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'TCB, not govt to set cotton prices'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

AGRICULTURE minister Japhet Hasunga has said the government will not be involved in setting up cotton prices, saying it will be determined by the market. The minister (pictured) was speaking here yesterday at a meeting of cotton stakeholders from 17 regions grouping 56 districts growing the crop. He said that the task of setting up cotton prices will be carried out by the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB). "When you leave prices to be determined by the market, farmers have to be adequately educated to know the price applicable for that year. For the whole of last year the agricultural sector contributed 28.7 percent to GDP," he pointed out. "Our role as government is to ensure that the crop meets the required standards and ensure that the market is available," he said. He also pointed at the need for capacitating local industries to use locally grown cotton and export processed goods rather than raw materials, adding:

Our role as government is to ensure that the crop meets the required standards and ensure that the market is available

"This will help the country do away with imported second hand clothing." Cotton production has increased from 122,178 tonnes in the 2015/2016 season to 348,910 in the 2019/2020 season. Achievements recorded in cotton production were stimulated by improvements in the wider agricultural sector, including proper usage of pesticides, steady supply of quality seeds and inputs. In the 2018/19 farming season, farmers planted certified and improved seeds such as UKM08, which is highly productive. The target is to produce one million tonnes of cotton by 2022/2023, the minister noted. "We've also changed the cotton purchasing system and currently the crop is sold through Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Unions (AMCOs) instead of agents purchasing directly from farmers. "All these measures have improved the quality of cotton from 22 percent of all the cotton produced in 2017/18 to 65 percent in the 2019/20 season," he specified. On prices, the minister said that in this harvesting season cotton prices in the world market have plummeted. "Last year cotton production stood at

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Mineral dealers to do business outside hubs

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE government has temporarily allowed mineral dealers to procure minerals outside officially established trading centres following trading challenges in the wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak. Minerals minister Doto Biteko told traders in minerals in Geita Region that the permission will be reviewed after three months. The decision is meant to boost government revenues from the sector despite the pandemic being around, as well as helping to stimulate other economic activities generally, he said. The minister had earlier visited projects implemented by the Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) in corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. He urged traders to only make sure they have all the required permits indicating where the minerals have been bought from and where they will be sold. "Minerals sector contribution in revenue collection is enormous. We want to see to it that the business stimulates economic activity," he emphasised. He said that the government's intention is to see areas with mineral resources including Geita transform people's lives and the economy of the surrounding communities. "I am impressed by the way government authorities in Geita manage revenue collection

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Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina (2nd-L) and other dignitaries including Dodoma district commissioner Patrobas Katambi, Tanzania Dairy Board registrar Dr Sophia Mlotte and Dodoma City mayor Prof Davis Mwamfupe drink milk at Dairy Week event in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt pounces on cattle, dairy product imports

Public agencies to source milk from local producers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has announced a one-month crackdown on illegal importers of livestock and dairy products to control rampant smuggling and protect local producers. Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina said here yesterday that to further boost the market for local products, government agencies and institutions have been restricted from using imported milk powder. The ban on the use of imported milk powder was recommended in a recent report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on

Agriculture, Livestock and Water. It is expected to increase local production of dairy products and protect investors, he stated. Officiating at the national milk week climax, the minister tasked the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB), the Tanzania Meat Board (TMB), the director of Veterinary Services and the director of production and markets to further intensify controls through 'Operation Nzagamba'. "There should be no more smuggling of livestock and dairy products after one month. We are making huge investments in the dairy-sub sector, so we can produce enough products for

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JPM: Be vigilant against Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has called upon Tanzanians to continue being alert against behaviour and practices that could make them vulnerable to Covid-19 and other infectious diseases. The State House Director of Communications, Gerson Msigwa, said in a statement that the president made these remarks when speaking yesterday at a congregation of the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Virgin Mary Parish at Chamwino in Dodoma Region. He attended Sunday mass at the Holy Trinity Church led by Padre Paulo Mapalala. He called upon Tanzanians to continue taking precautionary measures against the pandemic,

while thanking the Almighty God for everything. The president thanked religious leaders and urged all Tanzanians to pray to God to protect the country from the Covid-19 pandemic. He said God Almighty has responded to prayers from Tanzanians who have been praying, fasting and doing repentance with the result that the rate of infections has gone down and people are going about their normal activities. This is in marked contrast with that was earlier being contemplated, he emphasised. While in church President Magufuli conducted fund raising for the expansion of the church and a total of 17,229,000/- was realized. This includes 10m/- the president himself contributed and 76 bags of cement, also directing that expansion

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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- FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.
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- FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people. For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.
- FACT 4** There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home when you are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- FACT 5** You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms: Fever, Cough, Shortness of breath. Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms AND Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19



Mineral dealers to do business outside hubs

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from the mining sector. We have already achieved our target of 400 billion/- in Geita because of mining sector contribution," he declared.

"Most of Geita Region's revenue contribution comes from Geita Gold Mining Ltd. It is very encouraging now that the sector contributes more than five percent to GDP," he added.

The minister commended GGML for being a good partner in supporting development projects in the Lake Zone area.

One of the projects launched during the visit is the Special Economic Investment Zone to be managed by the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) and the Geita Town Council.

The minister visited other strategic projects like the Geita central market frames, Katundu market and the gold refinery. As a responsible corporate citizen, GGML spends about 9.2bn/- annually on community projects in the region, the management indicated.

GGML Vice President for Sustainability, Simon Shayo said the company extended over 9bn/- to surrounding communities, by financing different CSR initiatives.

He said in 2018 GGML supported installation of solar powered street lights along the main roads in Geita town.

It also financed construction of a state-of-the-art tower at the Geita town roundabout, construction of a sunflower processing factory, a modern market facility and finishing of more than 600 health sector and education facilities, he said.

GGML was the first mining company in Tanzania to develop and implement a credible CSR plan in line with section 105 of the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, No. 7 of 2017, amending the Mining Act, No. 14 of 2010.

Regional commissioner Robert Gabriel said that the establishment of the minerals modern trading centre in Geita had contributed to increased revenues.

The region collected 36.57bn/- from different levies and fees from March 2019 to May 2020, with a total of 5,320.99 kilos of gold worth 522.44bn/- sold at the centre during the period.

"This is an indication that the country's minerals sector is growing," he said, attributing the good performance of the sector to reforms

initiated by President John Magufuli.

RC Gabriel noted that collected revenues will be spent to improve social services, including construction of health centres and hospitals.

He said the number of processing plants had increased to 39 from the previous 20, and the government will continue creating a good business environment to facilitate investments and the creation of small industries.

GGML has been supporting various development initiatives in the region, as in 2018 the mining firm provided 9.2bn/- directed to improvement social services, he said.

Regional minerals officer Daniel Mapunda said that during the 2019/2020 financial year, the region issued 283 licenses to companies conducting surveys for minerals.

The region also issued licenses to two big mining firms, 17 licenses to medium-scale miners and 1487 to artisanal miners.

A total of 384 licences have been provided to those engaging in gold extraction with vat-leaching plants, he said.

So far about 33 licenses have been issued to key businessmen at the Geita minerals exchange centre and 69 licences to traders in collection sub-centres variously located in the region.

Geita had surpassed its revenue collection targets for the 2019/2020 financial year in collecting 191.52bn/- in contrast to 156.34bn/- earlier projected, he said.

It is a rise by 62bn/- from the 2018/2019 fiscal year collection level, with 34.2bn/- having been collected from artisanal miners, he added.



Most of the Geita Region revenue contribution comes from Geita Gold Mining Ltd. It is very encouraging now that the sector contributes more than five percent to GDP



Zuberi Mabie (R), head of Kondo-Arangi's Rocks Centre in Dodoma Region, briefs Natural Resources and Tourism ministry permanent Secretary Prof Adolf Mkenda at the weekend on the ancient rock paintings. The paintings are on overhanging slabs of sedimentary rocks on the eastern slopes of the Maasai escarpment bordering the Great Rift Valley in central Tanzania. The PS was on a tour of the world-acclaimed Rock-Art Site in Kondo District, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2006 owing to its impressive collection of rock art. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt pounces on cattle, dairy product imports

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the market," said Mpina.

He directed milk buyers and processors to obey the set regulations which requires them to purchase a litre of raw milk at 800/-.

He warned that artificial insemination (AI) should be priced at 10,000/- as stated in the Artificial Breeding Regulation 2020. Livestock keepers were being charged 25,000/- for the process.

The minister ordered district and municipal authorities to make sure all the livestock are vaccinated, a national strategic move that aims to protect animals from diseases.

Mpina challenged local manufacturers of dairy products to process milk in accordance with installed capacity to boost milk

production. He said currently the factories processes 23.52 percent of the produced raw milk, hence farmers struggle to sell their milk.

"We want to stop importing milk products in the next two years. This can only be done if you process milk as per your factories' installed capacity. It is a shame to import milk from countries that do not have our number of livestock," he asserted.

The government plans to construct major milk processing factories in Mbeya, Kagera, Mara, Mwanza and Shinyanga, to ensure a reliable market for raw milk as well as promoting the milk drinking culture, he declared.

He urged stakeholders to promote milk drinking in schools in the Mainland. The government is working to find solutions to challenges facing

the sector, receiving opinions from various stakeholders including the Tanzania Milk Processors Association (TAMPA) and the Tanzania Milk Producers Association (TAMPRODA).

Mahmoud Mginwa, the chairman of the parliamentary committee, said that restricting government offices' sourcing of milk powder shall boost local manufacturers. It will ensure a reliable market for raw milk produced by farmers across the country, he said.

TDB Registrar Dr Sophia Mlote said the national milk week has been successful as many Tanzanians have been encouraged to take milk more often. She assured the minister that the government's directives in that regard will be fully implemented as they are geared to transform the country's dairy sub-sector.

Catherine Dangat, the chairperson of the milk stakeholders' council, commended government efforts in seeking to transform the dairy sub-sector, ensuring the protection of local processors.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says Tanzania has a low level consumption of milk and dairy products at 45 liters per capita annually, against the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations of 200 liters per capita.

Tanzania produces 2.4 billion liters of raw milk yearly but less than 10 percent of the milk produced is processed.

Ministry statistics indicate that the country has a total of 32.2 million cattle, 20 million goats, 5.5 million sheep, two million pigs and over 636,000 donkeys.



Abubakar Masoli (L), TBL's south zone sales manager, pictured at the weekend symbolically presenting to Mbeya Carnival official Jacqueline Kibwana a set of items to help in the war on Covid-19. The firm extended similar to more than 2,500 bars and pubs in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'TCB, not govt to set cotton prices'

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341,000 tonnes valued at 419bn/- and the world demand was 23 million tonnes. World production was 26.5 million tonnes which means it exceeded demand," he said.

He objected to foreign buyers going directly to farmers, sounding out starting this season on June 15 all the cotton will be delivered to allocated

selling centres.

Hussein Bashe, the deputy minister, meanwhile said that this year's cotton season wasn't easy owing to changes in the purchasing system but had in the end shown great improvement.

He commended regional commissioners in cotton producing areas for close supervision, which has brought positive impacts to farmers and the government.

Bashe said the government decided to pay farmers directly into the farmers' bank accounts.

"Currently, 128,000 bank accounts have been opened and the process is ongoing. We appreciate efforts done by banks and other financial institutions towards making the exercise a success," he said in acknowledgement.

Stella Manyanya, the deputy minister for Industries and Trade, urged buyers

to prepare to adapt to changes in the cotton sub-sector.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Deputy Governor Dr Bernard Kibesse described the country's economy as "sound, not shaken", explaining that commercial banks had attained financial stability.

However, he warned that farmers would be paid for their crops without having a bank account.

JPM: Be vigilant against Covid-19

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work start today. President Magufuli's remarks reiterated what he said on Friday, that the government was considering reopening primary and secondary schools. The number of Covid-19 patients had declined further in health facilities across the country,

he pointed out.

He was addressing delegates of the Tanzania Teachers' Union (TTU) annual general meeting (AGM), he assured Tanzanians that the spread of coronavirus infections had fallen appreciably, so schools would likely reopen soon across the country.

Tanzania to establish herbal, alternative medicines college

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is set to start offering courses to health experts on the use of herbs and alternative medicines in treating non-communicable diseases including diabetes and blood pressure (BP).

An international naturopathic clinic has established a college in the country, namely, Cornwell Tanzania, which will apart from training health experts, provide education to the public on the importance of using herbs in treating different diseases.

Director, Cornwell Tanzania Elizabeth Lema told journalists in Dar es Salaam that decision to establish the college was reached after realizing the availability of different herbs and plant species that can be used to produce local remedies.

According to Lema, the college will also educate the public on the types of nutritional natural foods that Tanzanians can regularly consume to boost body immune and protect themselves from diseases.

She said the college will be officially opened in July 2020 whereas it will offer a number of courses. She said those qualified includes Form Four leavers

with the D pass rate in chemistry and biology subjects.

The two years courses are also suitable for health experts as they are likely to add new skills on how herbs can treat various diseases. "Tanzania will be the first country to have such a college in East Africa," said the director calling upon interested individuals to start applying for the course.

She said they have officials who are ready to provide additional information of health experts who wishes to know more about the courses and the college itself.

Doors are also open to any person interested to know on how to use the herbs, she said.

Lema added that they have already established farms that used to grow various medicinal trees which are harvested to manufacture the herbs and nutritional foods. The farms are located at Pemba Mnazi and Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam.

Cornwell Tanzania Co-director, Johny Brinkmann said: "We are proud to establish the college in the country; we aim to train and educate Tanzanians on the use of alternative medicines in improving body immune and curing diseases."



Efforts to move to safe ground a truck stuck in mud at a spot along a road in Kibiti District, Coast Region, at the weekend well under way. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

AG identifies weaknesses in by-law writing process

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Attorney General (AG) Prof Alderodus Kilangi has said that there are several weaknesses in the process of writing by-laws and approaches applied in enforcing those laws, the situation that fuels administrative conflicts in various councils across the country.

Winding up debate on the Parliamentary Committee's Bylaws Report tabled for discussion last Friday in the House, the AG said that some of the by-laws are being written in unprofessional way and some of them being written in a way that contradicts with parent laws, thus bringing misunderstanding on their implementation.

"Several measures have been put in place to address the challenge. Preparation and writing of laws and bylaws is a technical process that's why even the parliament makes its own

laws that are sometimes challenged in the court of law," he said.

Kilangi said the government is facing a shortage of colleges and universities for the legislative drafting profession and has been sending majority of its students to the United Kingdom (UK) and Zambia to acquire knowledge of the profession.

"It is only Zambia in the African continent that offers such courses at verified standards. This is the reason why we do have a small number of lawyers who are professionals of legislative drafting" he added.

The AG further asserted that to address the challenge, his office had already scheduled for the elementary training program as it had already received financial support from the African Legal Facility but the plan has been delayed due eruption of the COVID-19.

"The training will involve lawyers in the AG's office, public entities, court

magistrates, city and district council lawyers. However, his office had also received funds from the World Bank (WB) for the same purpose. His office plans to commence such training as the pandemic COVID-19 clears up," Kilangi said.

Meanwhile, Prof Kilangi said that his office is preparing a guidelines manual that will be a leading tool in making bylaws. The guidelines will consist of opinions from legal directors from all legal departments. The guidelines will be gazette by the end of this month.

Responding on the committee's suggestion that the parliament should take direct charge of going through bylaws before their enforcement in respective areas, the AG said the concept of granting the so called delegated legislation power to the parliament is contrary to the administrative law that demands the making of bylaws must consult the AG's office for amendments and approval.

Harvest all your crops and move out of the forest reserve - govt

By Guardian Reporter, Kasulu

THE government has given one-month ultimatum to all farmers who have invaded and cultivated crops inside Makere South Forest Reserve in Kasulu district to harvest their crops and leave.

Constantine Kanyasu, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, issued the directive yesterday in Kasulu when speaking to workers and staff of Tanzania forest Services Agency (TFS) and CCM officials in the district.

He said that legal steps will be taken against anyone who will again engage himself in farming activities in the area.

The step follows complaints from farmers who claimed to have their crops confiscated and subjected to acts of humiliation by TFS officials whenever they are seen in the reserve area.

Kanyasu said it is very unreasonable to wait for a person to cultivate his farm, plant crops and then you pounce on him, fine him whenever he starts harvesting.

He said seizing people's crops after harvest is equivalent to subjecting them to hunger and poverty.

Kanyasu said defence and security organs should work together with TFS to take legal steps against Tanzanian farmers who offer Burundian nationals as farm labourers in the reserve forest area.

He called upon the TFS to arrest non-Tanzanian labourers and take them to courts as it will assist to mention Tanzanian nation who employ them.

Member of Parliament for Kasulu rural Vuma Ole said the decision to allow people to harvest their farms will reduce the hostility pitting farmers and the TFS.

He however called upon TFS to manage the Makere Forest Reserve at all times not only during the harvest seasons as the situation creates avenues for bribery.

Earlier the Kasulu district commissioner Col. Simon Anange said after investigating the complaints raised by the people, it came to light that many farmers who cultivate in the forest reserve were Burundi nationals and not Tanzanians as it was often being claimed.

In the circumstances Col. Anange warned Tanzanians who welcome these foreigners to stop doing so forthwith.

TFS conservator prof Dos santos Silayo called upon the people to abide by the laws by stopping all farming activities in the Forest Reserve as it is an offence by law.

A farmer from the reserve Andrew Chibwene said he was arrested and had his two bags of beans and his motor cycle seized.



The step follows complaints from farmers who claimed to have their crops confiscated and subjected to acts of humiliation by TFS officials whenever they are seen in the reserve area

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NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF COMMERCIAL BANK OF AFRICA (TANZANIA) LIMITED TO NIC BANK TANZANIA LIMITED

We, NIC Bank Tanzania Limited (NIC), do hereby NOTIFY the general public that on 15 June 2020, we shall acquire the majority of the assets and all of the liabilities from Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) Limited (CBA).

The Notice of Transfer of Assets and Liabilities was published by CBA and NIC in the Guardian and Mwananchi newspapers on 23 December 2019 and in the Government Gazette on 17 January 2020 (as GN No.48). The Notice of Transfer of Assets and Liabilities was issued in line with section 4 of the Transfer of Businesses (Protection of Creditors) Act, Cap 327 R.E 2002(Tanzania Mainland).

The implementation of the transfer of assets and liabilities has been approved by the Bank of Tanzania and the Fair Competition Commission. Both CBA and NIC are in the process of concluding other regulatory conditions. Once completed, NIC will assume all obligations and rights of the assets transferred from CBA. NIC will also assume all liabilities existing between CBA and all its customers and creditors. In addition, upon satisfaction of all regulatory requirements, NIC will change its name and brand to NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited.

This notification is also issued in fulfilment of the regulatory requirement to provide notice to depositors, creditors and any other person otherwise entitled to any funds or properties held by CBA at least 30 days prior to the transaction date. It should be noted, that the legal rights and obligations of existing creditors and depositors of NIC will not be affected by the transaction.

Signed on behalf of NIC Tanzania by:

Margaret Karume,

Managing Director, NIC Bank Tanzania,

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NIC BANK TANZANIA LIMITED



Fishmongers at Arusha city's Kilombero mixed-goods market in an anxious wait for customers for their smoked and sun-dried fish, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza)

Morogoro regional authorities instructed to hold meeting on Uluguru environment destruction

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE deputy Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President (Union Affairs and Environment), Mussa Sima, has instructed the Morogoro Region authorities within seven days to meet with officials from all districts in the region together with all environmental stakeholders to discuss environment challenges facing Uluguru mountains.

The Deputy minister issued the instructions soon after receiving a short regional report on the situation in preservation of the environment on the mountains during his inspection visit of environmental issues in Morogoro region.

He said the meeting should bring up the correct recommendations on how to protect the environment from the ongoing human activities on Uluguru mountains.

"Uluguru mountains range is the main water source for Morogoro region hence it is the responsibility for each one of us to make sure the environment on the mountains is protected for the benefit of the current and future generations," he said.

He said water borne diseases caused by inflows of sewage water to water sources have increased hence immediate and appropriate steps must be taken to protect human lives as well as the country's rare range of mountains.

He said recommendations from the meeting should reach the Office

of the Vice President for further appropriate.

During his visit, the Deputy minister visited the MZ Packaging Ltd that produces plastic packaging bags but found it closed due to stiff competition in the internal market, the competition that is allegedly blamed on the existence of many other producers and distributors of low quality goods being produced that do not adhere to the laid down procedures.

"I am instructing the national Environmental management Council (NEMC) to provide me with an investigative report on the plastic packaging trade so that all those producing low quality products should be identified and steps taken against them," he said.

He also said it was essential to protect the country's borders to ensure low quality plastic packaging products do not come in.

The factory's director Zinadin Amani thanked the government for the visit by the deputy minister and listened to challenges and promised to soon restart production by following the country's laws and regulation in the production of plastic packaging products.

The Acting Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Dr Rozalia Rwegasira said the region continues to address environmental degradation on Uluguru mountains brought about by various human activities thereon.

'Govt set to provide boats and lifeboats'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government through the Ministry of Home Affairs is always ready to carry out search and rescue operations wherever severe flooding puts lives at risk and at the same time set to provide rescue boats and lifeboats services during floods.

In his written response to the

question raised by Mafia MP Mbaraka Dau who in his principal question sought to know when will the government deploy a rescue boat in the island, minister Geroge Simbachawene, said that the government is aware of the pressing demand of the fire and rescue equipment in the country's islands surrounded by lakes and sea.

"I would like to assure you that vessels will be supplied to various destinations in the country, including Mafia Island" said Simbachawene.

According to him, currently the Fire and Rescue Force continues to provide public education to the owners and passengers of naval vessels, as well as advising each boat owner to make sure that their

facilities have enough life jackets and fire extinguishers.

He asserted that the Fire and Rescue Force maintains good relations with other defense and security agencies in the country and private companies with maritime vessels and rescue facilities with the intention of joining efforts together when disasters occur.

'Big population increase is no threat to Tanzania's economy'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

TANZANIA has stood as a macro-economic success story for nearly two decades. The rate of economic growth increased from 3.5 per cent in the 1990s to 7 per cent in the 2000s.

Despite the global financial crisis, growth rates have been remarkably stable over the last decade, and they are expected to continue or even increase for the foreseeable future. At the same time, the country has experienced high population growth from 11 million people in 1963 to around 45 million in 2012. Population growth remains high, at nearly 3 per cent annually. If this growth rate continues, there will be 53 million Tanzanians in 2018 and 100 million in 2042.

Economic growth and decades of massive international aid have created many good results, but it is important to recall that the growth began from a very low starting point and that poverty in Tanzania has proven extremely stubborn.

High increase in population is not a threat to the Tanzania's economy instead it has always been more beneficial to be country, Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the deputy minister for Finance and Planning has said.

In her written response to the question raised by Susan Anselm Lyimo, MP Special Seat Chadema last Friday, who sought to know what was the government's plans in controlling the gradual rise in human population versus available natural resources, Dr Kijaji said that population increase is of great benefits for developing countries whose technology has not grown at the pace required for sustaining economic activities compared to developed countries.

"Mwalimu Nyerere once said that for a country to thrive it needs three things namely good politics, good leadership and people. From that perspective population increase means having enough work force for economic development activities" said Kijaji.

She asserted that in Tanzania human resources continues to grow by 2.7 percent per annum which is in line with the Government's extensive efforts to build industrialized economies, to stimulate economic reform and human development.

According to her, some mega projects have been undertaken by the government and which have been clearly identified within the National

Five Year Development Plan (2016/17 -2020/21).

The projects include improving health care, the provision of free primary education for children, provision of agriculture inputs, loans to higher education students, the consolidation of the transportation network including the construction of the SGR Railway, the Julius Nyerere hydro power projects targeting 2,115 MW.

"The Mwalimu Nyerere project will stimulate the establishment of small, medium and large enterprises that will employ more Tanzanians and keep pace with population growth;

All of this is a sign of the government's strong commitment to using the human resources it has affectively as it continue to promote the use of technology and innovative discoveries.

She declined the fears that a large number of people are a problem with the resources available but that a country is privileged since it has enough land and capacity to serve the citizens it have, surrounded by rivers, dams, ports and many other resources.

She however said that the government has started preliminary preparations for the Population and Housing Census which will take place in 2022.

According to the country's largest census data, the 2012 Census of Population and Housing, Tanzania had a population of 44.9 million.

Tanzania owns 947,303 square kilometers of land (885,803 dry land and 61,500 water) equivalent to a population density of 65 per square kilometer by 2020, which gives an indication that the country's population is not yet problem as the MP sees it. Tanzania is projected to a current population of 60 million people.



The Mwalimu Nyerere project will stimulate the establishment of small, medium and large enterprises that will employ more Tanzanians and keep pace with population growth



Stools fitted in a commuter bus plying the Mbezi-Gongo la Mboto in Dar es Salaam yesterday, apparently as part of a strategy to carry more passenger than is allowed - seemingly, with traffic police officers not aware of what was going on. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Fear as two women mauled by rogue hyenas in Kahama

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

FEAR has engulfed people in Ngongwa Ward in Kahama district, Shinyanga region following reports that rogue hyenas have killed two women in the area.

Women in the area now fear the scavenging animals whenever they go out during the night to fetch water, saying two of the colleagues were killed by the beasts.

These scavengers have turned the villages in the district into a hunting zone for food as they have been moving

from house to house in such of food, mainly cows, goats, sheep, chicken, ducks and even eggs.

Cats and dogs are also not spared by the hyenas which are now giving the villagers sleepless nights.

Ngongwa Ward Councillor, Kaluli Mayunga revealed this during the visit by members the district's defense and security committee to inspect Nongwa's clean and safe water project implemented jointly by Shinyanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (SHUWASHA), Kahama Water and Sanitation Authority (KUWASA) and

Rural and Urban Water Sanitation Authority (RUWASA) costing 2.4bn/-

Mayunga said for many years the women in Ngongwa have been living in fear from water scarcity as they have to wake up during the night and walk long distances to fetch water and in many occasions they get chased by hyenas, some of who sustain injuries but two of them were killed by the beasts.

One of the women from Ngongwa, Celina Paulo, confirmed the threat posed by the hyenas and asked for early completion of the water project

to save them from the hazards of the nocturnal beasts.

SHUWASHA Managing Director Flavian Kifizi said the project is 95 percent complete and will be finalized in August this year and will benefit over 1,000 residents of the ward.

Kahama district Commissioner Anamringi Macha who is also the Chairman of the District's defense and Security Committee hailed the project's implementation and called on the residents to protect its infrastructure to make it last long.



Al Hekma Foundation director Sheikh Nurdin Kishik (2nd-R) presents maize seeds and foodstuffs at the weekend to Asia Amiri, one of the residents of Kibiti District in Coast Region affected by recent floods to whom members of the Yemeni community based in Dar es Salaam extended the humanitarian assistance. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Tour guide association roots for improved infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tour Guide Association in the southern circuit has appealed to Kisarawe district authorities to improve infrastructures including the one going to the 30,893 square kilometres Nyerere National Park.

They said despite the government efforts in improving tourism in the southern circuit, most of the roads are still in poor state.

Speaking during a special tour to inspect various tourist attractions in the district over the weekend, secretary general of the tour guide association in southern circuit, Dioniz Kazungu said the poor state of the roads has been a challenge for tourists to go to the various parks including the Nyerere National Park.

The tour was led by Kisarawe District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo.

"We want the road to be constructed at tarmac level since it is easier to reach the newly established park using the Kisarawe road compared to the Dar es

Salaam-Rufiji road which is almost 170 kilometers," said Kazungu.

He added that construction of the road at tarmac level will promote tourism in the area as well as increase the number of visitors.

"Improvement of the road infrastructures will reduce operation cost as most tour operators spend a lot of money in car maintenance," he said.

Kisarawe District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo said that most of the residents are now aware of the tourist attractions available in the area. She said the district has a number of tourist attractions that are yet to be promoted.

"We are grateful for President John Magufuli's decision to establish the Nyerere National Park which has been a blessing to the residents who are now benefiting with various economic opportunities including construction of roads," Jokate noted.

She added: "We have been discussing on improvement of the road, we are now constructing two major bridges to make sure the road is passable

throughout the year."

In July 26, 2019, President John Magufuli when in a tour at the Selous Game Reserve to launch the Nyerere hydropower project in Rufiji, he directed authorities to establish the Nyerere National Park which was carved out of Selous Game Reserve.

President Magufuli then signed into law the proposal that was approved by Members of Parliament in September 2019 to establish the park and name it after the father of the nation, Julius Nyerere.

The Nyerere National Park becomes the largest national park in Africa and with the largest wilderness area in the continent that has relatively undisturbed ecological and biological processes, including diverse range of wildlife.

"Improvement of the road infrastructures will reduce operation cost as most tour operators spend a lot of money in car maintenance"

TNBC and govt vow to improve business climate for investors

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has vowed to address challenges highlighted in the newly released report of business climate survey of Nordic companies in Tanzania, 2019—a joint initiative by the Embassies of Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland) and the country's top think tank—REPOA.

THE Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) Executive Secretary Dr Godwill Wanga made the pledge in Dar es Salaam over the weekend soon after receiving the report.

Dr Wanga said: "Despite the fact that Tanzaniangovernment created better businesses environment, but there are some of the challenges we as TNBC and the government we're working on them such as reducing nuisance taxes, which thwarts business growth in the country."

He said: "The government will work on this report by providing answers to challenges related to taxation procedures and immigration particularly on work permits, quality of products and expertise."

For his part, Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjoberg said that despite of those challenges, Nordic countries will continue to encourage more investors to invest in Tanzania as the business environment has kept on improving.

He said that the existing bilateral ties will continue to thrive between Tanzania and Nordic countries.

REPOA executive director, Dr Donald Mmari said that his institution will continue to do more and credible researches to assist the government meet its targets, as the newly released report shows different areas where the government has performed well and areas which need improvement.

The report is a result of a survey carried out in the country for the purpose of furthering understanding of the performance of Nordic companies, challenges and opportunities that the companies are facing as well as their outlook for the future of their investments and operations in Tanzania.

The survey was conducted in October and November 2019 comprised of an electronic questionnaire of 65 Nordic affiliated companies out of 105 sampled companies. Face to face interview had been conducted in 18 firms among the 30 sampled.

Survey findings reveal that Nordic companies in Tanzania have not been spared from the global and domestic downturn. The attractiveness of Tanzania as a destination of choice for foreign capital is less assured as almost as many Nordic firms report losses as they do profits.

According to the survey, few firms experienced growth in profitability, with many faulting the country's trade and investment regulatory frameworks. Few firms report confidence in the prevailing business climate despite recent Government efforts to address bottlenecks in this area, including the blueprint for regulatory reforms.

The report cites that despite current challenges, most investors continue to maintain a positive outlook for the future, driven mainly by long term historical ties to the country, and renewed Government rapprochement with the private sector, demonstrated in part by ongoing dialogues between the two sides.

Reported data offers insights into specific components of the business environment in need of prioritized reforms by the Government. These include labour, immigration and taxation procedures. The latter occupies the concerns of an overwhelming majority of Nordic businesses with pervasive harassment, bureaucracy and rent seeking behaviours affecting operations, profitability and souring general experiences of investing the country.

Among the recommendations include expedited implementation of existing policies and strategies for improving factor productivity; streamlining tax administration; private sector drive; and policy and regulatory reforms. Others are active promotion of increased domestic integration of foreign enterprises; coordinating the national and international multi-stakeholder approach in the provision, implementation and enforcement of the appropriate regulations and legislations; (Re)building mutual trust between investors and authorities; and promote Good Self-Governance by the Private Sector.

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8th June 2020



NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF COMMERCIAL BANK OF AFRICA (TANZANIA) LIMITED TO NIC BANK TANZANIA LIMITED

We, Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) Limited (CBA), do hereby NOTIFY the general public that on 15 June 2020, majority of our assets and all of our liabilities will be transferred to NIC Bank Tanzania Limited (NIC).

The Notice of Transfer of Assets and Liabilities was published by CBA and NIC in the Guardian and Mwananchi newspapers on 23 December 2019 and in the Government Gazette on 17 January 2020 (as GN No.48). The Notice of Transfer of Assets and Liabilities was issued in line with section 4 of the Transfer of Businesses (Protection of Creditors) Act, Cap 327 R.E 2002.

The implementation of the transfer of assets and liabilities has been approved by the Bank of Tanzania and the Fair Competition Commission. Both CBA and NIC are in the process of concluding other regulatory conditions. Once completed, NIC will assume all obligations and rights of the assets transferred from CBA. NIC will also assume all liabilities existing between CBA and all its customers and creditors.

This notification is also issued in fulfilment of the regulatory requirement to provide notice to depositors, creditors and any other person otherwise entitled to any funds or properties held by CBA at least 30 days prior to the transaction date.

Signed on behalf of CBA Tanzania by:

Mr Gift Shoko,
Chief Executive Officer, Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) Limited,
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Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) Limited

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CBA Tanzania is regulated by Bank of Tanzania

Govt calls on citizens to venture into environmental conservation

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Azzan Zungu has called on Tanzanians to seriously venture into environment conservation to make the country and the world safe from climate change related impacts.

Zungu made the call in Dodoma over the weekend when speaking at the climax of the World Environment Day, themed: 'Environmental protection for curbing impacts of climate change'.

He said that since the issue of climate change does not recognize geographical or political boundaries, so efforts to address the challenge require close cooperation with all parties—local and the international community.

"That's why we're encouraging people in their localities to ensure that to take environmental conservation issues very seriously," he said, noting that government alone cannot win the war against wantonly tree felling.

It is estimated that Tanzania is losing 400,000 ha of trees per annum and, experts have warned that the risk is high as the country's entire forests can be depleted within the next 50 to 80 years if the current trend remains unabated.

According to Zungu, Tanzania is a member of the International Climate Change Agreement known as the Paris Agreement, hence implementing the treaty, member countries have agreed

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in addition to increasing efforts to withstand the effects of climate change.

Tanzania has planned strategic projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions including the construction of a standard railway (Standard Gauge) and the construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), which is set to increase the amount of electricity generated by water, and significantly reduce the use of natural gas and diesel thus significantly reduce deforestation for fuel wood and charcoal. "These efforts will contribute significantly to the conservation of natural biological systems," he said.

During the event, the minister awarded 22 environmental inspectors from across Dodoma Region who participated in the training provided by the Vice President's Office in partnership with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).



That's why we're encouraging people in their localities to ensure that to take environmental conservation issues very seriously



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu pictured yesterday addressing Nyakitonto villagers who have turned part of a reserve forest in Kasulu District into farms. He gave them a month to move out. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TAMWA empowers Z'bar GBV victims to give testimony in courts

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Media women Association (TAMWA) in Zanzibar has said in order to ensure testimony is provided in courts for all cases of Gender Based Violence, it has embarked to economically assist parents and guardians of victims of acts of GBV.

TAMWA legal officer Ulfat Abdi revealed this over the weekend when handing over donation of chicks to 15 families of GBV victims to enable them sustain themselves economically.

She said for a long time there have been some parents and guardians failing to go to the courts to give evidence and the main reason often cited is the lack

of transport fare.

She said TAMWA-Zanzibar has seen the need to assist these families by giving them the chicks which she believes they can reproduce and become a good source of income.

She said the community should understand that the issue of giving evidence in such cases is important as without evidence the case cannot

stand and the accused persons can go scot free.

"We are today handing to you the chicks which cost 5,000/- hoping they will be a good start to you in poultry keeping for solving your various challenges," she added.

Some of the GBV victims said it is not that they don't like going to courts to give evidence but many of them fail

to do so because of the lack of bus fare, which necessitates dismissal of the cases.

One of them whose child was raped (name withheld) said he attended the court only a few times from the police's summons due lack of fare hence the case is still pending at the court.

He said had it not been the assistance

accorded to him by neighbours he could not have attended the court at all.

TAMWA Zanzibar Director Dr Mzuri Issa called on all who have benefited by the chicks project to ensure the birds are well cared for them to grow.

More than 3,000 chicks were donated to some victims of gender based violence in both Zanzibar and Pemba.



Tanzania Postal Bank Board chairman Dr Edmund Mndolwa (L) briefs journalists on the sidelines of the bank's annual general meeting held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on the bank's performance. He is with TPB chief executive Sabasaba Mushingi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Citizens urged to join health insurance funds

By Correspondent, Ambrose Wantaigwa,

Tarime

TARIME District Commissioner Msafiri Mtemi has urged ward councilors in the area to utilise their positions and opportunities to encourage more citizens to join health insurance funds for them to benefit from quality and affordable healthcare services in various hospitals.

Mtemi made the call over the weekend when addressing councilors'

meeting.

According to him, development initiatives are usually achieved by having a health community, so encouraging more people to have health insurance is vital.

He said that recently there have been complaints from the public about the lack of medicines in some health facilities, the situation which compels them to spend a lot in purchasing medicines in private shops.

"I urge councilors for their role as representatives of citizens especially

from rural areas to encourage citizens to join the insurance fund where they will be able to access quality health services along with their families," he said.

Mtemi further wanted health care workers and doctors in all centres to comply with their professional ethics and the government's rules and regulations which include taking good care of pregnant women, elderly and children under the age of five.

"Our health care providers should ensure that they work hard to refrain

from fraud and corruption," Mtemi added.

For his part, Tarime District Council Director (DED) Apoo Tindwa said that the council owes more than 90m /- owed to the Medical Stores Department (MSD) due to distributing drugs in health centres.

"We are aware of the MSD's debt and we are currently taking urgent measures to clear the debt so as to continue getting services from MSD to serve our people especially from rural areas", said Tindwa.

Volcanic glass spray shows some promise in mosquito control

NORTH CAROLINA, US

AN indoor residual spray made by combining a type of volcanic glass with water showed effective control of mosquitoes that carry malaria, according to a new study. The findings could be useful in reducing disease-carrying mosquito populations - and the risk of malaria - in Africa.

Malaria, an infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes, annually kills some 400,000 people in Africa. The use of insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor residual sprays are the most common and effective methods of reducing mosquito populations in Africa. But mosquitoes are becoming increasingly resistant to the commonly used insecticides such as pyrethroids, so the need for alternative safe chemistry to use in controlling mosquitoes is important.

The volcanic glass material used in this new intervention is perlite, an industrial mineral most frequently used in building materials and in gardens as a soil additive. The tested insecticide created from perlite, called Imergard WP, can be applied to interior walls and ceilings - and perhaps even inside roofs - as an indoor residual spray. The spray contains no additional chemicals, is not toxic to mammals and will be cost effective. Early results show that mosquitoes do not appear to have resistance to the perlite spray.

In the study, North Carolina State University entomologists worked with the Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC) based at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Imerys Filtration Minerals Inc. to test Imergard WP. Researchers used the spray in experimental huts in the Republic of Benin (West Africa) to test the effects of the spray on both wild and more susceptible strains of Anopheles gambiae mosquitoes, the primary malaria vector in sub-Saharan Africa.

Researchers used four different tests to verify the efficacy of Imergard WP.

Control study huts had no mosquito-prevention spray. In the second group hut walls were coated with a common pyrethroid. Hut walls were sprayed with Imergard WP in the third group, while in the fourth group hut walls were sprayed with a mixture of Imergard WP and the common pyrethroid.

Huts with walls treated with Imergard WP, with and without the pyrethroid, showed the largest mosquito mortality rates. Results showed mortality rates of mosquitoes alighting on Imergard WP-treated walls were greater than 80% up to five months after treatments, and 78% at six months. The treatments were effective against both susceptible and wild-type mosquitoes.

"The statically transferred perlite particles essentially dehydrate the mosquito," said Mike Roe, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Entomology at NC State and the corresponding author of the paper.

"Many die within a few hours of contact with the treated surface. Mosquitoes are not repelled from a treated surface because there is no olfactory mechanism to smell rock."

Huts sprayed with only the common pesticide had mosquito mortality rates of around 40 to 45% over five months, with those rates dropping to 25% in month six of the study.

"The processing of perlite as an insecticide is novel," said David Stewart, commercial development manager for Imerys, the company that created Imergard WP, and co-author of the paper. "This material is not a silver bullet but a new tool that can be considered as part of an insect vector management program."



The statically transferred perlite particles essentially dehydrate the mosquito

'More education is needed to prevent, control the use of tobacco products'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has launched the 2018 Tanzania Global Adult Tobacco Survey (2018 GATS) which shows 2.6 million adults aged 15 years or older used tobacco.

Launching the report over the weekend, Ummu Mwalimu the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children called for more efforts to educate the public about the dangers of using tobacco.

"The survey results show that we have to put more efforts in educating the public on how dangerous tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke is," she said.

She said apart from other measures taken by the government, creating awareness through meeting the public using various channel of communication is very crucial if the people are to desist from using tobacco.

"Ministry of Health will collaborate with other stakeholders in formulating appropriate strategies and plans to create public awareness on the effects of tobacco use so as to prevent diseases and death caused by tobacco use" She insisted.

According to the report, 32.9 per cent of adults who worked indoors were exposed to tobacco smoke at workplace whereas 13.4 percent of adults were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.

The report also indicates that 77.0 per cent of adults were exposed to tobacco smoke when visiting bars or night clubs, 31.1 percent when visiting restaurants and 15.3 percent were

exposed when visiting universities.

Minister Ummu noted that the 2018 GATS results will assist the government in planning and strategizing on how to address problem of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke in the country.

"I call upon all stakeholders who participated in facilitating and implementing this survey will come forward to continue working together to find solution of this daunting challenge," minister said

Meanwhile, Statistician General Dr. Albina Chuwa said the 2018 Tanzania GATS was the first to be conducted in Tanzania since independence.

She told participants to the dissemination meeting that the main objective of 2018 Tanzania GATS Survey was to provide statistics at national level on adult tobacco use and tobacco control measures that are comparable across countries.

Dr. Chuwa added that another survey objective was to provide information on key indicators of tobacco use and regulatory efforts

The survey was conducted jointly by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Office of Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS) in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and Ministry of Health, Zanzibar.

Technical support was provided by WHO, CDC, RTI International with financial support from CDC Foundation through grant from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



NMB Bank Plc acting Managing Director Ruth Zaipuna (2nd-R) presents copies of documents on the bank's annual general meeting to the interim chairperson of the bank's board of directors, Margaret Ikongo, moments after the first ever NMB online AGM - held at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Unqualified people should not provide vet services - VCT

By Guardian Reporter

THE Veterinary Council of Tanzania (VCT) has called on all people who have no veterinary qualifications to at once stop providing veterinary services and warned stern steps against all those who will disregard the directive.

The warning was given by the Council's Chairman Prof. Rudovick Kazwala at the Council's 45th meeting in Dodoma on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters after the

meeting Prof Kazwala said due to the veterinary field being infiltrated by unqualified people, the Council has decided to prepare Identity cards (IDs) and badges that will identify qualified veterinary practitioners whenever they go to offer their services to livestock keepers.

"All those who infiltrate in the field should know that the Veterinary Act No. 16 of 2003 forbids any person unqualified in the field to perform veterinary services," he said.

He stressed that from now on livestock keepers must know that genuine veterinary doctors will have IDs and wear badges issued by the Council and refuse services from those who do not have these means of identification.

Prof Kazwala said the meeting unanimously agreed that all genuine veterinary practitioners will carry IDs so as to preclude unqualified people from the field.

He also said livestock inspectors

will visit livestock keepers from time to time to ensure whether there are still fake veterinary doctors serving them.

Pro Kazwala also said veterinary services will continue to be improved in the country and added that from now on all centres offering veterinary services must have appropriate diagnostic equipment for the livestock including microscope for correct diagnosis of livestock diseases.



Residents of Kiwala village in Mbokomu ward, Kilimanjaro Region, with buckets presented to them at the weekend by Tusonge Community Development as items to help in fighting Covid-19. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Stanbic Bank extends its wings to Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter

STANBIC Bank Tanzania has inaugurated a new branch in the country's capital Dodoma.

The expansion aims to support farmers and boost small scale businesses through the provision of their banking needs which include facilitation of transactions on the local and international markets as well as providing affordable loans.

"There are an increasing number of people and business ventures in Dodoma. The expansion of our services will empower the financial success of our customers by providing solutions that support their growth," said Brian Ndadzungira, bank's head of personal and business banking.

He cited the bank's plan is to respond to its clients' pain points and opportunities in their lives and business by ensuring that banking is a convenient way of life. Some of the solutions such as cash deposits machines will enable businesses and individuals to deposit cash 24 hours, realizing value immediately. Other solutions such as Vehicle Asset Financing (VAF) will assist grape and sunflower farmers in the region with access to agriculture equipment in order to boost their production and add value to the wine and edible oil industry in Tanzania. Dodoma is the main grape producing region in Tanzania.

The expansion is part of the bank's

plan to ensure Tanzanians have access to Stanbic's financial solutions to increase their productivity and lead to a sustainable livelihood.

"We aim to make a meaningful and long-term impact on the capital city, by providing tailored and innovative financial solutions that will contribute to the region's socio-economic development," said Ndadzungira.

The opening of the Dodoma branch brings the total number of the bank's representation to 6 regions - Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya, Arusha and Moshi and Dodoma.

Stanbic Bank Tanzania is part of the Standard Bank Group, Africa's largest bank by assets.

“We aim to make a meaningful and long-term impact on the capital city, by providing tailored and innovative financial solutions that will contribute to the region's socio-economic development”

Turkey ambassador's wife helps Kigoma patient with albinism

By Guardian Reporter

THE wife of Turkey's ambassador to Tanzania, Ye im Davuto lu has volunteered to foot a medical bills of a 52-year woman from Nyabibuye in Kigoma region who has been suffering from eye and skin problems.

Ye im who is also the founder of Turkey-Tanzania Aid Foundation

said that she got the information over the woman's illness from her friend and felt to extend a helping hand to support her.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday Ye im said: "I then decided to take the patient from Kigoma to Dar es Salaam so as to undergo medical checkup at the Muhimbili National Hospital

(MNH). The patient, Mwatatu Musa is also a person with albinism who needs extra care for her wellbeing."

She said that Mwatatu's illness started in September last year but failed to access medical services due to lack of money.

"Doctors at the MNH have already prepared a special room to conduct a

checkup and then provide treatment to her. I am also communicating with specialists from Turkey who are ready to help Mwatatu and if possible, the patient to be sent to Turkey for further medical investigations and treatment," she said.

The patient and her daughter Safia Aboubakar landed at Dar es Salaam Julius Nyerere International Airport

(JNIA) and they were received by the ambassador's wife.

"I am ready to stay with them at my house until Mwatatu completes all the medical procedures and her health become stable," Ye im added.

Speaking, Safia, the patient's daughter, commended Turkey embassy for supporting her mother.

"I am speechless for this huge

support which my mother had received, I really thank Mama Ye im for her generous heart, I am sure that my mother's health is going to be stable," she said.

Mwatatu has been engaging in small-scale agriculture to generate income for her five children. Her husband abandoned her and children some years ago.

The Guardian

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MONDAY 8 JUNE 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Women empowerment essential in boosting resilience to climate change

WOMEN in Africa are women who were born, live, and are from the continent of Africa. The culture, evolution, and history of African women reflect the evolution and history of the African continent itself. Numerous short studies regarding women's history in African nations have been conducted. Many studies focus on the historic roles and status of women in specific countries within sub-Saharan Africa. Recently, scholars have begun to focus on the evolution of women's status throughout the history of Africa using less common sources.

The status of women in Africa is varied across nations and regions. For example, Rwanda is the only country in the world where women hold more than half the seats in parliament—51.9 per cent as of July 2019, but Morocco only has one female minister in its cabinet. Significant efforts towards gender equality have been made through the creation of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, which encourage member states to end discrimination and violence against women.

With the exception of Morocco and Burundi, all African states have adopted this charter. However, despite these strides towards equality, women still face various issues related to gender inequality such as disproportionate levels of poverty and education, poor health and nutrition, lack of political power, limited workforce participation, gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and child marriage.

There is no inclusive and sustainable way forward for Africa without women, youth and agriculture. Indeed, agriculture offers Africa, and Tanzania in particular, an opportunity for economic prosperity, food security, poverty eradication, skills transfer and economic empowerment for women and girls.

But all this will come to naught if governments do not do enough to build women's resilience against climate change. The science has been shown to have the most devastating

effect on agriculture. In large parts of Africa, scientists forecast farm output to decline by between 30 and 50 per cent by 2030 due to changing climatic conditions.

Throughout much of the continent, agriculture is threatened by multiple issues, ranging from population increase to urbanisation and industrialisation, to the sub-division of land and degraded resources.

Women disproportionately bear much of the brunt given their traditional roles as tillers of the land and their recognition as the backbone of the family unit.

In Tanzania, the state is looking at improving food security and nutrition, as highlighted in a number of current and past economic blueprints, while it has now started to ramp up funding for women in agriculture through ring-fenced facilities.

Moreover, as a short-term measure, the classification of agriculture as an essential service during the ongoing Covid - 19 lockdown has insulated women farmers, especially those in horticulture, against financial losses arising from market shut-downs.

But changes in the agriculture landscape over the decades have already resulted in massive food shortages in successive years, leaving some seven million people in need of food aid in 2020.

What this means is that current and future changes in climate now call for greater astuteness in development planning to minimise risk and bolster food production and security, particularly targeting women.

We feel that African Union and African governments, should, however, take specific steps to build capacity and resilience among women in line with the long-term goals of Agenda 2063 – the AU's development plan for the next half century.

The AU is already funding women-led projects in the areas of environment and climate change, providing grants of up to \$25 000 to African governments or NGOs for projects that can prove an ability to empower women in water management, agriculture and energy.

Humankind obliged to safeguard oceans for the benefit of posterity

WORLD Oceans Day takes place annually on the 8th of June. The theme selected by the United Nations for this United Nations International Day (2020) is 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'.

The day is marked in a variety of ways, including launching new campaigns and initiatives, special events at aquariums and zoos, outdoor explorations, aquatic and beach cleanups, educational and conservation action programs, art contests, film festivals, and sustainable seafood events.

People need air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, new medicines, a climate we can live in, beauty, inspiration and recreation. We need to know that we belong to something bigger than ourselves. We want a better future for those we care about. To survive and prosper, we need healthy oceans.

The ocean is the largest ecosystem on Earth, it is the planet's life support system. Oceans generate half of the oxygen we breathe and, at any given moment, they contain more than 97 per cent of the world's water. Oceans provide at least a sixth of the animal protein people eat. Living oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce climate change impacts. The diversity and productivity of the world's oceans is a vital interest for humankind. Our security, our economy, our very survival all require healthy oceans.

Whether you live on the coast or far from it, whether you eat seafood or not, you and the future of all those you love depends on healthy oceans.

An ocean is a body of water that composes much of a planet's hydrosphere. On Earth, an ocean is one of the major conventional divisions of the World Ocean. These are, in descending order by area, the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern (Antarctic), and Arctic Oceans. The ocean contains 97 per cent of Earth's water, and oceanographers have stated that less than 20 per cent of the World Ocean has been mapped.

As the world ocean is the principal component of Earth's hydrosphere, it is integral to life, forms part of the carbon cycle, and influences climate and weather patterns. The World Ocean is the habitat of 230,000 known species, but because much of it is unexplored, the number of species that exist in the ocean is much larger, possibly over two million. The origin of Earth's oceans is unknown; oceans are thought to have formed in the Hadean eon and may have been the cause for the emergence of life.

Early in their geologic histories, Mars and Venus are theorized to have had large water oceans. The Mars ocean hypothesis suggests that nearly a third of the surface of Mars was once covered by water, and a runaway greenhouse effect may have boiled away the global ocean of Venus. The Solar System's giant planets are also thought to have liquid atmospheric layers of yet to be confirmed compositions.

At the first World Oceans Day in 1992, the objectives were to move the oceans from the sidelines to the centre of the intergovernmental and NGO discussions and policy and to strengthen the voice of ocean and coastal constituencies worldwide.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

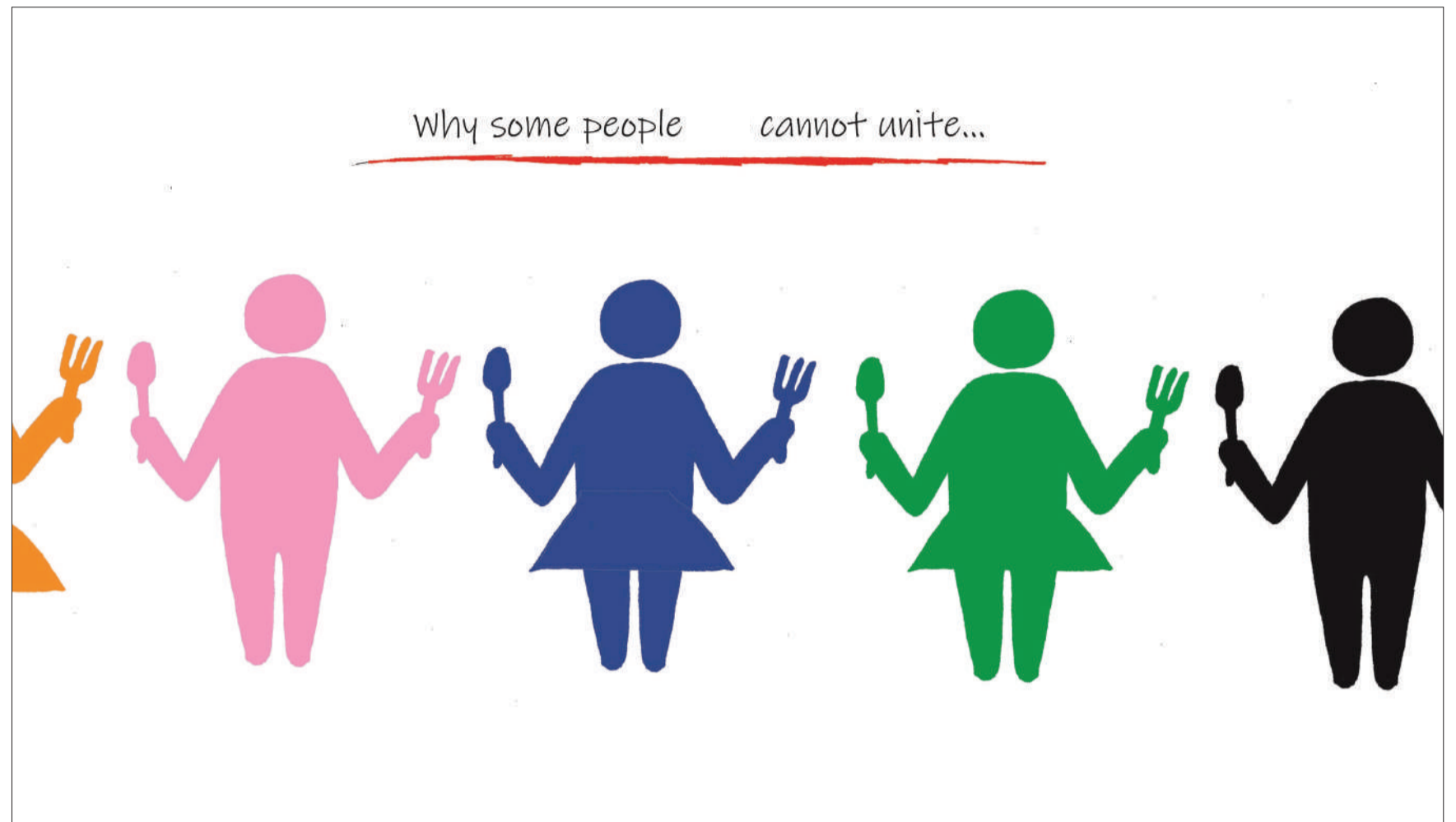
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The Five Major Pieces of the Life Puzzle

By Special Correspondent

IT is the inherent nature of success to be both puzzling and elusive, and to withhold its rewards from all but a handful of those who pursue it.

It is by an intricate design of nature that success is a condition that must be attracted and not pursued. We achieve rewards and we make progress not by our intense pursuits, but by what we become, for it is what we are that finally determines the results we attract.

"To have more we must first become more" is the very essence of the philosophy of personal development, success and happiness addressed by Jim Rohn in his book: "The Five Major Pieces to the Life Puzzle."

It is our personal philosophy that establishes our individual attitude. It is our attitude that determines both the quantity and the quality of our level of activity. That activity produces a final and proportionate result, and the result provides the lifestyle that we live.

The results and the lifestyle are the effects - the conditions we inherit - but it is our personal philosophy, attitude and activity which are the ultimate cause of the effect. "To change the effect, we must alter the cause, and yet most people curse the effect but continue to nourish the cause," Kyle Wilson says in a forward to the book.

In Five Major Pieces to the Life Puzzle, Jim Rohn brings ideas and insights in his inimitable style that provide a unique voice of hope, inspiration and answers for those in search of a better life. In the writing, he provides substance and encouragement to all those who embrace the philosophy of "You can have more than you have got because you can become more than you are." Transforming the individual human life from where and what it is into where and what you desire it to be. That is what the book is all about.

HOW THE PROCESS OF CHANGE BEGINS

Jim Rohn believes that change comes from one of two sources. First, we may be driven to change out of desperation. Sometimes our circumstances can become so out-of-control that we almost abandon our search for answers because our lives seem to be filled only with irresolvable questions. But it is this overwhelming sense of desperation that finally drives us to look for the solutions. "Desperation is the final and inevitable result of months or years of accumulated neglect that brings us to that point in time where we find ourselves driven by urgent necessity to find immediate answers to life's accumulated challenges."

The second source that drives us to make changes in our lives is inspiration. Inspiration can come to us at any time and from many sources. A song can



inspire us; a book can inspire us; as can an effective and moving speech. The story of someone who has succeeded in spite of difficulty can stir our emotions. Inspiration, from whatever the source, arouses feelings within us that rekindle hope, ambition and determination.

"It is a momentary whisper of encouragement and reassurance that causes us to become aware of our potential." We sense a spark of desire, and our minds flash from one possibility to another, each thought laden with the promise of future success and happiness. In this fleeting moment when inspiration stirs our soul we are either driven into action or we do nothing - being content to enjoy the warm feeling that is within us until, at last, the warmth moves on, taking with it the promise and the possibilities.

Wherever life finds you at the moment, whether responding to desperation or seeking inspiration, we appeal to you to stay with this column for the next several weeks as we discern the insights in Rohn's book. It is a journey, do not just start it, promise to complete it. "In the end, our lives will be judged not by the things that we began, but by the things that our effort and resolve brought to a successful conclusion." He has used utmost care to these insights which are truly life-changing. The inspiration you gain in the process has the capacity to change any human circumstance.

He begins by sharing with us a few important and preliminary insights that can start you on your journey toward success and happiness.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS

Rohn philosophizes that there are

always just a few important principles that account for most of the progress we make in our lives. It is these "basics" that have the greatest effect on our health, our happiness and our bank accounts. This is not to suggest that there are only a few life-changing ideas that will affect us, for surely there are many. What Rohn is suggesting, however, is that you begin your search by focusing on the five fundamentals he examines in the book. "It is these few among the many that will account for the biggest share of the results you will achieve."

You will never be able to master every aspect of life. To try to become the master over every detail of your life will only lead to frustration. Instead, why not go after the vital few among the trivial many; the few that will make the most difference; the fundamental subjects that will have the greatest impact in determining the quality of your existence?

As you look around your world for answers to the good life, always be in search of those few things that make the most difference. If you master these basics, you will not be disappointed with the results.

It is the basics - the fundamentals in life - that we all need to master. These are the same keys for success and happiness that have existed for the last six thousand years of recorded history. There are no new fundamentals for human achievement. Basics are basics, and anything else is merely an activity designed to refine or expand upon those same principles.

"In any attempt to improve your current circumstances, never allow yourself to drift from those time-proven principles that have flowed from

generation to generation in a steady stream to serve as the fundamentals for finding, developing and living the good life."

THE FIVE PIECES TO THE LIFE PUZZLE

It is important to understand that the list Jim Rohn shares in his book does not mean that the five are the only five to the exclusion of all others. "I am neither so wise nor so presumptuous as to suggest that I have all of the answers and that my answers are the only answers," he acquiesces.

The principles covered in the book are five important concepts that are as fundamental to our success now as they were for preceding generations. Through all his years of study and experience, through all his encounters with both success and failure, through all the conversations and associations he has had the privilege to share, it is these five principles that have remained unchallenged in their capacity to produce life-changing results.

Rohn says poignantly, "I do not have the final and unchallenged answers for finding the good life. I know that there are a lot of people who claim to know the truth, and who suggest that they have discovered the ultimate answer to life's puzzle."

But there can never be a single, ultimate answer simply because there will never be a single, ultimate question. That is why my best advice has always been to stick to the basics." And if you will give each of the basics we are about to share both time and careful attention, you are certain to be happy with the results, for, he believes, they are "The Five Major Pieces To The Life Puzzle."

How to transform UN's environmental goals into a people's agenda for Africa

By Dr Olukoya Obafemi

THE COVID-19 insurgence has highlighted the need for multilateral cooperation among sustainability stakeholders. As the journey towards achieving Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is fraught with imminent global challenges, global environmental leaders agree that now is the time to act collectively for nature, leaving no one behind.

The shortage of sustainability knowledge in Africa is particularly appalling, and it seems the continent is oblivious to the world's agenda. This is evident through the data-based analysis of Africa's lack of progress towards achieving sustainability.

In response, Dr. Adenike Akinsemolu, educator, sustainability advocate, academic associate with SDSN, and a scientific committee member of the 2018 ICSD at the Earth Institute, Columbia University, swung into action.

She founded The Green Institute, a sustainability education organization in Nigeria, and authored an indigenous sustainability text, *The Principles of Green and Sustainability Science* (Springer, 2020).

The Green Institute confronted this challenge in Africa through the instrumentality of home-based solutions of education, innovation, and advocacy. One pertinent question arose and resonated with Dr. Akinsemolu all through her efforts towards bridging the knowledge gap of sustainability in Africa.

How can we bring the Agenda of Sustainability to indeed become the people's Agenda in Nigeria and Africa? Having entered a new decade, unless Africa embraces a virtuous cycle of sustainability, she will decline in a vicious cycle of poverty, social injustice, and environmental degradation.

To change this, her organization went further by organizing a virtual summit aimed to mobilize sustainability leaders to share their expertise in the face of a global pandemic.

On June 5, 2020, the Green Institute, in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar Foundation), will host Jeffrey Sachs (SDSN) and over 25 renowned sustainability experts from across the globe, at a virtual symposium *Time #ForNature for World Environment Day*, a United Nations awareness campaign for environmental protection, held annually since 1974.

The theme for World Environment Day 2020 is biodiversity.

This hallmark event organized by a sustainability organization is a confluence of sustainability leaders in various fields endeavored at assembling individuals and organizations towards achieving sustainable development in Africa and beyond.

Armed with a plethora of speakers, the virtual symposium incorporates diverse fields of human endeavors ranging from sciences to arts, botany to engineering, health to



cetera.

The virtual symposium is also launching the indigenous sustainability text titled *The Principles of Green and Sustainability Science*, authored by Dr. Adenike Akinsemolu. "Everyday anthropogenic activities are responsible for the problems of our planet, and there is a need to salvage the situation through creativity, innovation, and critical thinking," Dr. Akinsemolu stresses in her book.

She offers a detailed and step-by-step guide to understanding sustainability and discusses best practices to establish a more harmonious and balanced approach to living. In the words of Prof. Marc A. Rosen (Ontario Tech University), "The book enriches a global movement while highlighting efforts in Africa."

Alongside the author is world-renowned sustainability leader Prof. Jeffrey Sachs who will be speaking on *Building Resilient Health Structures to Combat Novel Diseases: A Case of COVID-19*.

Sachs was twice named as Time magazine's 100 most influential world leaders and was ranked by The Economist among the top three most influential living econo-

entrepreneurship Education in Qatar. Dr. Tok has extensive experience in building disruptive mechanisms in education and learning in post-graduate studies.

He is the founder of the first MakerSpace in Qatar Foundation, built around the concept of Green Economics, Social Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

The development of the world economy has consistently been at loggerheads with the environment. How can we simultaneously achieve economic growth and environmental wellbeing? Prof. Marc Rosen, Prof. Manfred Max Bergman (University of Basel), and Samson Ogbole (Farm Lab) strongly argue that both the environment and the economy could thrive simultaneously.

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Agenda is education. The right to education is a fundamental human right that every nation aspires to fulfill. In an age of sustainability, what changes to our educational system are pivotal towards achieving sustainable development?

Ruba Hinnawi (Qatar Green Building Council) and Noah Martin (Georgetown University) will discuss the educational transformation that must occur if we are to transition towards sustainable development. The visual artist Data Oruwari will reveal the role that arts play towards achieving sustainability.

As the saying goes, "One is too small a number to achieve greatness." The Green Institute has partnered with various international organizations that share the same commitment towards achieving sustainable development.

Organizations such as the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (a member of Qatar Foundation) and the Sustainable Solutions Development Network have been instrumental towards the success of The Green Institute.

The Nigerian organization behind the global summit believes that although SDG 17 is the last of the SDGs, it is by no means the least.

Ironically, it serves as an overarching framework for the successful implementation of the remaining 16 goals. To this end, The Green Institute continually extends its hand of partnership to collaborate with other organizations in achieving sustainable development.

The participating organizations include the UNEP, UNDP, Qatar Green Building Council, Qur'anic Botanic Garden, Farm Lab, Human Future, Springer Nature, Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, University of Basel, the Open University UK, TerraCycle, Design Future(s) Initiative of Georgetown University, United Nations Development Program, and the Green Maasai Troupe Doha Qatar.

The politics of national grid and the modular alternative

By Oluwadele Bolutife

IF we are truly desirous of a permanent solution to our perennial darkness in Nigeria, it is high time to reverse the extant laws governing electricity generation, transmission, and distribution, and allow for the modulated system as against the current integrated system that has failed us thus far.

No one thought that in the 'magic' year 2020, the issue of electricity will still be occupying the front burner of national discourse in Nigeria. However, as it is, we are still far away from achieving uninterrupted power supply in the country. In some clips on social media the other day, Ajuri Ngelale, senior special assistant to President Buhari, revealed the administration's plans for power in Nigeria. In a grandstanding and, I must admit, eloquent manner, he 'entertained' us on how Siemens's new arrangement is going to fix our electricity concerns once and for all. I will come to that later.

However, I do not think their integrated approach is the solution to our moribund electricity challenges in the country.

For some kind of disclosure, I started my working career at the then National Electric Power of Authority (NEPA) in the last quarter of 1980. I was not a technician but an accounts clerk, but with good observation and perhaps a sense of history. Let us take some historical journey into the past for a proper perspective.

It was in 1978, in one of its campaign agenda, that the eventual 'winners' of 1979 federal elections, the National Party of Nigeria (NPN), indicated its plan to electrify the entire country for increased productivity and all that. It was perhaps this plan that gave rise to the politics of the national grid, a situation where every community lobbied - yes, lobbied - to be connected to the nationwide network.

Before this policy or politics of national grid connection, depending on where you stand, most major towns operated a kind of modular system, whereby they generated, transmitted, and distributed their own electricity, without any interference from neighbouring towns. NEPA, as it was then, operated a kind of decentralisation that comprised local

undertaking, the district, regional, and then national headquarters in Lagos. An undertaking is basically a town covered by a specific power station, whereas a district is made of many undertakings, with the headquarters in major urban centres. Whereas the region or area comprised of many districts under it. The national office was in Lagos, with the central store also located at Oshodi.

In the undertaking where I worked, for instance, we had three 'giant' generating units, which may be in the region of 5000 KVA each (I can't fully remember the capacity now), which ran two at a time, in a staggered but planned schedule, to ensure that the whole town was adequately covered. There were also scheduled maintenance, when only two or three plants may be available. In such instances, a load shedding was planned and announced. In some other cases of an unexpected breakdown, the same process obtained. However, in all cases, provision was made in terms of priority distribution to the general hospital, police station, army barracks, post office, the palace, and of course, the NEPA office, through a dedicated line, which we called a red line then. In the situation of a breakdown, local technicians mobilised first to fix the problem. When this was beyond their power, an escalation would go to the district, and then to the region, and eventually to the headquarters, from where engineers would be sent to address the issue finally.

Fuel dumps and storage facilities were both constructed at the power station, usually situated on the outskirts of town, for noise management, as well as in the main office. Supplies were received from districts, regions, and the national store in Oshodi, Lagos.

The sad aspect of the situation was that those power stations were not retained as backups. It was then expected that with Egbin power station supporting Kainji and the almost completed Shiroro dam, alongside the Afam and Sapele stations that were to be revived, enough electricity would be available. It was the same error that was made by the Obasanjo administration...

The beauty of this arrangement was that whatever happened in one undertaking had no bearing on the next undertaking. If a particular station broke down completely, which was exceedingly rare, it never stopped the next



station from giving electricity to its community.

That was the beauty of electricity generation and supply before the politics of the national grid crept in. It subsequently became a status symbol that every town, village, city, and all in-between 'craved' to be hooked to the national grid.

The sad aspect of the situation was that those power stations were not retained as backups. It was then expected that with Egbin power station supporting Kainji and the almost completed Shiroro dam, alongside the Afam and Sapele stations that were to be revived, enough electricity would be available. It was the same error that was made by the Obasanjo administration in building gas power plants, thinking that the country had enough gas to sustain them. Little did the government realise that we were a mere 'prospective buyer' in what we thought we were producers of. It was another case of 'owning without controlling.'

At this juncture, we may ask: What happened to all the power stations littered across the country? Were the generating plants sold or abandoned to rot

away? How about the spare parts, fuel pumps, and the offices, with their furniture? Were they dismantled or what happened to them? What about the many spare parts at the central store in Oshodi? Were they dispensed with, or did they remain, occupying space and becoming obsolete in the process?

Apart from the above, can we now sincerely evaluate how much the policy or politics of the national grid has contributed to the 'darkness' or otherwise pervading the nation? If there is one thing, it was this same issue that gave birth to a new and thriving generator 'industry' that has itself become hydra-headed and difficult to tame. I have heard people claiming that it is the generator importers that are frustrating government efforts at achieving uninterrupted power supply. How fallacious can that be? Did that 'industry' exist before the menace of the national grid?

If not, what gave impetus to the thriving of the industry, that makes us now conveniently label it being the saboteur? Did the industry not just exploit the glaring gap created by bad planning or the wrong implementation of an unreasonable policy or both?

Back to Ajuri Ngelale and his new Siemens arrangement.

First, was it not the same agreement that the late 'Saint' Abba Kyari was in Germany to sign? And talking about signing contracts by Nigerian bureaucrats, how many of such were signed with national interest as the focus? Will this agreement be better than the ones before it?

Like the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) company, signing away its initial production to the operators, or the Ajaokuta Steel factory, whose functioning has defied all logic, which one is this arrangement taking after?

I think that our ultimate solution does not lie in an integrated approach, but rather a modified modular system that will not lump the whole nation into any 'unholy' alliance again, with nothing tangible to achieve at the end. Did Nigerian Telecommunications (Nitel), with all its infrastructure achieve anything meaningful until... proper deregulation..?

Ajuri spoke glowingly about the uniformity of processes, technology, and all that, as if that is all that will make it work. It sounds great that the new agreement will eliminate middlemen, and sundry

'parasites' that may halt its possible acceleration and timely delivery; however, does this constitute the best route to solve our electricity problems?

I think that our ultimate solution does not lie in an integrated approach, but rather a modified modular system that will not lump the whole nation into any 'unholy' alliance again, with nothing tangible to achieve at the end.

Did Nigerian Telecommunications (Nitel), with all its infrastructure achieve anything meaningful until the proper deregulation of that industry? Was the postal agency not forced to reinvent itself when its future became gloomy due to new technology and stiff competition? Is there no lesson for us to learn from all these?

With a modular system, we will be saved the frequency of system collapse that throws the entire nation into darkness. With a modular system that covers a specific area, we will perhaps no longer wait at the power distribution company offices for them to fuel their generators before they can issue us official transaction receipts. With the modular system, problems are easily localised and remedied. And a failure in Epe may not affect the supply situation in Ikorodu and vice versa.

Is it too late to alter Nigeria's contract with Siemens? I would not know. Perhaps if the details of the agreement are available to major stakeholders and agreed to, there may be room for sufficient modification, if the need arises. But with a chief of staff to the president as the signatory to the agreement, who will then monitor its implementation? The Ministry of Power, the Presidency, or anyone in the favour of the powers that be?

Unless another Akinwunmi Adesina (as the Nigerian agriculture mister) arises in the power sector to show us again that "agriculture is a business and not a way life," the politics of the national grid may remain a beautiful slogan that becomes another 'pot of soup' for successive government.

If we are truly desirous of a permanent solution to our perennial darkness in Nigeria, it is high time to reverse the extant laws governing electricity generation, transmission, and distribution, and allow for the modulated system as against the current integrated system that has failed us thus far.

Role of improved seeds towards boosting livelihoods and food security in Tanzania

SEED is a key input for improving crop production and productivity. Increasing the quality of seeds can increase the yield potential of the crop by significant folds and thus, is one of the most economical and efficient inputs to agricultural development. Generation and transfer of improved technologies are critical prerequisites for agricultural development particularly for an agrarian based economy. Also improved seeds are pivotal in improvement of food security and farm household livelihoods. Increasing the availability and quality of seeds can increase the yield potential of the crop by significant folds and thus, is one of the most economical and efficient inputs for agricultural development. However, availability of improved seeds of different crops including strategic crops had always been a challenge in the country as such, it affects many different groups people along the whole value chain. Our Correspondent GERALD KITABU caught up with Chief Executive Officer of Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA), Dr. SOPHIA KASHENGE-KILLENKA and in this exclusive interview, she sheds light on the subject: Excerpts

QUESTION: Experience has shown that availability of improved seeds of different crops had faced challenges, as CEO of the Agriculture Seed Agency, what is your say and what is the role of ASA to minimise the challenges?

Answer: Yes, I agree, seed is a key input for improving crop production and productivity. Improved seed is pivotal in improvement of food security and farm household livelihood. Increasing the availability and quality of seeds can increase the yield potential of the crop by significant folds and thus, is one of the most economical and efficient inputs to agricultural development. In Tanzania, farmers' access to quality seed, as well as the introduction and adoption of improved varieties is still very low. But, in reality we don't know how low it is. So far we do not have studies that indicate the current status on improved seeds, in particu-

lar, the change in seed demand, and use of improved seeds as well as adoption rate. Like many countries in Africa, the seed industry in Tanzania is dominated by informal system, with most of farmers saving and replanting seeds from year to year. Formal seed system and semi-formal (Quality Declared Seed system - QDS) exists, but there is no clear quantification of adoption rate of improved varieties so far.

Q: Have you conducted any studies so far?

A: Studies conducted in different crops showed that adoption rate varies with crop and varieties, agro ecological zones, income status of the farmers, awareness about new improved variety as well as principle advantage of improved variety over local varieties. Again, adoption rate changes with the varieties turn over (that means changing to new varieties brought to market after being researched) among other



Agriculture Seed Agency CEO Dr Sophia Kashenge-Killenga takes a look at improved hybrid maize at TARI-Uyole research centre in Mbeya Region recently. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

factors. Currently, a slow varieties turnover has been reported in the country. Varieties turnover in the country is only high in few crops, mainly in maize and hybrid maize in particular. So far we have more than 100 varieties of hybrid maize produced and utilized in the country, but for other crops, the turnover is very low and if a number of varieties have been developed, only few with the qualities preferred by farmers and gets to the market. So far, we do not have a consolidated study that combines all these information to provide a big picture to the government, to ASA and to all seed players on what, where, how and how much to produce. It has always been individual studies that guide companies for such information, and the danger is, information varies between companies. It is now high time that the Ministry of Agriculture prioritize these studies to acquire information that will guide the government efforts towards seed security in the country

So far, there is so much improvement that has been done recently in seed industry, I will explain them later.

Q: What are the contributing factors for the low availability of improved seeds?

A: In fact there are several contributing factors, these include biotic stresses (mainly high incidences of pest, diseases and weeds) and abiotic stresses (Drought, Floods, degraded soils etc) and inadequate capacity to

the majority of companies (especially local companies including ASA) to produce and fill the existing gap. Both biotic and abiotic factor need more research and genetic improvement of seeds to cope with the stresses. This is TARI's task to make sure the susceptible varieties to both biotic and abiotic stresses are either changed or uplifted genetically. Our capacity (both financial and infrastructural is currently very low). Apart from financial capacity of which every player is working hard to positively change the scenario, the infrastructural challenges include inadequate land for seed production (focusing the fast growing population and dwindling of the agricultural land, there is a serious and inevitable need for more land to be reserved for seed production), lack of irrigation infrastructures, inadequate seed storages, processing plants, as well as farm implements.

Q: Seed industry is growing very fast, without exhaustive research, don't you think we might end up drawing a wrong conclusion about the use of seeds of improved varieties in the country?

A: It is true, to me, apart from these challenges, the seed industry is growing very fast and it is highly encouraging. Unless we do a proper research on seed availability, seed demand and proper adoption rate for each variety and generate a cumulative adoption rate and demand for improved seeds that we

can rely on, we might end up drawing a wrong conclusion about the use of seeds of improved varieties in the country. I am saying the seed industry is growing focusing the following scenarios; we have heard a huge increase in country's revenue generated from Agriculture. The revenue has increased from 25.2 trillion shillings in 2015 to 29.5 Trillion Shillings in 2019; we have seen increased yields in most crops, enhanced food security and have surpluses in some crops such as rice; we have seen companies (including ASA) increasing their production of improved seeds. I am very much sure that for now the proportion of farmers using seeds from informal seed systems (i.e. use of local land races) have been decreasing compared to like 10 years back. Truly, there is a huge change in the availability and use of improved seed that had contributed to all the achievements.

Again there is another different scenario and let me explain it clearly. Some of the farmers are using improved seeds naming them as local landraces which makes very difficulty in tracing adoption rate of a variety and it is very confusing (we call it varieties mis-classification). We have seen this in some crop varieties, good examples of variety misclassification is on the use of a common sunflower variety (record), common rice varieties (saro 5) and some maize and beans varieties. Some farmers (without knowledge) are naming these varieties as local while in real sense they are improved. And some of them are naming the improved varieties

as local land races. This possibility might surprise many; let me give a vivid example, we did a study in 2015, studying adoption rate for some crops comparing two methods of data collection (i.e. through interview and the use of genetic fingerprinting) several crops were used including maize and rice. The results were highly shocking. In one site of Iringa, farmers' interview showed they were using local land races for rice cultivation and a number of farmers mentioned Zambia - 28 per cent, super India - 12 per cent and Faya - 11 per cent. After genetic fingerprinting of those varieties, the results showed that they were actually using only 2 varieties and both are improved varieties (i.e. Super India - 97 per cent and SARO 5 variety - 3 per cent) again in another site where maize were studied, about 72 per cent of farmers responded through interview that they were using improved and only 26 per cent were used local land races. After genetic fingerprinting of the varieties the same results changed that 65 per cent were using local land races and 31 per cent were using improved varieties. These results concluded that though majority of studies on adoption rely on interviews, we might end up having wrong conclusion on the use of certain varieties and also on the use of improved vs local land races. I am just requesting, whoever conduct varieties adoption study to use/incorporate fingerprinting methods in order to generate real information than only interview the farmers.

Q: You have said that a good progress had been made in the seed industry. How many foreign and local seeds companies have been registered in the country?

A: I can confidently say that, a good progress had been done in seed industry. Apart from scenarios explained earlier, we have several other indicators for the fast growing seed industry in the country. These are a growing number of seed companies over the years.

Currently, we have more than 170 registered seed companies in 2018/19 of which more than 40 are local companies (an increase from 70 registered seed companies and 25 local companies respectively in around 2016); we have seen an increase in firms dealing with improved seed production, processing and marketing. In Tanzania there are more than 4,217 of agro dealers dealing with marketing of seeds. We have seen agriculture becoming largely commercial,

with hybrids dominating in high value crops and farmers growing purchase of seed annually. We have seen plant breeding increasingly in the private sector, although low-value, high-volume Open-pollinated varieties (OPVs) is still largely the domain of public sector breeding. We have seen Private sector becomes involved in plant breeding and seed production, and increasingly involved in providing technical information and 'extension'. We have seen quality control standards, and plant variety protection are strongly enforced, we have also seen a continue build demand for seed, and provision of policy environment that encourages private-sector involvement in seed production and marketing. These are huge progresses and they shows expansion and maturity stage in the seed industry.

Seed production in the country is increasing and highly encouraging. According to MoA 2015 reports, the availability and distribution of improved seed for 2014/15 were 36,422 MT of which 60 per cent of the seed were imported. However up to December 2019/2020 the availability of improved seeds for all crops and planting material of improved varieties increased to 71,155.13M. Out of these, 58,509.9MT were the seeds produced locally (an increase from 40% of local seed production in 2014/15 to 81% in 2019/2020). Out of 58,509.9MT produced locally, 7,469.44 were the seeds remained from the previous season, therefore 51,040 MT of improved crop seeds were produced. Generally it shows that seed availability has increased from 36 per cent in 2000 to almost 39 per cent in 2019/20.

Q: Tanzanians are witnessing personal commitment, zeal and determination of President John Magufuli to revamp strategic crops in the country. What is your say?

A: Yes indeed, we have all seen personal commitment of our President John Magufuli not only on strategic crops such as maize, cotton, cassava, sun flower, oil Palm, sisal but in all crops. We have seen promotions of private sector involvement on local seed production as well as promoting friendly seed production environment, all these contributed to the increasing trend for improved seed produced locally in Tanzania.

Thanks to the President and other leaders both at the country and at the ministry level for their commitments that have resulted into these achievements.

Does Ethiopia really need democracy? Then it should draw resources from indigenous virtues

By Mohammed Girma

“ETHIOPIA is, once again, in a crossroads. There is a real possibility of heading to the usual authoritarian trajectory.

I was once driving with my colleague in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon. As I took a glance through the window, one massive billboard caught my attention. It was President Paul Biya's picture with a strapline, “36 Years of Democracy and Progress”. To this day, I could not find a more powerful illustration of how the word “democracy” has become meaningless. So fashionable, even sworn dictators cannot resist the allure of inserting it somewhere in their systems. Even North Korea calls itself “The Democratic People's Republic of Korea”.

Ethiopia is no different. The country has yet to see a fully functional democratic order. Power transitions are typically chaotic and bloody. Politicians promise it when they ascend to power, and deny it when they realize it is a threat to the longevity of their time in power. Mistrust of the ruling elites (mainly because of aborted hope of better days) is a feeling that captures the popular mood. Nevertheless, the

irony persists when it comes the insertion of “democracy” either into name of their political party or the state.

The Derg - the Marxist junta - famously named the state “People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia”. After the downfall of the Marxist regime in 1991, the new incumbent, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democracy Party (EPRDF), now converted into Prosperity Party (PP), tweaked the name into “Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia”. And yet, everyone knows the word “democratic” means nothing.

Marketing Problems

We have to then ask: What rendered this rather important concept meaningless? I would argue manipulative selling of the West and uncritical buying of the rest are the main culprits for the hollowness of the concept. For the Western powers and NGOs democracy is a ready-made outfit that all need to wear regardless of historical conditions. In fact, Francis Fukuyama, one of the best-known salespersons of the concept, has portrayed its liberal version as the apex of the ideological evolution of humankind. Those who could not reach the summit of this evolution live nursing a sense of inferiority in-



flicted by constant derogation of the Western media. Worse, the West demands democracy from poor countries as a condition for financial handouts.

While espousing democracy should have been based on the fusion of two interpretive horizons - the local culture and the universal elements of democracy - countries on the receiving end have not been given interpretive space for gradual adaptation of suitable elements into their life system and call it their own de-

mocracy. That explains, at least partially, the reason why it has not filtered down into the Ethiopian consciousness. However, its semblance survives in some Nietzschean version of morality where it is used by the weakest to criticize the powerful.

Other culprits are political and intellectual leaders. The ruling elites are more attuned to please their foreign friends than their own people. As if to demonstrate to their own people how imperious they are to the very ideals

of democracy, they are keener to listen to the Western hegemonic powers than their own constituencies. For intellectual leaders, emulation from abroad is a sign of being cultured. But then, it would be unfair to deny them a credit on their diagnosis.

Both Derg and Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) diagnosed the Ethiopian ill as class system and ethnic marginalization. That is beyond contention. The search for remedy, however, took the Derg all the way to Chairman Mao's communism, while TPLF went to Albania of all places to model their ideology on an exotic version of Marxism. This was before TPLF took a half-hearted ideological swing to the West on the realization that the cold war has ended. Some positive steps, for sure, have been taken. However, the human price of the emulation outweighs the change they brought.

Risky Choices

Ethiopia is, once again, in a crossroads. There is a real possibility of heading to the usual authoritarian trajectory. Prime

Minister Abiy Ahmed has been vocal about vacating his position through democratic process. It would be tragic, and morally repugnant, if he reverses his promise. Authoritarianism, however benevolent it might be, breeds injustice and undermines the evolution of the nation towards a more free society. He needs to be on guard as there is very little in him to suggest that he is immune from the corrupting nature of power. The fact that he is already losing close allies - such as Lemma Megersa - from his own circles and ploughing ahead on his own is an ominous sign. Seeking consensus both within his party and beyond needs to be his second nature if he has to avoid a relapse into a one-man rule. Moreover, Ethiopians deserve democratic culture in decision-making.

But also you have to ask a reverse question: Can Ethiopia, as a society, manage democracy? One would almost be forgiven for sharing the same fear that Socrates harbored during the birth of democracy - rule by the people - in Athens. “If you were out on journey by sea”, he asked a rhetorical question, “who would you ideally want to be in charge of the vessel? Anyone? Or people with skills and experience in seafaring?” Eventually, he became the first victim of the kind of democracy he feared as he was killed for “corrupting” the Athenian youth.

The argument here is not that Ethiopians are immature; neither do I dare to claim democracy is bad. The point here is that, for one, democracy involves making informed choices. Making an informed choice is a skill, not a random intuition. I doubt that Ethiopians have been given the tools and time to make informed and rational choices.

African countries secure 90 million coronavirus test kits for next six months

By Sarah Mukabana

AFRICAN countries have secured 90 million test kits for the novel coronavirus for the next six months, a regional disease control body said on Thursday.

urging states and donors to boost testing capabilities on the continent as quickly as possible.

"We needed to increase our testing very quickly to about 10 to 20 million tests to move ahead of the curve. This is a call to ac-

tion which means we have to rally everybody," said John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), a branch of the African Union bloc.

Nkengasong presented a new

initiative, the Partnership to Accelerate Testing in Africa (PACT), which aims to increase testing across the continent. He added that 3.4 million tests have been conducted in Africa so far, about 1,700 tests per 1 million people, compared to

37,000 tests per 1 million in Italy and 30,000 per 1 million in Britain.

Last week South Africa said it had a backlog of more than 96,000 unprocessed specimens awaiting coronavirus tests, reflecting what the government called a global short-

age of test kits. Even with the supplies from PACT and other sources, there is a supply gap of around 25 million tests needed to match the testing rate of Europe, according to the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.

So far Africa has 161,793 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus, with 4,592 deaths and 69,953 recoveries, according to a Reuters tally based on government statements and World Health Organization data.

World Environment Day: Covid-19 crisis demands fundamental rethinking

PARIS

THE Covid-19 health crisis should be seen as a clarion call to "fundamentally rethink our relationship" with natural ecosystems and shrinking biodiversity, the UN cultural agency chief has said.

Against the backdrop of bushfires in Brazil, the United States and Australia; locust infestations across East Africa; and a global pandemic, the theme for this year's commemoration, biodiversity, points out the interdependence of humans and the webs of life in which they exist.

"The pandemic has allowed us to observe what scientists the world over have been saying for years: the interdependence between humanity and biodiversity is so profound that the latter's vulnerabilities are our own", said Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in her message for the day.

Over the past year, the environmental crisis has revealed itself in a spectacular and disturbing manner.

"While wildfires ravaged tropical rainforests as if they were arid savannah, dramatically highlighting the

effects climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic has cast yet another harsh light on the crisis affecting biodiversity", she stated, urging people around the globe to forge a broad consensus - both technical and ethical - to "construct a new pact with the living world".

Every year, in late May and early June, the world spotlights three major international days that can be considered the systemic pillars of climate change: biodiversity, climate and the oceans.

The UNESCO chief urged everyone to reflect upon how World Environment Day is "a whole, a complex system wherein, climate the oceans and the diversity of living organisms and their surroundings interact sometimes in ways that are beyond our ability to anticipate".

"This year", she concluded, "as the world struggles with an unprecedented pandemic, these days resonate more urgently than ever".

Meanwhile, in his video message, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), António Vitorino, flagged that the environment has always prompted people to move.



A man in Kenya shops for produce as the coronavirus pandemic brings into focus the interdependence between humanity and biodiversity.

He spelled out that disasters displace millions every year and that climate change affects migration patterns the world over.

"Even when societies are slowed down by Covid-19, nothing stops cyclones and floods, the climate continues to change, the environment keeps degrading, and many people are forced out of their homes", stressed the IOM chief, also noting that other people are "trapped in environmen-

tally fragile regions or cannot resort to usual seasonal agriculture activities".

He encouraged everyone, "even while battling the global pandemic", to stay focused on climate change and biodiversity throughout.

"Let's take action now for people and for nature", underscored Vitorino.

Covid-19 has revealed the vulnerability of global systems to protect the environment, health and economy, the UN Environment Programme

(UNEP) said in a compelling video that illustrates how nature can protect us from pandemics.

It explains that zoonotic diseases are transferred from animals to humans, including in all likelihood the Covid-19 coronavirus. UNEP explains that keeping the diversity of nature and animal species intact, protects us against global health crises.

And while a high host species diversity can also reduce disease risk, if in

some cases those hosts are removed, a resulting monoculture of animals is created, that are likely to increase their role as disease transmitters.

"We need to invest in a better scientific understanding of how human activity can affect potential future zoonoses", upheld UN Environment.

"Now is the time to appreciate the vital role of the health of our planet and to take immediate action to conserve nature".

Aquaculture key in providing work, protecting the coastline in Zanzibar

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

IN Zanzibar, an ambitious pilot project aims to help coastal communities preserve natural resources while they make a living. Among them are aquaculture farmers specializing in seaweed production.

It's part of the AquaCoCo project - Aquaculture, Coastal Communities and Conservation - which aims to give locals an invested interest in managing shared - and fragile - ecosystems.

Aysha Hamadi is a seaweed producer in the tidal zone on the Zanzibar coast, who farms using the "cylindrical net" technique. On land, young plants are inserted into nets, taken out a few cable lengths (500 to 600 metres) from shore, and then immersed in six or seven metres of water, where cooler temperatures stimulate plant growth.

But Aysha doesn't plan to stop there. "To earn more money, I'd like to learn how to swim so I can better understand the way seaweed is transformed. I'd also like to be trained on how to grow sea cucumbers."

The French Development Agency (AFD) funds, supports and accelerates the transitions to a fairer and more sustainable world. Focusing on climate, biodiversity, water, agriculture, urban development, education and health, AFD teams are supporting more than 4,000 projects in 115 countries contributing to the commitment of France to support the sustainable development goals.

"The joint management of coastal resources is achieved in each case with a local solution. What is important is to propose an approach that guarantees the viability of the tools used, by taking into account local context," says Catherine Lecouffe, project manager for AFD's Fishing, Aquaculture and Ocean initiative.

Present in Tanzania since 2008, AFD group is providing financing solutions and technical assistance (more than 760MEUR (1.9bn/-) over the last 10 years) to support the government, local authorities, private sector and



Seaweed farmers in Zanzibar. It is estimated that 80 per cent of seaweed farming is done by women.

NGOs to reduce economic, social and territorial inequalities through the promotion of sustainable and inclusive development.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), about 80 per cent of seaweed farming is done by women.

In partnership with AFD, the IUCN has created the "Oceans, Islands and Coasts" initiative, which includes the AquaCoCo pilot project. It's part of the work undertaken by the IUCN since 2014 on aquaculture and Protected

Marine Areas, which helps Tanzania's semi-autonomous state of Zanzibar manage marine resources in sustainable ways.

Seaweed production in the archipelago was massively adopted by local women some twenty years ago. They were often the wives of fishermen who saw seaweed growing as a way to supplement household income. But the traditional method of growing plants on the edge of the beach and harvesting them at low tides has its limits. It's not only extremely hard physical la-

bor; warming ocean waters near the shore were leading to diminishing returns.

What's more, over-fishing has prompted locals to seek alternatives, such as sea cucumber breeding. Thus a potential crisis has given rise to new methods - such as Aysha Hamadi's cylindrical nets - which protect ecosystems, particularly in the face of climate change.

AquaCoCo Zanzibar is the subject of a short documentary and a report on the theme of Aquaculture and Conser-

vation.

In sectors like fishing and tourism, economic and environmental issues are now inseparable. Preserving the coasts of Zanzibar means ensuring the long-term survival of an ecosystem as much as it does providing a means of subsistence.

By bringing private sector stakeholders to the table with local authorities representatives and IUCN researchers, the AquaCoCo project provides a basis for the sustainable joint management of coastal areas.

"Only an integrated development approach can promote resilience and social and environmental equity," says Aboud Jumbe, Head of Zanzibar's Environment Department. "Without it, protected marine areas in Zanzibar will continue to become more and more vulnerable."

The upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress at Marseille in June 2020 is casting the relationships between coastal communities, aquaculture and sustainable development into sharp relief.

President Muhammadu Buhari's five years in office

By Jideofor Adibe

MAY 29, 2020, marked Muhammadu Buhari's five years in office - or the end of the first year of his second term in office. How has Buhari fared so far? And what is likely to be his legacy? Answering either of the above questions may not be as straightforward as it seems. There are several issues that will predetermine the answers:

One, Buhari's greatest strengths are also his Achilles heels: One of these was his first coming as military Head of State (December 31, 1983 - August 27, 1985). Some of his core admirers nurse a nostalgia of an unsmiling 41-year old Major-General who introduced the War Against Indiscipline, resisted pressures from the Bretton Woods institutions to devalue the Naira and herded most members of the political class and other 'untouchables' in the society into long jail terms for corruption and sundry offences, (some, for as long as 250 years).

Though he stayed in office for only 20 months, he amassed a constituency of support from people who loathed the political class or saw them as their social class enemies. For this constituency of Buhari's support base, the Daura General would have succeeded in righting many wrongs of the Nigerian society if only his government was not truncated by the Babangida coup of August 1985.

Two, just as Buhari amassed a constituency of support from his first coming, the seeds of many of the negative togas he wore today were sown during his first coming. There are two

broad categories of critics who oppose Buhari on account of how he governed as a military dictator: the first category are those who saw his regime as extremely brutal and repressive, and based on that, continue to question his democratic credentials, and subsequently view every move of his with suspicion. For this category of critics, since a tiger cannot easily change its spots, it will be dangerous not to perpetually see Buhari as a threat to our democracy and consequently be vigilant with every move he makes. This constituency of opposition will not buy the notion that Buhari is now a democrat.

The second category of critics that derived from his time as a military Head of State are those who judged his mode of governance from that era on the basis of 'ethnic and religious balance' and concluded that he was a religious bigot or Northern irredentist. There are numerous instances members of this group often give to buttress their argument such as that Buhari constituted a lopsided Supreme Military Council which was overwhelmingly dominated by Northern Muslims; that he was insensitive to the country's diversity by choosing, as his Deputy, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, a fellow Northern Muslim, as his second in Command; and that in herding many members of the political class to prison, he favoured the Northern Muslim political class.

In fact by the time Buhari was overthrown, he had become effectively de-legitimised in most parts of the South, such that nearly all the politicians he jailed from the Southern part of the country came out of prison as



President Muhammadu Buhari

heroes when his government was overthrown. This probably explains why throughout his run for the presidency of the country (2003-2015), it was only in 2015, and largely through alliance with some regional political groups led by Bola Tinubu's Action Congress of Nigeria, that he was able to secure 25 percent of the votes in any state in the southern part of the country. Essentially, the allegation that Buhari is a "northern irredentist" or "Muslim fanatic" started from that era but has hardened by continuing allegations that he still favours the Northern Muslims in strategic appointments, including in leadership of the country's security architecture. The government denies the charge, arguing that its paints a different picture.

Three, another one of Buhari's strengths, which ironically also works against him is that he is generally seen as a regional hero in many parts of the Muslim north. In fact in all his five runs for the presidency of the country, he consistently polled over ten million votes from that demography. This was one of the reasons he was favoured to be the Presi-

dential candidate of the All Progressives Congress because the new party's political strategists reckoned that with him as the party's flag bearer, at least ten million votes would be in the kitty going into the election. However, being a regional hero in a low trust society like Nigeria (where your name alone makes you a suspect) it means that non-members of that in-group view him with heightened suspicion. This contrasts with Olusegun Obasanjo, whose non-acceptance by his Yoruba ethnic group paradoxically helped to burnish his nationalist credentials and acceptance.

Four, following from the above, it is possible to categorise Buhari's supporters into two broad categories - those who admire him from his days as military Head of State, and those who support him from his core Northern Muslim constituency.

Within this latter category, it is possible to have sub-divisions - those who see him as an anti-thesis of the Northern political elite with his self-discipline and austere life style; those who believe he is the one to restore the assumed lost glory of the North (presumably lost under the Obasanjo and Jonathan regimes), and those who do not particularly care about him but will support him anyway as a Northerner - because in Nigeria's peculiar mode of allocating privileges, the South holds the economic power so the North needs to perpetually hold political power as a lever. Among Buhari's constituency of support, the most fanatical group appears to be members of the group who see him as the one to restore the assumed lost glory of the North while his most strident critics appear to be those who feel he is a Northern irredentist or Muslim fanatic.

Five, an important metric to be taken into consideration in any discussion of Buhari's five years in office is that his victory in the 2015 presidential election led to fundamental re-alignment political forces along ethno-regional lines. For instance, while under Jonathan, the government was an alliance of the dominant factions of the South-South, South-East and Benue and Plateau political elite, under Buhari, the extant pattern of alliance was supplanted and the government became an alliance of the dominant factions of the Muslim North and the South-west. In essence when some describe Buhari as a 'polarising figure', it has to be seen in the context of the nature of the support and opposition constituencies he attracts, including the politics flowing from the re-alignment of political forces after May 2015.

Six, is Buhari interested in changing the pattern of the constituencies of his support? While he seems to have made some inroads into previously hostile constituencies, there are also suspicions that he may not really be interested in changing the sources of his support base as seen in the routine accusations that he pays little regards to the optics of governance. According to this view, each time Buhari is accused of clannishness or Northern bias in appointments, it only valorises a sub-constituency of his support base - which Buhari probably holds very dear. Some people infer that since all politics is local, Buhari probably believes that after his presidency, what matters most to him will be what certain constituencies think of him, and not necessarily what most Nigerians think of his tenure.

Seven, so how will we assess his performance in office? Given the hard-line approach of both his support base and opposition constituency, answer to this will depend on who will be doing the assessment. A Buharist will recount the numerous 'achievements' of the government including in the provision of infrastructure, support for agriculture and even fighting Boko Haram.

A critic could focus on the increasing insecurity in the land, the fact that Nigeria has become the poverty capital of the world, Buhari's alleged clannishness and Northern Muslim bias in strategic appointments and of course his kid-gloves approach to the Fulani herdsmen. In this sense, truth is relative and whether Buhari has done well or not will depend on who is answering the question.

Why Liberia may not recover seized stolen assets forfeited in the UK

BY RODNEY D. SIEH

GOL Gives Authority to Recoup \$8M

ON May 23rd, 2020, the Liberian government through Solicitor Cyrennius Cephus designated two UK based international forensic auditors, financial investigators and prosecutors, namely, Adeste Advisory Group and Grant Thornton to investigate, recover procure and repatriate Stolen Assets, irrespective of where they are hidden.

The instruction came more than a month after the National Crimes Agency in the United Kingdom wrapped up its investigation and came to the conclusion that it would forfeit an amount of US\$8million (approx £6.4 million) linked to a Liberian business account in the 1970s, the period when President William V.S. Tubman and his successor, William R. Tolbert were at the helm of power.

According to the NCA, its investigation began when Commerzbank AG London approached the National Economic Crime Centre after noticing unusual activity on an account held by a Liberian company called "The Albatross Limited".

The bank account had been internally investigated and suspended after an individual had tried to set up a new account and move the money, explaining that it was to be paid to various charities. Since then, no one had attempted to touch the money.

The company behind the account was incorporated in Liberia, West Africa, in the 1970s and was purportedly set up to operate large container ships for an international shipping company," the statement said.

The NCA, on 8 April 2020, issued a Notice of Forfeiture on the account's balance of \$8 million dollars (approx £6.4 million), which investigators argued was part of a fund operated for the purpose of tax evasion, money laundering, bribery and corruption.

The NCA leads the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime, protecting the public by targeting and pursuing those criminals who pose the greatest risk to the UK.

In the communication, granting the two British firm authority to recoup Liberia's stolen assets, now in possession of FrontPageAfrica, SG Cephus wrote:

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission has launched an investigation along with the Financial Intelligence Unit(FIU) for tax evasion and fraud and economic sabotage. That being the case, Albatross Limited is on the wanted list of the Liberian government as a criminal enterprise and economic saboteur.

Therefore, as part of the Government's fight against corruption and our policy of zero tolerance on money laundering activities, tax evasion, tax frauds and economic sabotage, the GOL considers itself a victim of money laundering activities that are connected to the Company and TAL that took place in Liberia, and sees the over 6.4 million British Pounds as its legitimate property.

We recognize that a recent freezing order by a Westminster court confirms that these proceeds of crime have been laundered, through major financial services institutions in London, into the British banking system. We also note that the money is now with the nca under the application of an Assets Forfeiture Order.

We note that the same Westminster court has granted a freezing order on the money and that the proceed of crime has since been forfeited to the NCA after its enforcer's application to seize the money was approved by the court.

We would like to point out that the money was squandered by criminals that are connected to the Company and TAL, through dubious processes of tax evasion, money laundering, bribery, economic sabotage and corruption, and therefore demands its retrieval and subsequent repatriation to the Treasury of the GOL.

It is with regards to these developments and based on the relevant provisions of your respective contracts to investigate, to recover to procure and repatriate Stolen Assets,

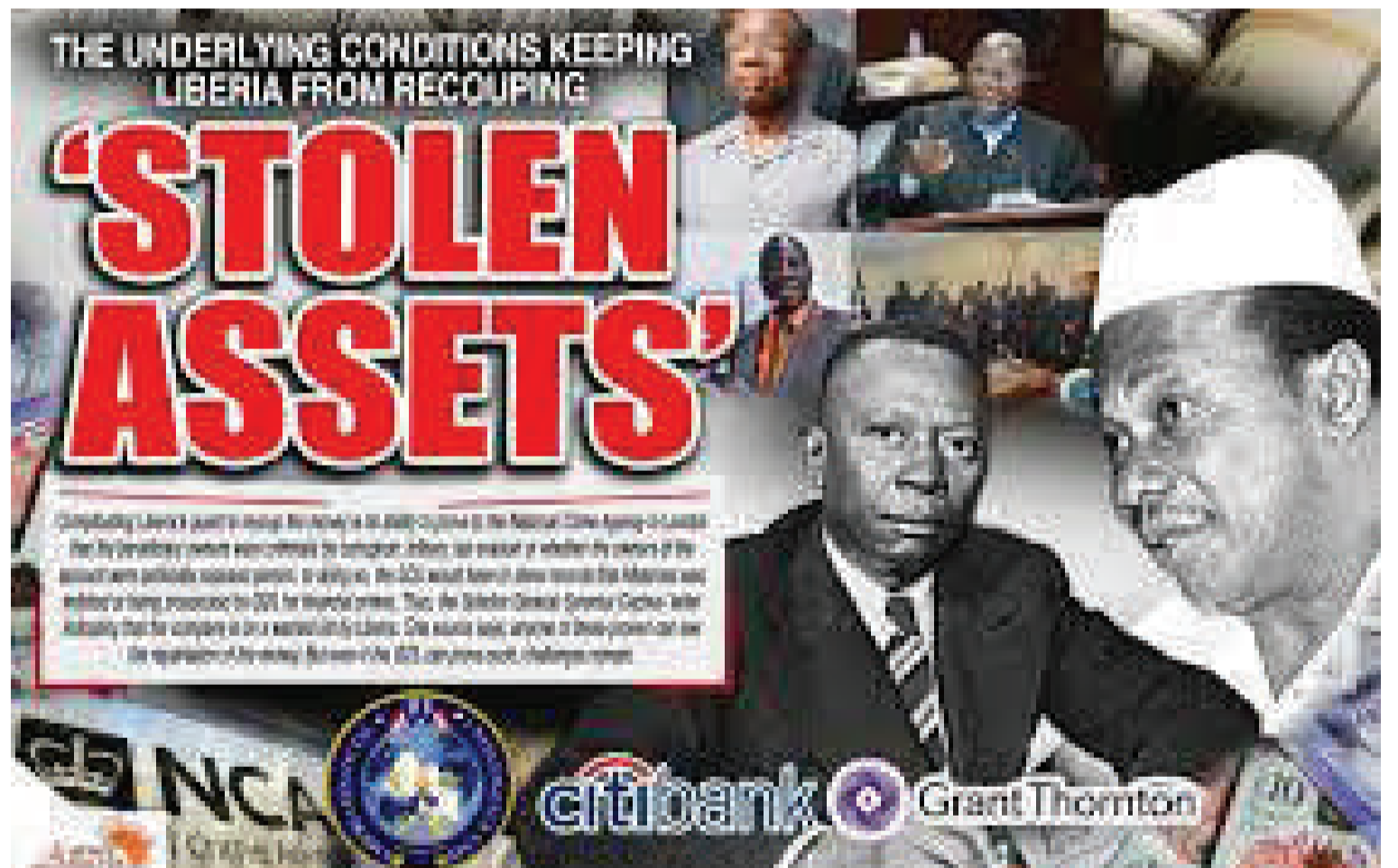
irrespective of where they are hidden, where are proceeds of illicit activities in Liberia that the Government hereby instructs Adeste Advisory Limited and Grant Thornton UK, LLP to work with the Director of the National Economic Crime Center at the NCA, Ms. Sara Pritchard, to ensure that the money is appropriately tracked down and returned to the Treasury of Liberia.

It is important to reiterate and again assure you as your partners in the "war on corruption" that the money would be used for national development purposes, that includes road construction, the building of schools, clinics and the provision of other basic services to rural Liberians, which are in line with the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development(PAPD) on poverty reduction, as enunciated by His Excellency, George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia.

Finally, let me reiterate that your operations have been placed under the authority of the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission and its chair, Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwadubuke, as well as the Liberia Financial Intelligence Unit(FIU) and its head, Edwin Harris. Therefore you are advised to liaise with these two agencies on any matters that may arise now or during the course of your investigation as you earnestly endeavor to retrieve and repatriate the aforesaid money.

That being the case, the Liberia Financial Intelligence Unit on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Liberia (hereafter known as "the GOL" or Government of Liberia), we present our compliments to you.

In keeping with the relevant actions of your respective contracts with the GOL, in 2019, this letter is to formally instruct you, as before, for and on behalf of the Government of Liberia, to investigate, retrieve and repatriate to the Treasury of the GOL, the amount of 6.4 million British Pounds (the "proceeds of crime" or "the money" being illicit cash that was seized by the National Crime Agency ("the NCA") of the United Kingdom.



We understand that the money was previously held in a Citibank account by criminals who falsely claimed to be running an African shipping company ("the company"). The Citi Bank account ("the account") was set up in the name of a Liberian registered corporate entity called the Albatross Limited ("the TAL") and had been inherited by the Commerzbank following a takeover.

Weah Sets up Team to Recoup

In reiterating his commitment to fight corruption, President Weah, late last year, emphasized his intent to recover millions of United States Dollars siphoned from state coffers and treasured abroad by unscrupulous Liberians.

During his inaugural address and since, the Liberian Leader has repeatedly expressed his political will to fight corruption, which he describes as a pandemic crippling the growth and development of the Country and its people.

In this regard, the President set up the Asset Investigation, Restitution and Recovery Team (AIRReT) to catalyze the fight against corruption.

In a meeting last August with officials of Grant Thornton, the President reaffirmed his burning desire to uncompromisingly fight corruption and those who practice it. "I want to make sure that money stolen, laundered and smuggled out of this country is recovered and brought back to Liberia," he averred, adding that Liberia has so much resources to

improve the living standard of all its people but this is hampered by corruption. I made a promise and will keep it," he said further. "My fight against corruption is not a witch hunt but a commitment to develop Liberia with its own resources and monies that were stolen from the Country."

The Obstacles to Recouping Millions

A FrontPageAfrica investigation has further uncovered that intense behind the scenes negotiations are ongoing between the Liberian government and the NCA to find a way to return the money to Liberia.

However, one senior official acknowledged to FPA that a lot of obstacles are standing in the way of that becoming a reality.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the delicate nature of the ongoing negotiations said Liberia would only get the money if it can prove that it is connected to crimes.

At the time the money was deposited, President Tubman was President. He died at a clinic in London following post-operative complications from prostate gland surgery in July 1971, at the age of 75. He was succeeded by his long-time Vice President, William R. Tolbert, who was overthrown in a bloody coup d'etat, nearly nine years later, which brought Master Sergeant Samuel Kanyon Doe and the People's Redemption Council to power.

More than 40 years after the deposit was made, the signatories who open the account are unknown and the NCA is declining to

make the names public.

Kerri Fitzpatrick, Communications Officer at the National Crime Agency told FrontPageAfrica via email Tuesday he was unable to reveal the names on the account. "I'm not able to disclose the names in this instance and can only offer what's in the press release," Fitzpatrick said.

What is known however, is that the money did originate from Liberia. In his letter granting the two British firm instructions, SG Cephus said: "We understand that the money was previously held in a Citibank account by criminals who falsely claimed to be running an African shipping company ("the company")."

The Citi Bank account ("the account") was set up in the name of a Liberian registered corporate entity called the Albatross Limited ("the TAL") and had been inherited by the Commerzbank following a takeover."

Further investigation by FrontPageAfrica has found that bogus company was actually created in 1976 under the maritime and corporate registry, which was managed exclusively by the International Trust Company (ITC) and the president.

All of the key officials in the government at the time are either dead or ailing, except for two, Emmanuel Shaw. And Dr. Charles Clarke. Edwin Williams was Finance Minister in 1976 while C. Cecil Dennis was Foreign Minister, and Ambassador Francis Dennis was Ambassador to the US. Shaw, worked with Dr. Clarke who was Minister of State Without Portfolio.

BUSINESS



Daniel Yu, global CEO of Sokowatch.

CHARITY

Sokowatch e-voucher scheme delivers relief to Kenya's vulnerable

NAIROBI

East African e-commerce startup Sokowatch has launched an e-voucher scheme to help ensure that essential food and goods are available, free of charge, to vulnerable families impacted by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic presents a significant challenge for the informal economy, which accounts for a significant percentage of employment and consumer purchases in sub-Saharan Africa. Lockdown measures and the wider impact of the pandemic on the economy also means that many low-income families, as well as the local shops they rely on, are at risk of not being able to access the food and goods they need.

Sokowatch is using its network of over 15,000 shop owners and unique technology systems to distribute e-vouchers to families in need living in informal settlements. Recipients are identified in partnership with organisations such as Uweza Foundation and World Hope in Nairobi.

E-voucher redemption
Families receive SMS e-vouchers to redeem at a nearby shop supplied by Sokowatch and once the goods are collected, the transaction is confirmed via the Sokowatch app and the shopkeeper is instantly credited for goods issued.

The scheme has already been deployed in the Kawangware and Kibera informal settlements of Nairobi. Over 1,000 e-vouchers have already been sent to vulnerable families, with over 90% of vouchers

redeemed within 48 hours, according to the startup. All redemptions thus far have been spent on essential goods such as maize flour, rice, wheat flour, cooking oil, beans, sugar, toilet paper and sanitary pads.

Bypassing costly relief inefficiencies when we investigated ways to respond to the outbreak, we didn't have to look any further than the ecosystem we are currently in - households and local shops. We believe that, as we explore how to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, we must not forget the most vulnerable among us and this has driven us to start this scheme," Daniel Yu, global CEO of Sokowatch.

"Our tech-enabled platform makes it possible for local shops to continue to serve communities without the costly inefficiencies that often come with relief efforts, giving shops a way to increase sales and maintain revenue through and after the crisis," he adds.

Through its operations across the nine largest cities in East Africa, Sokowatch says an estimated 1.5 million vulnerable families and 15,000 local shops could be provided with direct assistance digitally, eliminating the many logistical challenges that usually face relief efforts, while providing shops with a way to increase sales and maintain revenue through and after the crisis.

"Since the launch of the scheme, shops taking part have seen average weekly sales volume increases of 54%. The e-voucher programme has also seen good acceptance in the community with over 94% of vouchers redeemed," the company says.

RETURNS

NMB shareholders endorse 45 percent bigger dividend payment than last year

By Guardian Reporter

SHAREHOLDERS of NMB Bank Plc endorsed 48bn/- dividend payment this year which represents a 45 percent increase compared to 33bn/- paid last year thanks to impressive performance by the bank.

The shareholders who held the first ever digital annual general meeting on Friday under interim Chairperson Margaret Ikongo, also approved a similar increase in earnings per share from 66/- to 96/- each thanks to the bank's impressive 142bn/- in net profits made last year.

"NMB has over the years maintained a healthy capital position and we intend to continue doing so. To achieve this, it is crucial that we make the right decisions especially in anticipation of any regulatory changes in capital requirements," said Ikongo.

She further added that with an increase in net profit of 46 percent from 98bn/- made in 2018, the Tier 1 bank which given a stable B1 credit rating by global rating agency, Moody's, it confirms the confidence which international have in the country's largest bank.

Ikongo noted that the approved dividend payout is in line with the board's position to strike a balance maximising shareholders' returns while also reinvesting funds into the bank's business in order to finance its growth plans.



NMB Bank Plc shareholders attending an annual general meeting last year.

Speaking at a news conference later, acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna backed the interim chair's stating that the bank's strength and super profit making is a result of reducing operational costs and investing heavily in modern technologies.

Zaipuna who has successfully steered the banking conglomerate for the past two years, said last year NMB launched alternative digital channels namely NMB Mkononi and NMB Direct while also enhancing its NMB Wakala network.

"As a bank, we are committed to continue playing a leading role in driving

Tanzania's growth agenda through credit extension in the personal or household sector, agriculture, manufacturing and construction," Zaipuna noted.

She explained that the impressive 2019 results are an indication of management's turnaround strategy that sought to re-affirm three strategic pillars of deposits mobilization, revenue generation and diversification but also operational efficiency.

"We are the leading bank in the country, our best in-class governance, information technology and support systems make our customers' deposits

and savings safer with us," she added while stressing that NMB is dedicated towards supporting micro and SME's growth especially those dealing in the agriculture sector by providing capacity building through advisory services on better ways to invest in agri-business.

NMB Bank Plc is listed at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange with Treasury and Netherlands based Rabobank as majority shareholders with 31 and 34 percent respectively. The remaining shares are owned by minority shareholders and the public.

GENEROSITY

Arusha's RAS salutes Yara Tanzania for PPE donation to fight against Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

EFFORTS by Yara Tanzania Limited to donate personal protective equipment to the government to help fight the coronavirus outbreak are appreciated by Arusha Region's assistant Regional Administrative Secretary, David Lyamongi.

Speaking last Friday after receiving the PPEs from Yara, Lyamongi said the donation which is targeting farmers in the Northern Zone, will help stop the virus spreading in line with government efforts to stop the pandemic.

Lyamongi who was accompanied by Regional Medical Officer, Dr Wedson Sichelwe commended the fertilizer company for being on the frontline in supporting farmers and agro-dealers who are their key stakeholders.

"Yara has decided to protect the farmers specifically which is very good because they are responsible for food production not just for consumption in Tanzania but also other neighbouring countries as well," he said.

He called on farmers to ensure they follow and abide by health experts issued guidelines as issued by the Health Ministry, including hand washing with soap using running water, use of sanitizers and maintain social distancing.

"Yara has also been an important



Yara Northern and Western Zone commercial manager Phillip Mwakipesile (L) presents personal protective equipment to one of the company's dealers, Beatrice Orgeres (R) in Arusha on Friday.

stakeholder in the agriculture sector where it has been collaborating well with the

government in improving agriculture productivity," Lyamongi added.

In remarks after presenting the consignment, Yara Tanzania Commercial

Manager for Northern and Western Zones, Phillip Mwakipesile said the donated PPEs included sanitizers, soap and hand washing buckets.

"Farmers have an important role to continue food production so that the country should avoid a possible hunger crisis after the pandemic," Mwakipesile said adding that there is need for the farmers to be encouraged to work hard during this critical time.

He said the whole world is currently facing the Covid-19 challenge that has led to loss of lives and affected economies badly as most activities have been stalled hence the need to ensure that food security is assured.

Yara has allocated 82m/- to provide PPEs countrywide to farmers and agro-dealers that the company works in partnership with. The PPEs have already been donated in Mbeya region of the Southern Highland Zone last week.

RECOGNITION

Nederburg granted WWF Conservation Champion status

JOHANNESBURG

Nederburg Wines has acquired WWF Conservation Champion status for its water stewardship measures. These measures address ways to improve water quality; balance, access, usage - including sanitation - and governance.

The water management strategy it follows is based on the principles set out by the internationally recognised Alliance for Water Stewardship. Nederburg was originally accorded WWF Biodiversity and Wine Initiative (BWI) membership in 2011 for its eco-conscious wine-growing and winemaking protocols, and since then the popular South African wine brand has been on a path to better its eco-sustainability credentials.

"It's very encouraging to have earned

the highest level of WWF recognition of champion status for what we've been doing," says Niël Groenewald, managing director of Nederburg. "We've had to adhere to rigorous criteria and show innovation in how we manage our natural resources. We're proud of what we've achieved but there's no place for complacency. We plan to become even better at what we're doing."

Groenewald explains that to begin the effective water stewardship process required investment in sophisticated water consumption measurement tools so it could calculate precisely the impact of its cover crops planted in and amongst the vineyards, the wider application of drought-resistant rootstocks, the greater use of water-sufficiency irrigation, the use of pressure bombs to measure leaf water

respiration, the move towards night irrigation, as well as the introduction of several climate-resilient Mediterranean varieties.

"Many of these measures have been in place for well over a decade but to assess the efficacy of our initiatives required that we begin measuring with greater accuracy. We've determined that in some instances we've achieved water savings of as high as 40%. That inspires us to save even more."

Groenewald also highlights how the team has worked to improve the management of streams and drainage lines that run through the farm, while continuing with the rehabilitation of the land to indigenous habitat.

"In the cellar, we are using recycled water for the cooling tanks, applying more efficient chilling processes

and rigorously following water-wise cleaning regimes to eliminate water wastage. We've stepped up our rain-water harvesting and are diverting filtered effluent water to irrigate our extensive gardens."

Apart from Nederburg's water stewardship credentials, the winery has been recognised for its waste management, with all surplus material like cartons, bottles, plastic and harvest by-products recycled; as well as fire management with the winery being an active member of the Winelands Fire Protection Association (FPA). Nederburg is ISO14000 certified for responsible environmental management and constantly keeps track of its fossil fuel usage in order to control its environmental footprint.

RELIEF

Absa Tanzania joins Covid-19 team by giving borrowers 90-day grace period



Absa Bank Tanzania managing director Abdi Mohamed.

By Guardian Reporter

BORROWERS with Absa Bank Tanzania Limited whose economic activities have been ravaged by the novel coronavirus outbreak will only start repaying their loans in July.

In a statement yesterday, the Dar es Salaam based lender said the three month grace period started in April and covers borrowers for retail, business, corporate and investment banking segments. The comprehensive debt relief programme comes alongside other efforts initiated by the bank to support its customers amidst covid-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the relief programme, Absa Bank Tanzania's Managing Director, Abdi Mohamed, said the relief program is being conducted in full compliance with Bank of Tanzania regulatory requirements.

"We realize that this is a difficult time for many of our customers and businesses whose financial means are being negatively affected. As such, being responsible financial partners we are happy to support our customers and businesses in order to continue to build thriving businesses and a vibrant economy despite the present challenges," Mohamed said.

"We urge those customers who have not been impacted to continue making their payments as usual. This will enable us to extend this relief

programme to many more customers who may have pressing needs. Customers are encouraged to reach out to their Relationship Managers," he added.

Backing his boss' observations, the bank's Head of Client Experience, Samuel Mkuyu said, "Our passion to customers is as strong as ever and our commitment to serve and protect them is unwavering."

Mkuyu noted that the bank's services continue to run smoothly even as it strictly adheres to guidelines and protocols set out by Ministry of Health. "We continue to encourage our customers to use our digital channels which are more efficient and safer given the current circumstances," he added.

Absa Bank Tanzania Limited is a leading commercial bank in Tanzania that currently boasts a network of 15 branches and 62 ATMs strategically located in the country of which 21 are at all branches and 49 offsite. The Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Absa Group Limited. Absa Group has a presence in 12 countries in Africa, with approximately 40,000 employees.

The Group's registered head office is in Johannesburg, South Africa, and it owns majority stakes in banks in Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania's National Bank of Commerce, Uganda and Zambia.

COMMEMORATION

Emirates commits to prevent animal trafficking on World Environment Day

By Guardian Reporter

EMIRATES Airlines will continue to support global environmental efforts by preventing illegal trade in wild animals and their products with a price tag of over US\$20 billion annually.

In a statement, the Dubai based airline said in line with this year's theme, 'Time for Nature,' it is aware of its role in the planet's natural ecosystem hence continued to make progress in the attainment of its environmental goals. The airline showcased this environment performance in its annual financial report for 2019-20, painting a holistic picture and filling in the context of its achievements.

Emirates is active across industry and international efforts, and is part of United for Wildlife, ROUTES (Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species), and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), the airline noted in its statement.

"Emirates has a zero tolerance on carrying banned species, hunting trophies or any products associated with illegal wildlife activities. The airline's ground-handling team is trained in IATA's Live Animal Regulations and its internal policies, and more than 2,500 airport services employees were trained last year to recognise and report suspicious cargo," the statement stated.

The statement further added that Emirates employees have access to a dedicated reporting channel to stop illegal trade while customer awareness has been heightened through interviews, wildlife programmes and films on ice, its inflight entertainment system, and the inflight magazine.

"Emirates' efforts in the areas of wildlife conservation are well known. The airline has been helping protect Australia's extraordinary flora and fauna for over 10 years at Emirates Wolgan Valley, the conservation-based resort in New South Wales," the statement added.

Emirates' 20-year partnership with the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DDCR) continued to build on its successful programmes to track, maintain and reintroduce native wildlife species, such as the Arabian oryx, Arabian gazelle, sand gazelle.

"In January, the reserve released 250 MacQueen's bustards into its natural habitat - a remarkable achievement by any standard. The DDCR continues to be a regional leader in ecological research, actively collaborating with local and international universities," the airline's statement noted. The UN's World Environment Day is commemorated on June 5 annually.

TRANSFORMATION

USAID-backed health campaign platform set to become a youth brand

By Guardian Reporter

A health campaign platform sponsored by United States Agency for International Development dubbed, 'Sitetereki Tulonge Afya' is set to become a brand that will be connecting the youths from all parts of the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, USAID Mission Director, Andy Karas said 'Sitetereki Tulonge Afya' platform has been designed to engage young people by giving them the right information, motivation and skills, in response to their needs.

"This platform has been connecting youths across multiple communications channels, using mass media, community approaches, interpersonal communication, digital tools and social media to deliver youth-centric health messages and interventions to inspire and empower them to adopt healthy behaviours and create a positive future for themselves," Karas said adding that the goal is to transform the platform from a campaign to a brand for youths in the country.

Karas said in addition, the platform will help synchronize and amplify youth communication and interventions in the country to better



USAID Mission director Andy Karas.

inform, motivate, and empower them adopt healthy behaviours that will improve their overall wellbeing. He added the platform targets young people aged

between 15 and 24 years and is implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children with funding from

American taxpayers through USAID Tulonge Afya project and managed by FHI 360.

"In order to reach as many youths as possible, 'Sitetereki' has been promoted

to several community level activities such as group discussions facilitated by peer champions (young trained volunteers in the community), community radio pro-

grams designed by local stations and young people and youth-driven community theatre," the USAID Mission Director added.

Tulonge Afya Programme Chief of Party, Waziri Nyoni said that 'Sitetereki' currently supports key youth national HIV and sexual and reproductive health and family planning strategic objectives for active and unmarried youths aged between 15 to 24.

Nyoni said its objectives include: use of modern contraceptive, correct use of condoms and consistently, HIV/Aids testing, treatment and voluntary medical male circumcision. "Sitetereki" is a communication platform which can be continuously developed. While its focuses at this point are around contraception, HIV and voluntary medical male circumcision, however, in future its scope will broaden to not only includes other health issues, but also social and lifestyle issues," Nyoni noted.

Nyoni further said that the current data shows show that HIV and unintended pregnancies are the greatest contributors of poor health and mortality rates for the targeted group hence the need to be flexible and expand in future.

DIVERSIFICATION

Rwf1bn to be invested in new fertilisers for wheat, beans farming

IGALI

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) has commended Rwanda Fertilizer Company (RFC) for supporting Rwandan smallholder farmers with a comprehensive package enabling them to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RFC is a newly created joint venture between the Government of Rwanda and OCP - a Morocco-based fertilizer producer and world leader in the phosphate industry. As a new company, RFC was set up to initiate its operations at the end of 2020, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, it launched a crisis action plan prior to officially opening to help curb COVID-19's impact on agriculture.

As COVID-19 pandemic persists, at least 500 metric tonnes of DAP fertilizers will be provided to smallholder farmers covering over 5,000 hectares of land for season A 2021 as part of emergency relief. The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) and Rwanda Fertilizer Company (RFC) are also partnering to develop trials for new fertilizer products, particularly for wheat, beans, and soybeans, by setting up demonstration plots across the country, a move that will see the institution spend \$1 mil-

lion (Rwf1 billion).

According to an announcement from ministry, this will allow the Rwandan fertilizer market to grow from one which uses standard products to a customized and tailored market. "Almost \$1 million will be invested to set up more than 450 demonstration platforms to build capacity and increase market knowledge. The aim is to introduce farmers and relevant stakeholders to best farming practices for all stages of the harvest, from seed selection to nutrient management, mechanization, and post-harvest handling," reads part of the release.

Providing fertilizers to farms as part of emergency relief is in line with the government's ongoing COVID-19 response intended to build the resilience of the country's farmers, allowing them to increase productivity and continue producing enough to feed the population. Agriculture Minister Gerardine Mukeshimana said in the statement.

This is a significant contribution to our work to provide farmers with the essential nutrients needed to boost agricultural productivity, thus ensuring enough food supply, she noted. The action plan also targets potato production, one of Rwanda's most important crops.

INNOVATION

Tourism sector urged to turn digital for resurgence

ADDIS ABABA

The tourism sector is being urged to place digital transformation at the centre of its post-COVID-19 resurgence after the virus abruptly halted operations in the industry.

The sector has been under strain due to the COVID-19 pandemic, although some countries are now

slowly beginning to reopen, as lockdown rules are being relaxed. The Pan African Chamber of Commerce believes the revival of the hospitality industry can be hastened with ICT as an enabler.

"Digital transformation will have a great impact on the tourism industry. It's no secret that the tourism industry, on a global scale, has been impacted and we now need

digitally-driven, innovative solutions," says Phumza Dyani, chief innovation officer at the Pan African Chamber of Commerce.

"Solutions such as the rising number of connected devices have caused a complete shift in the way the world approaches tourism." COVID-19 has placed the whole world on lockdown, with new research from the World Tourism

Organisation (WTO) showing that 100% of global destinations continue to have restrictions on travel in place, and 72% have completely closed their borders to international tourism. Out of 217 destinations worldwide, 156 (72%) have placed a complete stop on international tourism, according to the data collected as of 27 April by WTO. In 25% of destinations, restrictions

have been in place for at least three months, while in 40% of destinations, restrictions were introduced at least two months ago.

For Africa, Dyani says despite the impact of the virus, tourism remains one of the critical industries with the potential to accelerate economy and this could help upgrade the continent's position on the global.

WORLD

'A part of history': Calm prevails over DC's biggest George Floyd protest

WASHINGTON

TENS of thousands of demonstrators amassed in Washington and other U.S. cities on Saturday demanding an end to racism and brutality by law enforcement, as protests sparked by George Floyd's fatal encounter with Minneapolis police stretched into a 12th day.

A Lincoln Memorial rally and march to the White House marked the largest outpouring yet of protests nationwide since video footage emerged showing Floyd, an unarmed black man in handcuffs, lying face down and struggling to breathe as a white police officer knelt on his neck.

Demonstrators rallied on Saturday in numerous urban centers - among them New York, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston and

Miami - as well as in small, rural communities across the country.

"It feels like I get to be a part of history and a part of the group of people who are trying to change the world for everyone," said Jamilah Muahyman, a Washington resident at a demonstration near the White House.

One of the more surprising Black Lives Matter rallies was a gathering of 150 to 200 people in the east Texas town of Vidor, notorious for its long associations with the Ku Klux Klan.

Floyd's May 25 death has sparked a storm of protests and civil strife in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, thrusting the highly charged debate over racial justice back to the forefront of the political agenda five months before the Nov. 3 U.S. presidential election.



Demonstrators hold placards as they stand behind a fence at Lafayette Park in front of the White House during a protest against racial inequality in the aftermath of the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, in Washington, U.S., on Saturday. REUTERS

With the notable exception of Seattle, where police used flash-bang grenades in a confrontation with demonstrators in the city's Capitol Hill district, Saturday's protests on the whole took on a relaxed tone compared with those of recent days.

The week began with sporadic episodes of arson, looting and vandalism in several cities that authorities and activists have blamed largely on outside instigators and criminal elements.

Police have at times resorted to heavy-handed tactics as they sought to enforce curfews in some cities, including New York and Washington, where baton-swinging officers in riot gear dispersed otherwise orderly crowds.

Those clashes have only galvanized the focus of the protests into a broader quest for reform of the

criminal justice system and its treatment of ethnic minorities.

"I'm just hoping that we really get some change from what's going on. People have been kneeling and protesting and begging for a long time, and enough is enough," said Kartrina Fernandez, 42, a protester near the front of the White House.

"We can't take much more."

The intensity of protests over the past week began to ebb on Wednesday after prosecutors in Minneapolis had arrested all four police officers implicated in Floyd's death. Derek Chauvin, the white officer seen pinning Floyd's neck to the ground for nearly nine minutes as Floyd repeatedly groaned "I can't breathe" was charged with second-degree murder. **Agencies**

Changes in post-pandemic economy require enhanced global cooperation: WEF founder

GENEVA



THE COVID-19 crisis has posed economic challenges and structural changes, all requiring multilateral and multi-stakeholder solutions, said Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum.

"This was not just a cyclical crisis; it was a systemic crisis," said Schwab (pictured) in a recent interview with Xinhua.

The lasting impacts of the pandemic on global economy, he said, involve short term consequences like job losses, and structural influence as well as series of new risks.

Schwab noted that main industrialized countries have adopted positive fiscal measures to assuage pressures of liquidities, while the currency devaluation has been seen in some developing countries in South America and Africa.

"We have to make all efforts to ensure that the gap of the advanced economies and the emerging economies is not becoming bigger as a consequence of the crisis," he said.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have been hit hardest by the pandemic, due to their high dependence on supply chains and less liquidities, compared with large companies, noted Schwab, adding that SMEs require "special care" during the economic recovery.

Some countries have worked to avoid short-term financial risks, which resulted in a higher debt burden that the next generation has to carry, he added, noting that those countries should speed up economic recovery and reduce the debt burden as fast as possible.

Indicating the silver lining of the coronavirus crisis in the digital economy, he said that "the coronavirus crisis will exercise pressures on companies to digitalize more, to robotize more, to use the internet of things even more."

People will pay more attention to health, while digital learning and lifelong learning are booming in the educational field, Schwab added.

In Schwab's view, the challenges posed by the "global virus" require the engagement of politicians, business community and particularly the young generation.

"All those risks can only be reduced if we strengthen global cooperation," he said.

"The world order in the post pandemic era has to be shaped by all countries. We need not only a multilateral approach, we need a multi-stakeholder approach -- what the Forum stands for," he concluded. **Xinhua**

Russia thankful to US for offer to assist in Norilsk oil spill cleanup - diplomat

MOSCOW



RUSSIA is thankful to the United States for readiness to give a helping hand in cleaning up the fuel spill in Norilsk, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on the Solovyev Live YouTube channel on Saturday.

"We are certainly thankful to the US side," Zakharova (pictured) said.

"It is another goodwill gesture that proves that we can work for the good and can demonstrate this cooperation," the diplomat said commenting on the statement by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Earlier in the day, Pompeo wrote on Twitter that the US stands ready to help Russia in cleaning up the diesel oil leak in Norilsk and to offer technical expertise.

"We can also point out that the company [Norilsk Nickel] and state bodies have figured out the technology and set the time limit to solve the issue. So we will thank Mr. Pompeo," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said. "I believe it is a very constructive discussion. There was an attempt at least. I feel that such things should be highlighted and thank you should be said. Therefore, it will be done so."

The US Department of State and White House have not yet replied about the form of US assistance to TASS request. Over 21,000 cubic meters of petroleum products spilled at the Thermal Power Plant No. 3 of the Norilsk and Taimyr Energy Company (part of the metals giant Norilsk Nickel) on May 29 after the concrete foundation of a fuel storage tank sank, causing the fuel facility's collapse.

The fuel spilled into the ground on an area of 180,000 square meters and also in local rivers, contaminating the territory and causing damage to the environment. Russian President Vladimir Putin approved a decision to declare a federal emergency in Norilsk. **(Agencies)**

COVID-19 vaccine should be global public good

LONDON

A VIRTUAL global vaccine summit was held Thursday with participating world leaders calling for international efforts to ensure the availability of COVID-19 vaccines to anyone in need anywhere in the world.

The summit, which gathered leaders from more than 30 countries and global organizations, including the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO), is a much-needed event to promote world unity in dealing with the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aimed at raising funds for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), the summit demonstrated the leaders' sincere hope that the vaccine should be available as a global public good, rather than a commodity for the purpose of profit.

"A COVID-19 vaccine must be seen as a global public good, a people's vaccine, which a growing number of world leaders are calling for," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said while addressing the summit.

Although no vaccine has yet completed clinical trials in the world today, the world community is racing against the clock to develop one against the coronavirus, with progress achieved in some developed countries and China.

Catching the world off guard, COVID-19 has hit more than 210 countries and regions, with updated global infections surpassing 6.5 million and accumulative deaths over 380,000. The pandemic has constituted the most serious global public health emergency since the end of World War II.

It is a global dream to see an effective vaccine at an early date, but a vaccine itself is not enough. Joint international efforts must be made to make sure its accessibility for everyone everywhere in need.

A country's public health is assured only when its most vulnerable citizens are taken good care of. Similarly, the globe at large will be safe from a raging pandemic only when the poorest countries are well-equipped against risks of infection.



An antibody named CB6 works by interfering with the binding process between novel coronavirus and the ACE2 receptor, thus blocking the virus from infecting cells, according to a study published in the Nature journal.

In his speech at the virtual summit, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said that no country is immune from the virus, and that the health and safety of the various populations are closely connected.

At present, many people are concerned that developed countries leading in the research and development of the vaccine will endeavor to maximize profits on their advantages with no regard

for poorer countries. But in the global fight against COVID-19, virus knows no border and vaccines can not be controlled by a few countries.

Efforts should be made to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines reach everyone in need when they become available. Therefore, any individual in any country, rich or poor, can get access, and no one would be deprived of the chance.

Countries, organizations pledge support for global vaccine accessibility

LONDON

COUNTRIES and organizations on Thursday pledged their support for vaccinations to save millions of lives in the poorest countries during a virtual global vaccine summit hosted by Britain.

The summit, to raise funds for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) to ensure vaccine accessibility worldwide, drew pledges of 8.8 billion U.S. dollars from governments and organizations, far more than its target of 7.4 billion dollars.

The funds will not only protect children from deadly diseases like polio, diphtheria and measles and save up to 8 million lives, but also be directed to accelerating research,

development, production and distribution of a vaccine for COVID-19.

Speaking at the summit attended by leaders from over 30 countries and heads of international organizations, including the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO), Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said that China will continue to support the core role of the WHO in coordinating vaccine research, while making its contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

In dealing with the COVID-19 infection, China has put people's lives first, effectively containing the epidemic by making arduous efforts, Li said.

However, the pandemic is not

over, said Li, adding that no country is immune from the virus, and that the health and safety of the various populations are closely connected.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that "diseases know no borders. That is why a fully-funded GAVI will be critical to ensure we continue the progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals."

"COVID-19 is the greatest public health crisis of our generation. Right now, there is no vaccine. As we work together to develop one, there is an important lesson we need to understand. A vaccine, by itself, is not enough. We need global solidarity to ensure that every person, everywhere, has access," said Guterres.

"A vaccine will be essential for controlling COVID-19. But vaccines only realize their true power when they are deployed to protect the poorest and the most vulnerable," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who opened the summit, urged countries and organizations to "join us to fortify this lifesaving alliance and inaugurate a new era of global health cooperation, which I believe is now the most essential shared endeavour of our lifetimes."

Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, said the European Union has been at the GAVI's side since the very beginning in 2000, and the GAVI "has

brought life-saving vaccines to millions of families that could not afford them."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said "GAVI is not just a global alliance, it is also a symbol of global solidarity and a reminder that by helping others, we can also help ourselves ... India values the work of GAVI."

"We're meeting at a unique time in history. Never have more people been more aware of the importance of vaccines. As we race to develop the COVID-19 vaccine, we must also renew our commitment to delivering every life-saving vaccine there is to every child on Earth," said Bill Gates, co-chair of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. **Xinhua**

US terminating relationship with WHO set to be a lose-lose game

WASHINGTON on May 29 "upgraded" its farce of challenging the World Health Organization (WHO), announcing to terminate its relationship with the UN health organ and redirect its funding to other organizations because the latter "had failed to make the requested and greatly needed reforms."

By doing so, the U.S. aimed to turn the WHO into a scapegoat of its own inability to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, but only exposed its hegemonic practices in dealing with international organizations.

When COVID-19 is still spreading around the globe, to cure patients and

save lives is an urgent task, and collaboration is needed in pandemic response. However, the U.S. blatantly shirked its international responsibility and chose to stand against justice and common sense at this critical moment.

Some American politicians, setting the world in trouble with unilateralism and bullying practices, are just despicable, especially when more than 6 million people worldwide - including more than 1.7 million in the U.S. - have been infected with the novel coronavirus.

What they encountered is widespread criticism both at home and abroad. Rus-

sian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova criticized the U.S. decision, describing it as trampling on the international legal basis for world health cooperation at a time when the world needs to unite against the novel coronavirus.

The American Medical Association expressed in a statement that the decision of the U.S. "served no logical purpose," saying it will make the work of fighting the global pandemic "dramatically more challenging."

"Just when the world was trying to come together over an unprecedented health crisis, it's all splintered apart," said

Lawrence O. Gostin, professor of global health law at Georgetown University, adding that "this kind of disruption and setting global health on fire is going to cost lives." Apparently, combating the pandemic through cooperation and solidarity is the mainstream consensus of the international society.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO has actively fulfilled its responsibilities under the leadership of Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Several thousand staff members of the organization have fought day and night

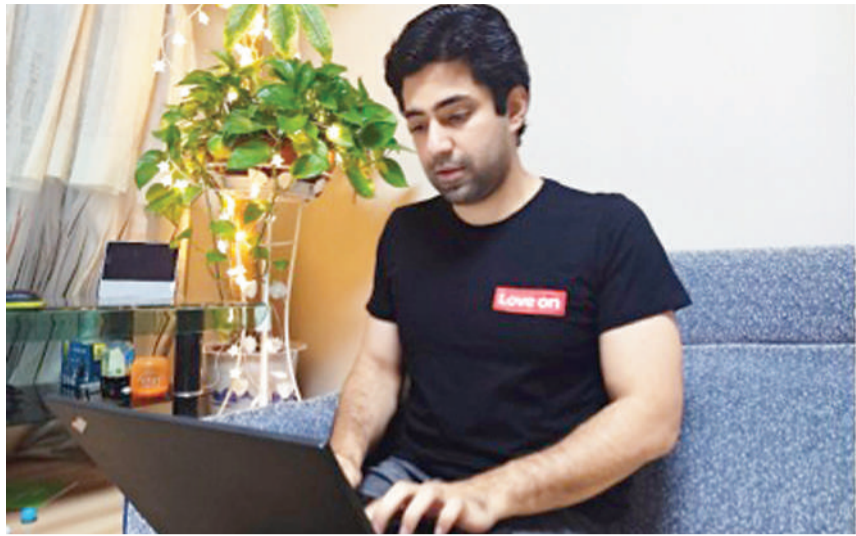
on the international anti-pandemic front-line to promote and coordinate global cooperation on COVID-19 response, receiving wide recognition and high praise from the international society.

A resolution regarding COVID-19 was adopted by the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) on May 19. The resolution unequivocally affirms and supports the leading role of the WHO.

The 76th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) adopted a resolution on May 21, reiterating the key role of the UN in responding to the

global pandemic and emphasizing the important role of the WHO in coordinating global response and curbing the spread of the virus.

The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a President's Statement on human rights implications of COVID-19 on May 29, reaffirming the fundamental role of the UN system in coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 and in supporting Member States, and acknowledging the crucial leading role played by the WHO. **People's Daily**



A farmer transplants early rice with a rice transplanter in Renhe village, Xiaodukou town, Lixian county, Hunan province on April 22. (People's Daily Online)

'All of us were contributing to epidemic control in Wuhan'

By Haroon Nomaan from Pakistan

I'm an engineer working for Lenovo in Wuhan. After the COVID-19 epidemic broke out in the city, I joined a volunteer team of the Hubei Charity Federation, becoming the only foreigner on the 83-member team.

I helped sort materials donated to the city and translate English and Urdu customs clearance documents into Chinese.

As an engineer, the volunteering job was new to me, so it was hard for me to pull things together at the beginning.

I had to search for information online first and then consult professionals every time I encountered terms on customs clearance and medical materials, so as to ensure correct translation.

My wife, who studied at the School of Journalism and Communication of Wuhan University, was very supportive. She speaks Russian, so she often helped me translate Russian materials.

Learning what I was doing, my company particularly reduced my workload. Gradually, I got better and better at the job. Now I could easily translate complicated professional terms into Chinese, and now I'm one of the executives for a material reception group.

Volunteers need to spend much time on communicating to ensure purchases of preventative materials, unimpeded logistics and rapid handling of tax reduction formalities for donated materials.

I'm in more than 130 chat groups on the messenger app WeChat, and it's a unique experience switching between them one by one every day.

To avoid time differences between me and overseas donors, I always talked to those in Asia at 8 a.m. and

contacted those in Europe and America at 2 a.m. the next day. This extended my working hours to over 14 hours per day.

On March 15, my volunteer service came to an end. Busy as I was during the period, I didn't feel the tiredness. When I saw a drastic decline in confirmed coronavirus cases in China and the remarkable achievements in containing the disease, I felt proud of myself as a part of it.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping said, public health crises pose a common challenge for humanity, and solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapon to tackle them.

Over the 40 days, we received 253 batches of donations and I recorded all of them carefully. They are a token of love for Wuhan, and represent the strong power of the people from all over the world in combating the disease with concerted efforts.

What touched me deeply was that the alumni associations of international students in Wuhan also actively donated money and materials to the city, providing concrete support to the anti-epidemic efforts. Having lived in Wuhan for years, I empathize with them. Everyone who's been living here is deeply attached to the city.

Every person I met was contributing their share to combating the epidemic. What I did was trivial compared with their work.

A simple message in WeChat group was all we had to do every time we needed supplies during the quarantine, and the community workers would soon deliver the goods to our doorsteps. I know that we were cared for when we were helping others, and this moved me very much.

Now, Wuhan is covered by green plants and flowers in full bloom. In the future, we'll cherish more the happy and peaceful life we have here.

People's Daily

Russia turns to UN over diplomatic property dispute with US

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA has asked the United Nations to call on the United States to return Russia's diplomatic property in New York for humanitarian reasons amid the coronavirus pandemic, Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gennady Kuzmin said on Saturday.

"When the governor of New York State declared an emergency over the growing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, we requested our property be returned to be used by the mission's employees to reduce the risks stemming from the coronavirus spread," he said at an extraordinary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly Committee on Relations with the Host Country that was called at Russia's initiative.

According to Kuzmin, no response from the United States has come so far. "They gave us to understand to our embassy in Washington that we should not hope for a positive response," he said, adding that Russia had referred a letter to the United Nations Secretary General asking him "to get involved in the situation and ensure that the property be returned."

The Russian diplomat stressed that such US' actions violated the host country agreement.

Agencies

Zimbabwe's central bank restricts internal bank transfers with spiral inflation

HARARE

THE Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has issued a directive that internal bank transfers will be limited to two per day as the apex bank battles to arrest the free fall of the Zimbabwe dollar.

In a letter directed to banks dated June 6, RBZ Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) acting director-general Oliver Chiperesa said the unit had noted a sharp increase in the abuse of the internal bank transfer facility by illegal foreign currency dealers.

"We have noted a trend where entities are using their bank accounts to buy foreign currency, using a network of runners, some of whom have been advertising their services on social media," he said.



"These illicit transactions manifest in the form of daily multiple payments from one account to beneficiaries who hold accounts in the same bank," the official added.

If a customer has the genuine need of conducting more than two transactions in a day by way of internal transfers, the customer can obtain approval from bank management, Chiperesa said.

The Zimbabwe dollar has been in free fall against the U.S. dollar in the last few months and the central bank has accused illegal forex dealers of fueling high inflation through exchange rate distortions.

Earlier this month, RBZ directed all banks to freeze over one hundred bank accounts linked to mobile money agents suspected of involvement in illicit foreign currency trading.

The central bank blames mobile money agents for driving the illegal foreign currency trade, which has driven up the parallel market rate for the Zimbabwe dollar to 1:70 compared to the official interbank rate of 1:25. Official figures from the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency show that year-on-year inflation in March 2020 stood at 676 percent. Xinhua



Biden crosses threshold to clinch Democratic presidential nomination

WASHINGTON

FORMER U.S. Vice President Joe Biden on Friday crossed the threshold for Democratic presidential nomination, according to an estimate by the Associated Press, locking up a contest for the White House with incumbent President Donald Trump later this year.

The AP projected that Biden, now the sole remaining presidential candidate in the Democratic Party -- thus its presumptive nominee -- has won 1,993 delegates to the national convention, surpassed the benchmark number of 1,991 needed for nomination.

The estimate came as Biden swept primaries in seven states and the District of Columbia Tuesday.

Although the votes were still being counted, Bernie Sanders, the senator from Vermont who suspended his presidential campaign in April but remained on the ballot to gain delegates, failed to reach the 15 percent threshold to receive delegates in several contests, yielding more delegates to Biden.

"It was an honor to compete alongside one of the most talented groups of candidates the Democratic party has ever fielded -- and I am proud to say that we are going into this general election a united party," Biden said in a statement Friday night.

"I am going to spend every day between now and Nov. 3 fighting to earn the votes of Americans all across this great country so that, together, we can win the battle for the soul of this nation, and make sure that as we rebuild our economy, everyone comes along," he said.

This year's presidential election came at a time when the United States is plagued by the coronavirus pandemic that has frozen the national economy, and when protests against racial injustice erupted and persisted nationwide following the killing of George Floyd, a black man, under the custody of white police in Minneapolis.

"This is a difficult time in America's history. And Donald Trump's angry, divisive politics is no answer," Biden said, as Trump threatened deploying active-duty military forces to quell the unrest. "The country is crying out for leadership.

Leadership that can unite us. Leadership that can bring us together," the 77-year-old former senator from Delaware said. "We need an economy that works for everyone -- now. We need jobs that bring dignity -- now. We need equal justice -- and equal opportunities -- for every American now.

We need a president who cares about helping us heal -- now." There are still primaries to be held in eight states and three U.S. territories before the Democratic Party holds its national convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in August, at which Biden will officially accept the nomination. Xinhua

Stigmatisation amid COVID-19 fight goes against will of people, say foreign parties, party leaders



A member of Kenya Red Cross demonstrates hand-washing to members of the deaf community in Nairobi amid the COVID-19 pandemic (Al Jazeera)

BEIJING

FOREIGN political parties and party leaders have called for solidarity and cooperation amid the fight against COVID-19, saying that buck-passing and stigmatization by certain countries go against the will of people and will not succeed.

In messages sent recently to the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the Commission for External Relations of the Cambodian People's Party said that in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, all countries should join forces rather than engage in buck-passing and blame others, warning that stigmatization will only undermine solidarity and pose a threat to world peace and sustainable development.

China's successful convening of the "Two Sessions" and approval of the national security legislation for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region have made important contributions to safeguarding world peace and development, the commission said. Ishwar Pokhrel, Nepal's deputy prime minister and defense minister, said Nepal condemns all politicization of the pandemic and stigmatization of any race, region or religion under the excuse of the pandemic.

Pokhrel praised China's great contributions to the anti-pandemic efforts, and voiced support for intensifying global anti-epidemic cooperation and

jointly building a community of common good for mankind.

Noting that COVID-19 is the common enemy of mankind, Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman of the Pakistani Senate's standing committee on foreign affairs, and Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, chairman of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), said that different countries, nations and religions must unite to tackle the pandemic.

Pakistan firmly opposes some forces' groundless accusation against China in order to deflect domestic attention and serve other geopolitical interests, they added.

Tadatomo Yoshida, secretary general of Japan's Social Democratic Party, said that the world's countries are a community of common destiny, which should enhance solidarity and coordination as well as support one another so as to jointly curb the spread of the pandemic.

Yoshida voiced his support for the common appeal of the Communist Party of China for promoting global anti-pandemic cooperation, while opposing the politicization of public health issues, the stigmatization of other countries, and political propaganda with ulterior motives for one's own personal gain.

Oppah Muchinguri, national chairperson of the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front said that China has actively participated in international anti-epidemic cooperation and shared its experiences in fighting

the virus, which demonstrates China's sense of responsibility as a major country.

The Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front firmly opposes politicizing public health issues and stigmatizing China under the pretext of the pandemic, and opposes all words and deeds that undermine international anti-epidemic cooperation, he added.

General Secretary of the Dominican Republic's United Left Movement Miguel Mejia said that China's commitment to solidarity, humanitarianism and multilateral cooperation has set a new model in the international arena, in sharp contrast to the hegemonic logic and self-supremacy of certain Western countries, whose verbal attacks against China are inconsistent with the facts and completely untenable.

First Vice President of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela Diosdado Cabello said he firmly opposes such behaviors of certain Western countries who distract from their own inadequate response to the pandemic and shift blame to China by spreading the fallacy that "the coronavirus was created by China."

China is also a victim of the virus, and the Chinese people have made great sacrifices to prevent the pandemic from spreading worldwide, he said, adding that the world owes a debt of gratitude to China. Xinhua

US double standards on safeguarding national security intolerable

THE National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, recently adopted the Decision on Establishing and Improving the Legal System and Enforcement Mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to Safeguard National Security.

The Decision is a manifestation of exercising and safeguarding national sovereignty, and conforms to the international law and convention.

However, the rightful and just move was maliciously vilified by some US and Western politicians who claimed that Hong Kong no longer has "a high degree of autonomy."

On one hand, they pretend to care for Hong Kong residents; on the other hand, they are threatening to impose sanctions

on the region. Their absurd practices mirrored bold-faced hegemonism and exposed their unlimited double standards.

National security legislation is a state legislative power in all countries, unitary and federal alike.

The central government of a country bears the greatest and ultimate responsibility for national security of all local administrative regions. This is a basic theory and principle of national sovereignty, as well as a common practice in all countries of the world.

As the national security situation in Hong Kong has become increasingly severe and it was difficult for the HKSAR government itself to independently advance legislation on national security, it is both necessary and

urgent for the NPC and its standing committee to improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security. The move is unquestionably legitimate.

In other words, the adoption of the Decision doesn't violate the "one country, two systems" principle or sabotage the high degree of autonomy of the HKSAR. On the contrary, the Decision firmly safeguards the principle and ensures that it is moving toward the right direction.

No country will allow the practices and activities endangering national security on its own territory, such as splitting the country.

Over the years, the US and other Western countries have

adopted numerous laws to safeguard their national security.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the US government passed the Patriot Act, the Homeland Security Act and the CLOUD Act and has applied them to a large number of cases in judicial practices.

According to the US law, whoever organizes or encourages the overthrow or destruction of the US government by force or violence shall be imprisoned 20 years at most, and traitors may face a minimum sentence of five years and even death penalty.

In the country, police officers have the right to search phone, e-mail, medical, financial and other records of homegrown terrorists.

In addition, the PRISM surveillance program exposed in 2013

showed the world how crazy the US is in protecting its so-called "national security."

Some politicians in the US and the West are practicing double standards on national security issues.

On the one hand, they have built an extremely strict national security legal system covering legislation, law enforcement, prosecution, trial, and prisoner rehabilitation programs; on the other hand, they spare no effort to instigate and support practices and activities that endanger the national security of other countries, pointing fingers at other countries' legal and justified national security legislation.

They have tried their best to create an iron wall of national security of their own, but are attempting to create loopholes on

the national security network of China. This fully exposes their true purpose of suppressing and curbing China's development, as well as their cold-blood motives to play the Hong Kong card.

The double standards of some politicians in the US and the West are nothing new to the Chinese people, including the compatriots in Hong Kong.

After the turbulence over proposed anti-extradition bill amendments last June, the external forces labeled violent criminals as "democratic warriors," but turned a blind eye to the greatest human right and will of the people -- stopping violence and restoring order.

They connived at and beautified pro-violence remarks, but arbitrarily silenced the voices of justice calling for truth and the

rule of law. To put it bluntly, under the guise of their seemingly "noble" excuse is deep-rooted hegemonic acts and logic.

Some American politicians, represented by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, carried out illegal surveillance programs around the world, but smeared other countries for "launching cyber attacks on the US."

They arbitrarily interfered in other countries' internal affairs, but in turn vilified the latter for "attempting to interfere in American elections." They are heavily engaged in trade protectionism, but in turn accuse other countries of "undermining free trade." What defines their standard is "power is truth" -- They place their private interests before everything.

People's Daily



Head coach Gregg Popovich (L) of the 2019 USA Men's National Team talks with Kemba Walker #26 of the 2019 USA Men's National Team before the 2019 USA Basketball Men's National Team Blue-White exhibition game at T-Mobile Arena on August 9, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Gregg Popovich: 'Embarrassed as a white person'

SAN ANTONIO

SAN Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said he's "embarrassed as a white person" that George Floyd could die in such a "nonchalant" manner.

The 71-year-old Popovich addressed Floyd's death in a video released Saturday by the Spurs as part of the team's #SpursVoices social media series.

Floyd was in handcuffs when a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck as he pleaded that he couldn't breathe. Derek Chauvin is charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

"In a strange, counterintuitive sort of way, the best teaching moment of this recent tragedy, I think, was the look on the officer's face," Popovich said. "For white people to see how nonchalant, how casual, just how everyday-going-about-his job, so much so that he could just put his left hand in his pocket, wriggle his knee around a little bit to teach this person some sort of a lesson -- and that it was his right and his duty to do it, in his mind. ...

"I think I'm just embarrassed as a white person to know that that can happen. To actually watch a lynching. We've all seen books, and you look in the books and you see black people hanging off of trees. ... But we just saw it again. I never thought I'd see that, with my own eyes, in real time.

"It's like the neighborhood where you know there's a dangerous corner, and you know that something's going to happen someday, and nobody does anything. And then a young kid gets killed and a stop sign goes up. Well, without getting too political, we've got a lot of stop signs that need to go up -- quickly -- because our country is in trouble. And the basic reason is race."

Popovich said white people must help lead the charge for change.

"We have to do it. Black people have been shouldering this burden for 400 years," Popovich said. "The only reason this nation has made the progress it has is because of the persistence, patience and effort of black people. The history of our nation from the very beginning in many ways was a lie, and we continue to this day, mostly black and brown people, to try to make that lie a truth so that it is no longer a lie. And those rights and privileges are enjoyed by people of color, just like we enjoy them. So it's got to be us, in my opinion, that speak truth to power, and call it out, no matter what the consequences. We have to speak. We have to not let anything go."

Popovich has led the Spurs to five NBA titles and is a three-time coach of the year. He's set to coach the United States in the Tokyo Olympics.

Meanwhile, in Miami, the NBA plans to go to Disney World next month to finish

a season, with a schedule calling for the 22 remaining teams to play more than 150 more games and for the league to eventually crown a champion.

Coaches are seeing potentially a bigger purpose as well.

Many players and coaches have spoken out in recent days following the death of George Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air. But two coaches said Saturday that once the league arrives at Disney, they would expect the NBA's visibility to be an asset again in the hope for actual change.

"I don't think anybody is really ready to move on. And we shouldn't," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "If anything, many times before, so tragically, there would be a similar incident of social injustice like this and then two weeks later people forget about it. This will be an opportunity for the entire association to land in one spot ... to keep this conversation going and use our platform to make sure that this doesn't go away."

Spoelstra said he's had numerous talks with other head coaches and some players in recent days about the best path the NBA could take next. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has talked at length about it in recent days as well, with numerous internal staff conversations on the topic going on this past week even as the league was finalizing the return-to-play proposal that the Board of Governors approved Thursday and players ratified Friday.

Orlando coach Steve Clifford also seems convinced that the league's players and coaches will take some sort of action when the season resumes.

"I don't think there's any question," Clifford said. "I think everybody's priority right now and hope is that we can all be part of the change that's so necessary in our country. We'll have a collective platform where everyone can collectively send a message condemning racism, racial injustice, calling for police accountability. There will be a platform and I think we're all thinking that way."

Many of the league's biggest names have used social media to condemn police brutality and racial injustice, and some NBA players have also appeared at demonstrations and marches around the nation in recent days.

The National Basketball Coaches Association has also said that it will work collectively to find answers and determine the best courses of action. It has not said if it has made any specific decisions yet, though said it intends to work with "local leaders, officials and law enforcement agencies" in NBA cities to influence change. **AP**

World's top football leagues return live to SuperSport

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE new month comes with great news for sports fanatics.

Following a couple of months of limited sporting events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, things are slowly starting to get back to normal around the world and the amount of live action available to SuperSport viewers on DStv will increase significantly this month.

"Recent world events have seen the curtailment of live sport around the globe, and even as we commit to maintain the entertainment with the chance to 're-live' classic matches, documentaries and the greatest sports films of all time, we know that nothing beats real time sports action, so we welcome the return of live sports to our screens" Jacqueline Woiso, MultiChoice Tanzania Managing Director, stated.

She said for football fans, this includes the resumption of three major European leagues, English Premier League, Spain's La Liga and Italy's Serie A.

All three confirmed their restart dates last week, with La Liga being the first to return to Super-

Sport screens on the evening of June 11 with the Seville derby of Sevilla v Real Betis.

A further nine fixtures to complete a full round will be played over the weekend of June 12-14.

"There are more than 130 people at La Liga working so that everything can be done, in a new way, travelling, organisation, everything," La Liga president Javier Tebas said.

"We're prepared and the important thing will be the day we finish the competition. The next will start on September 12."

La Liga's resumption sees the titanic title tussle between Barcelona and Real Madrid come back into focus, with just two points separating the teams at the top of the log.

Los Blancos appeared to have more momentum behind them, having beaten Barca in Madrid in early March before the league was suspended, but the break has since allowed the Catalans to regroup and recover from a major spate of injuries.

The next to follow in resuming will be the English Premier League, which will hold two catch-up fixtures - Manchester City v Arsenal and Aston Villa v

Sheffield United - on June 17, before a first full round of fixtures running from June 19 to June 22.

All eyes will be on leaders Liverpool, who only need two more wins in order to be crowned 2019/20 champions, their first top-flight championship in 30 years.

Their first game back will be away to Everton (with the match possibly set to be played at a neutral venue) - depending on the results of Manchester City's earlier matches, the Reds could clinch the title with victory against their cross-town rivals.

Italy's Serie A will also resume on the weekend of June 19-21, and bring with it one of the most thrilling title races anywhere in Europe.

Champions Juventus hold a one-point lead over nearest chasers, Lazio, who have become one of the most entertaining and effective teams in the Italian top flight.

Internazionale Milan are also on the fringes of the title race and could bring themselves back into contention if they win their game in hand.

And football is not the only sport which will be returning

live to SuperSport, in the coming days and weeks.

Rugby makes a comeback with New Zealand's domestic Aotearoa on the weekend of June 13-14 (the Highlanders take on the Chiefs and the Blues host the Hurricanes).

Golf's PGA Tour will hold the Charles Schwab Challenge from June 11-14, and even IAAF athletics is back on the calendar with the Oslo Impossible Games on June 11.

There is also horse racing (the Investec Coronation Cup, which took place on June Friday, IndyCar (the Genesys 600 on Sunday) and the continuation of series which have already been holding live events through these troubled times.

They include UFC 250 (Sunday), the NASCAR Cup (June 7, 11 and 14) and WWE's latest pay-per-view special, 'Backlash' on June 15.

SuperSport remains sports enthusiasts' best choice for all the top action from around the world and will be the first and best source of entertainment for the followers when sporting codes return to fields, tracks and rings around the world.

Star sprinter eyes a roiled nation and race in all its forms

BY EDDIE PELLIS

NOAH Lyles could be a year away from occupying a uniquely symbolic position in sports: an African American sprinter wearing the letters "USA" on a medals stand at the Olympics.

Instead of contemplating how he might use that platform, Lyles is spending time these days trying to make sense of what's happening in his country - a land riven by protests, pain and questions in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd.

"All you're seeing is your own people getting hurt and basically killed every day," Lyles said in an interview with The Associated Press. "You can't get it out of your mind. And eventually, that starts to wander into your mind: Am I going to be next?"

It's hardly the sort of life-and-death question that Lyles, or anyone, thought they'd be confronting in the lead-in to a summer of 2020 that is shaping up to be radically different than once expected.

Had sports not been shut down by the coronavirus pandemic, he'd be preparing for the beginning of Olympic trials next week. Come July, he would have been at the Olympics, the worldwide behemoth at which sprinters Jesse Owens, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, to name a few, ascended the broadest platform in sports and shone a bright, often unflattering, light on race - and the way the world and America think about it.

Instead, Lyles is shuttling between home and training in Florida, keeping a wary eye on the news, trying to figure out what to say and when to say it - in short, how to make a difference.

"I've definitely pondered it quite a few times, for many years, in fact," Lyles says. "You feel like there's change, but not enough change, and then you're thinking, 'Well, shoot, it's almost getting to be my turn, where I have to make a decision.'"

The process, which included a few to-the-point tweets earlier this week encouraging people to vote, is shedding light on a more serious side of the 22-year-old sprint



In this Oct. 1, 2019, file photo, Noah Lyles of the United States, celebrates winning the gold medal in the men's 200 meter final at the World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar. Lyles is spending his time these days trying to process what's happening in his country - a land riven with protests, pain and questions in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd. (AP Photo)

star than has been seen so far. Until now, Lyles has mostly been portrayed as the free-spirited, effervescent speedster who is more than happy to take up where Usain Bolt left off when it comes to keeping his sport fun and eminently watchable. A sometimes rapper with an eye for fashion, he ran, and won, the 200 meters at last year's world championships with his hair dyed silver. There was supposed to be more in store for this summer at the Olympics, where he and 100-meter world champion Christian Coleman were headed for a sprint showdown at both distances.

Lyles' outgoing nature has made it easy to overlook some of the challenges he faced growing up in Florida, North Carolina and Virginia: a sometimes debilitating struggle with asthma; diagnoses of attention-deficit disorder and dyslexia that complicated his schooling, especially in the early days.

He also faced the same issues as any African American boy - learning the harsh realities of what it means to be a black male in the U.S. The message Lyles' mom, Keisha Caine Bishop, sent continually: Dress nice, no baggy pants. Don't do anything that makes people perceive you as a threat.

"But the sad part is that no matter how nonthreatening you appear, you can still be a victim," Bishop said. "You're just trying to think of anything

to get your kids home safely."

Of the lifetime of slights and abuse that African Americans absorb, Lyles said: "I think a lot of people think it happens as a one-moment situation, which it doesn't. It's more a buildup."

So, what is a future Olympian, one who could be standing on that podium in a year, supposed to do?

His is one of hundreds of voices coming from a sports world - players, coaches, commissioners - some speaking as candidly as ever about America's racial divide in the aftermath of Floyd's death, which came after a white police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes.

Across all sports, the Olympics has among the most longstanding and complex relationships between its leaders and its athletes of color, especially in the U.S. It's a history filled with missteps and miscommunications that has brought everyone from Muhammad Ali to Smith and Carlos to Owens into the conversation.

Most recently, the spotlight fell on hammer thrower Gwen Berry, who lashed out at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee for what she felt was a ham-handed attempt at expressing solidarity with black athletes following Floyd's killing. Last summer, the USOPC handed Berry a 12-month probation for raising her fist on the

medals stand at the Pan American Games, a gesture that violates rules against political protests at the Olympics that have essentially gone unchanged over the 52 years since Smith and Carlos got kicked out of Mexico City for doing the same.

The Berry-USOPC imbroglio came during the same week as a pair of USOPC video town halls that gave athletes a chance to express their frustration and ask questions. What it didn't do, in Lyles' view, was add clarity to what an athlete can do at the Olympics, which are now rescheduled for next year.

"Some people are standing up and willing to lose their contracts and go into poverty to say this isn't right," Lyles said. "And some people are saying 'We're ready to protest inside the lines. But whoever we're competing for, we need to know how much they're backing us, because we need to know the repercussions we're going to take to go through this.'"

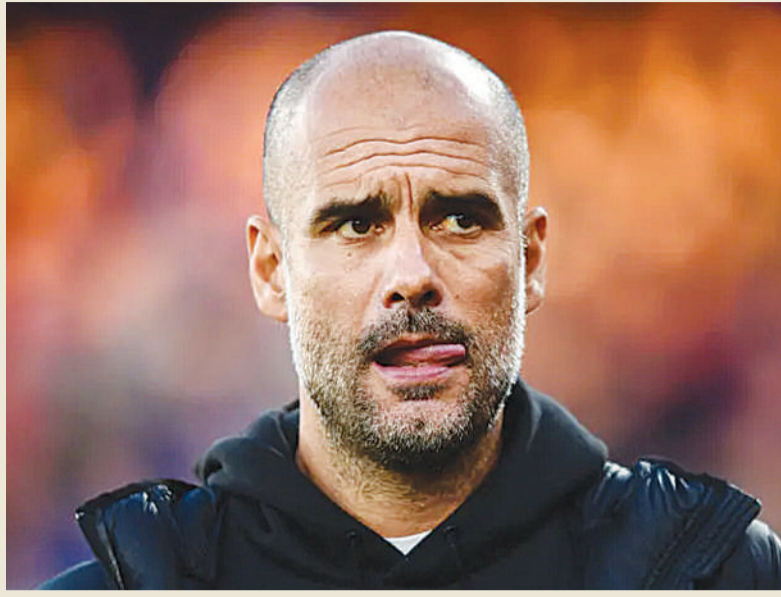
Max Siegel, the CEO of USA Track and Field, says his sport, which brings the majority of African Americans to the Summer Olympics, is trying to help the USOPC navigate this difficult territory. The USOPC has been reluctant to oppose the IOC, which earlier this year reiterated its stance against inside-the-lines political protests.

"Our athletes are amazing and they've got some real stories and some real struggles," Siegel said. "They're socially conscious and it takes a lot of courage to step up and address a lot of issues that get swept under the rug."

Count Lyles among those willing to step up. His message right now: educate yourself on the issues, get behind people and organizations who share your values, and vote.

"Go out and create campaigns for people who support our ideas and the belief that everyone can be equal," Lyles said, "and who support the idea that we might not have to go outside and die today."

AP



Cloak of secrecy for Man City's court challenge to UEFA ban

GENEVA

A RARE level of secrecy cloaks the court case opening Monday to decide if Manchester City will stay banned from European competition for two seasons.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has scheduled three days at an undisclosed location for an appeal hearing by video conference link connecting lawyers in Switzerland and England.

The Lausanne-based court said on Friday both City and UEFA requested confidentiality for the case. Neither party commented to The Associated Press.

The identities of the three CAS judges – selected by each side and the court – have also been protected in an intensely scrutinized legal fight.

The allegations include that City, owned by Abu Dhabi's royal family, misled UEFA over several years to comply with financial integrity rules for clubs.

The stakes are high in a case that provokes the tribal loyalties of club soccer and the distrust some fans have for sports ruling bodies.

If City's appeal fails, it faces losing hundreds of millions of dollars in UEFA prize money and some star players during a two-year exile from world soccer's most prized club competition.

Defeat for UEFA would undermine the Financial Fair Play (FFP) policy it says helps stabilize the soccer economy across 55 member nations.

Whatever the judges decide, City is still a contender to win this season's Champions League.

The CAS panel's verdict is expected before the round of 16 resumes in August, five months after UEFA paused games due to the coronavirus pandemic.

THE CASE

City was punished in February for "serious breaches" of UEFA's FFP rules monitoring club finances and failing to cooperate with investigators.

The investigation was opened by UEFA-appointed experts after leaked club documents were reported in German magazine Der Spiegel in November 2018.

The published evidence appeared to show City deceived UEFA by overstating sponsorship deals from 2012-16 and hid the source of revenue linked to state-backed companies in Abu Dhabi.

A UEFA-appointed judging panel excluded City from playing in the Champions League, Europa League and Super Cup until the 2022-23 season.

City was also fined 30 million euros (\$33.9 million) from its Champions League prize money, almost one-third of its UEFA payout for reaching the quarterfinals last season.

The club denies wrongdoing. "We did cooperate with this process," City chief executive Ferran Soriano said in February. "We delivered a long list of documents and support that we believe is irrefutable evidence that the claims are not true."

THE EVIDENCE

Internal club documents published in the "Football Leaks" series were likely obtained by a hacker now detained under house arrest in Portugal.

City has never disputed the documents are authentic, but argued the evidence was stolen and reported out of context.

Use of illegally obtained evidence in previous cases at CAS has been upheld by Switzerland's supreme court.

One internal email said City officials preferred to spend tens of millions on "the 50 best lawyers in the world" to sue UEFA rather than accept punishment in a previous round of monitoring.

UEFA can also cite several years of financial accounts submitted by City that are mandatory for FFP compliance. Expert witness testimony and forensic analysis of those documents are likely to be key in the CAS hearing.

PREVIOUS CASES

Last November, a CAS panel dismissed City's attempt to have UEFA's current investigation thrown out on procedural grounds. City attacked what it said were leaks about the case from UEFA's side which three CAS judges acknowledged were "worrying."

For that case, City retained lawyers from two London-based firms and the Swiss chambers of veteran Olympic legal adviser François Carrard. After the ban ruling, the club hired another top London barrister, David Pannick.

The first wave of UEFA's FFP sanctions in 2014 saw City and Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain agree to forfeit 20 million euros (\$22.6 million) of their Champions League prize money.

Those fines fuelled City fans' anger at UEFA and their suspicion FFP was designed to protect storied clubs by curbing spending by ambitious rivals with wealthy new owners.

UEFA voted to create the system in 2009, in fallout from the global financial crisis, to monitor finances of 200-plus clubs which qualify each year for its competitions. Clubs must approach break-even on commercial income and spending on transfers and wages. Deals linked to owners must be set at fair market rates.

The FFP system was ruled valid by CAS and in compliance with competition law in 2016 when Turkish club Galatasaray's appeal failed.

Galatasaray served a one-year ban which UEFA has enforced on other clubs – including AC Milan and, just days ago, Turkish league leader Trabzonspor – in purely financial cases that lacked the bad faith UEFA found in City's conduct.

City is the first club banned for two years.

EXTRA TIME

The CAS verdict will not affect this season's Champions League.

City leads Real Madrid 2-1 after the first leg of the round of 16 in Spain. UEFA will decide this month how to complete the competition.

If City's ban is upheld, it could still be European champion yet barred from defending the title, and from playing in the Super Cup against the Europa League winner.

City is also likely to be Premier League runner-up this season. A European ban would award its Champions League group-stage entry to the fifth-place English team – currently Manchester United.

AP

Man City's appeal of UEFA ban: What's at stake for City and Financial Fair Play

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

BEGINNING Monday, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will hear Manchester City's appeal against the two-year ban from UEFA competition (the Champions League, basically) and €30 million (\$33m) fine issued to them by the Adjudicatory Chamber of Independent Club Financial Control Body (CFCB).

WHY ARE WE HERE?

The CFCB found that City "committed serious breaches" of Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations -- which limit the net losses clubs can accrue over a three-year period -- between 2012 and 2016 and failed to cooperate with the subsequent investigation. In response, the club made it clear they felt the process was "flawed," that the accusation of financial irregularities is "false" and that there is "irrefutable evidence" of their probity that has been ignored.

Regardless of whether City are found guilty or acquitted, the worst thing that could happen at CAS is for some kind of "fudged" verdict, wrapped in technicalities and legalese, that few people understand and that will leave a halo of uncertainty over what really went down. If UEFA win under those circumstances, not only would it leave the door open for an uncomfortable legal challenge in a civil court -- CAS is the Supreme Court of sports but, while it would be near unprecedented, there is a legal pathway through the courts in Switzerland where UEFA and CAS are based -- it would also fuel City's persecution narrative. And were UEFA to lose on a technicality, it would call into question the CFCB's ability to enforce FFP regulations.

Such is the ill will and mistrust between the parties, and such is the tension around the hearing, that this is a zero-sum game: There cannot be a fudged verdict; there can only be a winner and a loser.

HOW WILL A DECISION BE REACHED?

Deliberations will be made by a three-man panel of judges: one chosen by CAS, one chosen by UEFA and one chosen by City. They will have sweeping powers to either uphold the sentence, reduce it, throw it out or send the whole affair back to the CFCB for more clarification. A verdict is expected in the next three to four weeks.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

A two-year Champions League/UEFA ban and fine could cost City as much as £150 million (\$190m) over



Manchester City face the prospect of not playing in Europe for two seasons. (Agencies)

two seasons when you consider lost income like prize money, box office receipts and sponsorship. That's roughly one-quarter of their projected pre-pandemic revenues, which in turn could force cost-cutting to a wage bill that currently is among the highest in the Premier League at nearly £300 million (\$380m). Meanwhile, a forced absence from the Champions League could make it more difficult to retain and attract players.

This matters hugely to UEFA too. Many fans operate under the assumption that City breached FFP and cooked the books, as suggested by Der Spiegel's "Football Leaks" investigation. They expect City to be found guilty and any CAS verdict that does not reflect this will be seen as evidence that FFP is a sham and not something UEFA are serious about enforcing.

That's why, to borrow a phrase from wrestling, this verdict needs to have "a clean finish" one way or another. Forget, for a minute, the substance of the matter: whether or not City are guilty. The simple fact of the matter is that to determine guilt or innocence you need to have all the evidence presented to the CFCB as well as the legal and accounting knowledge to determine what constitutes an infraction.

You could fit the men and women with that knowledge in a minivan: we're talking a handful of people at the CFCB, City's legal team and, next week, the CAS panel. Nobody else is in the intersection of the Venn diagram of people who both have the facts and are capable of understanding them.

Even among the select few who are, there is room for interpretation. That is what makes this whole affair so sticky and messy and is why the explanation is just as important as the verdict: it has to be either clear

evidence of wrongdoing or clear evidence of innocence.

WHY IS THAT SO IMPORTANT?

If it is a mess of technicalities and legalese that no neutral fully understands, then nobody wins. In this instance, even if City are acquitted, perceptions are not going to change if that's how they get off or that's how the narrative gets spun. This last part is particularly important not just for the club and fans, but for the owners.

It is a commonly held view that Manchester City are personally owned by Abu Dhabi, hence all those jokes about competing with petrostates and so on. But that is only partly true: City are owned by City Football Group, a holding company that controls a number of clubs including New York City FC, Melbourne City and others. However, more than a fifth of City Football Group is itself owned by other shareholders. One of the biggest is Silver Lake Partners, an American private equity firm. Another is China Media Capital, also a private equity group. And then there's the Citic Group, an investment company owned by the Chinese government.

WHAT WILL THE NON-EMIRATI INVESTORS WANT TO KNOW?

Regardless of the verdict, they will want to know exactly what happened and when. No doubt they all did their due diligence before investing -- Silver Lake pumped in half a billion dollars in November 2019; the two Chinese groups acquired their stakes in December 2015 -- but they will not have been party to the day-to-day details for which City are on trial.

It is not even clear to what degree Sheikh Mansour has a handle on this. Sure, he owns a majority of the club, so the buck stops with him. But he's in Abu Dhabi, not Manchester, and has only ever attended one game.

He is not a hands-on owner, not least because he has a laundry list of other roles.

It is a similar case for club chairman Khaldoon Al-Mubarak, whose day job is CEO of the Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi's de facto sovereign wealth fund, which manages assets worth nearly \$100 billion -- nearly 20 times the value of City. Moreover, his Mubadala gig is an executive position, meaning he makes daily decisions, which is why he hired Ferran Soriano as chief executive to make decisions at City on a similar basis.

SO THERE IS MORE TO IT THAN MANCHESTER CITY VS. UEFA?

That's the funny thing about this narrative; both sides have acted with confidence throughout, arguing they have a watertight case though neither can be sure. Not UEFA as an organization, not the City owners. It will come down to the evidence, the lawyers and the experts on both sides. Most of us do not know what the evidence is and, even if we did, we're not qualified to interpret it. Lawyers and experts sometimes tell you what they think you want to hear, especially when they get paid either way.

THAT IDEA OF A "CLEAN WIN"

A pro-CFCB verdict, based on technicalities that are unintelligible to the masses, will only weaken people's faith in FFP and anger City fans. A City acquittal, based on those same technicalities, will cast doubt on the CFCB's competence, hurt FFP even more and do nothing for those who continue to believe they have been flouting the rules all along.

A clear and uncontroversial acquittal would be disastrous for FFP and raise serious questions about why City have been targeted to this degree. It would fully clear their name and allow UEFA's leadership -- lest we forget, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin inherited the FFP apparatus from his predecessor, Michel Platini -- to get to work with reforming the system and the CFCB. It would hurt UEFA in the short term, but longer-term would be good for both football and the organisation since FFP, as a regulatory instrument, needs reform.

As for a clear and uncontroversial guilty verdict? Well, it would cause massive reputational and economic damage to Manchester City and could prompt shareholders to hold an internal inquest to establish whether they put their trust in the wrong people at the wrong time. And whether those people took liberties with the good name and reputation of a club and fan base that have roots stretching back 140 years.

Black Lives Matter in Bundesliga, Bayern keeps winning

BERLIN

GERMANY's soccer league was marked by gestures against racism and support for the Black Lives Matter movement on Saturday as Bayern Munich took another step toward a record-extending eighth straight Bundesliga title.

All of Borussia Dortmund and Hertha Berlin's 22 outfield players took a knee in the center-circle together before the top tier's late game with no fans present. Coaches and other team members from both sides did likewise beside the field, bringing to mind former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's protest before games against police brutality and racial inequality.

Dortmund's players had warmed up wearing T-shirts with slogans such as "United together," and "No justice, no peace."

Bayern and Bayer Leverkusen's players wore black armbands against racism in their game earlier Saturday, which Bayern won 4-2 after rallying from a goal down. Bayern's players had "Black Lives Matter" printed on their armbands, partly covering sponsor Qatar Airways' logo on the left arm.

The teams' gestures were made as tens of thousands of people across Germany attended anti-racism demonstrations in the wake of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25. Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died after a white police officer pressed his knee against his neck, ignoring his "I can't breathe" cries even after Floyd eventually grew still.



All together: Players from Dortmund and Hertha Berlin take a knee before their game (AFP Photo)

Fortuna Düsseldorf's American midfielder Alfredo Morales took a knee before coming on in his team's 2-2 draw with 10-

man Hoffenheim, and Cameroon midfielder Pierre Kunde did likewise after scoring for Mainz in a 2-0 derby win at Ein-

tracht Frankfurt. Emre Can's 57th-minute strike was enough for Dortmund to win 1-0 and stay seven points behind Bayern with

four games remaining. Bayern, which has won its last nine games, looks unlikely to squander its lead.

Robert Lewandowski scored Bayern's fourth to claim his 30th Bundesliga goal of the season, set up by Thomas Müller, who now has 20 assists. However, both players were booked in the first half and will miss the next game against Borussia Mönchengladbach due to an accumulation of yellow cards.

Bayern's players had warmed up wearing anti-racism T-shirts in Leverkusen, where the home team had to do without young star Kai Havertz due to muscular problems.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Ndanda FC worried by striker's absence

SPORT

Cloak of secrecy for Man City's court challenge to UEFA ban

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

VODACOM Premier League clubs are gearing up for the resumption of the 2019/20 season after the government gave sports bodies the green light to restart their campaigns this month after the reported decrease of Coronavirus cases in Tanzania.

Rearranged ties, Mwadui FC v Young Africans SC (Yanga) and Coastal Union v Namungo FC, will be the



Ndanda FC forward, Vitalis Mayanga.

first games to be played on June 13.

Simba v Ruvo Shooting and Azam FC v Mbao FC, also rearranged games, will take place on the following day. Three days later, Yanga will play their final

game in hand by facing JKT Tanzania.

After those matches, all 20 clubs would have played 29 matches heading into the weekend of June 19-21, when the rest of the top flight is scheduled to

be in action.

Barring a catastrophic set of results, Simba will win the title for the third consecutive time. While the title race is certainly over, it is the relegation zone that is interesting.

Mtwara's Ndanda FC is one particular team that will be fighting for survival in the remaining nine matches.

A single point separates Ndanda FC and Mbeya City FC in either side of the direct relegation spot, so the Mtwara-based side faces a big battle to extend their five-year stay in the top flight.

Like all other clubs, bar Singida United, Ndanda have embarked on training as they prepare for the top flight resumption.

However, three key players, Vitalis Mayanga, Samuel Mauru and Omar Ramadhan 'Berbatov', are yet to show up for training as the relegated-threatened side upped their preparation with a friendly match against Namungo FC on Saturday.

The trio missed out in Ndanda FC's 2-0 home defeat to Namungo FC.

Ndanda FC head coach, Abdul Mingane, was impressed with the team's first friendly match session despite missing the services of the three players.

He stated he though hopes they will be available before they take on Biashara United in a league clash on June 20.

"We played well in the second half but we are still short of players. I am missing three dependable players in competitive matches," Mingane revealed in a post match press interview.

"Vitalis Mayanga is not here, Samuel is yet to turn up and 'Berbatov' is also missing."

"Their absence is a problem but I hope they will be available by June 20. I am optimistic we will do well."

Mayanga in particular could once again be the difference between safety and relegation for Ndanda FC. They have won seven games this season, with Mayanga having started in five of them.

There is a danger of overstating his importance and clearly the sample size is small, but the former KMC FC and Stand United striker's strength and presence clearly gives Ndanda FC an attacking edge that boosts their survival hopes.

He has scored six times in 11 appearances since he returned from a short unsuccessful stint at KMC FC. He is now Ndanda FC top scorer.

Last season, his 10 goals eased Ndanda FC's relegation concern before the last day of the campaign.

It would be a big boost and a genuine source for optimism if he could get back in time for key home games against Biashara United on June 20.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurosa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT @ 9PM

UJENZI

TONIGHT @ 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Ruvu Shooting in intensive preps for Simba SC clash

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League's Ruvo Shooting have said they are preparing well for their weekend encounter against defending champions, Simba SC, which will take place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Ruvo Shooting's information officer, Masau Bwire, said the team is preparing well for the game, insisting he is confident of good results for the squad.

The last time the two teams met in a league clash had seen Simba win 3-0.

Bwire though said the Msimbazi Street-based side's win was a fluke as his side played better than the winners.

"We lost our last game against them (Simba) but it was just a fluke, everybody saw how we played," he stated.

"This time around we will beat them, I'm confident of that, we will beat them, we have a full squad which is training well and the good thing is that everybody in our squad knows the importance of winning the game against Simba," he said.

Ruvo Shooting occupy the 11th position in the 20-team league with 39 points.

They have played 28 games, registered 11 wins, lost 11 and recorded draw in six matches.

Simba SC head coach Sven Vandenbroeck is reported to have told the media that his charges are looking forward to this weekend game against Ruvo Shooting.

The Belgian gaffer said he is working on technical and tactical aspects of the players.

He stated his assistant, Adel Zrene, is working on the players' fitness.

Vandenbroeck disclosed he is confident that all of his charges will be ready when the league resumes this weekend.

"The team is training well, everyone is working very hard and I'm happy and impressed with the way the players are responding to training, I'm sure by the time the league resumes we will be ready," he said.

Simba SC camp has been boosted by the arrival of skilful midfielder, Clatus Chama, who arrived in the country yesterday from his home country, Zambia.

He had headed to the country after the league suspension due to Coronavirus pandemic.

Sudanese Sharaf Shiboub is the only player missing in Simba's camp and the midfielder's arrival date is not yet known.

Simba are leading the log table with 71 points from 28 games, they have registered 23 wins, lost three games and recorded draw in two matches.

Football is expected to resume this weekend in Tanzania after the government had, on March 17, suspended all sporting activities in the country with a view to containing the Coronavirus disease spread.

Excitement fills Dar online chess competitions

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM'S Grand Prix Arenas of online chess were, over the weekend, opened by the 11th edition of the Don Bosco Open, which included the competition's U1400 event, and the 25th edition of the Rising Star Arena.

Dar es Salaam chess clubs, Don Bosco and Rising Star, are hosting the tournaments.

Speaking in the city yesterday, the tournaments' organizer Kara Louis, said they were extremely entertaining and tough.

He said the Don Bosco Arena was led by Christian Fernandez with a 100% score, securing 20 points, Sai Nishith came second with 17 points and Aaditya Bhattbhatt settled for the third. The tournament's brilliance award went to Goodluck Noah and the upcoming player award was won by Vinamra Dhoot.

The U1400 category of the event was won by Salim T with 14 points, Tanaya Sheth took the second position, tying with Numan on 10 points.

Louis further said Fernandez came back with the same form and was equally unbeatable in the 25th edition of the Rising Star Arena, winning it with 24 points.

The second position was won by Mugema Arthur, tying with Louis on 23 points.

The competition's brilliance award went to Ash-



Dar es Salaam's chess player Christian Fernandez puts his skills to show in the Rising Star online tournament which was held in the city last weekend.

mi Patil, whereas Sachil Vankatesh took the upcoming player honour.

In U1400 category, Maryam Ipilinga Panya was joint first with Kartikey Goel, both with 12 points, whereas Tanaya Sheth took the second spot with 10 points.

In the 26th edition of the Rising Star Arena, which had speed chess in view, Cleophas Charles won the open category with 37 points, followed by Aaditya Bhattbhatt in the second spot with 33 points and Mugema Arthur in the

third spot with 31 points.

The competition's U1400 category ended with Maryam again emerging as winner, this time with 100% score, gaining 20 points, followed by Shriansh S in the second spot with 16 points, whereas Kartikey Goel tied in third spot with Mahek Desai, both with 11 points.

By the time we went to press the results of the last event of the weekend were not ready given matches were in progress.

"As one player put it,

'the kids have hardened', describing how tough the event was. This was followed by the 25th edition Rising Arena, played on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, gears were shifted to blitz, I'm impressed by the performance of the players," he said.

"Grand Prix tournaments are like marathon and it is good players have started with strong chess, we hope this continues for the next three weeks."

Simba SC coach happy with players' stamina

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

SIMBA SC head coach Sven Vandenbroeck has disclosed his players have started getting back to their normal fitness level after several days of intensive training.

The Belgian coach issued the commenting when speaking of the side's preparations for the remaining domestic top flight games and the Federation Cup.

Vandenbroeck started taking his players through their paces from May 27 after the government had given green light to the resumption of sporting activities in the country from June 1.

Sporting activities had been indefinitely suspended in an effort to curtail the Coronavirus disease spread.

The coach disclosed much as he had presented individual training schedule to the players, which was to be followed during the suspension, the players were not fully fit after assembling for team training.

He stated he, thus, had to start with seeing to it his players regain full fitness.

"We had four days of ensuring the players get back to full fitness, we later went for drills which concentrated on giving players ability to weather physical battle," he disclosed.

"The rest of the days had players improving the tactical aspect of the sport."

Simba will confront Ruvo Shooting in a Premier League match in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The coach has five matches to steer Simba to clinching the top flight trophy and go down the club's history as one of coaches who helped the squad excel domestically.

Should Simba clinch the Vodacom Premier League's title, the squad will have won the top honour for three years in a row.

In the 2017/18 season, Simba, under the tutelage of French gaffer Pierre Lechantre, won the top flight title, the side defended the title in the 2018/19 season under the tutelage of Belgian Patrick Aussems.

Vandenbroeck might surpass the achievement his predecessors had if Simba will, as well, lay their hands on the Federation Cup silverware.

Simba had, under Lechantre and later Aussems, experienced early exit from the Federation Cup.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



THE SECRET TO A HAPPY MARRIAGE REMAINS A SECRET