing to attend school regularly and others dropping out altogether,

he said.

For his part, the legislator promised 100 cement bags for completion of classrooms in the temporary school.

Men nabbed in motorcycle syndicate theft in Coast Region

By Guardian Correspondents, Kibaha

POLICE in Coast Region is holding three people on suspicion of involving in motorcycle looting incidents.

Coast Regional Police Commander, Wankyo Nyigesa told reporters yesterday that one of the long-wanted suspects, Rashid Shaban (24), a resident of Mlandizi, was arrested on December 28.

RPC Wankyo said after his arrest he was searched and found with a black MC 613 CGA motorcycle, two cell phone breakers, and a wallet with the names of Edward Joseph Chiwale.

Regional police chief said in a preliminary interview the long-wanted suspect identified three of his accomplices in the robbery incidents.

In addition, the RPC said they are currently in the process of searching for five people who are alleged to be involved in fraudulent activities for money laundering traders.

He said the victims of the three scams allegedly committed by the people who allegedly entered Kibaha and did it using a small pickup truck and threatened the traders with pistol-type weapons before deceiving them.

RPC Wankyo urged the traders to take precautionary measures by installing CCTV cameras and providing timely information on the successful capture of the suspects.

In May 10, this year, police in Kibaha arrested a man (names withheld) a resident of Mlandizi, Kibaha District after he was found in possession of 74 SIM Cards, out of which 56 are believed to be involved in incidences of fraud.

Wankyo Nyigesa said that the

suspect, apart from being found with the SIM cards, was also found to be in possession of 18 SIM Cards that had been used to commit fraud.

He said that the all the 18 SIM card were registered under using Moses Cosmas' national ID.

"Now just imagine one Tanzanian owns 18 SIM card registered under the same name, registered using his national identity card (NIDA), this is a crime he can use one line to insult someone, use another to commit crimes" said Nyigesa.

According to the RPC, out of the 74 SIM card most are from TTCL and they are making efforts to find out how the suspect acquired the lines since he did not have an agent's ID.



Now just imagine one Tanzanian owns 18 SIM card registered under the same name, registered using his national identity card (NIDA), this is a crime he can use one line to insult someone, use another to commit crimes



Kilindi Asilia resident airs his grievances to Kilindi district chairman Bakari Kingaigala (not in the picture) at a meeting held yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

District officials called on to carry out value for money in construction projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

DISTRICT officials in Mbeya region have been directed to administer contractors and technicians implementing government projects to ensure there is value for money.

The directive was issued by the political committee of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) in the region when inspecting education projects which involves

construction of 92 classrooms in various schools in the region.

The chairman for the committee, Reverend Jacob Mwakasole said the committee was impressed by the progress and that there has been proper administration of the projects.

He said the project despite being implemented by local technicians; the projects are of high quality quantifying the money injected.

Mwakasole said most of the

projects will be completed timely with the possibility that all pupils selected to join form one next year will be accommodated.

"We are happy that the projects despite being implemented by local technicians are implemented at a high quality," he said.

He said the committee will continue to inspect and oversee the progress of the projects to ensure all the funds money injected by the government were well utilized.

The legislator for Mbeya urban Dr Tulia Ackson said the city council received 1.8bn/- for infrastructure development in 29 secondary schools in the region.

In the schools, 92 classrooms were being constructed in which 92 have been completed and ready to accommodate pupils.

Dr Ackson who is also the deputy speaker for the National Assembly said the inspections sometimes help implementation of the projects to go faster.

She called upon the committee for continue inspecting the projects to ensure the money injected was used profitably.



511KJ of Tanzania People's Defence Forces Commandant Colonel Amani Siyani presents various items including food stuff to the founder of Uhai development organisation (UDO) Teddy Kachwande at the centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Also donated the same items to Kind Hearth Africa and Tankids Coming Home centres. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

PMO revives policy to enable youth access to decent jobs

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Prime Minister's Office is reviewing the National Youth Development Cooperative Policy 2007 that will enable youth to have access to decent jobs and guarantee their job security.

Speaking at a recent national reflection dialogue on workplace environment improvements held in Dar es Salaam and attended by different development stakeholders, Youth Coordination, Mobilization, and Economic Empowerment Officer, in the Prime Minister's Office, Nasibu Mwaifunga said that the policy is intended at addressing challenges to youth welfare at work place besides unemployment.

The policy will facilitate youth into carrying out their duties in a conducive and well organized environment thus calling for social protection and social dialogue in the workplace.

"Right now we are in a final stage of the policy reviewing process so that youth can start benefiting from it," he said.

Mwaifunga lauded ActionAid Tanzania who organized the dialogue for being a good ambassador in promoting movements related to decent work and training people from the formal and informal sectors. This has helped both employers and employees to know their rights and work comfortably.

In a bid to create a highly skilled workforce with the best skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and use the digital economy, right now the PMO's office has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Egypt on youth related issues.

He recommended that if youth are provided with required

skills on ICT, they can become dynamic drivers of the country's industrialization agenda. Adoption of ICT technologies for e-commerce, promotion of data usage is likely to influence online transactions and marketing.

"The PMO office is eager to see youth benefiting from the digital economy by learning on best practices from experts within and outside the country," he said.

The PMO's office has also embarked on a new programme aimed at assisting youth from different regions of the country to get field attachment so that they can gain skills required by employers.

The Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE)'s Project Officer, Neema Mbogo called employers to comply with labour laws, policies and regulations that go in line with workplace attributions.

"If employers don't provide written contracts, then we ought to work hard on promoting decent job" she said.

“The PMO office is eager to see youth benefiting from the digital economy by learning on best practices from experts within and outside the country”

Tunduma Covid vaccination campaign gets underway

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduma

THE number of people receiving COVID-19 jabs in Tunduma town, Songwe Region has increased to 40 from five per day, thanks to the on-going government's second phase of the vaccination campaign.

Songwe was among the five regions with the lowest number of people who have received the jabs against COVID-19, hence the need for the government to engage the region in the second phase of the inoculation campaign.

Speaking during the launch of the second phase of the inoculation campaign in Songwe, Tunduma town Chief Medical Officer, Dr Enock

Mwambalasa said a few people were going for the jabs before inauguration of the campaign.

He said that previously, they were vaccinating not more than five people, and that sometimes no one showed up for the jabs.

"Our health workers were demoralized; the number of people coming for COVID-19 vaccination was small; but we are now thankful to the government for inaugurating the second phase of the inoculation campaign as we are vaccinating up to 40 people per day," he stated.

He added: "The lowest number of people we vaccinate per day is 30; the situation has been contributed

to by the education given to local leaders."

Dr Mwambalasa said that local leaders have played a big role in sensitizing people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

A Senior Doctor at Family Care health center in Tunduma, Aliko Mbembela said they are still educating the residents on the importance of being vaccinated. He said similar education was also given to health workers.

Mbozi District Council Chief Medical Officer, Dr Mponjili Mwangizi said they are collaborating with community health care workers (CHW) to ensure they reach all the 127 streets and villages within

the district.

Subisya Kabuje, COVID-19 Vaccination Sensitization Officer from the Prime Minister's Office Regional Administration and Local Government called upon the residents to massively go for the jabs to protect themselves from the disease.

He said that all vaccines circulated at different health facilities across the country are safe and have been tested and proved to be efficient by Tanzanian doctors. He said the vaccines do not have any effects, adding people are allowed to continue with their daily activities even after being inoculated.

TWIGA
Minerals Corporation Limited
a partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of Tanzania

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28 Dec 2021

Executive Secretary,
Mining Commission
Business Studies and Laws Building (UDOM)
P.O Box 2292,
Dodoma

Dear Sir,

Advertisement for Expression of Interest

Bulyanhulu would like to notify the Mining Commission in line with the requirements of regulations 16 and 18 of the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 whereby the below work packages will be advertised in Tanzania newspapers in order to determine local company's expression of interests;

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Brief Description
1	BUL-21-12-02	Life Of Mine Ventilation Review	i. Available to commence the review by end of January 2022. ii. Able to deliver the review report by end March 2022. iii. Have access to ventilation Modelling softwares. iv. Able to calculate primary airflow and cooling requirements for the years modelled based on the fleet schedules provided. v. Able to incorporate the effect of the change in fleet requirements and materials handling on the ventilation and cooling requirements with the potential sub-level shaft, if planned. vi. Able to provide budget estimate of LOM ventilation and cooling system operating costs. vii. Able to construct ventilation models for the key snap-shot years. viii. Able to evaluate the LOM heat loads for Bulyanhulu and apply these to the Ventsim models. ix. Able to recommend primary fan duty requirements for the years modelled. x. Able to comply with Barrick's Safety standards and management systems. xi. Able to submit an acceptable localisation plan and obtain an approval from relevant government authorities.

Further to the above we have attached the following documentation:
 Annexure A - BUL-21-12-02 - Advertisement for the work packages
 Annexure B - BUL-21-12-02 - Pre-Qualification for the work packages
 Annexure C - BUL-21-12-02 - Scope of Work
 Annexure D - BUL-21-12-02 - RFP/Evaluation Criteria

Yours sincerely,
Cheick Sangare
 General Manager
 Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Number 34/1, Ursino South, New Bagamoyo Road, Post Office Box 1081, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 Registered No: 23039 Directors: Johann Sebastiaan Bock, Willem Jacobus Jacobs, Simon Peter Bottoms, Michael Jonathan Kambi and Casmir Sumba Kyuki

OFISI YA RAIS
JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA
HALMASHAURI YA WILAYA YA CHALINZE
(Barua zote ziandikwe kwa Mkurugenzi Mtendaji)

Simu Na. 023 32935403
Nakishi. 023 32935402

E - MAIL:
ded@chalinzedc.go.tz

Ofisi ya Mkurugenzi Mtendaji (W)
 S.L.P. 65,
CHALINZE.

TANGAZO

1. Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa Halmashauri ya Wilaya ya Chalinze anapenda kuwatangazia watu wote binafsi na taasisi zote waliogawiwa viwanja **Namba 1 hadi 265 Kitalu "J" Kibiki na Viwanja Namba 265 hadi 531 Kitalu "K" Kibiki, vilivyo Kata ya Bwilingu Halmashauri ya Wilaya ya Chalinze kuwa; anafanya zoezi la uhakiki wa milki za viwanja tajwa na hivyo kuwataka wamiliki wote kuwasilisha kwake uthibitisho wa ununuzi wa viwanja walivyomilikishwa pamoja na nyaraka za umiliki ndani ya siku thelathini (30) tangu tarehe ya tangazo hili.**
2. **Watakaoshindwa kuwasilisha uthibitisho huo ndani ya muda uliotolewa, viwanja vyao vitagawiwa kwa waombaji wanya bila taarifa zaidi kwao.**
3. **Aidha, kwa wamiliki wote halali wa viwanja ndani ya Halmashauri ya Wilaya ya Chalinze, wanatakiwa kuvilipia kodi ya pango la Ardhi la kila mwaka na kuviendeleza viwanja vyao kwa mujibu wa Sheria pamoja ili kuepusha kufutiwa milki zao na viwanja vyao kugawiwa kwa waombaji wanya walio tayari kuviendeleza.**
4. **Kwa mawasiliano zaidi, fika ofisi ya Idara ya Ardhi, Halmashauri ya Wilaya ya Chalinze iliyopo Kibiki-Chalinze au tafadhali piga simu namba 0714576666 au 0652942803.**
5. **Tangazo hili limetolewa tarehe 30 Disemba 2021 na;**

Ramadhani Possi
 Mkurugenzi Mtendaji(W)
CHALINZE



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION OF C-TRACK SERVICES ON GGML VEHICLES 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 C-track services on vehicles and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of this service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01370	PROVISION OF C-TRACK SERVICES ON GGML VEHICLES

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	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	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered 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 (GGME01370)	60%
Evidence of Office location and technical capability	10%
Certified supplier and installer of the tracking systems (C-Track hardware and Software)	15%
Proof of supplying experience of the similar vehicle tracking system specifically C-Track system	10%
Proof of dealership agreement on tracking unit from C-Track Africa	15%
Proof of trained Auto-electricians dealing specifically with installation of the Vehicle tracking units	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01370)** 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 **8.30AM 12TH January 2022** (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=

Dodoma region puts 800,000 acres under sunflower production in 2021/22 season

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

IN order to become self-reliant in edible oil production, Dodoma region has in place strategies to increase sunflower production beginning 2021/22 farming season and targets to put 800,000 acres under sunflower cultivation.

The remarks were made here early this week by Dodoma region agriculture officer, Bernard Abraham in his report at the Region Consultative Committee (RCC).

Abraham said by December 10 this year, statistics collected at the region by local councils showed that areas registered for sunflower cultivation was nearly 583,292 acres, or 72.9 per cent of the target area.

"These areas include farms by private individuals, educational

institutions, village farms, state organs, farmers' groups, local councils, government employees, cooperatives (AMCOS) farms and demonstration farms," he said.

However, he said there are great expectations these areas will increase due to the good response among the people that have been motivated by the mobilisation campaign and current good sunflower prices.

"The region, in collaboration with stakeholders, including Agricultural seeds Agency (ASA), Pyxus and ZOSEM as well as farmers' seeds producers (QDS) has managed to distribute nearly 280,578 kgs of seed," Abraham said.

He added that in making sure sunflower production increases, Dodoma Region plans to involve various individuals and institutions.

"By November this year, a total of 564,853 acres have been identified to grow sunflower in the 2021/22 farming season," he added.

He further said following the official launching of the campaign to increase crops for edible oil production in the country by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa last June in Singida Region, it was discovered that the country needs 650,000 tonnes of edible oil per year.

"Current edible oil availability in the country is 290,000 tonnes on average from 1 million tonnes of the crops' seeds produced, and it is estimated that Dodoma Region contributes 190,000 tonnes of the sunflower seeds, equivalent to 53,000 tonnes of edible oil, according to 2020/2021 production statistics," Abraham said.



Workers construct Kwasantemo bridge at Songe in Kilindi district which connects Gairo in Morogoro region and Tanga. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Deputy Minister admits rampant corruption among land officials

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister of State, President's Office, Public Services Management and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi has said that the government will not tolerate district and regional public service officers who are not fulfilling their duties effectively. Addressing staff and workers of the council at a special task force meeting, Ndejemi called on such officers to mend their habits and work ethically and professionally to eradicate unnecessary conflicts due to their unsatisfactory work performance.

According to Ndejemi there are some public service officers who have been 'purposely' thwarting payments of arrears to various public servants by not sending required forms and documents to the ministry.

He said that majority of

complaints on delay payments of arrears to servants are caused by reckless public service officers.

The deputy Ministers wanted district executive directors to supervise the officials and make sure that they work on all issues facing public servants by submitting the documents to the ministry's headquarters as well as going to pick them on time.

"I experienced this challenge when I was appointed to be a district commissioner back in 2016 and waited for my salary arrears for almost five years, this a very big challenge, but we are going to address it," he said.

Ndejemi also warned against corruption committed by some officers in the Lands Department in Mkuranga District Council.

He added that if officials in the Lands Department continue working with their own interests

foremost, the government stands to lose revenues as well as denying the people of Mkuranga of their rights.

Stressing on ethics and professionalism among officials, the deputy Minister called on them to change because they have been the subject of complaints from the people seeking their services by soliciting bribes from them in issues regarding land ownership.

"I am told that in Mkuranga, even if I myself wanted a farm, I must have something to pay to officials of the lands department, who have decided to put their self-interests foremost, and I do not like to name even a single person here, but I insist that they must change their habits forthwith," he stressed.

Regarding land conflicts, Ndejemi called on Lands officials to be their resolvers, and not the source.

Ndejemi was in a one-day visit in Mkuranga District that aimed accountability among the council's public officials including inspection of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) projects in the district.

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Dar NGO doubles efforts to fight sextortion in girl students

IN efforts to eradicate sex corruption involving students a local community based organisation - Wanawake katika Jitihada za Maendeleo (WAJIKI) has managed to establish 108 groups with 3,741 members.

The groups, comprising drivers of commuter buses, motorcycles (bodaboda) and tricycles (bajaj) formed in Kinondoni, Temeke and Ilala districts, Dar es Salaam region have the responsibility to mobilise the community against sextortion.

Sextortion employs non-physical forms of coercion to extort sexual favors from the victim. Sextortion refers to the broad category of sexual exploitation in which abuse of power is the means of coercion.

This was revealed in Dar es Salaam Tuesday this week by the organization's Director, Janeth Mawinza, saying that the fight is being spearheaded by a campaign dubbed "Safari Salama kwa Wasichana na Wanafunzi Bila Rushwa ya Ngonono

Inawezekana' (Safe Journey for Girls Without Being Subjected to Sextortion is Possible).

"Just recently we launched the campaign in Temeke district where there are now 32 groups with 600 members including drivers of commuter buses, motorcycles (bodaboda) and tricycles," Mawinza said.

She explained that the drivers are involved in the campaign since they are an important component in eradicating sex corruption using their own means of transport.

"WAJIKI believes that if the drivers and conductors decide to desist from involving themselves in sex corruption on students, then gender based violence and related vice will not survive in the society," she said.

She said they were the ones who can eradicate the practice, using

students' needs in wooing them to sexual practices.

She said the campaign began in Kinondoni and Ilala Districts since 2018 and continues to expand now reached Temeke District.

"In Kinondoni and Ilala districts there are 72 groups of motor cycles and tricycles drivers who total 2,598 and eight groups for commuter buses drivers with 543 members, all totaling 3,741 members.

Mawinza said they work under the sponsorship of Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT), and as the sponsorship increases, they will also cover Kigamboni and Ubungo districts and if possible the entire country.

The Organization's Chairman of its board of Trustees, Stan Mongomongo said more efforts were needed to eradicate sex corruption among female students.

TASAF beneficiaries tasked to start entrepreneurial projects

By Getrude Mbago

BENEFICIARIES of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) grants have been urged to make proper use of the funds and training they receive by initiating small-scale income generating projects to improve their economic well-being.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Public Services Management and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi made the call on Tuesday when visited TASAF

beneficiaries in Kiparang'anda A village in Mkuranga District, Coast Region.

Ndejemi said that without investing on proper use of the funds that beneficiaries receive, they will not see any improvement and the programme will not achieve its intended goals.

He wanted the grant recipients to refrain from lavish spending and instead focus on basic social needs. He said the project aims at supporting the fight against poverty

at household level.

"All beneficiaries should make good use of the knowledge and resources they are receiving to establish income generating activities which will assist them later especially when the programme will end," he said.

He also directed the TASAF coordinators and other leaders in district councils to work closely with officials in the grassroots to ensure that the social protection programme achieves the intended

objectives.

He said the programme's major aim is to help poor households to increase incomes and opportunities for enhancement of livelihoods through established small projects and investments and thus fight abject poverty.

Catherine Kisanga, who represented TASAF's executive director, said the programme does not only provide funds to the beneficiaries but also support beneficiaries utilizes to establish

community savings and investments groups.

According to her, despite dishing out direct grants, TASAF has been investing in providing entrepreneurship and financial training for the beneficiaries for them to utilise the grants in a proper way.

"The current put more efforts in the provision of entrepreneurial and business skills to enable its beneficiaries' engage fully in production activities; establish small

scale industries and businesses within their areas," she said.

She said that through the programme poor families have received support; students are able to attend school as well as obtain services such as health care while others establishing small projects thus break the cycle of poverty.

She added: "The programme has also enabled the beneficiaries to acquire basic services such as food, shelter and health service which they were unable to access."



Tegeta residents look at a lorry that crashed into kiosk yesterday. There were no casualties, said the onlookers. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Police pounce on thirty suspects allegedly processing illegal drugs

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

POLICE in Muheza District Tanga Region has during the first half of this year apprehended at least 30 men and women suspects allegedly processing illegal drugs.

Among the 30 alleged suspects, 10 are accused to have been involved in drug dealing while the rest are accused of crimes related to marijuana.

Muheza Officer Commanding Criminal Investigation Department (OC CID) Superintendent of Police (SP) Sira Soa unveiled the details yesterday in Muheza at an organized event by Gift of Good Hope Foundation a Tanga based non-government organization involved in creating community awareness on the implications of drugs

According to him, at least all

suspects were being arrested from the same neighborhood of Majani Mapana at Tanganyika Ward Muheza township, a place which is famous for dealing local liquor, bhang, cocaine, heroin and khat.

He pointed out Majengo as another neighborhood where women are also involved in the illegal business.

"During January and June this year police in Muheza succeeded to arrest 30 drug addicts and dealers suspects whereas out of those ten are drug dealers whose seven are women at Majani Mapana area, Tanganyika Ward in Muheza" he said.

He added: "Most of the suspected have been arraigned before court of law for trial proceedings accept a few of them who are waiting tests from the chemist to prove;

A suspect in possession of a quarter kilogram ran away after being tipped that police had

searched his house and found heroin."

For his part, Muheza District Psychiatrist Unit Head and District Medical Officer (DMO) Lupiana Sungura noted that for the period of six months from January to June the psychiatry unit registered about 464 people with mental illness caused by various reasons.

340 are in rehab centers while 124 have recovered calling on the community to assist them not to go back to drugs.

Gift of Hope Foundation project manager Abubakari Zuberi said during the period from January to June 173 drug addicts in Muheza of which 26 are women.

He said that through advocacy and creation of public awareness have managed to convince youth to focus on economic activities and avoid peer groups most of which drive them into use of drugs.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING



INVITATION TO STAKEHOLDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING PROCEEDINGS OF THE TASK FORCE ON TAX REFORM IN PREPARATION FOR BUDGET 2022/23

The proceedings of the Task Force on Tax Reform in preparation for Budget 2022/23 are scheduled to get underway in February 2022.

The Task Force provides a structured forum for discussion of various issues relating to tax policy and administration. Its deliberations have constituted a vital input to policy makers for a long period. It has helped to shape the country's tax regime and, through dialogue and analysis, facilitated an effective, transparent and efficient resolution of a number of issues.

The Task Force Secretariat is expected to organise a schedule of meetings with stakeholders for presentations and discussions in this financial year. The Government will take lead by giving an update of policy objectives, agenda and challenges as well as an appraisal of tax policy priorities for Budget 2022/23. This will provide participants with a broad context for this year's proceedings and motivate analysis and discussion on impacts of various proposals in-depth.

The fiscal policy measures aim at improving business environment in order to attract investments, facilitating growth of small and medium business enterprises for sustainable economic growth; enhancing voluntary tax compliance; broadening the tax base; mainstreaming the use of ICT System in tax administration; strengthening enforcement of tax laws in order to address tax evasion challenges and minimize revenue leakages; and streamlining levies and fees in order to improve business and investment environment.

The Task Force invites submission of proposals from Government officials, private sector, civil society, religious organizations, academia, research institutions and other specialists in public finance. The submissions from interested parties should be in writing, stating clearly:-

- Firm(s) Organization(s) or Association(s) being represented;
- The proposed changes in tax or non-tax revenue, including analysis of the sectors, regions or taxpayers that would be affected;

- The projected impact on the economy and Government revenues in the year of implementation and outer years;
- The rationale and justification for the proposed revenue policy changes and, in particular, analysis of the means by which the proposal will help the Government achieve its overarching economic, fiscal and poverty-reduction objectives; and
- Where proposals entail a reduction in Government revenues (even in the short term only), there must be alternative proposals which set out explicit and credible measures consistent with the overall thrust of the Government's fiscal policies to offset the proposed revenue shortfall.

We are looking forward to having a productive engagement and exchange of ideas this year among stakeholders and the Government.

Submissions are accepted with effect from now until **10th February 2022**.

Please submit your proposals to the following address:

**Secretariat Task Force on Tax Reform
Ministry of Finance and Planning,
Policy Analysis Department,
Treasury Square Building (2nd floor),
18 Jakaya Kikwete Road,
P.O Box 2802,
DODOMA.**

E-Mail: mathias.kadebe@hazina.go.tz or oliver.ndvali@hazina.go.tz

For more details/clarifications please call: 0713 694 895 or 0657 558 899
Or visit our website: www.mof.go.tz

Emmanuel M. Tutuba
**PERMANENT SECRETARY – MINISTRY OF
FINANCE AND PLANNING**
December, 2021

DED irked by settlements along wildlife corridors

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

BABATI District Executive Director in Manyara Region, Anna Mbogo has said the main aim to have a wildlife corridor is to make the Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks to continue having wildlife that earn the country foreign exchange.

She said if people continue to make settlements near the corridors, the wildlife will fail to migrate to Tarangire and Lake Manyara in search of water, the situation that will make either of the national parks to become extinct due to lack of wildlife.

She made the remarks here yesterday, saying in order to eradicate wildlife poaching along the corridor, there was the need for education against consuming illicit game meat.

She said: "We want that education to reach to the women at home because they are the ones receiving game meat, as when we decide to make inspections in homes, we shall find evidence of the illicit game meat, and if the husband is away, we shall arrest his wife to tell us where he is," said Mbogo.

She said all these are supposed to be eradicated by educating the women, in order for her to educate their husbands, children and other relatives that poaching was not good because if the wife refuses to accept game meat brought by her husband, illegal poaching will be greatly reduced.

Mbogo added that it would be better for them to be so educated to enable them understand between legal and illegal ways wildlife products are obtained with the aim of abandoning the illegal ways.

Senior Conservation Officer from Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), Wilbright Munuo said wildlife conservation has been facing with challenges due to poaching and illegal wildlife trade.



MAMLAKA YA USIMAMIZI WA BANDARI TANZANIA

TAARIFA KWA UMMA

KUPUNGUZA MSONGAMANO WA MAGARI NDANI YA BANDARI YA DAR ES SALAAM

Mamlaka ya Usimamizi wa Bandari Tanzania (TPA) inapenda kuwataarifu wateja, wadau na umma kwa ujumla kwamba imeanzisha utaratibu mpya wa magari kuingia Bandarini kuanzia tarehe 5 Januari, 2022.

Utaratibu huo wenye lengo la kutatua changamoto ya msongamano wa magari Bandarini utakuwa ifuatavyo:-

- Magari yanayoingia Bandarini yataruhusiwa kwa Idadi maalum "Optimal Number" ambayo itakuwa inapangwa na wahusika wa yadi kulingana na uwezo wao wa kuyahudumia;
- Katika zoezi hili, mteja ataruhusiwa kuingiza magari akiwa amekamilisha taratibu zote za uondoshaji wa mzigo Bandarini (Delivery);
- Kutakuwa na mawasiliano ya karibu kati ya Idara ya Ulinzi, Utekelezaji na Mawakala wa Fordha (Clearing Agents) ili kuweza kujua idadi ya magari inayohitajika kuingia bandarini kwa wakati huo;
- Magari yote hayaruhusiwi kuegushwa barabarani au pembezoni mwa barabara ya Bandari, bali kwenye eneo maalum lililotengwa la EPZA (Shimo la udongo).

Tunawaomba wahusika kuzingatia utaratibu huu ili kuboresha utendaji na kuongeza ufanisi wa Bandari yetu.

**Imetolewa na:
Mkurugenzi Mkuu
Mamlaka ya Usimamizi wa Bandari Tanzania
S. L. P 9184
DAR ES SALAAM
Tovuti: www.ports.go.tz
Barua pepe: dg@ports.go.tz
Simu: 0800110032 na 08001147**

**BARRICK GOLD MINE
BULYANHULU, KAHAMA**

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE (Auctioneer) under instructions received BARRICK GOLD MINE, Bulyanhulu, Kahama shall sell assorted scrap machines and vehicles by public auction on Saturday January 8th, 2022 commencing from 10.00 am. The auction will take place at Barrick Bulyanhulu – Kakola

Items to be Auctioned:

No	Items	Condition	Duty
9	Heavy Duty Dumping Trucks	Scrap	Not Paid
22	Work Platform Machine	Scrap	Not Paid
4	Forklift	Scrap	Not Paid
4	Hydraulic Mobile Crane (Mine)	Scrap	Not Paid
7	Wheel loader & CAT Grader	Scrap	Not Paid
73	TOYOTA L/cruiser HardTop, PickUps & GX S/Wagon	Scrap	Not Paid
2	Scania Concrete mixer/Bowser	Poor	Not Paid
4	M/Benz, TATA, KW Truck, Magrius & Nissan Trucks, Crane, MiniBus & Concrete mixer	Poor	Not Paid

All Items may be inspected at Barrick Gold Mine Bulyanhulu – Kakola from 5th to 7th January 2022 as from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- ALL bidders must be registered as "scrap dealer" and obtain a permit from NEMC.
- ALL bidders must deposit a Commitment fee of Tsh. 50 Million in Barrick's Citi Bank A/c No. 100542048, Swift : CITITZTZ, A/c Name: BULYANHULU. This amount will count as either part of payment or returned to respective unsuccessful bidder.
- The winning bidder must pay 25% of the bid amount immediately in Barrick's Bank account and the final payment in full within 5 working days by 14th January 2022 at 4.00pm, failure to that, it will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payments will be forfeited.
- All scraps are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- The winning Bidder must remove the scraps after all payments and duty are made by 22nd January 2022 at their own cost.
- All persons entering Barrick's site must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance after submitting a bank slip and NEMC permit.
- ALL Bidders must always wear PPE, Face Mask and carry Hand sanitizers.

For further information contact:
**UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
Mob No: +255 754 284926
E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com**



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION FOR BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGN TO GGML EMPLOYEES 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 a service for provision of behaviour change campaign and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of this service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01298	PROVISION FOR BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGN TO GGML EMPLOYEES

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	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	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered 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 (GGME01298)	60%
Evidence of existing behaviour change guidelines to be used for the uninterrupted delivery of the Behaviour change (guidelines that enable all employees recalibrate to be audited by GGM for compliance)	15%
Provide evidence of experienced manpower compliment and facilities to provide vendor held inventory and the required site services	15%
Details of the approach to be adopted to ensure uninterrupted Behaviour Change to Geita Gold Mine employees.	8.33%
Experience in delivery of behaviour change in the context of the behavior safety, physical and Psychological health and Safety hazards and Risk Controls	8.33%
Provide evidence of the processes to ensure that the Behaviour Change campaign /motivational speeches quality standards are upheld, with quality certification provided when required.	8.33%
Proof practical experience on the understanding Mining methods and Processing requirement in the Gold Mining Industry for awareness creation to Health & Safety in the context of hazards and risk management	5%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01298)** 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 **8.30AM 12TH January 2022** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PORTLAND CEMENT CLASS 42.5, 50KG BAGS TO GEITA GOLD MINE 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 Portland cement class 42.5, 50KG bags and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of these goods as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01350	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PORTLAND CEMENT CLASS 42.5, 50KG BAGS TO GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED.

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	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	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered 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 (GGME01350)	60%
Proof of Dealership Agreement with Twiga Cement, Simba Cement and Dangote stipulating the maximum dealership contract value with proof to Supply Portland Cement, CEM II/B-L 42.5N	20%
Proof of Availability of Warehouse for Storage of Cement in Geita Town with maximum capacity of 8000 Bags	20%
Proof of Ownership of Transportation Trucks with Trailers	20%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01350)** 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 **8.30AM 12TH January 2022** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND CERTIFICATION OF MINEARC 100-MEN REFUGE CHAMBER TO 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 a MineArc 100 Man refuge chamber (Installed and certified) and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this equipment as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01352	SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND CERTIFICATION OF MINEARC 100-MAN REFUGE CHAMBER TO GGML

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	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	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered 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 (GGME01352)	60%
MineArc Series IV Scrubbing Unit	10%
MineArc Drone Scrubbing Unit; 300cfm	5%
MineArc CO2 Scrubbing Chemical Canisters	2%
MineArc CO Scrubbing Chemical Canisters	2%
MineArc rated low voltage aircon Includes Condenser and Inverter; 7kw	2%
MineArc Battery Box; 36 Battery Capacity	1%
MineArc rated 5KVA 48 Volt Inverter / Charger	1%
MineArc Cylinder Rack; 10 Cylinders [Excl. Cylinders]	1%
MineArc Cylinder Rack; 4 Cylinders [Excl. Cylinders]	1%
MineArc Compressed Air Filtration System	5%
MineArc Oxygen Candle Kit	2%
MineArc Bulkhead Door; Right Hinge	2%
Refuge Operational Signage for MineArc operation (English & Swahili); Mounted	2%
Aura-FX Rack Mounted for SIV Control System for MineArc refuge chambers	10%
MineArc Booster Fan; Air Mixing for battery specifically for battery operation	2%
MineArc approve transformer: 1000V - 240VAC Stepdown for safe operation in proximity of personnel	2%
MineArc First Aid Kit for basic first aid in line with signage and documentation in refuge chamber	2%
GuardIAN Remote Monitoring & Diagnostics for MinArc refuge chambers	1%
MineArc approved refuge chamber Chemical Toilet	2%
2 x MineArc specialist Technicians for 10 Days with tools, piping & cabling	5%
Total	100%
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
100 Man MineArc refuge chamber supply and installation and certification- Certified 36 hour entrapment duration for 600m ³ space (110m ² area) for 100 people. To be supplied with MineArc (Mine standard) system capable of 300CFM scrubbing doing more than 1.5 full air changes per hour. This will require dedicated life support controllers, 112,000/ of Medical compressed oxygen, Air conditioning for sensible and latent heat of personnel, UPS (36h entrapment capability)	
The supply of MineArc specific components is key as Scrubbing units, canisters and parts are interoperable and maintainable between all underground refuge chambers currently installed.	
The importance of 100 lives requires that a trusted and well supported system is in place for the use in an emergency.	

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01352)** 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 **8.30AM 12TH January 2022** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

-END OF ADVERTISEMENT-



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION OF AIR TRAVEL BOOKING SERVICES TO GETA 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 air travel booking services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01358	PROVISION OF AIR TRAVEL BOOKING SERVICES TO GGML

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	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	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered 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 (GGME01358)	60%
Registered with IATA & have access to approved Global Distribution System (GDS) to enable direct access to airline booking information	20%
Reliable reporting system (MIS Report) on cost, airlines, routes, and frequencies	10%
Provision of 24/7 service level, hotline facilities and customer support services	10%
Ability to arrange local and international bookings for Travel Insurance, hotels, car hire, chauffeur services, visa services, meet and greet services, and holiday packages	10%
Extensive Global network presence, affiliations, and partnerships	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01358)** 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 **8.30AM 12TH January 2022** (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-

Industrial clusters better answer on the revival of older industries

A VIABLE solution is on the horizon on the oft-repeated issue of reviving older industries, a situation that was at centre stage during a portion of the fifth phase government, after prolonged or interminable negotiations with potential investors during the fourth phase and earlier. On the one hand this looks like a new idea, forming industrial clusters where the land or zone covered by a major dilapidated industry is used as a central point for a number of industries, including a portion of its product line where possible. It is a refinement of two ideas being merged, of industrial processing zones and revival of older industries.

There is similarly the feeling that forming industrial clusters where old industries used to stand - and indeed still stand but are scarcely functioning, let alone making a profit - is the result of a drawn out search for answers. It is the outcome of painstaking interrogation of government attitude on older strategic industries like the Friendship Textile Mills not far from the city centre in Dar es Salaam, General Tyre (EA) Ltd in Arusha, Mangula Machine Tools factory in Morogoro, and a series of other textile industries. The list is longer but during the fifth phase the idea of Treasury-financed revivals shone, but it collapsed.

This orientation was itself the final curve of a prolonged search for investors who actually revive the factories as they stood, doing the same thing as before, that policy makers reaffirmed for two decades, during the third and fourth phase

governments.

This outlook was an aspect of a budgetary format tied to foreign aid and directed at recurrent expenditure, where the outlook on foreign investment was more of a regulatory than a proactive mood, despite preambles to numerous investment promotion edicts pushed by the World Bank in particular. Tying an investor to an old product line was a 'take it or leave it' formula.

What was missing from this outlook was that actually more than one issue - reviving an industry - was involved, as there is also an issue of what product is best for that particular place, when it comes to the use of existing infrastructure, or location in a marketing and raw material supply aspect.

Turning policy ears to this direction had to wait an affirmative position from top government levels that the Treasury wasn't going to refinance old industries, which waited until the fifth phase. In the earlier period no such affirmation came, and alternative solutions weren't discussed either, leaving the door open for Treasury refinancing.

This new outlook would arise from a serious feasibility study on what should be done in the closed major factories. It is of this phase but it also needs to be credited to the fifth phase, by closing out indulgent use of public funds for parastatal subsistence, though a few survived the broom, like Air Tanzania (now fully revived) and the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA), not to speak of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC). The list is limited.

World Bank land titles project shouldn't just focus on equality

EFFORTS are being made to rapidly escalate land surveying and issuance of titles, but while the rationality of the project is clear, precise economic purposes are diverse - and at times not even discussed in an appreciable manner. What is being brought out by remarks by leading officials in the project is chiefly tied to the tripartite kinds of titles being issued, for which perhaps not much discussion is being conducted on how far each type of title is helpful for lending purposes. Titles are different things when it comes to bank financing, representing different kinds of trouble for banks if case of attachment demand.

The first group of titles is one of individual occupancy, which appeared to be the more numerous in the sample reported about, and that should relate to mapping activity in the past few months. The other kind is dual occupancy title of two spouses, which by implication would often relate to a living house, and as a habit banks don't want to lend against such houses as getting people out of a house is troublesome. It is far easier to remove tenants as just a formal notice is required, or a factory, hotel or such other premises.

A big group of projected titles is the customary land occupancy type, which is issued to individuals but on the background of clan ownership of land, or legally known as 'village land', though villages aren't social formations in relation to land but families and clans. This is an area

where attitudes clash between policy makers and the business community, as the responsible minister repeatedly issues calls for people to obtain customary land titles and then go for bank loans. As a matter of fact they could be served better in a savings and credit cooperative society, units that are closer to villages, thus a clansman can buy the plot.

If such land is taken away by a bank via court order and handed to a stranger, he would scarcely survive the place as war would have been declared with his neighbours, on the basis of incontestable claims of clan possession, not the single fellow failing to pay his loan. In that sense one suspects the reason for insistence on lending against customary titles, as it means the lenders would appeal to the government on loan recovery and eventually they would be compelled to write off the bad loans. The collateral is useless.

For one thing, it is unclear if there is adequate pressure for enhancement of titles towards individual titles, meanwhile as some stakeholders in the project wish for the land duality formula or customary land titles handed to women, as they form the main land tilling group. As a matter of fact the purpose of issuing titles isn't to continue the land tilling economy but to ease transfer to a person with capital, and get capital to do 'zero-grazing' sort of economic activity. Focusing on gender instead of individualisation of land occupancy shall diminish the impact of the titling drive.

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Achieving global sustainability starts in Africa

By Kirstin Linnenkoper

ONLY about 1 per cent of the world's recycled metals comes from the African continent,' says Raymond Onovwugun, CEO of Romco Metals. His company is hoping to boost that figure with a new recycling plant in Ghana and he has ambitious plans for expansion.

Every quarter, Romco Metals recycles more than 5 000 tonnes of non-ferrous scrap, mostly aluminium and copper, shipping it around the world to well-known companies including major automotive manufacturers, and American metals giant Alcoa. The company is headquartered in London and its sites in Ghana and Nigeria have a processing capacity of approximately 1 500 tonnes per month. Ceo Raymond Onovwugun (pictured) proudly states that one site can process the equivalent of 34 Olympic size swimming pools full of scrap annually.

'But we have solutions,' Onovwugun says with great enthusiasm. 'That's why we're expanding our recycling activities throughout Africa in those areas where it's needed most. In the process of doing so, we're adding hundreds of jobs.'

Seeing his ideas come to fruition after seven years of planning and investing is incredibly rewarding. 'Being able to support hundreds of people further highlights that milestone. We're not just a recycling enterprise. We're a social enterprise.'

Recycling powerhouse

By adopting an active approach, Onovwugun believes Africa can become a recycling powerhouse. The proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating: Romco increased its revenue by over 900% during the pandemic, has set up a trade hub in Dubai, and has future plans for eco-initiatives Africa (like plastic waste clean-up expeditions) is projected to be home to almost two billion people by 2040.

'If we want to realise our climate goals, we have to significantly increase our recycling capacity,' Onovwugun insists. 'That's the most effective way to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.' It makes perfect sense to capitalise on the abundant presence of critical metals lying in dusty drawers, garages and landfills.

According to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the 55 million tonnes of waste generated in South Africa per annum is worth almost R 26 billion (EUR 1.5 billion) per year.

Considering Nigeria's population generates some 32 million tonnes (of which 2.5 million tonnes are plastic), the pay-off could be enormous. The entrepreneur envisions sustainability taking a big leap forward in developing countries.

He cites international efforts to industrialise Africa, with more people wanting to invest in extracting resources from the 'urban mine' rather than stripping the earth of materials. (Ghana is the leading nation in Africa for gold mining, which is a 150 tonnes a year business. Other popular mined materials include bauxite, manganese and silver.)

From plumbing to scrapping

For Onovwugun, recycling isn't just about profit. 'It's a good business model; but there's not just a capitalist driver. The alternative makes no sense.' His story is certainly a unique one. He set up his first recycling plant in Nigeria in 2015 but before that he was a plumber in the UK, running a very successful company. 'It's a sector that generates a lot of waste; I gradually got a glimpse of the end-of-life market, the potential for scrap processing,' he recalls.

'I kind of bolted that service onto the existing company, although I felt my focus shifted more and more towards the scrap part of it. Visiting clients, I saw there was so much material available for processing. Just because it couldn't be repaired, it didn't mean it was worthless. I thought this business model was fascinating and started reading and learning what I could about recycling.'

Ultimately, Onovwugun realised he wanted to be on the different end of the value chain. He switched careers, sold his business, and used the money he had saved to establish a recycling firm. He hasn't looked back since. Romco has grown into a multinational employing more than 300 people in three countries. Better still, the recycling company earned a record EUR 4.9 million in Q1 2021, which is 718% up on Q1 2020. 'We were able to process 487% more metals in the first quarter of the year,' Onovwugun reports.

Imagining where his company and the African recycling sector as a whole is going, he reflects: 'Progress is only possible through bold investments.' The plan is very clear: seven recycling plants in operation by 2026. That means five more facilities within five years.

City never sleeps

The recycler, who describes

himself as an ambitious yet level-headed guy, realises that durable business growth is only possible with a practical, systematic mindset. He sees much unexplored potential waiting in Africa. 'When I left university, I knew that the continent has various developing markets with some really booming economies,' Onovwugun states. This is especially true for Nigeria, from where his parents emigrated to the UK in the 1970s.

Onovwugun was born and raised in London. 'I remember visiting Lagos for the first time back in 2014 when I was still trying to set up my business. It's the largest city in the country, and one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world. Seeing all the hustle and bustle, the big city life, with my own eyes made me realise we have an entirely wrong perception of life in Africa.'

Nigeria has a gross domestic product of almost US\$ 450 billion - the highest on the continent. 'Places like Lagos - a city that never sleeps - are much like the ones we have in the UK; alive with activity and commerce. It's not all rural settlements, landfills and children with sad eyes like we see on television. What we think we know is only a small fraction of what Africa has to offer. It's a one-sided image that needs to be updated,' he argues. 'Almost as soon as I got off the airplane I thought to myself: this is the place I can grow my business and have an immediate global impact.'

Personal connection

The 31-year-old remembers all too well where his venture began. 'The journey into Africa started at a familiar location,' he laughs. 'In my auntie's backyard, where I built a small shed.' The spin-off operation barely covered a quarter of an acre. Fast forward to now and Romco Metals' facilities span eight acres with activities in Ghana having recently been expanded to a site in the neighbouring Burkino Faso.

When asked where he spends most of his time, Onovwugun chuckles. 'I travel a lot,' he replies. 'I'm abroad two weeks at a time, if not longer, at regular intervals. Sometimes I have to check where I am when I wake up,' he jokes. 'But, you know, it's how I get things done.'

That's the main thing. Some ceos have other people run their business but I want to know what is going on at all my facilities - not just the ones close to home.' He wants to know his team personally and check that

everything is running smoothly.

'I don't like wasting time. I have to keep busy. It's how I maintain the connection to what I do; I've got to feel it.' In fact, Onovwugun only got back from his honeymoon the day before a scheduled zoom call with Recycling International. 'I've been back in the UK a whole two months now,' he adds.

With the pandemic more under control and vaccines being rolled out across the globe, he is eager to resume his business trips, undaunted by the shadow of coronavirus mutations headlining the news. 'I don't want to jinx it: I was lucky enough not to get sick in the last year-and-a-half.' As fate would have it, he got malaria and typhoid during a company visit in 2016. 'That was a gruelling experience; I was in hospital for over two weeks trying to recover. Trust me, I'll never again underestimate how important your health is. It's why we enforced strict rules early on during the pandemic to keep our crew safe.' And he adds: 'I'm grateful I don't get knocked down easily.'

A bold, new standard Onovwugun's family couldn't have guessed that the enterprise would pick up speed so quickly. 'We're aiming at getting a revenue of close to US\$ 30 million this year. Perhaps 50 million. By next year, I'm hoping to realise a revenue between US\$ 80 million and US\$ 100 million. All in all, I'd say we've become a reasonably-sized player in Africa and in the general recycling market.'

Meanwhile, the strong demand for both recycled copper and aluminium in the electronics and automotive market is sure to cement future growth. 'Modern vehicles are getting more lightweight, so aluminium is becoming more important. And e-mobility has been notably pushing new car sales.' Based on these trends, the role of recyclers will be more prominent - especially with increased awareness about resource scarcity and pollution due to mining/producing parts made from virgin materials. 'Our industry can really make a difference,' Onovwugun states.

It's clear his confidence is based on his passion for the industry and seeing the bigger picture. 'I want Romco to be at the forefront of recycling in Africa, showing other players how it's done.' Hopefully, more recyclers will join the game and thus collectively raise the standard of waste management. That way, the circular economy may become the new standard.

Here are four insights towards career growth



ANOTHER year almost gone; the festive season is still here but life must go on after this period right?

Family, career, name it. Life will forge ahead in all spheres but are we just brainstorming around this or really put in the work? Well, this is a question for me and you that should be answered on quite an individual level.

About career advancement, are we holding onto daily professional routines in this ever changing and dynamic world or leaning new ways to make our lives better? Literally speaking, only you and I can come up with an honest reply to this question but do we have it?

Your career could be anything you want it to be. As a matter of fact, we build a career at an individual level. A career is yours to nurture and develop and is at your own personal reach to take charge of and no one else's.

Being an amateur or a master at a certain profession, or maybe an entrepreneur juggling between businesses, you may at some point be at wits end and in between a pretty much unfulfilling job and failed entrepreneurial ventures and probably wouldn't find the right way to exit. Don't carry this discomfort into the next year. You always have a choice, remember this.

You might also be surrounded by either limited or no opportunities that befit your profession in sight but isn't necessity the mother of inventions?

Well, the journey to taking charge of your career isn't a walk in the park but eventually it will be worth all the toil. If you're not sure which direction your career should go in, you're thinking about making a career change, or you just want to feel

more fulfilled in your career, these valuable insights might help as we await the next year and assess the current one.

Rediscover Yourself

This means taking a quick assessment of your personality: what excites you? What sets your soul on fire? What energizes you to keep doing regardless of the uncertainties? Or could even do for free, holding such an in-depth Q & A session with yourself certainly helps you rediscover what you truly desire in a career because we all want to enjoy and actually love our careers.

Identify what you are good at

Well, you have searched within yourself and might have discovered that you love to do lots of activities. Then it's high time to forget about what you are passionate about and just focus on what you are good at. Being attentive to compliments and also recalling what made you feel successful also helps you identify your distinctive strengths.

Prepare your CV

Now this is where you make the final shot, do the best. First and foremost, your CV should clearly demonstrate your skills and experience. Always update your CV to meet the requirements of the job advertised to maintain a level

of professionalism.

Keep it simple and professional, and identify which industry sector your CV is destined for and highlight the right aspects of your experience for them.

Embark on the job search journey

Job hunting isn't a fortnight activity, it's neither a piece, it requires work, effort and lots of commitment. Visit recruitment agencies' websites, create and save an online resume and never shy away from expressing your professional skills there.

Use social media platforms such as LinkedIn for meeting and interacting with other professionals and potential employers. These in turn build your network. Network online and also physically as it helps you to easily access internal job vacancies which is a good way of getting your foot in the door early.

Last but not least, remain positive regardless of rejections; if you are not shortlisted, keep trying different other places or even by landing yourself an internship or volunteer programme to perfect your skills.

These insights will ensure you are in full control of your career success hence help you perform and give you numerous opportunities to advance today and years ahead.



Women's rights groups welcome new legal protections against sexual violence in the maldives, including marital rape

NEW DELHI, India

Marital rape has now been criminalized without exception in the Maldives, as part of a raft of significant amendments to the Sexual Offences Act (2014). The First Amendment to the Sexual Offences Act was ratified on 6 December 2021 by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

The move has been welcomed by national and international women's rights groups which have been calling for greater legal protection against sexual violence.

In the Maldives, sexual assault has traditionally been viewed as a private matter. However, research-backed evidence has enabled campaigners and survivors to build public awareness.

The ground breaking Women's Life and Health Experiences (WHLE) study by the Maldives Ministry of Health (2007) revealed that one in five women between the ages of 15 and 49 experienced intimate partner violence and one in eight women were subjected to childhood sexual violence.

The efforts of activists have fuelled growing recognition at all levels including policy, law and public awareness that the State must do more to effectively prevent, address and respond to widespread violence against women and girls.

A high profile case involving an attempted rape on a safari boat in the harbour of Hulhumale in June 2020 resulted in public protests and increased calls for police accountability in rape cases. The outcry prompted lawmakers to propose amendments to existing sexual violence legislation, including the nullification of certain discriminatory provisions from the Sexual Offences Act.

Hailed as an important step towards ensuring access to justice for all survivors, the reforms just signed into law improve the defini-



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Credit: UN Women

tion of rape, sexual injury, and sexual assault, and apply such offences regardless of marital status.

Previously, marital rape was only criminalised under certain limited circumstances, specifically when the marriage was in the process of dissolution, when one of the parties had applied for a divorce, if the couple was living separately under a mutual agreement, or if the husband knowingly passed a dangerous sexually transmitted disease to the wife.

The only marital rape conviction in the country was issued by the High Court on 1 October 2020. The victim in the case died from the assault – the posthumously reached verdict was possible through the narrow definition of rape in the law at the time (as the victim was separated from her husband).

Therefore, the current amendment criminalising marital rape without exceptions is a significant milestone in sexual violence legal history in the Maldives.

New amendments to the law also specify the provision of rape evidence kits at all government hospitals and health centres, and training for staff on using the kits, including applying a "victim-centred and trauma-informed" approach.

In addition, the Maldives Police Service has been mandated to use rape evidence kits while investigating sexual offence cases. It is anticipated that the implementation of these changes will help to increase the investigative robustness of rape cases and ensure survivors

have a better chance to access justice than before.

In a further improvement, certain discriminatory provisions have been removed. Previously, the court could throw out rape cases on the grounds that there was a possibility of false testimony being submitted by the victim assessed based on the so-called "dignity and discipline of the victim".

This had left the door open for the introduction of evidence relating to the past sexual history of the victim, regardless of its relevance as to whether or not she had consented to the particular sexual act in the case.

The court was also able to consider "the relationship between the parties and the transactions between them prior to the offence" and construe that on these grounds it was improbable that an offence had occurred.

Another progressive amendment is the removal of a provision which previously allowed the denial of sexual violence if there was a long delay between the occurrence of the incident and its reporting, and if the incident was not narrated to another person in the intervening time.

International human rights standards state that there should be no adverse inference due to delay in reporting since there are many valid reasons why survivors do not report rape immediately.

The deletion of these discriminatory provisions from the statute books is extremely welcome as they enabled the course of justice

to be perverted, and gender stereotyping and secondary victimisation of survivors during legal proceedings.

For survivors of sexual violence, the new amendments have eliminated some of the barriers to justice identified by Equality Now and Dignity Alliance International in a joint report Sexual Violence in South Asia: Legal and Other Barriers to Justice for Survivors, which calls on the Maldives, along with Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, to take urgent action in addressing sexual violence, improving access to justice for survivors, and holding perpetrators to account.

Legally permitting impunity for rape within marriage treats women as the property of their husbands and takes away their rights over their own body. By criminalising marital rape without exception, the Maldives is now more in line with international human rights standards and aligned with other countries in the South Asian region such as Nepal and Bhutan.

However, marital rape is still not a criminal offence in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, where human rights activists continue to advocate for legal reform.

Uthema is a Maldivian women's rights NGO that advocates for gender equality and has been calling for better legal protection and access to legal redress for those subjected to sexual and gender-based violence.

Uthema congratulates the Government of the Maldives on this important positive change to the law and calls on all relevant State authorities to ensure that the law is fully and effectively implemented.

The legal modifications just passed have opened up avenues to justice for survivors, and introduce a much-needed deterrent to would-be perpetrators. This is crucially needed to address the problem of underreporting of sexual assaults, which is very low due to the system-

wide service and law enforcement gaps.

Ensuring public and stakeholder awareness of the amendments, improving low reporting rates for rape, and improving investigation and prosecution procedures, are now the need of the hour.

The Maldives has taken a significant and progressive step to achieve justice for survivors of sexual violence, particularly within marriage. In a socio-cultural context where conservative forces continue to advocate for unequal marital relations and archaic patriarchal notions that marriage is a contract of ownership of women's bodies for men, this legal shift sends an important message to all Maldivian people.

That message is that women in the Maldives have an inherent legal right to bodily autonomy and dignity as a separate human person deserving of equality with men, security, safety, optimal physical and mental health and wellbeing within marriage, free from sexual or any other form of violence.

For media enquiries please contact: Tara Carey, Equality Now, Head of Media Manager, E: tcarey@equalitynow.org; M: +447971556340 (WhatsApp)

Equality Now is an international human rights organisation that works to protect and promote the rights of women and girls around the world by combining grassroots activism with international, regional and national legal advocacy. For more details go to www.equalitynow.org, Facebook @equalitynoworg, and Twitter @equalitynow.

Uthema is a women's human rights NGO registered in 2016, advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment in the Maldives.

Divya Srinivasan is Equality Now South Asia Consultant, and Humaida Abdulghafoor, Uthema Co-Founder and Member

Biden should add development to the next summit for democracy - and convene a development summit

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Biden just hosted The Summit for Democracy to demonstrate the advantages of democracy in the global competition with authoritarian regimes. The U.S. can succeed in this competition by demonstrating to the people of developing countries (i.e., the vast majority of the world's population) how coupling democracy and development is the best course to improve their lives.

The U.S.'s ability to deploy this potent combination is an important advantage it enjoys over authoritarian competitors. For that reason, the Biden administration should add development to its democracy initiative.

As Biden has stressed: "We are in the midst of a fundamental debate about the future and direction of our world ... between those who argue ... autocracy is the best way forward ... and those who understand that democracy is essential."

Similarly, he explained to a Joint Session of the U.S. Congress: "We're in competition with China and other countries to win the 21st century." And in this competition, he said, democracy must prevail: "We have to prove that our model isn't a relic of our history; it's the single best way to revitalize the promise of our future."

The December summit was designed to do precisely that. Over 100 countries were invited to participate, with representatives from governments, civil society and the private sector. The number of countries and breadth of representation shows the Biden administration's ambition.

The summit was organized around three themes: defending against authoritarianism, addressing and fighting corruption and promoting respect for human rights. These are important topics when considering what a vibrant democracy can and should provide to its citizens. But there is a critical fourth theme missing from the summit: the power of democracies to improve the lives of the multitudes in developing countries suffering from inadequate standards of living.

Billions in these countries struggle to meet basic needs in food, shelter, health, education, sanitation and more. Too many families face daily threats of malnutrition, inadequate sanitation, insecurity, and generalized poverty. Too often, unreliable energy and transport systems, as well as corruption and repression, prevent families from raising their incomes to improve their lives. The terror that COVID-19 constitutes for impoverished countries illustrates the



challenge.

The U.S. government needs to show the world's people that democracies provide the best promise to improve their lives and to protect their families. The strategy should not be anchored in merely displaying that the world's wealthiest countries are democracies. Rather, the strategy needs to establish that these wealthy democracies and the system they embody are the best equipped to improve the standards of living of the people of the developing world.

To win a global competition, it is important to speak to the global audience, and most of that audience resides in developing countries (over 5 billion people outside of China). Moreover, it is in these countries that populations will grow the most - 2 billion more people by 2050, with more than half of that growth occurring in Africa.

China has understood the importance of this audience, as epitomized by its massive trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative to finance infrastructure and other projects in developing countries. For various commentators in Washington, this initiative is less about assistance and more about Beijing's strategy to advance its geopolitical interests to the detriment of the U.S.

Yet, irrespective of the motivation, developing countries have been taking note of both China's growing overseas assistance, as well of its development suc-

cesses in reducing poverty and raising incomes domestically.

But improving the quality of people's lives is not only about more infrastructure or improved material conditions. It is also about social and political dimensions and, importantly, about freedoms (as reflected, for example, in the UN declaration on development).

This includes freedom from fear and oppression, the right to expression, to participate in politics and the right of minorities to the same opportunities as the majority. Importantly, these are elements that a vibrant democracy should deliver, and an authoritarian system is poorly equipped to provide.

Unfortunately, several of today's democracies, including in many developing countries, are falling short in delivering on democracy's promise. For example, minority ethnic groups in various countries are being discriminated against, or even oppressed, by the majority (a torment that is more prevalent in and arguably endemic to authoritarian regimes).

So, as Biden has stressed, democracies must do better: "We have to defend [democracy], fight for it, strengthen it, renew it." For these reasons, the three announced themes of the summit are indeed important.

And yet they are insufficient in and of themselves to win the global competition. Providing the conditions to raise people out of poverty and to promote in-

clusive prosperity free from fear is a critical and complementary fourth theme that would speak to people's aspirations across the developing world.

While there was some discussion of economic development in connection with the summit, it was too limited. So, in addition to new commitments on countering authoritarianism, etc., the democracy initiative of the Biden administration needs to catalyze substantial and meaningful action to better fight poverty and deprivation in poorer countries.

Among other things, this should include increased funding and more technical support from wealthy democracies to developing countries, but also commitments from the governments of the poorer nations to foster the conditions domestically for fair and inclusive growth.

The U.S. has historically understood the strategic importance of coupling development and democracy, sponsoring organizations such as the World Bank, UN Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The wars of the last century demonstrated the benefits of a world in which the U.S. democracy surpassed authoritarian regimes - and also that the U.S. and other countries were safer in a world filled with vibrant democracies. This dynamic helps to explain why the U.S. has remained the biggest provider of over-

seas development assistance, notwithstanding fluctuating domestic political support. But there is growing international competition.

Democracy is a powerful system to be deployed globally to raise standards of living while promoting individual liberties and freedom from oppression. Authoritarian systems cannot stand up to that promise. Democracy's leaders, including from many of the globe's richest countries, need to demonstrate what they and democracy can provide to the world's have-nots.

That is key to any strategy to win the competition of the 21st century. To this end, President Biden should, following on his earlier Leaders Summit on Climate and this Summit for Democracy, convene a "Summit for Development" that addresses the poverty and other challenges, as well as the aspirations, of the world's disadvantaged.

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CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Special Correspondent

HOPE Consortium supports UNICEF, COVAX by transporting key ultra-cold freezers to Africa

THE Abu Dhabi-led initiative delivers 65 ultra-cold freezers, enabling over 20 African nations to scale immunization programmes using vaccines requiring ultra-cold storage

Following the UAE's multilateral in-kind contribution and commitment to UNICEF to support COVAX in its global vaccine distribution efforts, the HOPE Consortium and UNICEF have entered into an agreement to support delivery of 65 ultra-cold freezers to Africa. The freezers are necessary for COVID-19 vaccines requiring ultra-cold storage and to enable African nations to efficiently absorb incoming vaccine supplies recently donated by the United States of America.

The delivery stands as a testament to the HOPE Consortium's commitment to contribute to the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Facilitated by HOPE Consortium partners and other logistics providers, the shipment will reach 21 African nations, including Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eswatini, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Sao Tome, and Zambia.

Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for International Development Affairs, United Arab Emirates, Sultan Mohammed Al Shamsi, said: "The UAE remains committed to doing our part to mitigate the effects of the pandemic by helping countries overcome the logistical and technical challenges associated with the delivery of large-scale vaccination programmes. Our partnership with UNICEF plays a vital role in helping implement an effective global response to



Covid-19: Hope Consortium to transport ultra-cold freezers for vaccines to Africa

COVID-19, particularly within Africa. We are proud to support international efforts such as COVAX by dedicating the unique services of the HOPE Consortium."

The COVAX mission seeks to ensure that vaccine supplies are equitably distributed to the world's population. However, many nations face logistical

limitations in their capacity to receive and safely store the temperature-sensitive vaccine supplies. To that end, the 65 ultra-cold freezers are a necessary preparatory strategy to enhance cold chain capabilities within recipient countries in anticipation of incoming deliveries of vaccines requiring storage at ultra-cold temperatures.

Etleva Kadilli, Director of UNICEF's Supply Division, said: "These deliveries of ultra-cold freezers mark an important step towards equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. This critical infrastructure will boost the capacity of African countries to scale COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and will also support the management

of other vaccines that may require ultra-cold storage temperatures. UNICEF is pleased to work with partners like the HOPE Consortium to support governments to strengthen health systems for the COVID-19 response and beyond - making them resilient for the future."

Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, Chairman of

the Executive Committee, the HOPE Consortium, and Managing Director and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, stated: "Abu Dhabi's strategic location as a medical and life sciences hub coupled with the HOPE Consortium's ultra-cold chain capabilities make us a natural partner to support COVAX's global mission. Since no one is safe until everyone is safe, it is imperative to ensure that all nations across the world possess the capabilities required to store and administer a wide array of vaccines globally available. By working with UNICEF, Etihad and our logistics partners together, we are committed to do our part in helping establish the necessary cold chain infrastructure needed to deliver hope and the necessary supplies to communities in need and help chart a path towards a lasting recovery"

The HOPE Consortium, along with its partners, has developed one of the most extensive end-to-end vaccine supply chains, capable of delivering millions of vaccines from the point of manufacture to the point of immunization in support of its global efforts against the pandemic. In addition, it has developed a vaccine hub in Abu Dhabi that can accommodate over 120 million vaccines at temperatures of +8 °C to -30 °C at any time, and hosts the UAE's largest 'Freezer Farm,' which can store over 11 million vaccine doses requiring the ultra-cold temperature of -70 °C. This is a major area of expertise where the HOPE Consortium brings together global leaders in logistics, technology, and supply chains.

Abu Dhabi Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Committee updates procedure to enter Abu Dhabi emirate from within the UAE by requiring green pass for vaccinated individuals and a negative PCR test result for unvaccinated

Members of the Women's Farming Syndicate (WFS) roast baobab fruit seeds in Domboshava, Mashonaland East Province, Zimbabwe

By Special Correspondent,

Harare

EARLY in the morning in Domboshava, a village near Harare, two women were gathering herbs in a lush green forest.

A branch at a time, the women carefully pruned the shrubs, making sure they leave the plants in good health.

Locally known as Zumbani or Lippia Javanica by its botanical name, the plant is believed to possess medicinal value, and has become widely sought after during the COVID-19 pandemic, as it is believed to be helpful in treating flu-like symptoms.

A stone's throw away, by a rocky mountain edge, two women could be seen plucking flowery plants from the ground.

As clouds gathered from a distance, they continued picking the herbs before dashing back home with their treasured collections.

At their workstation, two elderly women sorted dried plant roots from traditional handmade woven baskets. Another woman effortlessly pounded some baobab fruit seeds using traditional handcrafted wooden mortar and pestle.

The women are members of the Women's Farming Syndicate (WFS), an organisation that aims to eradicate poverty among

rural women through sustainable agribusiness and the use of traditional knowledge systems.

Their wide range of products include traditional herbs, tea, spices, traditional handicrafts and various products made from wild plants and fruits.

The products are natural with no artificial additives and are handmade by rural women.

Founder and national coordinator of WFS, Tsitsi Machingauta said the goal of the organization is to create value by harnessing resources widely available in the community.

"As the Woman's Farming Syndicate we are using what is readily available within our environments to create products that are marketable both locally, and internationally to actually generate sustainable livelihoods for ourselves," Machingauta said.

Inspired by her grandmother, who had vast knowledge of plants, Machingauta said the idea to commercialize traditional knowledge systems came about out of a need to find a sustainable income.

While indigenous knowledge systems in treating diseases remain one of the most valuable intellectual resources owned by rural communities in Zimbabwe, Machingauta said it has been the



Members of the Women's Farming Syndicate (WFS) roast baobab fruit seeds in Domboshava, Mashonaland East Province, Zimbabwe

least mobilized resource for sustainable development.

"So I realized that if we then leverage on these traditional knowledge systems to have sustainable livelihoods for women, it means that women can actually have decent lives where they are, with what they have within their communities, at their fingertips," Machingauta said.

"Through this initiative, the wom-

en's farming syndicate has enabled women to have decent livelihoods and to have a living wage, through the traditional knowledge systems, and through being able to commercialize it," she added.

Local people have a long history of plant usage for medicinal purposes.

In most cases, practitioners, who are usually senior citizens, provide services based on traditional medi-

cal knowledge of local plants free of charge, or for a small fee.

Despite the increasing acceptance of traditional medicine, the rich indigenous knowledge is not adequately documented and is mostly passed on from generation to generation.

While the Zimbabwean government formally recognizes traditional medicine, traditional healers have remained largely marginalized in

most medical circles.

Machingauta said indigenous knowledge systems are a valuable national resource. Therefore, ensuring their protection should be a national priority.

She said China offers valuable lessons on how traditional knowledge systems can be used in the modern era, saying the Asian country has managed to preserve traditional knowledge for centuries.

Machingauta believed that the best way to preserve the natural environment is to ensure that ordinary people reap economic benefits from their immediate surroundings.

She said since the community started to financially benefit from her initiative, people have started to cherish their natural environment.

And this also encouraged people in local communities to also start to appreciate the value of forests, traditional fruits, and vegetables, because they are now generating an income for the community, Machingauta said.

"We are key custodians of the environment, and this really shows that we are key players in decision making," she said.

Machingauta said given the benefits of traditional knowledge systems, it is imperative that they are promoted for wider use.

Children address unequal access to education during pandemic

DUBAI

In the whirl of effort nations are making to combat COVID-19, the powerful role that children and young people can play in overcoming the harmful effects of school closures is too easily overlooked.

Children are making a difference on their own within their families, schools, and communities, while also joining forces with adults in countless compelling ways. Their efforts offer us all much hope and inspiration. But we need to do so much more to ensure they can all get back to school, and safely.

At EXPO 2020 DUBAI, now underway after a postponement, the spotlight is on the grassroots efforts and remarkable actions children themselves are taking to mitigate the global learning crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Wear My Shoes" Award, organized by Arigatou International and sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities, will be given on 19 November at the EXPO to five grassroots organizations who made outstanding contributions to mitigating the educational crisis during the pandemic in 2020-21; four of these projects were co-led by children.



The award is one part of a larger campaign organized for this year's World Day of Prayer and Action for Children, celebrated globally on and around November 20.

The award specifically recognizes exceptional efforts that focused on the most vulnerable and excluded children who were hit hardest by the pandemic and had no access to education, and which also explicitly addressed their mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Each winner will receive US\$5,000 to sup-

port their continuing activities.

Increasingly, organizations working to improve the lives of children are involving them in shaping and implementing the decisions affecting their lives, fulfilling one of the key child rights set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

By recognizing the participation and engagement of children, the award also seeks to empower other children to claim their right to education, and to step forward to

insist that their best interests be put at the heart of all policymaking, including COVID-19 responses.

If we listen, it is not difficult to discern the message. Children are saying it loud and clear: they want to be in school, learning, with their peers - and safely. We owe them no less.

Children are among those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, yet they are emerging around the world as key agents of change by taking concerted action to help im-

prove the lives of their peers. Innovative activities co-led by children are taking place in many countries in response to the unprecedented crisis, with school closures leaving millions of children without access to learning.

With the support of their faith communities, in countries like Bhutan, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Myanmar, Pakistan and Serbia, for example, children are taking action to help their peers access education even when schools are closed due to the COVID-19

pandemic.

We should celebrate children are finding their own solutions, including to help their peers access online classes and educational materials during the education crisis, but we also need to recognize that public policy has a major impact. As inspiring as they are, children's efforts alone will of course not be enough and the support of their local faith leaders and faith communities adds value to their efforts.

As of the end of October 2021, UNESCO warned that nearly 800 million students around the world were still affected by full or partial school closures. UNESCO further warns that school closures during the past two academic years have resulted in learning losses and increased drop-out rates, impacting millions of children, particularly the most vulnerable students.

Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence against Children, has recently expressed concern stating that "school closures contributed to increased anxiety and isolation among children, along with sadness, frustration, stress, disruptive behavior, hyperactivity, and sleeping and eating disorders."

Together with Arigatou International and UNICEF, some 18 international organizations (including faith-based organizations such as the World Council of Churches, World Vision, Religions for Peace and the International Network of Engaged Buddhists), joined forces this year on the Wear My Shoes Campaign to draw global attention to the urgen-

cy of getting children back to school.

The aim is to mobilize children and adults - including religious leaders, policymakers, parents/caregivers, and educators - to take immediate action for students' safe return to school and to prioritize addressing the grave impact of school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

The Wear My Shoes Campaign is part of this year's celebration of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children 2021, an annual event initiated by Arigatou International to engage diverse faith communities to raise the status of children's rights and help take action to end violence against children on November 20, the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Wear My Shoes Award event at EXPO 2020 DUBAI falls within the Week of Tolerance and Inclusivity at the EXPO, which seeks to foster greater common understanding to create more tolerant societies under the theme, "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future."

Indeed, our future depends on the children of today, and they depend on access to education to develop their minds and help them acquire the broad capacities for global citizenship they will need to build the better world we all dream of and which they deserve.

The message from Dubai today is that children themselves are taking urgent action to address the harms caused by the continuing education crisis. So should we.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 193 00--

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

WORD-FIT

3 LETTERS: ICE, LAY, BOY
 4 LETTERS: FINE, EASE, NEST, ABEL, TACO, AGED
 5 LETTERS: MEANT, EASEL, EMBED, DIENE
 6 LETTERS: ADRIFT, YEMENI, EUNUCH, MEAGRE MEKONG, MILAN,
 7 LETTERS: PENGUIN
 8 LETTERS: LIBERALS
 10 LETTERS: FREE LOADER

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

1 profession of being a journalist
 5 Chief city of Togo
 7 present food to someone
 8 make suitable for a new use
 10 place in a particular position
 11 Paris is her Capital city
 13 be absolutely sure about something
 15 milk and milk products collectively
 17 physically dependent on a particular substance
 19 a chair
 20 work requiring little skill and lacking prestige

Down:

1 named after Julius Caesar
 2 the whole community of Muslims
 3 a yearly court of record held by the lords of certain manors
 4 appreciate to the full
 6 Garden of Adam and Eve
 7 distribute over a wide area
 9 small bomb thrown by hand
 12 a traditional Japanese inn
 14 the color of milk
 16 a sphere of activity
 17 say something in order to obtain an answer
 18 a barrier constructed to hold back water

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT: S L A V E T R A D E T A N G A N Y I K A
 C L A V E P O R T S M E E T N A I R A
 R Y E A R N E E D E M O N A
 C L E S A C T I T A N R S T Y
 P H A S E S T S H A D O W E
 A E S E A
 U N I T I H E M E L A M P Y A R D S
 N O O N T L B S
 M E A N D E R S A C R E A T I O N I
 A L O E S T C E N T R O N S
 T K R A K E N E M D E X T E R T

CROSSWORD: 1 JOURNALIST 5 TOGO 7 FEAST 8 ADAPT 10 POSITION 11 PARIS 13 SURE 15 MILK 17 DRUG 19 CHAIR 20 MENIAL

Down: 1 CAESAR 2 MUSLIMS 3 COURT 4 APPRECIATE 6 EDEN 7 DISPERSE 9 BOMB 12 INN 14 MILK 16 SPHERE 17 ANSWER 18 WALL

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 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'Investments in agriculture can reduce youth unemployment'

By Francis Kajubi

A scholar in humanities, education and social development has said that for the unemployment rate among young graduates to be solved, the government ought to intensively invest in simple technologies that enable small holder farmers' use less resources that bring big yields in return.

However, changing the mindset by graduates towards agriculture is of key importance if the sector is to contribute to the reduction of the unemployment rate in reality check rather than in figures.

Dr George Kahangwa from the school of education at the University of Dar es Salaam told this paper last week that unemployment facing young graduates' calls for new different approaches to intensify the whole value chain starting with changing mindsets and investments in affordable technologies that will transform the hand hoe farming model by majority of small scale farmers.

"Though figure show that unemployment among graduates is decreasing, I consider it as insignificant because the real situation is quite different on the ground;

Agriculture is still considered as something that suits

the uneducated. There are no investments in high technologies that enable small holders to realize high productions," said Dr Kahangwa.

According to him, mindset transformation and investment in affordable, simple and friendly agriculture technologies can woo youth getting into the sector as its value chain calls for many participants

The 2019/20 National Sample Census of Agriculture results released August this year by the National Bureau of Statistics show that, out of 12,007,839 households in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, 7,837,405 households (65.3 percent) are involved in agricultural activities.

However, of the total Agriculture households, 5,088,135 (64.9 percent) are involved in crops only, followed by 2,589,156 (33.0 percent) households engaged in crops and livestock whilst the least number of households were involved in fish farming and pastoralism jointly having less than one percent.

Minister for Agriculture Prof Adolf Mkenda said that the main objective of conducting the 2019/20 National Sample Census of Agriculture, was to provide baseline data on Agricultural Statistics that will complement the yearly increased budget allocated to the sector.



"The findings are intended to be used for national agricultural planning, implementation and policy intervention, for the purpose of improving agricultural sector through increasing productivity and promoting agro-processing for industrial development and improving farmer's livelihood;

This is on top of increasing the sector's budget every year, enhancing availability of farm inputs and deployment of extension farmers for providing knowledge and awareness," he said.

Moreover, he said the results are meant to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and

contribution of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Agenda 2063, MALABO declaration, third Five Year Development Plan (2021/22 to 2025/26) and Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase II (ASDP II).

The report shows that the number of agricultural households engaged in main agricultural activities has increased from 5.8 million in 2007/08 NSCA to 7.8 million in 2019/20 NSCA. Number of agricultural households involved in "Crops only" has increased from 3.5 million in 2007/08 to 5.1 million in 2019/20 equivalent to 45.7 per-

cent. It asserts that the contribution of agriculture to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated at 26.9 percent (The Economic Survey 2020).

According to a joint report titled 'Integrated Labour Force Survey 2020/21-ILFS' by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the World Bank, European Union, International Labour Organization (ILO) and Office of the Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar (OCGS), unemployment for graduates decreased to 9 percent in 2020/21 from 10.3 percent in 2014/15.

Govt called to recognize home chores as employment

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has been requested to closely look into responsibilities in homes, to regard them as employment in order to provide women who are overburdened by them to be accorded recognition and value in the community.

Speaking at a meeting that discussed on effects on women during the Covid-19 pandemic, stakeholders on women and children issues from three East African countries said responsibilities in homes are carried by women and girls, the situation that denies them to look for employment while the men believe whatever work they do, they are supposed to be paid.

The meeting, was held online in Uganda involved stakeholders from four East African countries - Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

Its participants included women from the Maasai communities in the Maasai Women's Development Organisation Tanzania (MWEDO) and its aims was to assess family and the community concept in the division of these responsibilities in the overall backdrop of Covid-19 effects on women.

Allana Kembabazi, a participant from Uganda said women have many responsibilities including families up-keeping and sometime taking care of their sick members, but all these responsibilities are not recognized as employment.

Another participant from Kenya Groot Organisation, Joela Esther said women had the burden in up-keeping families during the Covid-19 pandemic as many schools were closed, but also taking care of Covid-19 patients to the extent some of them could not even engage themselves in their money earning activities due to the lockdown.

Esupati Laizer, a Tanzanian from MWEDO said even in politics women are not given priority in top leadership positions but in the case of Tanzania now under President Samia Suluhu Hassan, it is a rare opportunity to see positive results against negative concepts in family responsibilities.

For his part, MWEDO's Projects officer Parmet koromo said the organisation has the responsibility to educate the community to recognize and value family responsibilities as employment, but also there should be equal share in such responsibilities in the families between women and men.

He said MWEDO provides education to families through the use of the media to convey the message in mobilising for equal gender responsibilities.

AfDB approves €10.5m pooled investment in startup fund

By Special Correspondent

THE board of directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved an equity investment pool of €10.5m to drive technological innovation across sub-Saharan Africa.

The AfDB announced this in a statement titled; 'African Development Bank Group Board ap-

proves €10.5m pooled investment in tech start-up fund to boost innovation across sub-Saharan Africa.'

"The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved an equity investment pool of €10.5m toward the first close of the Janngo Start-Up Fund, a pan-African tech start-up fund," it said.

According to the statement, the €10.5m pooled investment consists of €7m provided by the

AfDB and a €3.5m contribution by the European Union and the Organization of African, the Caribbean, and the Pacific States.

Managed by Janngo Capital, the Janngo Start-Up Fund builds and invests in tech start-ups with proven business models and inclusive social impact, with a focus on agribusiness, financial services, energy, education, and health-care, primarily in Francophone West Africa.



AfDB President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina

The bank's Director for Financial Sector Development, Stefan Nalletamby, said: "Africa is experiencing rapid mobile penetration with Android and other platforms. This provides huge opportunities to develop innovative and high-growth-driven start-ups and SMEs. But there is a severe scarcity of risk capital for the new and upcoming first generation of

venture capital funds targeting early-stage businesses."

The statement said the pooled funds would enhance the private sector by deploying technology-enabled business models for small and medium enterprises that address the needs of underserved populations; generate substantial employment opportunities for youth and women,

and enhance the quality of life for Africans.

"The pooled investment advances the Boost Africa Program, collaboration among the contributing partners and the European Investment Bank to back investment funds that target early-stage innovative enterprises across sub-Saharan Africa," it added.

Accomplishes road project on time, Katambi urges contractor

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

DEPUTY Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Labor, Youth, and Employment, Patrobas Katambi, has instructed Jonta Investment Company, to observe agreed deadlines with the government in construction of road projects in Shinyanga Municipality.

Katambi who is also the Member of Parliament for Shinyanga Urban Constituency issued the directives yesterday while

inspecting the construction of road infrastructure including a pedestrian crossing at Upongoji Ndala Ward.

Speaking during the inspection tour, he urged the Contractor to complete the projects on time, so that people start using them and prevent citizens from frequent accidents due to the Upongoji bridge being narrow.

"If you are still interested in working with Shinyanga Municipality make sure that the

projects in your hands are completed upon agreed time with required standards," said Katambi. In addition, he asked the contractor to complete construction of the six-kilometer Chibe road which is executed at a gravel standard as well as installation of drainage systems, so that rainwater does not damage the road leading to re-allocation of budget for next year's maintenance.

In another development, Katambi commended President Samia Suluhu Hassani

for raising funds and directing them to the implementation of various development projects, including the construction of classrooms, health centers, road infrastructure, and bridges.

For his part, Contractor Jonh Ntalimbo, promised to comply with the directives that the projects by January next year will be completed and start providing services to the people as the major work has been completed.

He said what hindered him from completing road projects on time was rain, as well as delays in getting raw materials to build bridges from the factory he purchases.

Ndala Councilor Zamda Shabani, said the completion of the pedestrian crossing would significantly reduce the problem of recurring accidents in the cramped bride area, noting that every week people must die in a crash on the vandalized bridge.

Only 18 pc of youth in agriculture use agri-tech innovation - survey

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW report dubbed: "The Future of Africa's Agriculture - An assessment of the role of Youth and Technology" has established that despite having 45 per cent of youth being engaged in agriculture, only 18 per cent of them use agri-tech innovation in Rwanda.

The survey conducted by Heifer International interviewed 29,954 youths, 299 smallholder farmers and 110 agri-focused organizations in eleven countries namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In Rwanda, the survey was conducted on 3,362 respondents.

The survey says that innovators have begun to rely on technology such as artificial intelligence, remote sensing, geographic information software, virtual reality, drone technology, application programming interface technology and precision technology to provide an accurate measure of rainfall, pest control, soil information, soil productivity, and farm size and productivity potential.

However, on a large scale, the findings showed that despite the potential of technology to change Africa's agriculture sector, the continent's smallholder farmers continue to face challenges in incorporating technology in their agricultural practices.

The survey found that only 23 per cent of youth engaged in agriculture use any form of agricultural technology such as an Apps, SMS, website, software among others in surveyed countries.

"Overall, technology adoption in Africa is quite low. Ghana, Senegal and Zambia have the lowest Agri-Tech adoption rate, while Zimbabwe, Kenya and Nigeria have the highest adoption rates," says the report.

Lack of access to land

The survey found that access to land or ownership is a major cause



ACEX's CEO, Peter Mucheru speaking during the digital market place platforms' launch in Nairobi last week.

of concern as 59 per cent of youth surveyed indicated they lack both in 11 countries.

The report shows that 70 per cent of youth have no access to land in Rwanda.

"Most youth in Africa do not have access to land for agriculture. Fifty-nine per cent of youth surveyed do not have access to or own land. Land ownership amongst young people is lowest in Ghana, Zambia, Senegal and Rwanda. Youths in Malawi seem to have access to land with only 14% having no access, the lowest among countries surveyed," reads part of the report.

Funding, training and access to agriculture technology are the three key areas to support youth to encourage their involvement in agriculture, recommends the report.

At least 39 per cent of surveyed Agri-focused organizations said that the best way to engage youth in agriculture in Africa is through technological innovation, 32 per cent suggested government support for young farmers 21 per cent suggested inclusion of youth in agrifocused policy.

It indicates that 37 per cent of youth surveyed reported that access to finance as a key barrier to youth engagement in Agriculture in Africa while 14 per cent and 12 per cent respectively say that lack of access to land and lack of training are key barriers.

What causes low adoption of technology? Smallholder farmers and agrifocused organizations surveyed suggested that literacy, socio-economic status and inadequate as well as lack of extension services are the key reasons for the low adoption of technology.

Smallholder farmers indicated that enlightenment, information and affordability will encourage them to embrace technology innovation.

At least 30 per cent of respondents said that adverse weather conditions have negatively impacted farmers' productivity as 17 per cent attributed poor yield to insects, pests and disease while 14 per cent attribute it to technology barriers.

The coronavirus outbreak affected 40 per cent of agrifocused organizations as they had to temporarily close business, 38 per cent experienced a reduction of average purchase amount per customer and 36 per cent do not have the financial capital to grow back their

businesses.

Ten out of 11 countries, with the exception of Tanzania agreed that the most important support required is funding.

When placed in context, training and mentorship are seen as more important than funding in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

More youth stressed the need for support in the area of access to market in Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Youth in Senegal, Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana prioritized the need for support in Agri-Tech while access to land was an acute need in Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Zambia.

"The role of youth participation as well as the adaptation of smart, African centered Agri-Tech is a key determinant to supporting the agriculture sector. Encouraging innovation by supporting programs geared towards accelerating agrifocused startups, youth-owned agriculture businesses, and other business stakeholders along the agriculture value chain will catalyze economic development in Africa," recommends the report.

Dr. Octave Semwaga, the Director General for Agriculture Modernization in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources reiterated that youth are needed on board to boost agricultural productivity adding, "If not we could reach where we have no farmers."

"Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, when it grows other sectors also grows," he said explaining why youth should be engaged.

Due to shortage in land availability, the Government of Rwanda is promoting intensification as a strategy to increase production and farmers' incomes according to officials.

According to the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTAI), the long term goal is to move Rwandan agriculture from a largely subsistence sector to a more knowledge intensive, market-oriented sector, sustaining growth and adding value to products.

Need for hands-on skills Semwaga said that in order to increase youth's hands-on skills in agriculture, the government is sending some to Israel to learn how to transform Rwanda's agriculture sector.

So far he said since 2012 at least 1,139 attended 11-months training and came back to Rwanda adding 193 youth are attending the same training.

"After coming back, some create their own companies to serve farmers," he noted.

Elisee Kamanzi, Country Director for Heifer International Rwanda said that addressing the barriers expressed by the youth could boost agricultural productivity in Africa to meet food

demand and reduce unemployment among the youth.

"We are in a situation where our farmers are at an average of almost 62 years old. If we look at 2050 vision, then with this situation of aging farmers maybe we will not have people who may feed us. We believe if we understand what makes youth not find agriculture a desirable profession and livelihoods, we will have trouble in the future," he said.

He said that youth need agricultural technological solutions that are easy to adopt as suggested by 30 per cent of respondents.

Ritha Tumukunde, the Agriculture Socio Economic Specialist at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources said they are working with different stakeholders to develop youth employment in agriculture food system strategy.

"The study will inform what we are doing to develop this strategy," she said.

Victor Muvunyi, the Emerging Technologies senior technologist at Ministry of ICT and Innovation said that more agricultural technological solutions are being developed although the uptake is still low.

"We want to become an ICT hub and need a vibrant innovation ecosystem," he said, adding that Africa is a youthful continent and therefore should engage in agriculture with innovations.

NARCO to fix gates to protect Kongwa ranch

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

NATIONAL Ranching Company (NARCO) in Kongwa District intends to set up gates on the main roads running through the ranch with the aim of protecting the ranch's security.

Kongwa Ranch Manager, Elisa Binamungu said this when speaking to journalists here recently on the best ways to make the ranch safe from encroachers.

Binamungu said they intend to add placards with a message to warn users of the Dodoma-Morogoro highway as they begin to

enter the protected areas to the point of occurrence.

He also said they intend to set up gates at the entrance to the ranch with the aim of protecting the security and environment of the area, noting that the purpose of the gates was to ensure that every user on the highway entering the park was given environmental education.

Binamungu further said through the leadership of the Kongwa District Council they have agreed to add posters from Kibaigwa Town, Mtanana and Mbande so that the drivers are given an early warning before entering the ranch area.

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US contributes \$10m to support UN Food Agency efforts on Covid-19 response, future pandemics

By Guardian Correspondent

A \$10million contribution from the United States will assist the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in its work on COVID-19 response and addressing threats to human, animal and environmental health, including future pandemics.

The funding, announced recently will support the UN agency's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, part of its broader One Health programme.

The initiative helps safeguard human, animal, plant and environmental health throughout the food chain, from production to consumption and waste management.

The funding will specifically be used to strengthen national and international One Health systems through enhanced multi-sectoral early warning, risk assessment and risk reduction, and progressive management of emerging and endemic high impact animal and plant pests and diseases, including those with epidemic and pandemic potential.

"We thank the Government of the United States of America for its generous support to FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and One Health Tripartite risk assessments at national levels," said FAO Director-General, Qu Dongyu.

"A science-based One Health approach across agri-food systems is critical for early warning and prevention of zoonotic diseases."

The US contribution will benefit countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Near East. The announcement comes as COVID-19 cases in the Americas surpassed 100 million, while the Omicron variant has been reported in nearly 20 countries and territories, according to the regional office for the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said cases continue to rise in North America, with the United States driving a 36 per cent increase in the past week, while parts of Central

and South America showed declines. South America experienced an overall case drop of 10.7 per cent, and a 6.3 per cent decrease in deaths, latest epidemiological data revealed.

Bolivia reported a sharp increase, and Argentina and Ecuador also saw cases rise.

PAHO said Central American countries continued to see a "downward trend", with a 10.8 per cent drop in cases.

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South Africa court suspends Shell seismic survey plan

JOHANNESBURG

A South African court on Tuesday blocked Shell from using seismic waves to explore for oil and gas in the Indian Ocean, in a victory for environmentalists worried about the impact on whales and other species.

Backing a suit filed by conservationists, the High Court in the Eastern Cape town of Makhanda ruled that Shell was "hereby interdicted from undertaking seismic survey operations."

The fossil fuel giant had announced plans to start exploration over more than 6,000 square kilometres (2,300 square miles) of ocean off South Africa's Wild Coast region.

The Wild Coast is a 300-kilometre (185-mile) stretch of natural beauty, dotted with marine and nature reserves.

The area of interest lies 20 kilometres (12 miles) off the coast, in waters 700 to 3,000 meters deep (2,300 to 10,000 feet).

Shell's scheme entails using seismic shockwaves which bounce off the seabed, and whose signature can point to

potentially energy-bearing sites.

"Many sea creatures will be affected, from whales, dolphins, seals, penguins to tiny plankton that will be blasted," said Janet Solomon, of the environmental group Oceans Not Oil in the runup to the hearing.

Exploration had been scheduled to start on December 1 and last up to five months.

A Shell spokesperson said Tuesday: "We respect the court's decision and have paused the survey while we review the judgement."

"Huge victory" "Surveys of this nature have been conducted for over 50 years with more than 15 years of extensive peer-reviewed scientific research."

The campaigners were jubilant at the ruling, but stressed that the relief was only temporary.

"It's a huge victory," said Katherine Robinson of the NGO Natural Justice.

"But the struggle is not over - this decision is just the interdict. We understand that the proceedings will continue."

A petition against the project had gathered nearly 85,000 signatures.

Campaigners said the scheme would entail "one extremely loud shock wave every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day, for five months at a time."

Shell argued that it took "great care to prevent or minimise" the impact on wildlife, and promised that the work would strictly follow the guidelines of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, a UK government adviser on nature conservation.

On Tuesday, it also stressed what it described as the benefits for South Africa if oil and gas were found.

"South Africa is highly reliant on energy imports for many of its energy needs," the company's spokesperson said.

"If viable resources were to be found offshore, this could significantly contribute to the country's energy security and the government's economic development programmes."

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The ruling is a temporary victory for green groups who said seismic exploration would harm whales, seals and other fragile species

African rice association lauds Labana over expansion of the agribusiness

By Special Correspondent

THE West African Rice Association (WARA) has commended Labana Rice Mills, Kebbi State for expanding its agribusiness programme to some African countries.

They declared that the company's business initiative would undoubtedly fast track socio-economic development in the West African sub region.

President of the Association, Mahamadou Hadeve, stated this when he led the leadership of the Association on a tour to the company in Birnin Kebbi in continuation of their visit to the member countries.

The team was accompanied by

the RIFAN Deputy National President, Alhaji Ahmed Dukku, and the Kebbi State Chairman, Alhaji Sahabi Augie. They were received and briefed by the management staff led by General Manager, Abdullahi Idris Zuru.

Had eve explained that the Executive Committee Members of the

Association were drawn from Niger, Ghana, Burkina Faso Benin, Togo, Senegal and Nigeria.

According to him, the tour was aimed at mobilising both Rice farmers and processors in the sub-region to strengthen our relationship, promote and develop rice business transaction within the sub-region.

"But on arrival in Nigeria and Labana Rice Mills in particular, we discovered that Labana Rice Mills has already set the pace for achieving our mission and objectives", the President declared.

He expressed their satisfaction over the acquisition of 30,000 hectares of farm land by Labana Rice

Mills in Benin Republic for rice cultivation and acceptance of students from educational institutions in the neighbouring countries for industrial training as another solid foundation for achieving the Association's set objectives.



Drought in Madagascar: Switzerland Provides Additional Contribution of CHF 900,000

By Special Correspondent

SWITZERLAND is making an additional contribution of CHF 900,000 to help deal with the serious food crisis in Madagascar. In releasing this sum, which is intended to support the activities of the World Food Programme (WFP), Switzerland is responding to a recent joint appeal by the government of Madagascar and the UN for international aid. Alarming situations are also unfolding in many other countries where millions of people lack food because of armed conflict, economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of climate change. In 2021, Switzerland provided a total of CHF 100 million - a new record - to support the WFP's activities, primarily in Africa.

Food insecurity in Madagascar continues to worsen. Since the beginning of the year, the authorities and humanitarian organisations have redoubled their efforts to mitigate the consequences of the worst drought in 40 years and the economic recession linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than one million people are currently in need of emergency food assistance and nearly half of all children aged 6 months to 5 years are suffering from chronic malnutrition.

In view of this crisis, Switzerland has decided to make an additional contribution of CHF 900,000. This amount is intended to support the WFP's operations on the ground. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the FDFA had already allocated around CHF 1.5 million since the beginning of the year in order to mitigate the consequences of the crisis. Although Madagascar is not one of its priority countries, the SDC is active on the island through its humanitarian aid. It is working together with the Swiss embassy in Antananarivo, which is closely monitoring the situation in the country and providing support for the implementation of the aid provided by the Swiss Confederation.

Besides Madagascar, at least 80 other countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, are facing food insecurity. Famine-like conditions are prevalent in 43 countries, with 45 million people facing acute or catastrophic levels of food insecurity, as compared to 41 million people in June 2021. Conflict-driven displacement, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and the consequences of climate change are depriving millions of people of access to food of sufficient quantity and quality to meet nutritional needs.

The WFP sounded the alarm as early as February of this year, calling on the international community to mobilise additional funds to meet the unprecedented scale of need. At the time, the SDC pledged a record CHF 100 million to the WFP for 2021. This new contribution for Madagascar means that Switzerland will have paid the full amount by the end of this year. To put this in perspective, the SDC's annual contributions to the WFP amounted to approximately CHF 70 million in previous years and CHF 90 million in 2020. Switzerland continues to monitor the global food insecurity situation with great concern. Swiss support for WFP operations takes the form of financial contributions, technical assistance from Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit specialists and funding for political initiatives undertaken by UN organisations to promote food security.

BANKING & FINANCE



Nairobi Expressway under construction.

State in talks to stop 437 Kibaki, Uhuru projects

NAIROBI

The Government is negotiating with contractors to allow it cancel 437 stalled projects, started during the Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta regimes, setting the stage for compensation claims by suppliers.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revealed the government is negotiating contractual terms with the suppliers of the projects and hopes to cancel them by March next year as Kenya seeks to contain expenditure in the wake of a cash crunch due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government was forced to review all State projects following revelations that hundreds of development projects worth Sh9 trillion had stalled.

The projects are accumulating pending bills, increasing in variation costs and could expose Kenya to legal compensation claims by the contractors if cancelled.

The Treasury told the IMF that it had concluded a stocktaking of projects and associated commitments as part of the reforms under the multibillion shilling deal with the fund and identified projects to be cancelled.

The government, however, did not disclose whether the contractors were demanding compensation to quit the stalled projects.

"Based on this extended exer-

cise, we have identified 437 stalled or underperforming projects that should be cancelled. The stalled projects have not received budget funding for several years but have nevertheless remained in the portfolio of projects," Treasury told the IMF.

"A Cabinet decision to terminate these projects is expected by March 2022, as there are contractual issues to be addressed prior to executing that decision," the Treasury said.

Kenya has a bad history with contractors who fight to get government tenders but end up delivering hot air, only to hold the government at ransom should it cancel the tender. This has seen the government increasingly turn East, handing Chinese contractors legacy contracts at the expense of local contractors.

GROWTH POLICY

It also comes at a time the government has increasingly been coming under pressure not to initiate any new projects before completing old ones.

Two decades of debt-funded infrastructure growth policy have seen officials rush to initiate hundreds of projects beyond what the country can afford egged by connected tenderpreneurs seeking to secure multibillion shilling deals with the State.

Kenya has borrowed a cumu-

lative Sh77 trillion to date, most since the Jubilee government took power in 2013, and launched ambitious infrastructure projects.

The World Bank and the IMF have asked the government to cancel some of the stalled projects in exchange for multibillion shilling loans to plug revenue shortfalls.

The Kenya Public Expenditure Review published by the World Bank, showed Kenya had 4,000 ongoing projects many of which are significantly delayed, incomplete or stalled.

The Bretton Woods institution says that 522 projects worth Sh1 trillion (\$10 billion) are completely dormant and should be considered for cancellation to save on costs.

The Bretton Woods institution said that 40 percent of the projects became white elephants during the transition to devolution system with 195 irrigation projects initiated in the second term of President Mwai Kibaki not being allocated funds by county governments.

About 53 projects are dormant because of diverse factors, including litigation, wayleave challenges, acquisition of land, and funding suspension by the donors. Other reasons for stalling projects have been imposition of budget ceilings by the Treasury keen on taming expenditure.

The Northern corridor, Kenya's strategic transit route with a mix

of rail, road, pipeline, ports, and inland water ways, makes up 72 percent of the value of dormant projects where 22 white elephants require Sh798 billion to get to completion.

Other projects that have stalled include the water, irrigation, and environment sectors which have the highest number of dormant projects, totalling 216 whose cost is equivalent to Sh26.7bn of the cost of all the stalled projects.

DELAYED PAYMENTS

These sectors are followed by the security sector with 99 stalled projects, and the infrastructure sector with 89.

The huge number of stalled projects, which comes with delayed payments to contractors, is a major contributor to the cash crunch in the private sector that has precipitated job losses and reduced cash in people's pockets.

Many of the public projects lack a cost-benefit analysis as well as standardised appraisal and selection plans, effectively failing to match expenditure to available financial resources and producing white elephant projects.

Cancelling projects, however, comes with a cost of litigation as contractors are likely to sue the government and claim billions of shillings in damages.

WORLD

South America now winning the global vaccination race

RIO DE JANEIRO/BUENOS AIRES

THROUGHOUT much of 2020 and early 2021, South America was ground zero in the global fight against COVID-19.

Oxygen ran low in Peru. Gravediggers worked through the night in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Bodies were stuffed into shipping containers in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Brazil, the largest country in Latin America, saw its COVID-19 death toll rise to the second-highest in the world, while Argentina and Peru reported some of the heaviest death per capita figures anywhere.

But in recent months, despite patchy health services and lower income levels than in Europe or the United States, the region

has emerged as a surprise winner in the vaccination race.

South America is now the most vaccinated region in the world, with 63.3 percent of the population fully inoculated, according to the Our World in Data project, which collects official numbers from governments worldwide.

Europe comes in second with 60.7 percent. In Africa, just 8.8 percent of the population has completed a full vaccination regimen.

Infection and death rates have plummeted compared to the middle of the year when Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for almost half of global deaths and infections. Now it is Europe where - due to the spread of the Omicron variant - contagion is



A patient gets medical treatment at the Health Care Center specialized in Flu and COVID-19 at the Complexo do Alemão Olympic Village, located in Complexo do Alemão favela in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Dec 10, 2021. File photo

rebounding.

Epidemiologists point to several factors to explain the speedy vaccination drive. But the most important, they say, has been decades of successful inoculation campaigns that have created the infrastructure needed to deliver jabs en masse, while instilling trust among the population.

In Brazil, successful inoculation drives in the last half century against smallpox, meningitis, polio and measles means that very few people are opposed to

vaccines, said Paulo Lotufo, an epidemiologist and professor at the University of Sao Paulo.

In some major cities, including Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, over 99 percent of the adult population has received at least one dose, authorities say. Brazilians commonly claim with pride that the nation has a "cultura de vacinação," or "vaccine culture."

The same can be said for several other nations in the region, which have previously launched expansive inoculation campaigns after traumatic infectious

Prince Andrew questions accuser's ability to pursue sex abuse lawsuit

NEW YORK

A lawyer for Britain's Prince Andrew on Tuesday questioned whether Virginia Giuffre is legally entitled to pursue her civil lawsuit accusing the Duke of York of sexually abusing her when she was under 18.



In a filing with the US District Court in Manhattan, the lawyer Andrew Brettler said "recently discovered evidence" suggested that the court lacked jurisdiction because Giuffre has lived in Australia for most of the last two decades, and cannot prove she resided in Colorado as she stated in her complaint.

The prince's filing came ahead of a scheduled Jan 4, 2022, hearing before US District Judge Lewis Kaplan on whether to dismiss Giuffre's lawsuit.

Lawyers for Giuffre did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Giuffre, 38, accused Andrew of forcing her to have sex more than two decades ago at the London home of Ghislaine Maxwell, the former associate of financier Jeffrey Epstein, and abusing her at Epstein's homes in Manhattan and the US Virgin Islands.

Andrew, 61, has denied Giuffre's claims, and accused her of trying to profit from accusations against Epstein and people who knew him. The prince has not been charged with crimes. Giuffre is seeking unspecified damages.

Federal courts may assert "diversity jurisdiction" over lawsuits when no plaintiff shares a state of citizenship with any defendant.

Brettler said Giuffre failed this test because she has not lived in Colorado since at least 2019, and it was "long-established" that US citizens who permanently resided abroad cannot invoke diversity jurisdiction.

He also suggested that Giuffre made a "calculated move to support her specious claim" of Colorado residency by registering to vote there, using her mother's and stepfather's mailing address, in February 2020.

"Without being able to satisfy the requirements for diversity jurisdiction, the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over this dispute and must dismiss the action as a matter of law," Brettler wrote.

Andrew wants to halt the gathering of evidence until the jurisdictional issue is resolved, and is seeking "limited" discovery to determine whether Giuffre can sue him.

BRI achieves fruitful results in Asia-Pacific

HONG KONG

ALTHOUGH the Asia-Pacific region has been ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic in the past year, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects have made headways by leaps and bounds.

After five years of construction, the China-Laos Railway, a docking project between the BRI and Laos' strategy to convert itself from a land-locked country to a land-linked hub, started operation on Dec. 3.

The completion ceremony of a China-donated vocational training institute was held in October in Gwadar of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province.

As an important project for the public's well-being under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute was constructed with an aim to meet the urgent need of the locals in Gwadar and promote the sustainable development of the area.

"During its construction, the project provided more than 1,000 jobs to local people. After completion, it can accommodate 360 trainees at one time,

and provide training opportunities for at least 1,000 people every year," said Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, adding that the institute will serve as an "incubator" for high-quality and skilled workers for Gwadar and Balochistan.

On Dec. 18, Cambodia inaugurated a China-funded national stadium on the northern suburbs of capital Phnom Penh with a sports parade, a martial arts performance, and traditional dances.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the 60,000-seat stadium will be the centerpiece venue for tournaments when Cambodia hosts the Southeast Asian Games for the first time in May 2023.

The stadium is just one of the many China-funded achievements in Cambodia, he said, and it is another fruit of the iron-clad friendship between Cambodia and China.

The last continuous beam on the No. 2 super large bridge of the Jakarta-Bandung High Speed Railway (HSR) was successfully closed on Sept. 30, marking the completion of the construction of all 24 continuous beams on



Photo taken on Sept. 29, 2021 shows the construction site of the last continuous beam on the No. 2 super large bridge of the Jakarta-Bandung High Speed Railway (HSR) in Bekasi, West Java province, Indonesia. (Xinhua)

the bridge. With a speed of 350 km per hour, the HSR will cut the journey between Jakarta and Bandung, the capital of West Java province, from more than three hours to around 40 minutes.

The mega multipurpose road-rail bridge dubbed the "Dream Padma Bridge" of Bangladesh is nearing completion after workers overcame tons of hurdles, including challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The

huge infrastructure, with the main bridge spanning 6.15 km in length, is undertaken by a Chinese company.

It is the largest and most challenging infrastructure project in Bangladesh's history. After completion, the history of crossing the mighty Padma river between dozens of districts in southern Bangladesh and the capital of Dhaka only by ferries or boats will end.

In Sri Lanka, the Chinese-built Hambantota Port became the country's first port conforming to internationally-recognized integrated management system standards in November.

Also in November, the China-built Cat Linh-Ha Dong metro line project was inaugurated in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi, making it the first metro line in the country to start commercial operation. *Xinhua*

Egypt's new transportation projects help accelerate development, attract investments - experts

QENA

THE modern road and transportation projects implemented by the Egyptian government, especially in the south of the country, represent a "qualitative leap" that would accelerate development rates and open the door wide to investments, according to Egyptian experts.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi inaugurated on Saturday a number of road projects worth 18.155 billion Egyptian pounds (1.155 billion U.S. dollars) in Upper Egypt, which

is the least developed, most needy, and the poorest region in the North African country.

As many as 125 companies, with more than 80,000 engineers, technicians and workers, have participated in the implementation of these projects, according to the Egyptian Minister of Transport Kamel al-Wazir.

During the inauguration ceremony, al-Wazir said that the recently inaugurated projects in southern Egypt come within the framework of a vision that was set to achieve a number of goals, including contributing to

the comprehensive development plan, attracting more investments, stimulating trade, achieving security and safety rates as well as creating job opportunities.

About 1.7 trillion Egyptian pounds were allocated from June 2014 to June 2024 to implement projects in all transport sectors, noting that 474 billion pounds for road and bridge projects, 225 billion pounds for railway projects, and 837 billion pounds for electric traction projects.

Meanwhile, Alaa Abed,

head of the Transport and Communications Committee in the Egyptian parliament, said the projects that have been inaugurated, including road axes on the Nile bridges and tunnels, will accelerate the rates of economic and social development in Egypt.

The Upper Egypt has suffered for decades from the lack of development, while the region is now witnessing mega projects in all fields within the framework of an integrated and comprehensive vision, Abed told Xinhua.

"The unprecedented achievements that Egypt is currently witnessing open the door wide to foreign and national investments," he said.

For his part, Saeed Hassan, head of Al-Saada Contracting Company, said that the leap that Egypt is currently witnessing in the field of transport, especially in the fields of roads and bridges, has never happened in its entire history in terms of quality and time for implementation. *Xinhua*

Xinhua

Agencies

Understanding Whole-process people's democracy

CHINA'S second centenary goal is to build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful by the middle of the century. Promoting democracy, as China defines it, is an important part of the plan.

Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out that democracy is a common value of humanity and an ideal that has always been cherished by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese people. What is this kind of democracy?

At present, under the leadership of the CPC, China states that it is developing people's democracy throughout the whole process, expanding orderly political participation of the people, strengthening legal protection of human rights, and ensuring that the people enjoy exten-

sive rights and freedoms in accordance with the law.

Whole-process people's democracy is said to enable the role of the people - who, according to CPC theory, are masters of the country - to be better reflected in the country's political and social life.

To promote Whole-process people's democracy, the CPC adheres to and improves the system of people's congresses.

While exercising their rights through certain kinds of elections, the people also participate in extensive consultations in various ways before and during policy decisions on major issues concerning the country's reform, development and stability as well as on issues concerning their own interests.

For example, the process of prepar-

ing the annual reports on the work of the Chinese government solicits opinions and suggestions from government officials, experts, scholars and people from all walks of life. These documents take months to draft, and many proposed changes are made through deliberation.

The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is playing an increasingly important role in consultative democracy.

CPPCC members come from all walks of life with professional knowledge and social influence. Deliberative democracy in China enriches the forms, expands the channels and enhances the connotation of democracy.

Some people in western and other countries have misconceptions about the CPC, partly because China's political system differs from that of countries with

multiple parties and regular elections.

There are no identical political systems in the world, nor is there a model political system applicable to all countries. In fact, all political systems have trade-offs.

As China's ruling party, the CPC states that it represents the interests of all Chinese people, which it distinguishes from multi-party systems, where political parties represent only a segment of the electorate.

That is why the CPC has a higher obligation to improve the living standards of all Chinese people. This involves reform, the rule of law, government transparency, public participation in governance, promoting democracy and freedom, and safeguarding human rights - all of which, the CPC states, it is striving to achieve.

The CPC's sense of mission and governance capability can be seen in China's

fight against COVID-19 and eradication of absolute poverty. I argue that the common reason why China won these two battles was the leadership and organizational ability of the CPC.

Of course, the CPC doesn't stop there. China has set a broader and longer-term goal of achieving common prosperity.

This overarching policy driver is the CPC's firm commitment to the Chinese people. In pursuit of this goal, China will have to continue to adhere to reform and opening-up and constantly improve various institutions.

Whole-process people's democracy, fully implemented under the leadership of the CPC, is an essential element in ensuring that development is for the people, by the people, and shared by the people.

People's Daily

Europe's bid to reduce reliance on Russia complicates gas crisis

BRUSSELS

As the single largest supplier of natural gas in Europe, Russia has found itself on the receiving end of many a verbal outburst for soaring gas prices and a looming energy crisis.

The European benchmark TTF (Title Transfer Facility) front month gas price dipped to 132.58 euros (150 U.S. dollars) per megawatt hour (MWh) on Dec. 23 after setting a record high of 180.27 euros (204 dollars) per MWh on Dec. 21, a sign of high volatility of the natural gas market.

This has brought some relief to the jittery market, plagued by supply shortage and persistently elevated prices in the European Union (EU).

Russia has repeatedly rebutted accusations that it attempts to withhold gas flows from Europe and exploit the supply crunch to its own benefit. The EU should blame itself for the soaring gas prices, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

Operators in Germany have found that the flows in pipelines through which natural gas runs from Russia to Europe were suspended in November when gas prices were hovering at high levels in Europe.

The halt gave rise to suspicions that Russia intentionally withheld the supplies as a leverage to pursue its political interests in Europe. The International Energy Agency (IEA) in September called on Russia to boost its supply to Europe to ease the price hikes.

"The IEA believes that Russia could do more to increase gas availability to Europe and ensure storage is filled to adequate levels in preparation for the coming winter heating season," the agency said in a statement.

Gazprom, Russia's state-owned energy corporation that has been supplying natural gas to Europe, has repeatedly dismissed the charges and stressed that

all requests from its European customers have been met. Accusations against Russia and Gazprom of insufficient natural gas supplies are "unacceptable and groundless," and the European countries created problems for themselves, Gazprom spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov said recently.

According to Kupriyanov, Gazprom is ready to supply additional volumes of gas under the existing long-term contracts at prices significantly lower than spot prices. He said that this year in accordance with the contracts, Gazprom has supplied 50.2 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Germany, 5.3 billion cubic meters more than last year.

Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, Denmark, Finland and Poland are also among the countries to which Gazprom has increased gas supplies compared with last year.

In a press release, Gazprom said that gas sales to Germany, its biggest export market, rose by 16.8 percent year-on-year in the first 11 months of 2021.

All the contractual obligations in Europe, the Russian energy giant said, have been met and have not been disputed by its customers so far.

European energy security has been a major concern as the region relies heavily on Russian gas, which accounts for around 40 percent of the EU's gas need.

The EU has long been seeking to diversify its energy supply to reduce its dependence on Russian imports.

The EU countries' drive to make renewable energy the dominant form of energy production has led to the destabilization of the energy system and to a reduction in the use of natural gas and nuclear energy for electricity generation, said Iqbal Guliyev, deputy director of the International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy of Russia's MGIMO University.

"As a result, they have to use coal re-



serves to cover the shortfall of electricity, thus pushing up energy prices," Guliyev said.

Some EU countries have called on their companies to purchase natural gas on the spot market at market prices to avoid long-term contracts, some of which last 25 years.

Putin has, on various occasions, said that Russia was interested in long-term contracts and "long-term mutual obligations." Whenever price hikes occur, contractual prices tend to be lower than spot prices. At his annual news conference on Thursday, Putin said that the long-term contract price is three to four, or even six to seven times cheaper than on spot.

At the heart of the natural gas squabble between the EU and Russia is the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline project. "Nord Stream 2 is faced with political and regulatory barriers, which will hinder Russia from increasing gas supplies to Europe," Guliyev said.

Nord Stream 2 links Germany directly with Russia via the Baltic Sea. Construction of the pipeline was completed in September. The new pipeline could enable Russia to double its gas exports to Germany by 110 billion cubic meters per year.

Unlike the pipelines in operation today, Nord Stream 2 pipeline bypasses Ukraine and has been under the spotlight due to strong opposition from the United States and other critics, who fear that the pipeline

could deepen the EU's reliance on Russian natural gas.

Gazprom, the owner of Nord Stream 2, has filled the pipeline's first string with gas and started to conduct the gas-in procedure for the second string in December.

The pipeline, however, has been lying idle, pending a go-ahead from Germany and the EU.

On Nov. 16, Germany's network regulator said that it had suspended the pipeline's certification amid speculations that Nord Stream 2 would turn into a powerful geopolitical leverage for Russia.

However, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has noted the economic orientation of the project, dissuading member countries from using the pipeline as a geopolitical bargaining chip. **Xinhua**

Tunisia, Italy urge efforts to tackle illegal immigration

TUNISIA

TUNISIAN President Kais Saied and visiting Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio on Tuesday urged efforts to tackle the root causes of illegal immigration and combat human trafficking on both sides of the Mediterranean.

Saied stressed the importance of developing new common concepts to encourage regular immigration through mechanisms that protect immigrants' rights, while admitting that conventional strategies for dealing with illegal immigration have proven their limits, according to a statement released by the Tunisian Presidency.

The Tunisian president also expressed willingness to strengthen the friendly ties with Italy and expand promising opportunities for bilateral cooperation in a variety of fields based on mutual respect and shared interests, said the statement.

"Italy recognizes and supports the ambitious reform path established by Tunisian president," Di Maio was quoted as saying.

Italy has worked with its partners and the International Monetary Fund to emphasize the need to assist Tunisia in overcoming the economic scenario it is experiencing, which has worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Di Maio said.

Xinhua

Syrian army: Israel hits Syrian port for second time this month



Representatives from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand participate in the launching ceremony of the joint Mekong River patrol and law enforcement mechanism among the four countries, Dec. 10, 2011. (Photo by Wang Xiaoxue/People's Daily Online)

AMMAN

ISRAEL launched an air strike on Syria's main port of Latakia on Tuesday in the second such attack this month, the Syrian army said, setting ablaze the container storage area where two port sources said Iran has been storing munitions.

An Israeli military spokesperson declined to comment saying: "We don't comment on foreign reports."

Official Syrian reports made no mention of any casualties. A source familiar with the operations of the port said the strike hit a container area where large consignments of Iranian munitions that had arrived last month were stored.

"These blasts and huge fires were caused by the explosions from the munitions stored in a warehouse close to commercial

cargo," the source who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter told Reuters.

Syrian state news agency SANA quoted the head of the Latakia fire brigade as saying the containers targeted in the strike contained oils and spare parts for machines and cars.

Israel has mounted frequent attacks against what it says are Iranian targets in Syria, where Tehran-backed forces led by Lebanon's Hezbollah have deployed over the last decade in support of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria's civil war.

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz, visiting an Israeli air force base did not speak about the specific incident on Tuesday but warned his country would not allow Iran to use Syria to threaten Israel.

"I call upon the region's countries to stop Iran from violating

their sovereignty and people. Israel will not allow Iran to funnel balance-breaching weapons to its proxies and threaten our citizens," Gantz said.

Another Syrian source familiar with Iranian military movements in Syria said Tehran had in recent months transferred weapons by sea as it sought to dodge intensified Israeli strikes that struck eastern Syria near a weapons supply corridor along the border with Iraq.

The drone strikes disabled several large weapons convoys sent by Tehran from Iraq, he added in information confirmed by a Western intelligence source.

Iran has expanded its military presence in Syria in recent years where it now has a foothold in most state-controlled areas where thousands of its militias and local paramilitary groups are under its command, West-

ern intelligence sources say.

Citing a military source, SANA said Israel had carried out the air strike targeting the container storage area at 3.21 am (0121 GMT), causing a fire and leading to "big material damages".

Fire fighters were working to extinguish the blaze, it quoted the head of the Latakia fire brigade as saying. Syrian state TV footage showed flames and smoke in the container area.

Citing its correspondent, state-run broadcaster al-Ikhbariya said a number of residential buildings, a hospital and a number of shops and tourist facilities had been damaged by the power of the blasts.

Russia, which has been Assad's most powerful ally during the war, operates an air base at Hmeimim some 20 kms away from Latakia.

Agencies

Xi underlines heightened Party unity

XI Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, has underlined the need for stronger confidence in the Party's history, heightened unity and enhanced fighting spirit, for the CPC to respond to various foreseeable and unforeseeable challenges.

Speaking during a two-day meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee the Party's core leadership on Monday and Tuesday, Xi (pictured) highlighted the Party's history as the most vivid and convincing textbook.

He underscored that the CPC will take a stronger initiative in the future as it gains a more comprehensive and deeper understanding of the course and pattern of history and gains wisdom from history.

The meeting reviewed a report on practicing the eight-point frugality rules and a report on solving the problem of formalism and reducing the burden at the grassroots level.

The meeting focused on the theme of amplifying the CPC's founding spirit, fully understanding the historical experience of the Party's century of struggle, shoring up confidence in history, remaining true to original aspirations and missions and living up to responsibilities on the new and testing journey.

Members of the Political Bureau spoke one after another at the meeting. They examined their own record and those of their colleagues, and shared their thoughts and insights.

They hailed Xi's role as the helmsman in leading the Party and State in securing historic achievements and experiencing historic transformations.

The meeting called for unremitting efforts to improve the Party's work style, highlighting risks in the recurrence of the practices of formalism and bureaucratism.

It is important to continue with self-reform, implement the Party's eight-point frugality rules, address the practices of formalism, bureaucratism, hedonism and extravagance, and reduce the burden at the grassroots level,

they said.

Xi underscored at the meeting that unswerving confidence in the Party's history is instrumental for the CPC to face new tests and deliver outstanding performances.

The CPC has been committed to seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation over the past century and promoting progress and common good in the world, which provided the Party with the greatest source of confidence in its history, he said.

It also endowed the Party with confidence to stay in power over the longer term and to lead the people to continue marching forward, Xi said. The Party can now say with pride that it is worthy of the choice of history and the people, he said.

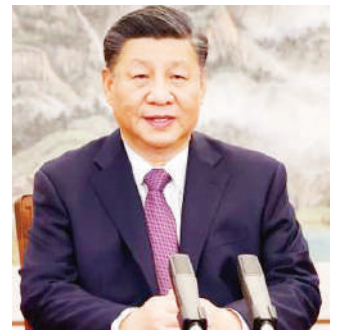
He highlighted the need to build consensus among the whole Party and society on an authentic understanding of history, and help Party members and the people, especially young people, to shore up their confidence in history.

The Party's life lies in its unity, and political unity must always come first, he said.

Xi stressed the necessity to summarize and properly use the Party's fighting experience, think about worst-case scenarios, be ever ready to protect against potential dangers in time of peace and enhance its fighting spirit in the new historic circumstances.

He called on members of the Political Bureau to remain true to their original aspirations and missions, think less of personal gains and losses and always give priority to the cause of the Party and the people.

They must always stay close to and share happiness and woe with the people, firm up their ideals and beliefs and obtain the political wisdom to tell right from wrong, he said.



China's online audio-visual industry embraces innovative development

ONLINE audio-visual industry is currently gathering huge energy for China to boost the cultural sector, develop digital economy and expand domestic demand.

As of June this year, 944 million Chinese watched videos online, including short videos, accounting for 93.4 percent of the country's total internet users, according to the 48th China Statistical Report on Internet Development released by the China Internet Network Information Center.

In recent years, online audio-visual industry has embraced vigorous development in China. An increasing number of high-quality programs are emerging.

Web series are currently on a virtuous cycle, mirroring social changes and people's lives, said an annual report on the development of China's audio-visual new media issued by a research center under the National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA).

Meanwhile, variety shows are releasing more positive energy, while social reality, as well as art and culture have become hot topics of the prospering web documentaries, the report said. Besides, original net animations would become phenomenal every now and then for both the contents and technologies they present.

A series of fine audio and

visual programs have been welcomed by Chinese users in recent years, including The City, The People, a radio drama that reels off touching stories happening in the fight against COVID-19 in Wuhan, and docudrama Dunhuang - Edge of the World, which discovers the mysterious history of the city of Dunhuang from a global perspective. A short video introducing the treasures of China's Tang Dynasty (618-907) has also become phenomenal for bringing relics in a museum "back to life."

The online audio-visual industry has nurtured multiple business models, including membership, advertising, copy

right, live commerce and intellectual property ecology building. According to the NRTA, the industry reported revenue of over 83 billion yuan (\$13.03 billion) in paid subscription and copy right services.

"The online audio-visual industry has brought huge changes to the society. It has not only created business opportunities, but also offered various products for people's cultural life," said Yin Hong, a professor with the School of Journalism and Communication at Tsinghua University. The industry has offered a strong support for social stability and people's sense of happiness amid the COVID-19 pandemic, he added.

Short videos portraying rural life are enjoying a high popularity among viewers. Short videos under the hashtag of "recording my rural life" have been played 113.5 billion times on Kuaishou, a short video social platform. Douyin, another popular short video social platform also known as TikTok outside of China, has launched an online activity to encourage short video contents about agriculture, rural areas and farmers, and the activity has achieved total views of 76.7 billion.

Today, more and more people are joining the creation of audio and visual contents, to demonstrate the new image

of Chinese farmers and vitalize the countryside via short videos and other media forms.

Audio and visual products of premium quality are not only popular in China. They have also attracted a number of followers overseas and become a window displaying China to the outside world. For instance, Chinese video blogger Li Ziqi has made her name for making videos introducing Chinese rural lifestyles and China's traditional food culture, and Chinese master carpenter Grandpa Amu also became a hit on overseas social platforms for his skilled use of Chinese mortise and tenon structures.

"I came to know many Chi-

nese video bloggers on Tik Tok and other platforms, where I have learned different customs across China," said a German surnamed Claus.

The annual report on the development of China's audio-visual new media analyzed that culture and technology will be a major trend in the online audio-visual industry and serve as an engine driving the industry. AI-powered video synthesis tools, big data video searching systems, holography and other audio and visual technologies will continuously improve the communication efficiency of contents and bring better interactive experiences.

People's Daily

The Guardian

SPORT



Luxembourg nationals, Jussi Jaatinen (L), and Nadine Almeida, who are doing volunteer work at Iringa's Ilula Orphan Program (IOP), have played part in Ilula Tigers SC's successful revival and impressive spell in this season's Iringa Regional Third Division League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ILULA TIGERS SC

Ilula Tigers SC loses to Ifunda FC in Regional Third Division League final

By Guardian Reporter

IRINGA'S Ilula Tigers Sports Club hopes of booking a place in the 2022/23 Regional Champions League have fizzled out as the side went down 5-4 to Ifunda FC in the Regional Third Division League's final which was played in Iringa last Sunday.

The losing finalists nevertheless bow out with their heads held high given they showcased spirit showing in the clash, which went to the penalty shootout.

The final's 90 minutes had ended in a 1-1 draw and the penalty shootout had to decide the winners.

Ifunda FC went on to win the penalty shootout 5-4 and lift the Regional Third Division League's top honour.

Ilula Tigers SC, made of promising footballers, takes credit for turning out to be the first side from Kilolo District to ever make it to the final of a regional tournament.

The most noticeable achievement is that the club has had success in its first season as a registered football club.

The long-awaited final, which took place at Samora Stadium, had enthusiastic soccer fanatics in the region filling the venue to watch the showdown much as it was played on Boxing Day.

The duel's first half was eventful with both sides having several opportunities to score.

Neither of the sides, however, could put the ball on the back of the opponents' net.

The second half began with Ilula Tigers SC putting pressure on Ifunda FC's defense and went 1-0 up through forward, Zonzi.

As the time ticked by, emotions were running high and two members of the Ifunda FC technical bench were shown the red card and were escorted off the pitch.

Soon after the incident, Ifunda FC scored the equalizer and the clash was tense until the final whistle.

The defeat, Ilula Tigers SC's officials stated, did not feel like a disappoint-

ment to the club considering the outfit has achieved a lot this season.

The two volunteers from Ilula Orphan Program (IOP) that have backed the club's revival have seen the outfit, which is part of their volunteer project, as a huge success.

The volunteers promised they will continue looking for sponsors for the club in Tanzania and elsewhere.

Ilula Tigers SC's official, Ajolon Moshasha, revealed: "As we prepare for the next season, we can continue working on our youth team that is expected to take part in the East Africa Cup."

Jussi Jaatinen, one of the IOP volunteers, noted: "Thanks to everyone who has supported Ilula Tigers SC financially, materially, and emotionally."

"We will continue to work hard during the offseason so that we can come back stronger, we are the team to beat, and it won't be easy."

"IOP is grateful to the board member, Cynthia Letsch, for a commendable job she has done to motivate Jussi and Nadine Almeida to back the IOP," Moshasha noted.

Ilula Tigers SC, which had plunged into oblivion in 2014 because of financial constraints, was revived in August, this year, after the arrival of two volunteers from Luxembourg, Jussi and Nadine, at the IOP.

Moshasha revealed the volunteers had been organizing fundraising functions in Luxembourg for the initiative.

The official said: "Soon after the volunteers' arrival, Ilula Tigers SC registered for Iringa Regional Third Division League and this season's Federation Cup tournament."

The outfit went on to hire a professional football coach Said Chitalula and began training camp almost two months before the tournaments began.

Moshasha stated: "The camp proved to be a huge success, with Ilula Tigers SC instantly becoming the Regional Third Division League favourites due to the outfit's professionalism, organization, and management."



Simba SC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

The lowdown on Simba SC's 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Group D opponents

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC now knows opponents the club will face in its 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage campaign, following Tuesday's draw conducted at CAF Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

Simba SC dropped to the CAF Confederation Cup after crashing out of this season's CAF Champions League, losing to Jwaneng Galaxy FC of Botswana via away goal rule, before edging Zambia's Red Arrows FC 4-2 on aggregate in CAF Confederation Cup's play-offs to secure their place in the Group Stage.

The Tanzanian representatives are set to tussle with some very tricky foes when the phase begins in February, with RS Berkane, ASEC Mimosas, and Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale their fellow sides in Group D.

Last season, Simba SC, with then-coach Didier da Rosa, progressed as group winners, with three wins and draw in two games in a group consisting of eventual winners, Al Ahly, AS Vita of DR Congo, and Al Merreikh of Sudan.

Fans may be rolling their eyes at the thought of playing RS Berkane but should be happy with this draw.

Simba SC has avoided the giants of African football, Pyramids FC, and TP Mazembe,

and navigation to the next phase is well within their capabilities. On paper, this is a good group.

Simba SC has never competitively met the other group opponents - Moroccan side, RS Berkane, and Nigerian side, US Gendarmerie Nationale.

RS Berkane is a rising force in African and Moroccan football.

In 2018, they won their first-ever title, the Moroccan Throne Cup to qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time.

After their debut CAF Confederation Cup campaign ended at the quarterfinal stage in 2018, they went further in 2019 and lost the final to Zamalek.

In 2020, they did even better and were crowned CAF Confederation Cup champions, clinching their first continental title in their history.

They beat Egyptians Pyramids FC 1-0 in the final game at Moulay Abdellah Stadium in Rabat, Morocco.

Unfortunately in 2021, they could not get past the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage.

This RS Berkane booked their place in the Group Stage of the CAF Confederation Cup after their 2-1 home victory against the Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) FC in the second leg of the second preliminary round. The two teams had drawn 0-0 in the first round in Kigali.

Ahead of the 2021/22 campaign, Former AS Vita's boss, Florent Ibenge, was appointed

as the new head coach of RS Berkane.

Ibenge held a dual role with club and country before stepping away from the Democratic Republic of Congo national team's head coaching role in 2019, having most notably helped his country to a third-place finish at the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations finals.

During his time at AS Vita, Ibenge won two league titles and claimed runners-up finishes in both the CAF Confederation Cup (2018) and CAF Champions League (2014).

Ibenge dived into the transfer market and signed Tuisila Kisinda from Young Africans SC, alias 'Yanga', and Zambia attacking midfielder, Clatous Chama, from Simba SC.

Moroccan sides have always proved to be tough opponents for Tanzanian sides, but Simba SC head coach, Pablo Martin, will doubtless feel that his team can get the better of them at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, opening up the possibility of a draw in Berkane being a decent result depending on the circumstances.

Msimbazi Street side's fans do not have fond memories of ASEC Mimosas.

In the pair's only previous continental meetings in the 2002/03 season, the Simba SC took maximum points in Dar es Salaam in a 2-1 before a vital final group clash against the Ivorians, where the home side triumphed 4-3 but both sides

were knocked out.

Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale is an ambitious club backed by the Nigerien police.

In 2021, they won both the league and the cup, the first titles in the club's history.

Their 2-1 aggregate win over DC Motema Pembe means they are the second-ever side from Niger to reach the Group Stage, after ASFAN who played the same stage of the CAF Confederation Cup in 2010.

Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale head coach, Zakariyaou Ibrahim, is not fazed and did not hesitate to state their quarterfinal ambitions despite their status.

He told CAF media: "We are in a well-rounded group with three big clubs namely Berkane who have already won this Cup, Simba SC of Tanzania who are playing in a good championship, and ASEC Mimosas who are used to this competition."

"Our objectives are very simple, to go ahead and qualify for the quarterfinals. We can do it. You just have to get back on track, work hard without neglecting any detail."

Simba SC will feel as though the outfit should be getting six points from their group's whipping boys, but as Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie Nationale showed in their playoff, you really cannot rule anything out in the CAF Confederation Cup

JMK Youth Park wins praise for hosting Open Tournament

By Guardian Correspondent



Arusha's Mtaani girls basketball side's players (in black jerseys) lock horns with Dar es Salaam's Creators' ballers in one of this season's JMK Youth Park Open Tournament's ties that took place at the center's courts last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

The third edition of the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) Youth Park Open Tournament came to a close in Dar es Salaam last week, with the showdown enjoying an increase in the number of participating teams.

The increase in the participating outfits, according to the tournament organizers, is due to the youths' growing passion for participating in sports.

The organizers stated many young people in the city and elsewhere are attracted to the JMK Youth Park's plans to develop sports in the country.

The JMK Youth Park is a center that has been set up to nurture young talents in various sports including basketball, hockey, soccer, volleyball, and wheelchair basketball.

This season's JMK Youth Park Open Tournament's basketball event had brought together 17 outfits.

They are Mtaani and Orkeeswa (Arusha), Deep Sea (Tanga), Margery Wolf Khun (Coast Region), Kurasini Secondary School outfit, Crows, Creators, and Jackets.

Ukongu, UDSM Outsiders, Mchenga, Vijana Queens, Vijana Kids, Ardhi, High View, Unmatched, and hosts, JMK Youth Park, complete the list.

In the U-18 boys' category, Mchen-

ga defeated JMK Youth Park 45-30, Vijana Queens hammered Orkeeswa 46-32 in the U-18 girls' category.

In the U-16 boys' event, High View defeated Mchenga 65-45, Orkeeswa commanded a 40-34 win over Mtaani in the U-16 girls' category.

After the Mchenga versus JMK Youth Park match, Said Said from Mchenga was voted as the U-18 boys' event's best player and was presented with the trophy.

In the U-18 girls' event, Vijana Queens' Judith Edward was voted as the best player, she got the same award.

In the U-16 boys' event, James Adam from the High View team was awarded the trophy for best showing, whereas the U-16 girls' event ended with Orkeeswa's Love Isaiah winning the best player award.

In hockey, Kigamboni recorded a 7-4 win over Arusha in the boys' event, with Michael (three), Gerald (two), and Jasphar scoring for the eventual winners.

The Arusha team's goals were scored by Antony (three) and Zakha that scored one.

Kigamboni team took first place in the boys' hockey event, followed by Arusha and Juhudi Strikers in second and third places respectively. In the girls' hockey event Juhudi team walloped Buza 4-0.

How Man City changed again this season and are still better than ever

By Ryan O'Hanlon, ESPN

R E M E M - BER when it seemed like Manchester City might be done? No? Well, OK. A lot's happened since then. I get it. But let's refresh your memory.

This was back, 75 years ago, in late November of 2020. Jose Mourinho was managing Tottenham. (Remember that? Me neither.) Spurs went into the Etihad and won 2-0 thanks to a handful of devastating counterattacks that City seemed completely incapable of containing.

It evoked memories of the ancient times of 2016, Pep Guardiola's first season in Manchester, when the likes of Aleksandar Kolarov, Gael Clichy and Bacary Sagna were scrambling around and failing to understand the basics of *juego de posición*.

Following the loss to Spurs, City had played eight matches, won three, drawn three and lost two. They were in 13th place, one spot above Newcastle and one behind Arsenal. Worse still, they'd conceded 11 goals and scored only 10.

Now, soccer is a random, low-scoring game that only occasionally rewards teams for playing well, but even nerds like me were concerned by City's first eight matches of the 2020-21 season. Guardiola had established his new team as Barcelona or Bayern Munich East, a dominant machine that would lose out on domestic titles only if someone else went on an unsustainable hot streak. In each of Guardiola's first four seasons, City led the league in expected goal differential.

The two teams that took the title from them, Chelsea in 2016-17 and Liverpool in 2019-20, dropped off significantly the following year respectively, and both needed north of 90 points to win the thing in the first place. However, this didn't seem like just a rotten stretch of luck for City.

As of Nov. 25, four teams had posted better xG differentials, and Liverpool, Chelsea and Tottenham had all doubled up City's number. This was a real decline, over a real sample of matches.

Of course, City didn't lose another game until mid-March, taking 54 of a possible 57 points from their next 19 matches. They won the league title in 2020-21 by 12 points with a plus-51 goals differential; no one else was north of plus-29. And yes, they also finished the year with the best xG differential, too.

So, maybe this would be the year they'd finally lose their grip? They'd have two of the three previous European champions to contend with, plus the team that had finished second the year before. And for most of this season, City were second-best somewhere: points, goal differential, xG differential. That is, until the last three matches: 17 goals for, and three against.

Halfway through their season, no one's scored



more goals than City, and no one's conceded fewer. And despite Liverpool looking as good as they ever have under Jurgen Klopp, and Chelsea adding Romelu Lukaku to a team that won the Champions League last season, those two have a combined league-title probability of only 22%, according to FiveThirtyEight.

The league, once again, is Manchester City's to lose. And while the story is the same, the Premier League's protagonist has figured out how to change -- for the second year in a row.

*How City -- and the rest of the Premier League -- slowed it all down

Last season, City reinvented themselves by taking it easy and slowing games down to a crawl. If you want to overgeneralize their style over Guardiola's first four seasons, it would be: press and possess.

From 2016-17 through 2019-20, City allowed the lowest opposition pass completion percentage: 73.7%, compared to a league average of 79.3. Another way to quantify the intensity of a press is through PPDA, defined by Stats Perform as "Opponent Passes allowed Per Defensive Action, in the opponent's defensive 3/5ths of the pitch." Over that same four-season stretch, City's PPDA was 9.15; league-average was 12.57, and the league's two other most prominent pressers (Liverpool and Spurs) were right at 10.5.

Thanks to City's peerless pressure, they packed the ball into the attacking end, too. Guardiola's team completed a 72% share of all the final-third passes in their matches; Liverpool's next-best total was down at 65, and Chelsea (61) were the only other side above 60. City had conquered the Premier League by never giving the ball away and then immediately winning it back as soon as they did, just like Guardiola achieved in Spain and in Germany.

Last season, the empty stadiums, the concentrated succession of games and perhaps the simmering anxiety of being in the midst of an unpredictable global pandemic did something to the way the game was being played. While

the Premier League has been slowing down for over a decade, the 2020-21 campaign accelerated the trend.

Since 2008-09, the first full season for which the Stats Perform offers comprehensive data, last season set records for the highest pass completion percentage (81.5), the lowest percentage of passes that went forward (33.4), and the slowest pace of ball movement (1.35 meters per second upfield). While Guardiola's team seemed to reimagine what was possible for a Premier League team over his first four seasons in England, they instead embraced what was happening around them in Year 5.

Last season, City's PPDA shot up to 11.51, which was just the sixth-most aggressive mark in the league. And for the first time under Guardiola, they allowed their opponents to complete 80% of their passes, which was also just the sixth-best mark in the league.

While City never moved the ball quickly upfield in previous years, they became the slowest Premier League side in the history of the Stats Perform database, averaging 1.02 meters of upfield ball movement per second of possession.

In January of last year, with City in the midst of what would ultimately become a 15-game winning streak, Guardiola summed up the reason for his team's improvement pretty succinctly: "The only difference is that we run less -- we were running too much. Without the ball you have to run. But with the football you have to walk, or run much less: stay more in position and let the ball run, not you. That's improved in these games."

Previously, City defended their own third by... not having to defend in their own third. Their key defenders were midfielders like Ferdinand, who would break up counters with well-timed tackles or fouls, along with center-backs and full-backs like Vincent Kompany and Kyle Walker, who excelled at chasing down balls played over the top.

But Fernandinho was unfortunately not immune to the passage of time, and their newest center-back, Ruben Dias, who arrived for

\$75 million from Benfica over the summer of 2020, didn't have the same kind of rangy athleticism of Guardiola's previous options at the position. However, Dias seemed very comfortable with defending in his own third, and so too did City: they completed the fewest proportion of final-third passes in their matches since Guardiola took over (70.2%), and also allowed opponents to complete more passes in the attacking third (55 per game) than ever before.

Although it worked, it wasn't likely to keep working.

*Welcome to the Joao Cancelo era

City won the league easily in the end in 2020-21, but last year's vintage produced the second-worst goal differential (plus-51) of the Guardiola era and the worst xG differential (plus-44.3). Their third title under Pep was as much down to the inadequacies of their rivals -- Liverpool and Chelsea each played one-half of an elite season each, thanks to an injury crisis and a coaching change respectively -- as it was to their adaptation to a changing roster and environment.

Their search for a striker last summer seemed a pretty clear admission of the fact, and even their defeat in the 2021 Champions League final was a minor cause for concern. After conceding an early goal to Chelsea, City dominated possession, but just couldn't ratchet the pressure up like they would've in the past.

Rarely had anyone been able to take a lead and then just keep a Guardiola team at arm's length in the way that Chelsea did. Playing slow works -- as long as you're winning.

City never got that striker, failing with Harry Kane (among others), and although Guardiola will still tell you they need him, it's not totally clear that they do. At least, it's not clear that a soccer team can function at a higher level than City have achieved so far this season.

Through 19 games, only one other team in Premier League history has produced a better goal differential (plus-38) than this year's City: the 17-18 centurions, who were already at an absurd plus-48 at this point in the season. However,

City's xG differential is currently on pace to be the best since Stats Perform started keeping track.

Put another way, City are already up to a plus-33.7 xG differential. Last season's team? They were plus-44.3 ... for the entire season. There are still 19 games left to go in this one.

So, what's changed? A couple of players, to start.

Aymeric Laporte, Bernardo Silva and Joao Cancelo have all seen their Premier League minutes increase by at least 25%, compared to last season. Since arriving midway through the centurion season, Laporte seemed to be the skeleton key to City's success -- they were brilliant with him, defensively fragile without him -- but he fell out of favor with Guardiola last season after the tumultuous start and featured in only 35% of the Premier League minutes. That's up to nearly 75% this year, and his presence in the lineup over John Stones seems like it's allowed City to claw back some of their aggressiveness from years past.

After looking to move teams over the summer, Bernardo is also back in a big way. He has played 89% of the minutes, compared to 61% last season. The 27-year-old Portuguese Swiss army knife has mainly played in the midfield, where he does two things that make up for the team's lack of a striker: gets on the ball in the box and creates goals.

Silva's nearly at a goal or an assist every two matches for the season, and he's averaging nearly six touches in the penalty area per 90 minutes. That rates in the 99th percentile for midfielders and would still be an

above-average mark for a forward. He was just named to European Sports Media's Team of the Month for November.

One thing Bernardo does not do is pass the ball forward, but his fellow member of the most recent ESM Team of the Month, Cancelo, more than makes up for it.

After playing 67% of the minutes last season but not being chosen to start the Champions League final, Cancelo has become City's most indispensable and most used outfield player (94% of the minutes) this year. He's taken 400 more touches than any other City player in 2021-22, and he's second among all players in Europe in both progressive passes and progressive carries.

Employing a fullback who can do all of that on his own has freed up both Bernardo and Ilkay Gundogan, City's third member of the ESM Team of the Month, to get forward and make up for the club's lack of a striker. It also allowed Kyle Walker to hang back -- just 0.7 total expected assists in over 1,000 minutes -- without ding- ing the attack and thus strengthening the back line.

And so, the result is a hybrid of the first four years of Pep in the Premier League, with the slow motion of last season. City's opponents this year are completing 79% of their passes -- a slight decrease from last season, but still only the seventh-best mark in the league.

And City are moving the ball upfield at only a slightly faster pace (1.06 meters/second) than last season. But their PPDA has dipped back down to 10.6, and they're dominating the attacking third like never before, averaging a 75.6% share

of the attacking-third passes in their matches -- the highest mark of the Guardiola era.

Essentially, City are able to turn their opponents over in the attacking third, and they're also able to defend more passively in their own half when the press doesn't work or just doesn't engage. But since they have Cancelo and an army of attacking midfielders who never give the ball away in place of a more traditional striker, the ball rarely ever reaches the Manchester City defensive third. Even though the press isn't as active as it was in Guardiola's first four seasons, City are allowing 11 fewer passes in their own third than last year and fewer than in any season other than 2017-18.

If that sounds weird, it's because it is. This really shouldn't work. You're not supposed to be able to pile that much of the match into the attacking third unless it's paired with a hyper-aggressive press. You're also not supposed to be able to lead the Premier League in goals scored without a single player hitting more than seven at the midway point of the Premier League season.

You're not supposed to get better when Raheem Sterling and Kevin De Bruyne start playing fewer minutes. And you're not supposed to be able to flourish when your club-record signing, Jack Grealish, plays barely half of the available minutes and scores only two goals and gets two assists.

Given the ongoing search for a striker, City and even Guardiola himself didn't think it would work this well, either. But thanks to as much money as any club in the

world, a roster of flexible, interchangeable pieces, and the most adaptable manager in the modern game, it's working as well as it ever has.

City have won more games in a calendar year than any English team in the history of the sport, and if they score once in their upcoming match against Brentford, they'll break that record, too. The scariest part? Based on the trajectory of the past few months, 2022 might be even better.

Meanwhile, Manchester City will not replace Ferran Torres in the January transfer window and will instead renew their efforts to sign a striker next summer, sources have told ESPN.

Torres was officially confirmed as a Barcelona player on Tuesday after City accepted a bid of €55 million with another €10m in add-ons.

But instead of trying to bring in another forward in January, City are set to use the money to boost their bid to sign a striker in the summer.

They still hold an interest in Harry Kane, while Erling Haaland is also among their list of targets.

Academy graduate Cole Palmer, 19, is set to play a more prominent role during the second half of the season to compensate for the loss of Torres.

Pep Guardiola's team are on a run of nine straight Premier League wins ahead of their trip to Brentford on Wednesday.

City have another date in London three days later against Arsenal on Jan. 1 and Guardiola says the unrelenting Christmas schedule is one of the reasons why the English title is the hardest to win.

"Right now we have games on Dec. 29 and Jan. 1 -- two away fixtures against absolutely difficult, tough opponents," said Guardiola.

"The Premier League is like this. That is why it is the most satisfying competition if you are able to win it. You play against all the big teams in different circumstances and you have to solve it. It will be no exception in the next two games."

City are set to be without Kyle Walker against Brentford. He hasn't played since being sent off in the 2-1 defeat to RB Leipzig in the Champions League on Dec. 7, and Guardiola has not wanted to elaborate on the reasons behind his continued absence.

"He cannot be with us right now because he is not fit, that is all I can say," he said.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Man City changed again this season and are still better than ever

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EATV THURSDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasu
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

TONIGHT @ 9:00

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20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Clatous Chama set for Simba SC return in CAF Confederation Cup



Clatous Chama

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

ZAMBIAN attacking midfielder, Clatous Chama, is set for another sensational return to Tanzania's Simba SC after being drawn against his former club in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage.

Chama will return to his former club after his Moroccan club, RS Berkane, was drawn against Simba SC in Group D of the competition following a draw conducted at CAF Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt on Tuesday afternoon.

The two sides will go head-to-head for a spot in the knockout stages alongside the Ivorian giants Asec Mimosas and Nigerien side, Union Sportive de la Gendarmerie, in Group D.

Tanzania representatives, Simba SC, have qualified for the CAF Confederation Cup

Group Stage after overcoming Zambia's Red Arrows FC on a 4-2 aggregate in the playoffs.

Simba SC was relegated to the CAF Confederation Cup after being eliminated from the CAF Champions League

by Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy FC when the former lost 3-1 at home in the second preliminary round game played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

After winning 2-0 in Botswana, it was assumed Simba SC needed a draw to confirm second consecutive CAF Champions League Group Stage qualification, only to crumble in the second half to allow the unfancied Botswana visitors to pull a major upset.

The results forced the resignation of Simba SC French tactician, Didier Gomes da Rosa, who has been replaced by former Real Madrid assistant coach, Pablo Martin.

Simba SC managed to reach the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League last season before receiving a 4-0 first leg away drubbing at the hands of eventual finalists, Kaizer Chiefs, to lose the tie on 4-3 aggregate following a 3-0 home victory in the second leg.

The 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage will be played from February 13-April 22, 2022.

A total of 16 teams will compete in the Group Stage to decide the eight places in the quarterfinal.

Group A consists of Egyptian giants Pyramids FC, CS Sfaxien (Tunisia), Zanaco FC (Zambia), and Ahly Tripoli of Libya.

Group B consists of JS Kabylie (Algeria)/Royal Leopards (eSwatini), Orlando Pirates (South Africa), JS Saoura (Algeria), and Al Ittihad (Libya).

Group C will witness a massive Congo River derby as DR Congo's TP Mazembe drew Congo Republic's AS Otoho, with Egyptian outfit, Al Masry, and Coton Sport of Cameroon competing the group.

Group D is made up of RS Berkane (Morocco), Simba SC (Tanzania), ASEC Mimosas (Ivory Coast), and US Gendarmerie Nationale (Niger).

Tanzanian youngster arrives in England for trials

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN football starlet, Omary Mvungi, from Dar es Salaam's Cambiasso Sports Academy, has finally arrived in England for professional football training and trials.

Mvungi headed to England for the Garuda select project under former Chelsea captain, Dennis Wise, and he will be staying there for at least six months as he continues to hone his way to European football.

At the same time, Mvungi was accompanied by Louis Frederic Moudourou from Rainbow Football Academy from the United States who have teamed up with Cambiasso Sports Academy to seek the opportunity and promise Tanzanians that he will not let them down.

Cambiasso Sports Academy's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Twaha Ngwabi, explained that this is a continuation of the center's efforts to promote talent and find teams abroad for the youngsters to prosper.

The official noted: "We have been doing this to various players and we have managed to provide them with a team."

"We are doing this to make Tanzania have more good and experienced players who will help the national team in the future," Ngwabi noted.

"I am grateful for this opportunity, I am going to show what I have with all my Talent to do my best through my strength, I promise Tanzanians that I will not let them down because I am confident and I will do well," Mvungi said.

"Good preparation comes from the opportunity and I see my dream come true to play international football," he said.

Before moving there, Mvungi has on occasion served national under-17 and 20 national youth teams.

This year Mvungi helped Tanzania's U-17 side, Serengeti Boys, qualify for the U-17 Africa Cup of Nations tournament.

Serengeti Boys sailed through to the continental showdown after reaching the final of the U-17 Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) tournament and concede 3-1 loss to Uganda.

Mtibwa Sugar mum on plans to rope in coach Hitimana

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE 2021/22 NBC Premier League side, Mtibwa Sugar, says for now it cannot comment on rumors linking the outfit with coach Thierry Hitimana.

Mtibwa Sugar's information officer, Thobias Kifaru, yesterday said it is too early for him to comment on whether the club has plans to re-engage Hitimana to replace Cameroonian, Joseph Omog, who was fired due to the team's poor performance.

Kifaru, however, confirmed that the club has engaged in extra gear in search of the head coach of the team.

"I'm in Tanga, for now, I can't comment on rumors that we want to re-engage coach Hitimana, I need to talk with the executive committee of the club," Kifaru stated.

"All I know is that the club is currently under caretaker coach, Awadh Juma, if anything happens I will let you know," he said.

Rwandan Hitimana, who has had stints with several soccer clubs in Tanzania, was recently engaged by Mtibwa Sugar.

He however did not stay long and was unveiled as Simba SC's assistant coach.

The two sides on Tuesday announced that they have reached an



Thierry Hitimana

agreement to terminate the contract.

Kifaru also refused to comment on Mtibwa Sugar's signing of Democratic of Congo (DRC) winger, Deo Kanda.

"We have indeed signed Kanda, but I cannot comment on the controversy which has surrounded his signing, once I am in Morogoro I can be in a better place to comment," he said.

Mtibwa Sugar on Tuesday beat Coastal Union 1-0 in a league tie at CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, and Kifaru described the win as the reinvention of his outfit.

The Morogoro club that was languishing at the bottom of the 16-team NBC Premier League has now moved one place up.

The midfielder, Salum Kihimbwa, scored the all-important goal for Mtibwa Sugar in the clash from a penalty.

"The win has boosted morale in the team and I am very confident that after the short break for international assignments, the team will come back very strong," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

