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TFF set to decide Morrison's fate today



# End stunting in grain-rich regions, PM directs RCs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

**“There is no reason for children to be stunted because you have enough food. I direct regional commissioners to collaborate with stakeholders to conduct research on the source of the problem and come up with strategies on how to end it”**

He stated that stunting levels in southern highland regions have now reached

42.9 per cent which is much higher than the national average of 31.8 percent. The premier said there is so far no clear scientific explanation as to why the problem grows annually even as food production also increases, hence the need for a study to recommend solutions. He said that regions in the Southern Highlands zone produced 11.4m tonnes of various food crops in the past harvest season, and that the regions collectively surpassed their food production expected levels by 201 percent. “There is no reason for children to be stunted because you have enough food. I direct regional commissioners to collaborate with

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CRDB Bank Plc's agro-business senior manager, Shabani Maregesi (L), briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the weekend on the bank's services and operations. It was during the climax of this year's edition of the week-long Nane-Nane Agricultural Exhibition, which was held at national level at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. Looking on: Agriculture minister Japheth Hasunga (2nd-L) and CRDB Bank managing director and CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.



Former president Benjamin Mkapa with Dr Ken Kwaku. File photo

## Special tribute to Ben Mkapa: Great African, Ghana's friend

By Dr Ken Kwaku

Shakespeare writes, in part, in his 'As You Like It': 'All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts, His acts being seven ages.'

The William Benjamin Mkapa family has lost a patriarch. The United Republic of Tanzania has lost a patriot. Africa has lost a statesman - and Ghana, a friend.

Born in 1938 in the small village at Ndanda along the Tanzanian border with Mozambique, Benjamin Mkapa was the last of four children born to his parents.

The son of a catechist in a small village, Ben recalled that he had three career paths before him; a priest, a doctor or a teacher - in that order.

His father, one of the first local missionaries in what was then the British protectorate of Tanganyika, was selected by missionaries to receive formal education to enable him to spread the word.

But even though his father's job as a catechist did not make him rich by any measure, Benjamin's parents understood the value of education. In his (Ben) words, they made great sacrifices for his education and that of his siblings.

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## 'Covid-19 school break unleashed stress, abuse'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A SUBSTANTIAL number of pupils and students suffered emotionally and psychologically during the three months of school closure necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, a survey has indicated.

An assessment by a cluster of non-governmental organizations, namely Health Integrated Multisectoral Development (HIMD), Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) and Save New Generation found that primary and secondary school students went through distressing experiences due to anxiety

**“We conducted a series of virtual researches which underlined the impression that home may not be as safe to children as is widely believed”**

and fear of contracting the disease, apart from home-stead mistreatment. Speaking here at the weekend, HIMD Youth Coordinator Amani Richard

said the survey findings show that a sizable number of school girls were subjected to sexual harassment, with many becoming pregnant during the period. “For instance, in one secondary there were seven pregnancy cases recorded when schools reopened,” he said. TGNP Executive Direc-

tor Lilian Liundi said the survey noticed that during the period, many stranded boarding school students turned into hawkers, peddling facial masks for instance, instead of returning home. “When schools reopened, parents and guardians did not report

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## Take care in campaigns, Dr Shein cautions youth

By Guardian Reporter

AS the country enters election mood, Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has called on young people to desist from engaging in violent politics that can disrupt peace and harmony during the polls. Closing the Nananane agricultural exhibition at Chamanangwe in Wete District, Pemba North Region at the weekend, Dr Shein advised the youth to use their energies positively and not allow politicians to use them. He said experience shows that portions of the youth are easily captivated by people with bad intentions for the country to engage in activities that breach the peace. Dr Shein stressed that the only instrument for justice in election issues is the High Court hence anybody who feels he



has been denied justice should seek redress from the court. Defence and security forces are prepared to confront anybody intending to breach the peace before, during and after the voting, he stated. Multiparty democracy was not introduced for people to fight one another because of politics, in which case the youth should not be cajoled into activities that would breach the peace, he emphasized.

He said it is easy to breach the peace but it is difficult to restore it, underlining that Zanzibar and the Mainland will be safe as elections draw near, with everybody going about their daily activities in peace. He said all achievements gained in implementing the government's development plans including for the agricultural sector have been realized because of existing peace and tranquility in the country. He hailed the Zanzibar Ministry for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries for being innovative for this year's Nananane Exhibition with the motto, “We should maintain tranquility for the country's agricultural development.” The slogan was important at this time when the country is about to hold elections, he added.

**SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19**

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

- 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.
- FACT 2:** For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19. For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.
- FACT 3:** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.
- 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 unclean 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](https://www.cdc.gov/covid-19)





## CDC, ARC launch COVID-19 modelling tools for Africa

By Special Correspondent,  
Addis Ababa

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the African Risk Capacity (ARC) have launched two COVID-19 modelling tools for Africa: COVID-19 Potential Outcomes Scenarios and COVID-19 Spread Simulation Tool for Africa.

The tools will help African Union member states in evaluating the potential magnitude of COVID-19 in their countries and in making decision on appropriate response to mitigate risks due to the pandemic. Specifically, COVID-19 potential outcomes scenarios will help in modelling the potential impact of the outbreak using specific sets of scenarios and assumptions and COVID-19 spread simulation tool for Africa will enable simulations of different scenarios of COVID-19 spread for each country.

"COVID-19 has generated unprecedented socioeconomic consequences with the reversal of hard-won development achievements. Africa is particularly challenged in its efforts to cope with the disease burdens. ARC is happy to present the new Africa COVID-19 decision support tool which governments and institutions can leverage in designing timely and more informed policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mohamed Beavogui, Director-General of the African Risk Capacity and Assistant Secretary-General at the United Nations.

Since the first case of COVID-19 in Africa was confirmed on 14 February 2020, the pandemic has spread to all 55 African Union Member States with increasing negative impact on the health and socioeconomic well-being of populations. Africa needs a mechanism to better inform Member States on the epidemiology of the disease

and the impact of available non-pharmaceutical interventions so they can implement appropriate policies and programmes.

The modelling tools were developed by experts from ARC with inputs by Africa CDC, WHO AFRO and other partners. The tools have the capacity to use actual reported cases per time to generate the weekly cumulative number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths for each Member State over a period of three years; and the daily distribution of cases into disease stages at subnational levels over a 300-day period.

"We at Africa CDC recognize that modelling is important in planning our response to the current and future pandemics. However, modelling is based on assumptions and the models will depend on the assumptions used to develop them. We thank the ARC for supporting the development of the tools and we appeal to Member States to continue to provide us the data needed to model for each country on the continent," said Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC.

Following this launch, Africa CDC and ARC will work closely with Member States and partners to improve and promote the tools and train key stakeholders to use them with a view to making them more useful for tackling disease threats across the continent in the long-term.

"These tools provide a platform for Member States to evaluate the potential epidemic size of COVID-19, assess the impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions and enable socioeconomic measures at subnational level. I congratulate Africa CDC for their tireless efforts in helping to control COVID-19 across the continent. The ARC remains ready to assist the African Union in finding solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa," said Beavogui.

## End stunting in grain-rich regions, PM directs RCs

FROM PAGE 1

stakeholders to conduct research on the source of the problem and come up with strategies on how to end it," said the premier.

Dr Ackson said that while inspecting different pavilions at the exhibition grounds, she noticed that most food items produced in the regions are nutritious enough to curb stunting.

The Southern Highlands zone is made up of Mbeya, Njombe, Rukwa, Iringa, Ruvuma and Songwe regions. She challenged leaders in the specific regions to make sure that all agricultural tools displayed at the exhibition reach farmers for improved productivity. She said producing enough food would not only cater for households but also provide raw materials for agro-processing industries countrywide.

Dr Ackson assured residents in the zone that the government will continue to improve transportation infrastructures such as railways, roads and ports to facilitate transportation

of agricultural produce to various market places across the country.

"We are also constructing grain storage warehouses, with plans to construct cold rooms for storing horticultural products such as fruits, flowers and vegetables destined for export, she stated.

The government is putting much effort in promoting cultivation of strategic cash crops including tea, coffee, cotton, cashew nuts, avocados and several others, she said, elaborating that the government will provide support to farmers to increase productivity.

Songwe regional commissioner Albert Chalamila, speaking for his colleagues, promised to implement all the premier's directives so as to enable the government to achieve targeted development goals.

The government has disbursed funds for construction of roads including 18bn/- allocated for installation of lights and improvement of various infrastructures at the Songwe International Airport (SIA), he added.



Members of the Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organisation attend the body's 2019/2020 meeting in Dodoma yesterday, items on the agenda including discussing various agenda including the countdown to the upcoming (late October) General Election. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## 'Covid-19 school break unleashed stress, abuse'

FROM PAGE 1

problems faced by their children during school breaks," she said, noting that TGNP was offering psychological support to children who were affected by the fear generated by coronavirus reports and speculation.

Some children had to spend the break time at relatives' or friends' homes where they were not treated well, a recently compiled report by Save New Generation

shows.

When it comes to cases of cruelty against minors, close relatives were the main culprits for numerous incidents of child molestation, the report intoned.

Save New Generation has documented that many children suffer defilement while in the 'safe' walls of their own homes or when staying with relatives.

"We conducted a series of virtual researches which underlined the impression that home may not be as safe to children as

is widely believed," said the chairperson of Save New Generation, Sity Basiali.

"We have compiled cases of abuse, sexual assault, defilement, molestation and cruel beatings suffered by children while under the care of guardians, step parents, close relatives and other people that the victims would normally trust."

During the three months that schools closed and given the fact that schools closure was indefinite, some parents told their children to stay at homes of rela-

tives within an agglomeration close to the school, just in case studies resumed earlier than anticipated, the researcher noted.

The reports describe living conditions of most families especially in urban locations as a contributing factor to increased cases of child abuse.

"Most families live in small rental places with numerous and diverse families bundled together and this mix-up usually leads to abuse of children sexually," she added.



Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) supporters in Zanzibar pictured yesterday welcoming their Union and Zanzibar presidential candidates in the upcoming General Election to the opposition party's head office on Vuga Street. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

## 'Stop issuing licences to individual crop buyers'

By Guardian Correspondent,  
Mwanza

LOCAL council directors have been called upon not to issue licences to individual traders to buy crops for the coming season as a way to compel them join the Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) to be able to rescue farmers.

The call was given by the Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella at a meeting that involved stakeholders who dis-

cussed on purchase of the grams crop for 2020/21 season in the region, saying 70 per cent of Tanzanians are farmers hence all people in the value chain should join hands to enable farmers benefit from their labours.

In regard to the issue of late payment to cotton farmers after selling their crops Mongella ordered them to be paid by September 1, this year.

"District Commissioners should work on this issue, by pushing the Agricultural

Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) which have not paid the farmers to do so immediately," he said.

The acting manager on Nyanza Cooperative Union (NCU) Martha Ndetto said the collection of the grams crop in Mwanza region for 2020/21 season through AMCOS expects to collect 12,749,900 of grams.

"The government had issued instructions on the purchase of grams, peas, soya beans and sesame for

receipt system.

He said as the region was the mung grams season, the Warehouse Licensing Board has appointed Mafubilo Company as a sole operator in the region.

"Major warehouses that were licensed include the Magu Ginnery (in Magu District), Buyagu Ginnery (Sengerema District), Minawe Ginnery (Kwimba and Misungwi District), and the NCU has already completed groundwork for carrying bags and trans-

port," said Ndetto.

TMX Director of operations Augustino Mbulimi said through TMX the farmers stand to benefit from his labour as the sale of their crops abide to laws, hence they should not fear sending their crops to the warehouses.

The Deputy Registrar of Cooperatives Charles Malunde instructed to officials to ensure farmers do not travel great distances to take their crops to the selling points.



# Reach more farmers, PM orders banks

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the Minister of Agriculture and that of Finance and Planning to ensure that various services provided by financial institutions to farmers including 'NBC Shambani' cover all agriculture stakeholders.

He issued the directives on Saturday when he visited the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) pavilion during the Nanenane agricultural exhibition at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi district, Simiyu Region.

Flanked by various top leaders including three ministers, Majaliwa said that he had been attracted by several financial services provided to agriculture stakeholders including 'NBC Shambani' a new service offered by NBC, where he directed that it was important for all stakeholders in collaboration with the government to intensify closer supervision on the products in order to spearhead economic growth.

"Efficiency on these important services offered to farmers will increase awareness in bank

accounts opening unlike in the previous years when such services were not helping them directly, therefore, even as I congratulate NBC, it is equally important for the ministers to monitor closely in ensuring 'NBC Shambani' service and other banks' similar products covers all farmers to meet the target," he insisted.

Hussein Bashe, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture assured the Prime Minister that already, his ministry was in negotiations with all large financial institutions including NBC

to ensure that they open bank accounts which are free from deductions, adding that 'NBC Shambani was among the implementation of the ministry's strategies.

"Further, we agreed that all AMCOS ensure that upon receiving AMCOS Fees, they should be allowed to spend 50 per cent of the fee for daily operations in their offices while remaining 50 per cent be kept in their accounts so that they keep on accumulating interest," he said.

Earlier when welcoming the

Prime Minister at NBC Pavilion, the bank's Managing Director, Theobald Sabi said that apart from the 'NBC Shambani' service, his bank in collaboration with other stakeholders including Tanzania Women Business Association (TABWA) and Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tan Trade) coordinated special three-day training to farmers and entrepreneurs during the ongoing exhibitions.

"It is through these efforts including the establishment of NBC Clubs that our bank has been listed among five African

banks out of over 200 banks that will compete in the SME Bank of the Year award, an important milestone to have been recorded by the Tanzanian bank," he said.

Giving clarifications on 'NBC Shambani' service the bank's head of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Raymond Urassa, said the service aims at helping agriculture stakeholders to fulfill their ambitions in agribusiness as it provides an opportunity to have group accounts like AMCOS as well as opening individual accounts.

He said the account helps stakeholders in agriculture, livestock and fisheries to enjoy financial services without being deducted operational costs from the bank and that a customer with over 100,000/- in the account will receive profit through interest.

Mr Urassa added that the account targets all stakeholders engaging in agribusiness including distributors of agricultural inputs, farmers and transporters of agricultural products.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word at the weekend with farmers who had just been introduced to the basics of financial literacy education at the NMB Bank Pic pavilion at the just-ended Nane-Nane Agricultural Exhibition held in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. With him are the bank's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi (C), and Western Zone manager Sospeter Magesse. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt calls on banks to support mining through funding to small-time players

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has appealed to banks in the country to finance artisanal and gold miners, saying this will help improve productivity and boost the sector and economic growth.

The call was made Minerals deputy minister Stanslaus Nyongo when officiating at a meeting between Tanzania Commission for Minerals and the CRDB Bank. The meeting was aimed to create awareness of the mining sector for the financial institutions.

Local artisanal has repeatedly expressed concerns over the present financial crisis resulting from limited access to capital from local banks and financial institutions.

But the government maintained that the problem has continued despite enacting financial legislation directing financing of all major mining activities by local financial institutions.

According to Nyongo, the mining sector has been growing steadily and that appropriate support by local banks will help realize the government's effort to increase the contribution of the mining sector into the economy.

Latest figures show the mining sector grew by 17 per cent last year thus accounting to 5.2 per cent of the gross domestic product. "We want this sector to contribute at least 10 per cent by 2025," he said.

It was, however, noted that the mining commission

will be signing a memorandum of understanding with the banks to facilitate the banks support to mining operators.

The Commission Executive Secretary Shukrani Manyara said there has been a growing gap between the two with operators complaining of limited access to capital.

"The agreement was that it's high time that we meet with the banks and explain nit-to-nit about the industry," he said. The mineral commission is working to create awareness on the laws, regulations, licensing, geological information and mining trade.

It is on record that President John Magufuli's administration has implemented serious measures to revive the mineral sector including reviewing governing laws and regulations to establishing mineral trading centres.

Nyongo believed that financial institutions had limited knowledge of geological and resource information thus slowing their involvement into the sector. In addition, he said although they had hired loan analysts the firms still lacked expertise in the mining sector.

"This is the same as local artisanal, they lack capital and expertise but they are optimistic of the industry," he added.

CRDB Bank Manager of Special Desks, Fred Mwamnyara expressed the bank's commitment to work with different partners to support the development of the mining sector in the country.

He admitted that the deliberation between the bank and the commission was vital in helping the institution to understand the mining sector and its operations.



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

The Aga Khan University (AKU) invites applications for the following position based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania:

### Research Administrative Officer, Medical College, Tanzania

A bright, efficient, helpful and pleasant person who will report to the Associate Dean, Medical College, Tanzania. The Research Administrative Officer will provide high level, pro-active support to the Associate Dean in developing and pursuing the Faculty's research strategy including the administration, evaluation and governance of research-related activities.

#### Roles and Responsibilities:

- Run day-to-day activities of the research office.
- Receive, store and maintain resident's dissertations.
- Receive and submit research protocols to the research committee.
- Organize weekly CME and Thursday's faculty rounds as well as keep CME and Faculty round attendance records.
- Liaise with Nairobi research office on matters related to AKU research policies and disseminate the policies to faculty and residents.
- Prepare and disseminate research office reports.
- Organize in collaboration with population health department training of common courses for residents.
- Share with faculty adverts of grants application.
- Liaise with NIMRI and get updates on research regulations.
- Assist on ethical clearance matters for faculty and residents.
- Assist in preparation and execution of research office budget.
- Secretary for Ethical Review Committee and Research Advisory Committee. Taking notes and organize the meetings.
- Maintain Data base for Publications and Conference Participation Lists.
- Maintain the Research Application Checklists.
- Maintain Grant Application Forms.
- Maintain ERC Data Base and RAC Data Base.
- Application for Research Permits and follow up from COSTECH.
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- Maintain Office Library and database of official contacts.

#### Skills, Qualifications and Experience

- Holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or any other relevant field.
- At least 3 years of experience in research in an educational institution.
- Excellent computer knowledge; Internet and Microsoft Office package.
- Excellent calendar management skills, including the coordination of complex executive meeting.

Candidates meeting the above requirements, seeking professional growth and excellent work environment should forward their letter of application, Curriculum Vitae and testimonials (postal and email) of three references to the Human Resources Office, Aga Khan University, P.O. Box 125, Dar es Salaam; Fax (+255) (0) 22 2150875 or email [hr.tanzania@aku.edu](mailto:hr.tanzania@aku.edu).

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. For further information, please visit <http://www.aku.edu>

Application Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

## THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR UPGRADE OF CONTENT SERVICE (COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING-RADIO) LICENCES

1. The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) here is referred to as 'the Authority' is a statutory regulatory body responsible for regulating the electronic communications and postal sectors in Tanzania. The Authority was established under the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act No.12 of 2003 to regulate the electronic communications, postal services, and management of the National Radio Frequency spectrum in the United Republic of Tanzania.
2. Pursuant to Regulation 28 of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Licensing) Regulations, GN.57, 2018 and the Electronic and Postal Communications (Licence Procedure) Rules, GN.433, 2014, the Authority has identified Spectrum for Licensees who wish to upgrade their Licences for provision of Content Services (Commercial Broadcasting-Radio).
3. Objective of the Invitation to Apply for Upgrade is to enhance media diversity, extend service coverage including bridging the existing radio broadcasting services gap in the **underserved (rural) and border** areas.
4. In view of the above, the Authority hereby invites interested Licensees to apply for extension of provision of Content Services (Commercial Broadcasting-Radio) as follows:-

S/N	SERVICE UPGRADE CATEGORY	NUMBER OF REQUIRED UPGRADES
1	District to Regional	2
2	Regional to National	2

5. Applicants are required to **propose service areas (excluding Dar Es Salaam, Arusha, Dodoma, Mbeya and Morogoro which have no spectrum)** as per requirements in No.3 above and collect Guidelines for requirements to be included in the applications which are available at the Authority's Head Office, Zonal Offices in Mbeya, Mwanza, Arusha and Dodoma or on our website at [www.tcra.go.tz](http://www.tcra.go.tz). The Authority shall review applications based on proposed service areas and shall have the right to the final service areas/available spectrum for shortlisted applicants.

6. Applications for provision of the above services should be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked "**Application for Upgrade of Content Services (Commercial Broadcasting-Radio) Licences from.....(Insert Current Service Area i.e Regional) to.....(Insert Service Area to be upgraded i.e national) in (Insert the service areas proposed)**" be delivered to the address below by 16:00 hours, 15th August, 2020.

Director General,  
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,  
Mawasiliano Towers,  
20 Sam Nujoma Road,  
P.O. Box 474,  
**14414 DAR ES SALAAM.**



## Korean foundation supports Mloganzila medical facility

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH)-Mloganzila facility yesterday received medical equipment support worth 335m/- from the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) so as to support healthcare delivery at the facility.

Speaking soon after receiving the equipment, MNH Director General Prof Lawrence Museru said that the hospital has been cooperating with the organization for about three years now, a relationship which has brought positive impacts to the health sector.

He commended KOFIH for its continued support to the hospital. "The bilateral relations have also focused on capacitating the Mloganzila facility in two major areas which are training and medical equipment."

"Today we have received various surgery tools worth 96m/- and other equipment which will be used in production and renovations of other tools worth 235m/-," he said.

Prof Museru pointed out that the equipment will be used to increase surgery capacities at the hospital especially the ear, nose and oral surgeries.

He named the donated equipment as six sets of Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy surgery tools; two sets of ear, nose and throat examination equipment (Basic ENT) as well as four sets of ear surgery and hearing implants (Mastoidectomy).

Others include three sets of throat

surgery equipment (Tracheostomy) and other tools.

"The MNH and KOFIH also cooperate in providing training to medical experts to equip them with essential skills and knowledge to enable them to provide quality services. This institution has supported us a lot, we have seen our experts getting education from some of the big colleges in South Korea and turning back to be big specialists in the country," Prof Museru added.

For his part, KOFIH resident representative Kim Jungyoon vowed to continue cementing the relations between the two to institutions so as to support improve health services in the country.

"It is a great honour to witness strong cooperation between KOFIH and the MNH, I promise to strengthen and sustain the collaborations in the areas of training and medical equipment," he said.



**It is a great honour to witness strong cooperation between KOFIH and the MNH, I promise to strengthen and sustain the collaborations in the areas of training and medical equipment**



Cooperatives registrar Dr Benson Ndiege speaks at the Vodacom pavilion at the just-ended Nane-Nane Agricultural Exhibition held at national level at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. It was at the launch of 'M-Kulima system', which is meant to enable farmers to communicate and to make transactions through the mobile phone service provider's network. Others are deputy registrar Charles Malunde (C) and Vodacom Tanzania Plc's Lake zone Sales officer, Ayubu Kalufya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Widen scope for training on public procurement, orders minister Mpango

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE and Planning minister, Dr Philip Mpango has instructed the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) to widen the scope for training on public procurement for greater achievement in the

sector.

Dr Mpango was speaking at the weekend during his visit to the PPRA pavilion at the ongoing Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition held recently at national level at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region.

The minister said: "I appreciate the good work by PPRA but I would like them to widen the scope for public procurement training via the media for your services to reach many Tanzanians."

He said he PPRA inspection reports and appeals to them to be part of solutions to the

problems that arise.

Speaking about the minister's directives, the acting director of PPRA legal and public communications department Winifrida Samba commended Dr Mpango and promised to work on his instructions.

On Sunday, Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Governor Prof. Florens Luoga visited the pavilion and appreciated good work by PPRA and called upon it to continue with the pace and not become complacent by the praise.

Other officials who visited the PPRA pavilion included

the Simiyu Regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka, Mara Regional Commissioner Adam Malima, Meatu District Commissioner Dr Joseph Chiloni, former Simiyu Regional Administrative Secretary Jumanne Sagin, Busega District Administrative Secretary R. Rutagumirwa and Meatu District Administrative Secretary A. Rutaihua.

Various people and stakeholders were educated and mobilised to be part of public procurement whenever they see there were signs for illicit practices.



Plot 4B, Nyerere Road, P.O Box 911, Dar es Salaam  
Telephone: +255 22 2860047/9, Fax: 2 8 64041, E-mail: info@tolgases.co.tz

### NOTICE

## 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Meeting of the Shareholders of TOL Gases Limited for the year ended December, 31, 2019 will be held via ZOOM video conferencing on 28th August, 2020 at 9.00 am to transact the following business:-

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the year 2018 Annual General Meeting held on 28th June, 2019.
3. Matters arising from minutes of the year 2018 Annual General Meeting.
4. Chairman's Statement.
5. To receive the Directors' Report, Auditors' Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December, 31, 2019.
6. To approve Dividend Payment.
7. To approve Directors' Fees.
8. To appoint Auditors for the year 2020.
9. Any other business (Duly notified at least seven days before the meeting)

Registration for participating in the ZOOM Video Conferencing should be done through phone no **0685750201/0685750203**.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint any person (whether a member of the Company or not) to attend and vote in his stead.

All proxy forms or letters appointing proxy must be lodged at the office of the Company Secretary at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the holding of the meeting or via email to [mjuliana@tol-gases.co.tz](mailto:mjuliana@tol-gases.co.tz) / [nlulu@to.gases.co.tz](mailto:nlulu@to.gases.co.tz)

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

**JULIANA MARIKARIA - MWAKYOBE**  
FOR COMPANY SECRETARY

215648901



Dar es Salaam Office

## Request for Proposals

1. Strengthening multi-sectoral functional systems for increased wellbeing and access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services for in and out of school adolescents and young women.

UNESCO Dar es Salaam is implementing a UN Joint Project on "Empowering adolescent girls and young women through education in Tanzania" with funding from KOICA. One of the project components aims at strengthening sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education and social protection support systems of vulnerable in- and out-of-school youth, and teenage mothers through increased access to quality, age and cultural appropriate SRH information and services. The initiatives will be implemented in four selected districts of Kasulu, Sengerema, Ngorongoro in Tanzania Mainland and Mkoani district in Pemba. UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office requests technical and financial proposals from competent and specialized organizations with extensive experience in implementing youth focused SRH initiatives in Tanzania.

Interested organisations should request full terms of reference from [dar-es-salaam@unesco.org](mailto:dar-es-salaam@unesco.org).

The deadline for application is **23rd August 2020**.

2. Development of age and culturally appropriate model for leveraging ICT and other mobile technologies and information platform to provide sexual and reproductive health information for adolescents girls, young women and teenage mothers.

UNESCO Dar es Salaam is implementing a UN Joint project on 'Empowering adolescent girls and young women through education in Tanzania', and intends to support development of a model for leveraging ICT and other mobile technologies and information platform to provide sexual and reproductive health information in and out of school youth. The initiative aims to provide quality Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information for young people to be able to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, to promote values of tolerance, mutual respect and non-violence in relationships, and to support a safe transition into adulthood.

Interested organisations should request full terms of reference from [dar-es-salaam@unesco.org](mailto:dar-es-salaam@unesco.org).

The deadline for application is **23rd August 2020**.



# GBV: NGO underlines need for strategic engagement planning

By Getrude Mbago

A NON-GOVERNMENTAL organisation known as Transformative and Integrative Build Out for All (TIBA) has called on the government and stakeholders to strengthen efforts and strategies to support women and children affected by gender-based violence during Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking during a tele-media conference recently, the director of TIBA Malcela Lungu acknowledged the social, cultural and economic injustices that have resulted from the pandemic, including the surging cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and the increased number of teenage pregnancies.

She said that a good number of women and children have experienced violence during the pandemic and they need more closer and friendly support to help them relieve from the pain. "We have to take the impacts brought by Covid-19 very seriously, it is where we need to invest our coordinated efforts to rescue our women from hurt, more awareness programmes are needed especially in engaging men to understand the impacts of violence," she said.

Lungu said that the government should include measures to address GBV and child protection in the Covid-19 response and recovery and ensure that plans for better future of girls, women and children.

"We urge all stakeholders to demonstrate their commitment to gender equality not just by ensuring that the full range of women's rights are protected, but by ensuring the pathway forward meaningfully addresses gender discrimination and violence," she added.

She noted that TIBA is an NGO working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and strives to ensure access to education for all children, with a specific focus on the girl child and children with disabilities. The organisation moreover addresses the impact of climate change on women and youth, as well as sexual and reproductive health, amongst other issues.

Evans Rwamuhuru, a field operations manager of the Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) noted that children were also at risk of psychological distress at times of the pandemic and they were also highly affected by various violence acts.

"GBV including violence against children remains one of the most serious human rights violations in the country which calls for determined efforts to curb it. For example, we have witnessed an increase of violence cases during Covid-19 period, particularly home based violence, with this situation we have to collect our efforts and make sure that we fight the challenge," he said.

He added: "Considering that chil-

dren spent almost three months of holiday during Covid-19 pandemic and that there were no strong measures to ensure that they are well protected, some of them fall into the hands of strangers facing physical and psychological violence such as rape resulting to early pregnancies, they also put forced in child labour."

According to him, CDF in collaboration with other stakeholders has been in the forefront to speak out, promote and protect children rights through various projects.

Rwamuhuru said that CDF as a not-for-profit organization, works for promotion of children's rights for most vulnerable children, through creation of working forums that empower children, families and communities.

In a move aimed to compliment the government's efforts to fight Covid-19 and its impacts, some months ago, Tanzania Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) came up with an action plan to advocate for inclusion and participation of the organizations in the fight against the pandemic and their related impacts.

The strategic direction proposed for actions in the plan include a consideration of Covid-19 beyond its current prevalent trends. Therefore, post Covid-19 exposures (effects) issues like stigma, discrimination, economic disempowerment, fear, anxiety, legal reforms of public health and disaster management laws.



Mark Masolwa (L), a brewer with Tanzania Breweries Limited's plant in Mwanza city, pictured at the weekend briefing visitors at company's pavilion on responsible drinking. This was at just-ended Nane-Nane Agricultural Exhibition held at national level at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## PO-RALG institutes customer care centre

By Guardian Reporter

THE President's Office, (Regional Administration and Local Government) has launched a customer care centre in a new move aimed to bring services closer to people and thus rescue Tanzanians from travelling to the ministry's headquarters to look for services.

Inaugurating the facility yesterday in the city, Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Selemeni Said Jafo said that with the new centre, the majority of people seeking services from the ministry will longer spend money and time travelling to the office.

According to him, over 100 people have so far received services since the centre commenced three days ago.

"The Establishment of the new customer service centre will make it easier for the ministry to provide its services and reach the community quickly, I urge all Tanzanians and other people seeking service from the ministry to make use of the system which we have decided to bring it closer to you," he said.

He also urged all staff who will be serving clients to implement their duties effectively and tirelessly by focusing on providing better services to people for better feedback.

"You have a very big role to do than anyone else, we should all together strengthen efforts to ensure that we provide quality services d the customers will judge us by our services, so please go and work hard and don't get tired, your responses and answers to people's question should be accurate and correct," he said.

He noted that in the centre, people will be served more easily and closely.

For his part, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Eng Joseph Nyamhanga said the centre will be a savior to the ministry as it will increase efficiency and fight corruption by eliminating the opportunity for customers to meet staff.

## Agricom wins premier's praise for equipping smallholder farmers with better farm inputs

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has commended Agricom Tanzania for empowering farmers with cost-effective farm inputs—tractors and agro-processing machines across the country.

"Agricom Tanzania is working a very good job in scaling up the agriculture sector by ensuring that farm inputs are available across the country as well as training farmers and agricultural stakeholders," Majaliwa said when he visited Agricom booth at Nane Nane Agricultural fair at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region.

This year's exhibition is carried under the theme 'For Agricultural Development, Livestock and Fisheries Choose the Best Leaders 2020'.

The premier described Agricom Tanzania as the best example for companies supporting the country's agricultural sector.

"We've reached the middle-income status due to a number of transformations the government has put in place including empowering private sector with the ability to invest in various sectors including agriculture. This has increased a number of employment opportunities and increasing government's revenues," the PM said.

According to him, having in place local companies like Agricom Tanzania is an example of strong private sector, which dared to explore opportunities available in the farming sector in the country. "As government, we're working hard to boost business environment and luring more investors," he said.

However he said building strong industrialized economy depends on availability of raw materials, particularly from agriculture, livestock and fisheries, "that's why we're encouraging more players to chip in and increase production."

Majaliwa urged farmers to deploy modern farming tools which are available in the country for high productivity in agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors, which generate 70 percent of employment opportunities.

### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



#### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR CONTENT SERVICES (COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING-RADIO) LICENCES

- The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) here is referred to as 'the Authority' is a statutory regulatory body responsible for regulating the electronic communications and postal sectors in Tanzania. The Authority was established under the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act No.12 of 2003 to regulate the electronic communications, postal services, and management of the National Radio Frequency spectrum in the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Pursuant to the Electronic and Postal Communications (Licence Procedure) Rules, GN.433, 2014, the Authority has identified Spectrum for provision of Content Services (Commercial Broadcasting-Radio) and hereby invites interested companies to apply for provision of Content Services (Commercial Broadcasting-Radio) in the following District Market segments for:-

Regional	Service Area	Number of Stations
Mbeya	Kyela	1
Songwe	Momba- Tunduma	1
	Mbozi	1
Morogoro	Gairo	1
	Ulanga	1
Kilimanjaro	Moshi	1
	Same	1
	Marangu	1
	Siha	1
	Mwanga	1
Arusha	Arusha	1
	Ngorongoro	1
Kagera	Karagwe	1
	Bukoba	1
	Biharamulo	1
	Kyerwa	1
	Ngara	1
	Missenyi (Mutukula)	1
Kigoma	Muleba	1
	Kigoma Municipal	2
	Kibondo	1
	Buhigwe	1
	Kasulu	1
	Kakonko	1
	Uvinza	1
Geita,	Geita Township	2
	Chato	1
	Bukombe	1
Shinyanga	Kahama Township	1
	Kishapu	2
	Shinyanga Municipal	1
Simiyu	Bariadi	2
	Busega	1
	Meatu	1
Mtwara	Masasi	1
	Mtwara Township	2
	Tandahimba	1
	Newala	1
	Nanyumbu	1
Singida	Singida municipal	1
	Manyoni	1
	Iramba	1
	Ikungi	1
	Mkalama	1
Dodoma	Itigi	1
	Mpwapwa	1
Rukwa	Sumbawanga Municipal	2
	Kalambo	1
	Nkasi	1
	Babati	1
Manyara	Kiteto	1
	Hanang	1
	Mbulu	1
	Simanjiro	1
	Ruvuma	Mbinga
Songea		1
Nyasa		1
Tunduru		1
Namtumbo		1
Nachingwea		1
Kilwa		1
Mtama		1
Liwale		1
Lindi Town	2	
Njombe	Ruangwa	1
	Njombe	2
Mara	Makambako	1
	Ludewa	1
	Makete	1
	Musoma Town	1
	Mugumu- Serengeti	2
Tabora	Tarime	1
	Tabora Municipal	1
	Igunga	1
	Urambo	1
	Nzega	1
	Sikonge	1
	Kaliua	1
	Mpanda	2
	Milele	1
Iringa	Nsimbo	1
	Iringa municipal	2
	Mafinga	2
Mwanza	Kilolo	1
	Ukerewe	1
	Magu	1

- Applicants are required to collect Guidelines for requirements to be included in the applications which are available at the Authority's Head Office, Zonal Offices in Mbeya, Mwanza, Arusha and Dodoma or on our website at [www.tcra.go.tz](http://www.tcra.go.tz).
- Applications for provision of the above services should be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked "Application for Provision of Content Services (Commercial Broadcasting-Radio) in (Insert the service area)" be delivered to the address below by 16:00 hours, 28th August, 2020.

Director General,  
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,  
Mawasiliano Towers,  
20 Sam Nujoma Road,  
P.O. Box 474,  
14414 DAR ES SALAAM.





NCBA Bank (Tanzania) managing director and CEO Margaret Karume makes remarks at a familiarisation event attended by members of the bank's staff and management team from various regions. It was held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Four farmers' coops get 27bn/- from TADB to procure coffee in Lake Zone

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

FOUR Lake Victoria Zone cooperative apexes have received 27bn/- from the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to buy coffee from farmers during the current marketing season.

The cooperatives which had benefitted from the money included Ngara Farmers Cooperative, Karagwe District Cooperative Union (KDCU), Kagera Cooperative Union (KCU) and Mara Farmers Cooperative Union (WAMACU).

The agro-bank support has made Industry and Trade Minister Innocent Bashungwa a happy man here at the Nane Nane Nyakabindi Fair Grounds. Nane Nane celebrations are being held here at national level.

Bashungwa told his audience that he was happy and grateful to the TADB for remaining committed to facilitation of farmers' cooperatives and uplifting the livelihoods of coffee growers in the lake zone, and especially in Kagera Region. Three of the four apexes are serve members in Kagera Region.

"I have been informed by the TADB Lake Zone Manager, Mike Granta who represented Managing Director Japhet Justine that as of now their bank has already given these cooperatives a total of 27bn /- to buy coffee from farmers. This is an important step in promoting peoples development in Kagera and Mara Regions, the ministers said adding that he was happy and grateful to the agricultural state bank," he said.

The bank set aside TADB 39.6bn/- to buy coffee from farmers during the 2019/20 but has already released 27bn/- .

The minister said realising the 27bn/- was a great thing but called on the bank to follow up closely the implementation of the exercise. You have done a great job. However, go step further and satisfy yourselves that the grower has received the money due to him, based on agreed on arrangement in order block complaints, he said.

He said the government was keen on development of strategic crops in order to get raw materials and advance the national industrialisation agenda.

Granta assured the minister that bank workers would ensure the payment arrangement was adhere to earn the trust of coffee growers. Complaints, he said, would stain the image of the bank and ruin its good intentions.



**I have been informed by the TADB Lake Zone Manager, Mike Granta who represented Managing Director Japhet Justine that as of now their bank has already given these cooperatives a total of 27bn /- to buy coffee from farmers.**

## Zanzibaris urged to prefer locally made commodities

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR entrepreneurs have appealed to the community to adopt the tradition of buying locally manufactured goods so as to support them in their businesses.

The appeal was given to the Economic Facilitator for Women from Tanzania

Media Women Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) Nairat Abdullah Ali when she visited women groups during Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition held at Kizimbani grounds in Zanzibar.

Hidaya Abdallah Othman of Nuru Njema Group said she on the first day she was able to sell nine out ten tins

of cosmetic oil, on the second day she sold four while on the third day she never sold anything.

She said the only products they obtained were the coconut oil as the market for cosmetic oil was still small, hence she called upon Zanzibaris to purchase goods made in Zanzibar.

Hidaya said the main chal-

lenge they face was the lack of adequate capital as they find it hard to purchase containers in bulk that would have ensured low price for them.

Laylat Husein Ali of Upendo Group from Bumbwisudi who engages in handicraft including straw fans, tissues and the like said their business was moving slowly adding that probably they were still new in the market.

"We should appreciate all this as in the past we used to live without any gainful employment but today TAMWA has taught us various skills for self-employment, we get some income some of which we save," she said.

Time Kombo Rashid from Hapa Kazi Tu group whose group makes washing soaps said sales of their products went on well, but not as they had anticipated, as they only

sell two or three bars of the soap per day.

Sabra Saleh Issa of Mwanzo Mgumu Group from Bumbwisudi who make incense burners from clay said the market for their goods was not good, they sold only five incense burners in two days.

Habiba Suleiman Khamis of Bahati ni Mali Group who makes straw food covers said they had not sold even a single cover, and called upon

TAMWA to assist them in finding markets for their products.

TAMWA Economic Facilitator for Women Nairat Abdulla Ali called upon the women not to despair as any business need perseverance.

She said the entrepreneurs have been facilitated by TAMWA since September 2019 and up to now they have saved a total of 116,560, 750/- in various SACCOs in both in Unguja and Pemba.

## BARRICK BULYANHULU

### Advertisement BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below work packages as part of the Restart Project at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following Goods and Services.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-20-07-305	<b>Equipment Installation – Process Plant:</b> Installation of equipment's (Screens, Cyclones, Pumps), Fabrication and installation of feeding and discharge chutes for all equipment's	i. Mechanical Contractor with CRB registration ii. Experience working with similar works, installation of heavy industrial equipment's since last 3 years iii. Highly skilled workforce – certified - welders, riggers, scaffolders iv. Competence in Working at Heights and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry v. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. vi. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
2	BUL-20-07-306	<b>Construction of Open Stockpile :</b> Earth works and Liner works for construction of open stockpile	i. Civil Contractor with CRB registration ii. Experience working with similar works, earthworks and liner installation works in last 3 years iii. Should have fleet of equipment's – Articulated dump trucks, Loaders, Excavators, Pneumatic compacting roller, Bulldozer, etc. iv. Certifications for HDPE lining systems welders v. Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry vi. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. vii. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
3	BUL-20-07-307	<b>Equipment Installation and Commissioning Specialist – Process Plant :</b> Equipment installation and commissioning – Process plant equipment's	i. Consultancy firm into Engineering design and Project Management in Mineral Processing Industries ii. Experience working with similar works, in engineering design and project management of Mineral processing companies since last 5 years iii. Highly skilled workforce of Engineers, Installation and Commissioning Experts, Technical Draftsmen with onsite experience iv. Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mineral processing industry v. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. vi. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
4	BUL-20-07-308	<b>Design and Supply of new containerised MCC complete with Switchgear, Fire protection and suppression system and earth leakage protection</b>	i. Companies who have been designing and manufacturing switchgear for more than 10 years ii. Schneider switchgear iii. Manufacturing lead time iv. Cost v. Guarantee and warranty time frames

5	BUL-20-07-309	<b>Pneumatic Knife Valves</b>	i. Make/Clarkson equivalent ii. Valve Specialist company with support iii. Slurry flush ports iv. Quality v. Lead time vi. Cost vii. Guarantee and warranty time frames
6	BUL-20-07-310	<b>Supply of Steel - 135 Tons</b>	i. Grade of steel as specified ii. Length and size iii. Cost iv. Lead time
7	BUL-20-07-311	<b>Conveyor Equipment (Gearbox set, Idlers, Belt, Viz)</b>	i. Manufacturer – 10 years' experience ii. Quality iii. Cost iv. Lead time
8	BUL-29-07-312	<b>Annual Mills Condition Inspection :</b> Annual inspection of Mills – SAG mill, ball Mill & Regrind Mill	i. Company into design, engineering and manufacturing of Mills for Mineral Processing Industry ii. Highly skilled workforce in inspection and audits of Mills for Mineral processing industry iii. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. iv. Company to have more than 10 years of experience
9	BUL-29-07-313	<b>Foundation &amp; Jacking Pads Repair Works :</b> Repair works on Mill foundations and Jacking pads in process plant	i. Civil Contractor having experience in concrete repair works ii. Experience working with similar repair civil works in last 5 years iii. Highly skilled workforce iv. Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry v. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. vi. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
10	BUL-29-07-314	<b>Trommel &amp; Journal Liner Installation - Ball Mill :</b> Installation of trommel and journal liners on Ball Mill – Process Plant	i. Company into design, engineering and manufacturing of Mills for Mineral Processing Industry ii. Highly skilled workforce in inspection and audits of Mills for Mineral processing industry iii. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. iv. Company to have more than 10 years of experience

The above Goods & Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of Interest submission.

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by latest close of business on the 13th August 2020. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**



ADVERTISEMENT



**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO BE SELECTED AS A SUB RECIPIENT FOR GLOBAL FUND FOR AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA (GFATM) SUPPORTED PROGRAMME IN TANZANIA MAINLAND [HIV/TB and /RSSH/MALARIA COMPONENTS]**

The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) is expected to award Tanzania Mainland two grants; TB/HIV and Malaria/RSSH. As part of dual track financing, Amref Health Africa in Tanzania was selected by Tanzania National Coordinating Mechanism (TNCM) as a Principal recipient (PR 2) for the Non State Actors for the HIV/TB/Malaria/RSSH grant. The grant will be implemented for three years, from 2021 to 2023. The start date is anticipated to be 1st January, 2021. Amref Health Africa is soon embarking into grant making process that include nomination of Sub Recipients for the above mentioned grant.

Amref Health Africa in Tanzania invites applications from interested and reputable organizations/institutions that would like to be considered as Sub Recipients (SRs) for the HIV/TB/RSSH grant. The SRs will be responsible for the program implementation at community level within respective regions and districts. They will be fully accountable to the Principal Recipient and with formal legal obligations towards the grant funds and implementation of agreed work plans and budgets.

- The organizations/institutions should meet the following minimum requirements:
- Be an independent legal entity with an independent governance and supervisory board and an organizational structure comprising effective leadership and management as well as transparent decision – making and accountability procedures.
  - Has the legal capacity, status and right to enter into a grant agreement and have the ability to receive grant in accordance to the current registration status.
  - Proven organization's experience in the implementation of HIV and TB activities and/ or Health System Strengthening interventions as per national standards. Should have adequate technical expertise in infectious diseases (HIV and AIDS, TB, Malaria and community/health system strengthening).
  - Experience in implementation of HIV/TB funded by GFATM as well as RSSH would be considered as an added advantage but not a must.
  - Has staff (or be committed to hire staff) with relevant qualifications, skills, background and experience in the implementation of HIV, TB and RSSH projects.
  - Has an appropriate procurement and supply chain management system, financial management, Monitoring and Evaluation system in place.
  - Has an adequate internal control systems that will enable the prompt preparation of regular and reliable financial statements and reports, should safeguard the Global Fund financial and physical assets, should be subject to and comply with acceptable auditing arrangement, ensure compliance, prompt efficient and effective operations and allow for the accomplishment of the program goals and objectives.

A table below shows key interventions to be implemented and their geographical areas (some specific regions and districts will be determined during the grant making process)

PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS	
<b>PRIORITY AREA 1</b>	
<b>MODULE: PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION (PMTCT)</b>	
<b>PRIORITY POPULATION (S)</b>	Pregnant and breastfeeding women, their families (male partners and children) and HIV exposed infants
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:</b>	Specific priority regions to be determined later
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)</b>
Prong 1: Primary prevention of HIV infection among women of childbearing age	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scaling up of couple testing (including HIV/Syphilis Duo) as well as HIV retesting of pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBFW) at ANC, PNC and immunization clinics. Under this prong, the focus is on identifying HIV negative pregnant and breastfeeding women to support them to remain negative through below main activities.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote couples testing and retesting during clinic visits</li> <li>• Introduce and scale-up self-testing, especially, for male partners (covered under Differentiated Testing Module 3)</li> <li>• Train health care workers on and provide HIV/Syphilis Duo testing and management of syphilis for pregnant women and their male partners to prevent congenital syphilis</li> </ul> </li> <li>Facilitate primary prevention of HIV among HIV negative women that are identified during antenatal, postnatal and breastfeeding periods.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train health care workers on provision of PrEP to discordant couples and other high risk PBFW at health facilities that are not supported by PEPFAR</li> <li>• Provide PrEP to HIV negative pregnant and breastfeeding women whose spouses have discordant results and other high risk PBFW</li> <li>• Promote use of and provide condoms to HIV negative pregnant and breastfeeding women whose spouses have discordant results</li> <li>• Link HIV negative male partners of pregnant and breastfeeding women to VMMC services, if male partner is not already circumcised</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Prong 2: Preventing vertical HIV transmission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce case-based surveillance-response at the health facilities that are not supported by PEPFAR. This focuses on HIV-positive pregnant and breastfeeding women identified under Prong 1.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend digitization (electronic medical records) of health service documentation to facilities that are not supported by PEPFAR</li> <li>• Provide tablets/mobile phones to remaining PMTCT facilities that are not supported by PEPFAR or covered in the digitization above</li> <li>• Conduct training of trainers (TOT) on case-based surveillance-response for PMTCT</li> <li>• Conduct training of health facility staff and council/regional supervisors on use of the electronic medical records and handheld devices for real-time reporting and action</li> <li>• Conduct follow-up of individual pregnant women identified as HIV positive at facilities that are not supported by PEPFAR to ensure they are initiated on ART and retained in the PMTCT cascade with their babies through pregnancy and breastfeeding periods. There will be two levels of follow-up</li> <li>• Conduct meetings to review progress with and performance of case-based surveillance-response system to identify and address emerging issues.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Facilitate adherence for pregnant women on ART using effective facility and community-based adherence models for example "mentor mothers".                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide training, mentorship and supervision for HCW and mentor mothers</li> <li>• Train PMTCT providers on HIV viral load sample collection</li> <li>• Support community health workers/mentors mothers to follow-up pregnant and breastfeeding women and refer them for viral load testing</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Prong 3: Treatment, care and support to mothers living with HIV, their children and families	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand and improve quality of early infant diagnosis (EID).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screen for and identify HIV-exposed infants at immunization clinics</li> <li>• Conduct skill-based training of health care workers on proper DBS collection and transportation of blood samples to POC/DNA PCR HIV testing centers in regions/councils with the lowest EID coverage based on performance at the time</li> <li>• Identify health facilities with high rate of EID sample rejection from Zonal Testing Laboratory and conduct targeted refresher training to health care workers from the respective health facilities in under-performing regions</li> <li>• Conduct assessment of HIV/HEID point-of-care (POC) needs, available capacity and utilization to determine country needs/demand</li> </ul> </li> <li>Provide adolescent-oriented services and train health care workers to reduce judgmental and unsupportive attitudes to youth seeking HIV and reproductive health services.</li> <li>Community mobilization to boost male involvement in partner's PMTCT services</li> <li>Mother-to-mother and peer-led mentoring, counselling, and other community-based psychosocial support for pregnant and breastfeeding women</li> </ol>

<b>PRIORITY AREA 2</b>	
<b>MODULE: HIV PREVENTION</b>	
<b>PRIORITY POPULATIONS</b>	Key and Vulnerable populations, PLHIV, Young people, etc.
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:</b>	Arusha, Manyara, Tanga, Singida, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma, Morogoro, Iringa, Shinyanga, Tabora, Simiyu
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)</b>
Condom programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop age-appropriate and KVP-tailored Information, education and communication materials on condom use</li> <li>• Implement evidence-informed and innovative condom demand creation strategies/ approaches to increase condom usage among key and priority populations (using multiple media e.g. social media)</li> <li>• Support LGAs and community-based NGOs to conduct targeted condom distribution of public sector condoms both at health facilities and the mapped KVP-preferred and friendly community locations, as well facilitate the refill and maintenance of the installed condom dispensers</li> <li>• Procure and install condom dispensers targeting KVP hotspots, safe spaces and other KVP friendly and accessible locations and platforms</li> </ul>
Behavior change interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rollout evidence-based, age-appropriate, community-based and KVP-centered peer-led interpersonal communication for KVP to: facilitate risk reduction, condom negotiation skills and consistent condom use; raise awareness about GBV, GBV screening, stigma and discrimination; and create demand for</li> </ul>

Community empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build the capacity of KVP-focused and KVP-led local NGOs so they can better participate in demand creation and linkage of services using public health approach</li> <li>• Engage KVP in the national KVP forum meetings and discussions</li> <li>• Facilitate the involvement of KVP-focused and KVP-led local NGOs at regional and council level stakeholder's meetings/forums</li> <li>• Engage KVPs in mapping of hotspots, assessment and identification of KVP-friendly health facilities, and KVPHS trainings</li> </ul>
Opioid substitution therapy and other medically assisted drug dependence treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train health care and community-based providers on provision of OST intervention</li> <li>• Establish of OST and other medically assisted drug dependence treatment for prison inmates</li> <li>• Support provision of daily consumable commodities for smooth running of OST/MAT (e.g. water, disposable glasses)</li> <li>• Support the establishment of take-home doses based on regular review of the take away provision (take away bottles, containers, home visits)</li> <li>• Identify, strengthen peer led recovery homes (sober houses for PWIDs/PWUDs. Support recovery home for rehabilitation and family integration)</li> </ul>
Addressing stigma, discrimination and violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orient higher learning institutions officials and students to eliminate HIV stigma and discrimination practices in the education setting</li> <li>• Develop community mobilization tool on community-based anti-stigma and discrimination interventions with focus on AGYW/ABYM and PLHIV</li> <li>• Advocate for harm reduction including increasing accessibility and coverage of harm reduction services to law enforcement authorities and policy makers and health providers.</li> <li>• Building capacity of KVP focused and KVP led CSOs on issues related to HIV/AIDS, human rights and gender and sexual orientation community and facility based SRH/HIV services.</li> </ul>
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Social protection interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop standardized economic curricula for KVP (including the incorporation of evidence-based approaches for PWID on recovery management)</li> <li>• Train FSW and PWID on recovery management on economic strengthening and support them on business development</li> <li>• Provide revolving funds and seed grants to FSW</li> </ul>
Interventions for Young Key Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train health care providers on the health needs and rights of young men who have sex with men and young sex workers on overlapping vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Rollout peer-led prevention programs like role models, mentorship</li> <li>• Sensitize parents, family members, caregivers on challenges facing KVP to enable them to offer psychosocial support and reintegrate them into families</li> <li>• Develop tool kit that focus on building capacity for HIV champions (ambassadors) for younger KVPs</li> <li>• Capacitate network of young KVPs on human rights and HIV programming</li> </ul>

<b>PRIORITY AREA 3</b>	
<b>MODULE: DIFFERENTIATED HIV TESTING SERVICES</b>	
<b>PRIORITY POPULATION (S)</b>	Individuals in the various population groups seeking or eligible for HIV testing or newly diagnosed with HIV and/or their sexual contacts and families
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:</b>	Manyara, Singida, Dodoma, Mtwara, Tanga, Arusha
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)</b>
Facility-based testing	<p>The below proposed interventions were selected to optimize testing yield taking into consideration the declining pool of undiagnosed PLHIV as Tanzania makes progress towards 95% of PLHIV knowing their status. Index testing was introduced in the current grant cycle and will be scaled-up in facilities and communities. Self-testing is a new intervention that will be useful for hard to reach and hidden populations. It is expected that 33% of all HTS in the next grant cycle will be self-tests.</p> <p>Scale-up facility-based index testing in Non PEPFAR supported facilities in 18 Councils in 6 Regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building at all levels</li> <li>• Supportive supervision and mentorship (National, Regional and Council)</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimize provider-initiated testing and counselling                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building at all levels</li> <li>• Supportive supervision and Mentorship (National, Regional and Council)</li> <li>• Printing of HTS eligibility screening tools</li> </ul> </li> <li>Quality of HIV testing services                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher training of Site HTS Auditors</li> <li>• Auditing of Non PEPFAR testing points</li> <li>• Supportive supervision and mentorship for poorly performing testing points</li> </ul> </li> <li>Accelerating HIV case finding among Children, Adolescent and Young People (AHCF-CAY)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Accelerating HIV case finding among Children, Adolescent and Young People (AHCF-CAY) framework.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Community-based testing	<p>Scale-up community-based index testing in Non PEPFAR supported Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building for peers, CHW and mother mentors from the PMTCT Programme</li> <li>• Development of orientation package for peers and CHW on community-based HIV testing services</li> <li>• Supportive supervision and mentorship (Regional and Council)</li> <li>• Contact tracing support (air-time and transport reimbursement)</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen referral and linkage to treatment, care and support services                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploy CHW to support referral and linkages.</li> <li>• Facilitate transport and communication of CHW supporting referral services.</li> <li>• Supportive supervision and mentorship.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Self-testing	<p>Facilitate demand generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of an HIVST Communications Strategy.</li> <li>• Development of IEC materials (brochures, posters, short videos, SMS, Interactive Voice Response-IVR).</li> <li>• Demand generation activities tailored to the specific target population. This will include use of a Helpline, IVR and SMS integrated with an HIVST mobile application tracking system for counselling information, referral services and tracking of test kits. Use of social Media and Influencers to promote HIVST will also be deployed.</li> </ul>

<b>PRIORITY AREA 4</b>	
<b>MODULE: HIV PREVENTION</b>	
<b>PRIORITY POPULATION (S)</b>	AGYW- in and out of school, ABYM
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:</b>	Dodoma, Singida, Morogoro, Tanga, Geita
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)</b>
Social protection interventions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary &amp; secondary school AGYW from poor households                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train beneficiaries on menstrual hygiene management to be covered as part of CSE)</li> <li>• Procure and distribute reusable sanitary kits</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

Behavior change interventions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out-of-school (primary &amp; secondary) vulnerable AGYW aged 15-24                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct training of the Extension Officers (Economic Empowerment Officers) to build and standardize their capacity to assess economic vulnerability, train AGYW on livelihoods, support business development and establishment of IGA</li> <li>• Identify vulnerable out-of-school AGYW (using the existing TASAF list of poor households supplemented by community-level vulnerability assessment for TASAF non-surveyed households) eligible for enrollment into economic strengthening intervention</li> <li>• Conduct training on entrepreneurship skills, business plan, and facilitate the formation of IGA groups</li> <li>• Provide seed grants to support businesses/IGA</li> </ul> </li> <li>Use innovative KVP-targeted multi-media approaches (artists and celebrities, digital technology, social media, football and games, and adaptive leadership) to create demand for HIV prevention, care and treatment; deliver BCC messages; address GBV and S&amp;D</li> <li>• Conduct parenting training for young/teen KVP mothers and KVP parents/guardians</li> <li>• Conduct football, games and sports sessions to deliver HIV and AIDS messages and advocate for the uptake of services out of school AGYW &amp; ABYM in 17 councils targeted with AGYW-specific interventions</li> </ol>
Addressing stigma, discrimination and violence	<p>Conduct training to health and social welfare workers, police, legal, and CSO officers on respectful, compassionate and non-judgmental care for AGYW (including the focus in addressing stigma and discrimination) reduction of stigma and discrimination</p>

<b>PRIORITY AREA 5</b>	
<b>5.1 MODULE: TB CARE AND PREVENTION</b>	
<b>PRIORITY POPULATION (S)</b>	All key and vulnerable populations ( PLHIV, elderly, children, DM, Cancer patients, miners, mobile populations, prisoners, slum dwellers, out and inpatients clients at HFs)
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:</b>	Dodoma, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Kagera, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Tanga, Mara
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)</b>
Engaging all care providers (TB care and prevention)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure cooler boxes to facilitate sputum samples storage from ADDOs and traditional healers.</li> </ul>
Community TB care delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct orientation sessions among community TB service providers including ex-TB patients on a new comprehensive community TB guideline which includes CRG components</li> <li>• Support (including incentive &amp; enablers) 1,920 ex-TB patient volunteers to implement community-based TB interventions and outreach services including contact tracing, specimen collection, treatment support and support for TB prevention in 64 councils</li> <li>• Support motorcycle riders (BODABODAs) for TB to transport sputum specimen from lower HFs to Gene Xpert sites and bring back feedback results in 64 councils</li> <li>• Provide transport and communication allowance to facilitate referral and linkage between ex TB patient volunteers, ADDO dispensers and Traditional healers to TB clinics</li> <li>• Conduct semi-annual campaigns and TB screening in high TB risk and hard to reach areas in 64 councils in 8 regions as guided by TB routine data.</li> <li>• Conduct advocacy and communication activities during world TB day commemorations</li> <li>• Conduct community TB TWG meetings</li> <li>• Develop communication messages and materials, Media spots and edutainment activities to address TB control problem and TB related stigma, discrimination, gender inequality issues in 8 regions</li> </ul>
Key Populations (TB care and prevention) - Children	<p>Conduct advocacy and communication activities during World TB day commemorations</p>
Key populations (TB care and prevention) - Miners and mining communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support CHVs to conduct systematic TB screening to miners and surrounding communities</li> <li>• Conduct outreach integrated TB, TB/HIV, RMNCAH services in 20 mining districts using mobile vans</li> <li>• Conduct sensitization meetings with mining owners, managers, unions, NGOs, CBOs and stakeholders and advocacy meetings to mobilize resources for TMS initiatives.</li> </ul>

<b>5.2 MODULE: REMOVING HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER RELATED BARRIERS TO TB SERVICES</b>	
<b>PRIORITY POPULATION (S)</b>	All key and vulnerable populations ( PLHIV, elderly, children, DM, Cancer patients, miners, mobile populations, prisoners, slum dwellers, out and inpatients clients at HFs)
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:</b>	Dodoma, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Kagera, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Tanga, Mara
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)</b>
Stigma and discrimination reduction (TB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design communication messages to address TB related stigma, discrimination, Human rights, Gender Based Violence and gender inequality issues in line CRG operational plan</li> <li>• Develop audio visual clips and push messages from the developed communication messages.</li> </ul>
Human rights, medical ethics and legal literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise TB patient rights charter in line with MOHCDCGEC patient charter</li> <li>• Sensitize the community on rights-based approach</li> <li>• Support Tanzania TB Network to conduct bi annual TB community dialogues.</li> <li>• Design and share TB related medical ethics and human rights video / clips to health care workers and community Health Volunteers using TB e-platform</li> </ul>

<b>PRIORITY AREA 6</b>	
<b>6.1 MODULE: RSSH: COMMUNITY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING</b>	
<b>PRIORITY POPULATION (S)</b>	Individuals from various population groups- CBOs, CSOs, regional and council level structures, HCWs, CHWs, etc.
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:</b>	Specific regions to be determined later
<b>INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)</b>
Community-led advocacy and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity to the Community based organization /Civil Society Organizations to be able to identify barriers that deter their access to quality health services, study them using qualitative and quantitative methods</li> <li>• Conduct dissemination meeting of the agreed action plan to the district/council health management team for it can be discussed and incorporated into the policy planning that aim at improving quality health services for TB, HIV and Malaria</li> <li>• Conduct introduction meeting on SAM to local leaders</li> <li>• Implement SAM through prioritization of Community needs- identify challenges from the community through focus group discussion</li> <li>• Supportive supervision and mentorship on implementation of the agreed action plans that aim at addressing barriers to access quality TB, HIV, Malaria and other health services for improved health service delivery</li> </ul>
Education and production of new health workers (excluding community health workers)	To support middle cadre health care workers to undergo 6 months Anesthetic training
In-service training (excluding community health workers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of other health e course from other development partner platform and MOHCDCGEC approved course to make it comprehensive</li> <li>• Continue to support and maintain e-learning platform this include users support and continuous online coaching and mentoring</li> <li>• Continue to equip CDE center as a center of excellence for hosting the developed e-platform</li> </ul>

- NB: Malaria interventions for Non State Actors will be determined during the grant making period.
- All organizations applying will be assessed according to the following criteria:
- Project/Program management:** must have demonstrated experience in the management of health related projects with substantial size and scope; have expertise and experience in the mentioned priority areas/key interventions and also an ability to hire staff with required education, background and experience to manage the key interventions. Demonstrated track record with value for money in addressing community needs and interventions designs with direct reach for the intended beneficiaries. Prior experience in the managing global Fund supported grants will be an added advantage but not a must. (40 points)
  - Financial management:** must demonstrate adequate internal financial controls system and capacity to make timely payments and accurately record and report transactions. Must be able to adhere to acceptable standards practices that safeguard the GFATM financial and non-financial and programmatic audit from time to time. (20 points)
  - Working with CBOs and other networks:** must demonstrate adequate ability to work with CBOs and other PLHIV/TB networks in the implementation of the priority key interventions and also ability to implement the program in more than four to five regions, concurrently. (15 points)
  - General Management:** Have structures that provide and demonstrate effective organization's good governance and leadership with clear division of functions and roles, have effective human resources management and effective monitoring and evaluation systems in place (15 points)
  - Physical and Information technology Infrastructure:** Have adequate infrastructure –physical, material and technical resources for staff and computerized management information system for timely communications, transaction and financial program reporting. (10 points).

Applicants should indicate one or more priorities areas they wish to be considered for. All applications must not exceed 12 pages (excluding attachments) and must be submitted in English using Times New Roman, font size 12. The arrangement of the required information should be as follow.

- Cover page – Organization name, physical address, legal registration number, TIN, contact person and designation, type of organization – FBO, NGOs, Private, INGO, etc.
- Description of organization experience as per number 1 to 5 above (do not exceed 12 pages).

- Please note that the cover page and the following supporting documents which are to be submitted together with the application are not part of the 12 pages.
- Organization/Institutional profile, including a diagram and brief description of organizational structure.
  - CVs of three key personnel
  - Proof of registration, including, TIN
  - General organizational policy and procedure manual
  - Finance policy and procedure manual
  - Procurement manual
  - Audit reports and management letters during the past three years (2017, 2018 and 2019)
  - M&E manual
  - Description of the Information technology Infrastructure.

All applications should be in hard copies and soft copies in CD-ROMs. Applications, in sealed envelopes and clearly marked on the left upper corner GFATM-SR 2021-2023, should be submitted to the following.

Country Director  
Amref Health Africa  
Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, Plot 1019, Upanga area  
P.O Box 2773  
Dar es Salaam

All applications must be received not later than 21st August 2020, 4.00 PM

• Questions about this call may be submitted to Amref Health Africa through: GFATM.SRApplications@Amref.org, not later than 16th August 2020



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

## Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

## African nations need to invest in more resilient food system

**A**S Africa grapples with disruptions in the global supply chain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, some see it as an opportunity for the continent to become self-sufficient in food production.

The continent currently is a net food importer, spending between US\$35 billion and US\$50 billion annually on the importation of foods, the majority of which can be grown in Africa.

"In the wake of export bans in countries from where they import a large chunk of our food items like rice and poultry, it provides a compelling situation for Africa to put strategic measures in place to ramp up production for all our key staples.

It also gives Africa the opportunity to intensify agro-processing, thus reducing post-harvest losses and ensure year-round food availability, whilst creating the needed jobs.

We all agree that the worldwide slowdown of agricultural activities caused by the pandemic provides a great opportunity for Africa to feed itself. We should use this crisis as an opportunity to build more resilient food systems. Africa has more than 60 per cent of the globe's arable uncultivated land. But the continent imports a lot of rice, maize, poultry products, sugar and other food products from the United States, China, South America and other parts of the world.

Africa's poultry industry, for example, has struggled over the years because imported products are usually less expensive than those that are home-produced. This has led to the local poultry industry collapsing in many African countries.

With COVID-19 making it more difficult to produce, process and move food across the world, a report published by the World Food Program (WFP), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), USAID and 13 other organisations has called for scaled up support for local food markets, as well

as local processing and transport systems to help cushion the global food supply chain from the pandemic.

African farmers agree now is the right time to give farmers increased support so they can produce and distribute food in their localities without having to transport products over long distances.

Role of quality seeds in improving productivity Genetically modified crops (GM crops) are plants used in agriculture, the DNA of which has been modified using genetic engineering methods. In most cases, the aim is to introduce a new trait to the plant which does not occur naturally in the species. Examples in food crops include resistance to certain pests, diseases, environmental conditions, reduction of spoilage, resistance to chemical treatments (e.g. resistance to a herbicide), or improving the nutrient profile of the crop. Examples in non-food crops include production of pharmaceutical agents, biofuels, and other industrially useful goods, as well as for bioremediation.

Farmers have widely adopted GM technology. Acreage increased from 1.7 million hectares in 1996 to 185.1 million hectares in 2016, some 12 per cent of global cropland.

Genetically modified crops represent one of the modern biotechnology approaches with the capability of changing the fate of agriculture in the new millennium.

The creators of GM crops emphasise the potential of genetic engineering to benefit society by increasing crop yields, improving food quality and developing environmental stress tolerant crops. GM crops have the potential to contribute to current effort to address the major agriculture challenges in Ethiopia, including low productivity, pest and diseases, drought, malnutrition, climate and environment change, and post-harvest losses. It provides new tools to develop abiotic and biotic stress tolerant varieties.

## World's indigenous peoples must enjoy basic rights, too

**I**NDIGENOUS peoples, also known in some regions as First peoples, First Nations, Aboriginal peoples or Native peoples or autochthonous peoples, are ethnic groups who are the original or earliest known inhabitants of an area, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonised the area more recently. Groups are usually described as indigenous when they maintain traditions or other aspects of an early culture that is associated with a given region. Not all indigenous peoples share this characteristic, as many have adopted substantial elements of a colonising culture, such as dress, religion or language. Indigenous peoples may be settled in a given region (sedentary) or exhibit a nomadic lifestyle across a large territory, but they are generally historically associated with a specific territory on which they depend. Indigenous societies are found in every inhabited climate zone and continent of the world except Antarctica.

Since indigenous peoples are often faced with threats to their sovereignty, economic well-being and access to the resources on which their cultures depend, political rights have been set forth in international law by international organisations such as the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the World Bank.

In 2007, the United Nations issued a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to guide member-state national policies to the collective rights of indigenous peoples, such as culture, identity, language and access to employment, health, education and natural resources. Estimates put the total population of indigenous peoples from 220 million to 350 million.

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9 August each year to raise awareness

and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognises the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.

People from different nations are encouraged to participate in observing the day to spread the UN's message on indigenous peoples. Activities may include educational forums and classroom activities to gain an appreciation and a better understanding of indigenous peoples. Events may include messages from the UN secretary general and other key leaders, performances by indigenous artists, and panel discussions on reconciliation.

The UN's International Day of the World's Indigenous People is a United Nations day of observance but it is not a public holiday.

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People is celebrated on August 9 each year to recognize the first UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations meeting in Geneva in 1982. On December 23, 1994, the UN General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People should be observed on August 9 annually during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

In 2004 the assembly proclaimed the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2014). The assembly also decided to continue observing the International Day of Indigenous Peoples annually during the second decade. The decade's goal was to further strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development.



## A tribute to Benjamin William Mkapa, African statesman and friend of Ghana

From page 1

But for Benjamin in particular, his father had bigger dreams. Although he did not take up any of the three careers his father set out for him, Benjamin Mkapa took his parents' emphasis on education seriously.

He ended up top of his class at tenth grade, with a First Class pass in the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, and proceeded to Makerere University for a Bachelor's Degree in History, Economics and English and later a Master's in International Affairs at Columbia University.

He was bidding his time to go into politics while at it. Even though he knew that his father might be disappointed in his choice, he could not help it - history was on the move and he had heard history's call.

Ben came of age at a crucial time when African countries were beginning to shake off the shackles of colonialism - Ghana, 1957; Nigeria, 1960; Tanzania, 1961.

Like his Ghanaian contemporaries and friends - Prof Akilakpa Sawyer, Prof Kwesi Botchway and Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Benjamin Mkapa connected with the struggle for African emancipation at an early age and honed his skills and nourished his desire for public service.

At Makerere, this desire took root at the feet of revolutionaries like Apollo Milton Obote and Benedicto Kiwanuka of Uganda and Jaramogi Odinga and Tom Mboya of Kenya who frequented Makerere campus to engage students.

A gifted liberal arts student, Benjamin Mkapa enjoyed literature and wrote about African freedom and independence from an early age. At Makerere, his passion for Africa led him to co-found a student magazine with later-to-become literary giants like Chinua Achebe and Ngugi wa Thiong'o.

But, above all, it was easily the great Mwalimu Julius Nyerere who had the greatest influence on Ben's life, for Ben imbibed from Nyerere Pan-Africanist values - the notion that we as Africans can help ourselves.

Ben was the founder's son. He spoke for himself and Julius Nyerere every time he thundered, "we must find African

solutions to African problems" - his own iteration of Nyerere's Ujamaa (socialism).

After Makerere, Benjamin Mkapa's political career took off with a position in the Tanzanian Foreign Service, which first took him to West Africa - to Nigeria, as High Commissioner.

When he rose to Foreign Affairs minister, Benjamin Mkapa found reliable colleagues in his Ghanaian peers; first, Victor Gbeho and then Obed Asamoah, which marked the beginning of the unusual bond he had with Ghana.

As President and former president of Tanzania, he forged lasting friendships with all of Ghana's fourth republican presidents: Jerry Rawlings, John Kufuor, Prof John Evans Atta-Mills (since deceased), John Mahama and incumbent Nana Akufo-Addo - friendships which lasted to Ben's very last day.

Upon leaving office as president (in 2005), Benjamin Mkapa hosted the Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II in a rare case of the latter accepting an invitation from a private citizen. It showed the level of mutual trust and respect between the two distinguished personalities.

But Ben's relationship with Ghana went beyond those in high political office or of high social status. Benjamin Mkapa took an interest in the everyday Ghanaian when he attended mass in Hoor made donations to rural communities in Ghana's Volta Region.

Ben loved Ghanaian cuisine, Ghanaian textile and Ghanaian traditional art. And, as president, he was the de facto patron of Ghanaian students in Tanzania. He had an open-door policy towards them. The Ghanaian community as a whole had access to him, too. Indeed, no one was prouder than President Mkapa when Dr Felix Sosoo, a Ghanaian, became the first non-native to obtain a PhD in Kiswahili.

Beyond politics, education was central to President Mkapa's love for Ghana. In his final years he delivered two keynote addresses - one at the University of Cape Coast (UCC) and the other at the University for Development Studies (UDS).

Ben worked well with Ghanaians too - appointing his longtime friend, Ghanaian

economist Dr Ken Kwaku, as his Economic Advisor during his second presidential term.

Benjamin Mkapa's life can rightly be described as a life of public service, and a life marked by pride in our African identity and a commitment to making Africa better.

But he could do that because of the love and devotion that he gave to his own family a love which was returned in equal measure. He was a family man committed to Mama Anna Mkapa, his wife as well as his children and grandchildren.

William Shakespeare was one of President Mkapa's literary favourites and in his poem, quoted at the beginning of this tribute, reminds us that in the stage of life "...one man plays many parts".

It is thus always difficult to summarise a life in words, and meanwhile capture, the essential truth of a person, especially a person of many parts - a person who has been through the changing currents of public life for forty years.

Such a life transcends places, dates and offices. For Benjamin Mkapa, though, behind his lifelong service to the African continent in general his Tanzanian nation in particular is a trail of much-touted yet seldom-practised values - kindness, empathy, integrity and genuineness; values deeply engrained in him by his stiff Catholic upbringing.

Ben was his father's son. When it came to his core values, he was unyielding. He hated bullies and those fond of lording their power and privilege over others, thus acting as if they are better or more important than those others.

We saw this in his fight against poverty - his insistence that all people everywhere, rich or poor, black or white have equal value.

He extended that same largeness of spirit to the fight against HIV/AIDS by confronting stereotypes and using the full range of his policy and legislative power to confront that epidemic.

He had courage - one of many things he took from Mwalimu Nyerere, his mentor.

Here goes a true son of Tanzania and a proud African. Benjamin Mkapa lived and died African. He never doubted that the African was just as

capable as anyone in the world. He realised the promise of Africa in his own life, rising from that small village on the border to become one of Africa's foremost statesmen.

Ben represented the best in us. Perhaps, President Mkapa's greatest gift is captured in that Kiswahili word 'uongozi' - which means 'leadership'.

Ben was a leader by default. He pondered long and saw far. He was tireless, yet patient. Even in retirement, he gave his last full measure of devotion to the cause of Africa, working mostly through the Uongozi Institute - which he helped to establish with a mandate to develop an effective, honest and capable leadership for Africa.

Benjamin Mkapa played many parts. His was a calling to public service - not as a priest or a doctor or a teacher, but as a statesman, the greatest art of them all.

He negotiated peace and resolved conflict, fought diseases, championed sustainable development and took tough decisions to transform the Tanzanian economy - some of which have pushed Tanzania into the ranks of middle-income countries beginning this year.

As we say goodbye to this great son of Africa, we are grateful for the memories, the wisdom and the stories he always shared.

When he published his memoir last year - a legacy to future generations - he had one crucial piece of advice for young people, instructing: "Whatever your professional task, the first thing you have got to demonstrate is engagement in the chores you are given. You must demonstrate that your heart is in it and work hard..."

H.E. Benjamin Mkapa was a mentor true and true. He will be deeply missed. Long live the memory of Benjamin Mkapa. God bless the United Republic of Tanzania and the African continent.

**This is a tribute to Benjamin William Mkapa (November 12, 1938-July 23, 2020) by The Kwaku Group, the former president's Ghanaian friends, and The Rebecca Agroh Memorial Foundation. The Tanzanian statesman died in a Dar es Salaam hospital and was buried at his home village of Lupaso in Masasi District, Mtwara Region, on July 29. Dr Kwaku is an international investment and corporate governance expert. In 2013 he was nominated alongside former Ghanaian president Atta-Mills for the Africa Achievers Award. This recognition stemmed from his track record in the area of business development and the unearthing of leadership potentials across Africa.**



# Open or closed, South African schools need radical social change

By Jon Fish Hodgson

If one compares schools to cars, a tiny minority own multiple luxury sedans, 4x4s, or bakkies. A second, small group of households own one or more Toyota Corollas or Volkswagens Polos. A third, larger group of households share access to 'skedonks': old, beat-up, stuck-together-so-they-barely-work, unsafe, third-hand cars. Most of our schools are skedonks.

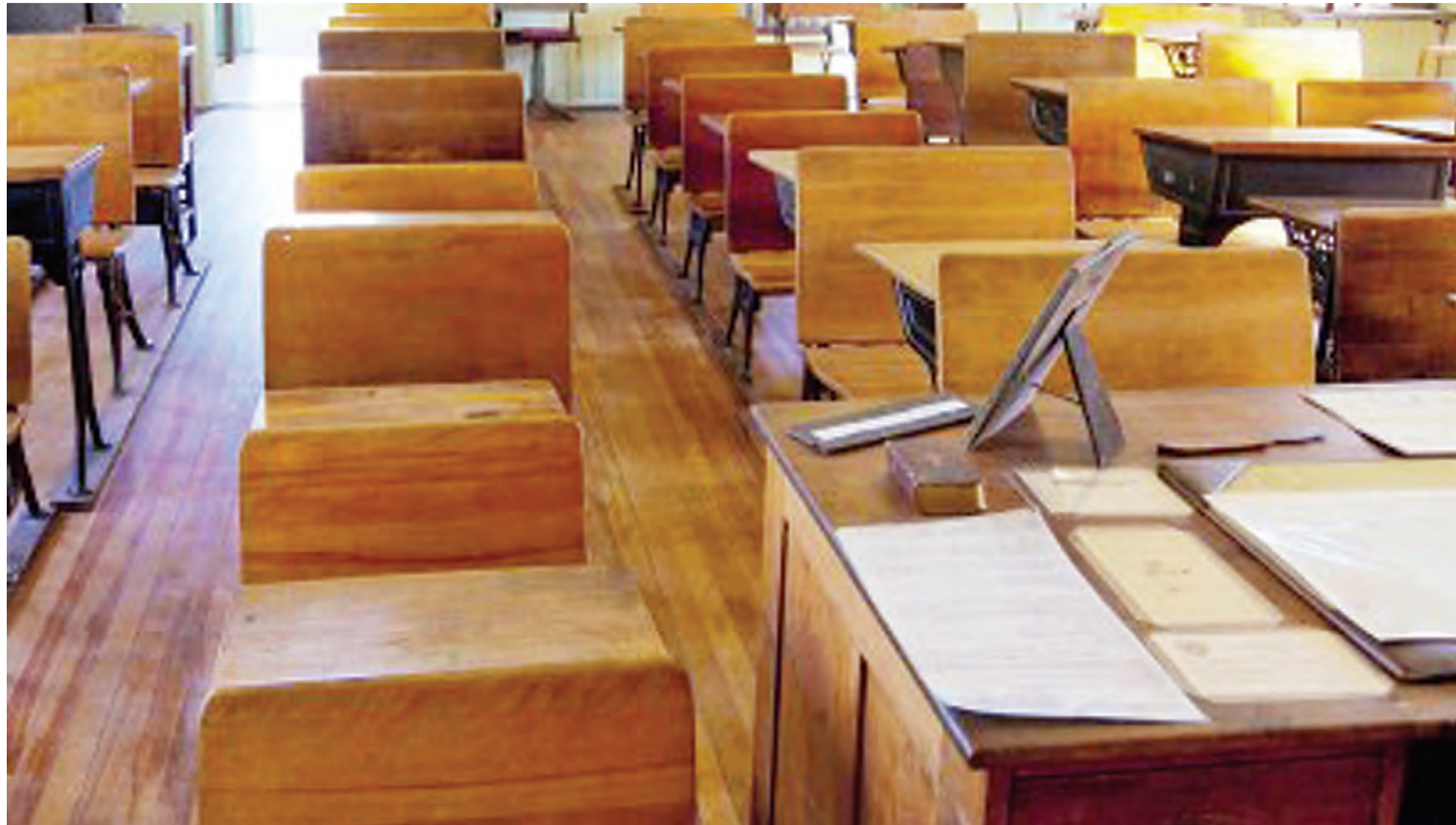
Millions of people are hungry. Millions of children are out of school. Poor children are learning least of the formal curriculum and will likely be consigned to unemployment on a massive scale. Simultaneously, a wealthy, mostly white minority are living online in islands of luxury. This is South Africa, every day, of every week, of every year. Avoiding this reality is an ideological choice that misdirects public discourse. Covid-19 has intensified oppression; it must not be used to hide a desperate need for radical change.

Real uncertainties and real data

Media debate about closing versus reopening schools is problematic on its own terms. The World Health Organisation recommends that decisions about schooling be made as part of a society-wide, long-term response informed by accurate data. Targeted testing and tracing are increasingly inadequate to provide timeous local-level data on community transmission. Yet, the government continues to announce dates, weeks or months in advance, as though the course of the pandemic is fixed and known.

Abstract debates about reopening also don't engage practical realities. Learner attendance has been low in parts of the country, meaning the supposed benefits don't manifest. Conversely, the claim that working parents can't provide childcare is a middle-class framing, assuming nuclear families as households. Among poor black South Africans, extremely high unemployment "means that childcare is usually available" (as Kate Alexander and Narnia Bohler-Muller comment on the UJ-HSRC survey). Generally, childcare at home is about households, not nuclear families. More than two-thirds of black children live in "extended" households.

"Open schools": Words misrepresenting reality



What does it mean for schools to be "open" ordinarily? Stats SA data indicates approximately 16 million children of school-going age, but the department of basic education (DBE) records the total number of learners as approximately 13 million. Of those apparently out of school, an estimated 500,000 or more are children with disabilities, many of whom may never have attended school. An uncertain number of others are undocumented children, who are often denied access. Millions more are later-grade "drop-outs", who have been pushed out of school by poor conditions in school; pressure for income; and the prospect of unemployment after school.

What does it mean to be "in school"? Philosophy aside, this depends on the practical realities of 25,000 schools across South Africa. But calling all 25,000 institutions "schools", as though they are all substantially the same, is misleading.

If one compares schools to cars, a tiny minority own multiple luxury sedans, 4x4s, or bakkies. A second, small group of households own one or more Toyota Corollas or Volkswagens Polos. A third, larger group of households share access to "skedonks": old, beat-up, stuck-

together-so-they-barely-work, unsafe, third-hand cars – despite their drivers. What sense does it make to call all these "cars", as though they provide similar affordances?

Advocates for reopening schools are arguing that it is less awful for poor learners if their skedonks are sent onto the roads than if all "cars" are parked. But debating whether "schools" should close or reopen avoids the vast inequality between BMWs and skedonks. Worse, most South African households don't own even skedonks so have to cram themselves into taxis: "public" transport that is subsidised only partly by state funds.

Most South African children are "in school" at overcrowded buildings which have never been funded at the minimal level needed to operate well. Many schools (like taxis) are patently unsafe ordinarily, as evidenced by learners dying in open pit latrines; and the sudden rush to provide basic sanitation, including running water. You still get the schooling you pay for (in fees, and transport costs or residential proximity), as Dr Heather Jacklin observed recently.

These debates are also missing or avoiding, further critical facts about open

"schools". First, in non-Covid-19 times, tens of thousands of learners are "progressed" from grade to grade annually, despite them not meeting the minimum "promotion" requirements, i.e. passing. Policy on promotion and progression stipulates that a learner can only repeat one grade during each three-year school phase (Grade 1-3, 4-6 etc.). Consequently, most SA classrooms comprise learners with prior performance across a range of stipulated grade levels, which constrains learning over time, especially in large classes. When "schools" are open, many learners are systemically deprived of substantial learning over years. Is this what learners must now be supported to "catch up" to?

Second, the state school system employs professionals as "subject adviser" specialists at district level to support teachers. But in most districts, there is only one – and rarely more than three – advisers appointed for each subject-phase combination (eg. Further Education and Training/Grade 10-12 isiZulu).

As districts comprise hundreds of schools, and schools have multiple teachers in each subject-phase area, the state employs a couple of advisers per thousands of teachers. If this doesn't render subject advisers structurally incompetent, then their job description does: It instructs advisers to visit schools to work individually with teachers. Yet these same scarce subject advisers are responsible for guiding and supporting teachers to interpret "trimmed" curricula and teaching plans amid pandemic context.

Third, inadequate resource provision is the core and common cause of the multitude of schooling lawsuits in recent years: about mud schools; learner transport; desks and chairs; textbooks; teacher staffing (though not yet subject advisers),

and others. These are all related: Provincial education departments use prolonged under-staffing, plus hiring "freezes", to "manage" budget shortfalls. And state school system provision per learner (in terms of real purchasing power) has been declining for about a decade – from what was inadequate to what is now absurd.

**Don't blame or threaten teachers for struggling against neglect**

It seems strange that, despite these facts, the same economist, Nic Spaull, who highlighted declining provision per learner, last week bluntly attacked teachers. He writes that teachers "are being paid whether they work or not", then immediately reveals he believes teachers aren't working: "By refusing to work they are risking the lives of children and undermining other parts of society."

Spaull provides no evidence for his vast claim that teachers are "refusing to work". Nor does he provide any evidence for the implication that teachers don't want to be teaching, or at least caring for their learners – if this can be organised safely, in material and psychological terms, at under-provisioned schools, amid a pandemic. Mental health is a crucial, frequently ignored aspect of the pandemic and "normal" life in SA, while teacher stress is severe.

Teacher unions' pushing for schools to close, for multiple reasons, is plainly not the same as teachers' refusing to work. Perhaps teachers are simply more able to object than other employees, who are less connected to communities and local support. Spaull is simply reiterating the common narrative that teachers are trouble; and that unions are where teachers gather to be more trouble together.

Spaull's attack on teachers is not strange, though, when seen in the light of the Council of Education Ministers' threats of "legal action" against individuals who "disrupt" schooling. The CEM statement adds that "government is extremely concerned about teachers, principals, non-teaching staff who use any platform to attack government for going back to work". This is an open silencing of legitimate criticism and moral dissent by those confronting derelict conditions daily.

Similarly, the DBE's Director-General, after repeating the threat against "disruption" in writing, immediately insisted on swift "disciplinary processes [...] if a teacher refuses to report for duty". These are threats from highly placed politicians and professionals against the predominantly black women engaged in childcare and education, often in abysmal conditions.

Adding salt to the threatened lash, the Western Cape Education Department is advertising temporary "teacher [classroom] assistant" roles paying R5,000 per month for qualified teachers – in a move that would undercut and undermine teachers' salaries beyond Covid-19; and exacerbate dire teacher shortages and over-large class sizes.

In recent years, the relatively lesser results of South Africa's predominantly poor, black learners have drawn far more attention when schools are closed uncommonly than when they're open. Whether in John Taolo Gaetsewe District in the Northern Cape, or in the northern parts of Port Elizabeth, when schools have been closed by community protests for infrastructure and/or staffing, we've heard a lot more about "the best interests of the child" and how it's poor children who suffer most from school closures. The same seems so now amid Covid-19.

# Cutting the feeding hand: The plight of smallholder farmers in Kenya

By Claire Nasike

In the pre-colonial days of the early 1900s, Africans predominantly farmed finger millet, sorghum, pearl millet, amaranth, jute mallow, spider plant, and lablab, among other indigenous crops. The farms were so rich in biodiversity that food production thrived. This subsistence nature of farming saw crops being transferred from farm to plate.

In the western Nyanza belt, for instance, ugali was brown (a mixture of sorghum and millet) and often accompanied by indigenous vegetables, such as elisaka (spider flower), omurere (jute), and chimboka (amaranth). During bountiful days, farmers thronged the local food markets to sell off their surplus produce. Food was diverse, high in nutrients, locally grown, and locally available.

In contrast, most farms in Africa today have morphed into monoculture (cultivation of one type of crop) farms. In Kenya, maize is the most dominant food crop on most farms. Cash crops, such as tea, cotton, and coffee introduced by the colonial enterprise, still dominate most farms, and food markets mostly sell kales (sukuma wiki), spinach, maize, and cabbage. Consequently, meals in most

households have shifted to either white processed ugali and sukuma wiki or beef and chapati or rice. Food is now processed, low in nutrients and 14% of it is imported.

The diversity present in farmers' fields has continually declined and the threats to diversity are on the rise. Of the more than 6,000 plant species cultivated for food, fewer than 200 make substantial contributions to global food output, with only 9 accounting for 66 per cent of total crop production in 2014.

Such has been the evolution of food systems that farmers intuitively gravitate towards producing what has a ready market as opposed to what is nutritious and indigenous. Cash crops have replaced heritage foods that fed people for generations sprawling back to the dawn of human life.

**Cash cropping: A profit-driven paradigm**  
Mass cash cropping (popularised by industrial agriculture) has done more harm than good to smallholder farmers. Fertile lands in the Kenyan highlands are occupied by multinational tea corporations, such as James Finlays and Unilever Tea. These corporations pocket high profits at the expense of Kenyan smallholder tea farmers, who constantly grapple with low prices for this produce and remain

mired in poverty. Meanwhile, tea pickers work and live under destitute conditions and some suffer from sexual harassment.

Whereas the proponents of cash crop farming might argue that this type of farming has placed farmers on the global market (thereby increasing their chances of earning an income, which could, in turn, address food insecurity) health, economic and social concerns have assumed a secondary place to profits.

The development history of cash crops in Africa over the last few decades, however, shows that cash crops have produced minimal cash. In the previous three decades, real income from cash crops has declined. African shares in world markets of most commodities have worsened, and most African countries have been sinking deeper and deeper into debt.

The cash crop monopoly has led to the inhumane exploitation of smallholder farmers. This system has consistently oppressed farmers economically and socially through land grabbing, repressive seed laws, and dependency on multinational corporations for farm inputs. Farmers can no longer save and share seeds from the current harvest to plant the next season, as these seeds are patented by multinational seed corporations and protected by intellectual property laws. In Tanzania, farmers risk a prison sentence of at least 12 years or a fine of over €205,300, or both, if they sell and share seeds, including their own farmer-bred seeds, that are not certified. Smallholder farmers now have to buy the seeds, chemical pesticides, and fertilisers each planting season. They have increasingly found themselves at the short end of the stick in this profit-driven paradigm.

This dependency has tied farmers to crippling debt that has sunk the farmers deeper into cyclic poverty. In India, many farmers have committed suicide on account of spiralling debt. In Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, 60,000 farmers committed suicide in 2007 because of debt, repeated crop failures, and the inability to meet the rising cost of cultivation.

Growing cash crops for export has taken more productive land from local food production. Resources that would otherwise have utility in local food production have been channelled into producing agricultural export crops. Consequently, smallholder farmers have converted marginal land with little agricultural productivity for local consumption.

Cultivating cash crops on lands traditionally meant for food crops has a significant impact on the food security of a community or nation. Conversion from subsistence farming to market-oriented agriculture, and shifting from the cultivation of traditional food crops to cash crops through the commercialisation of agriculture have led to an increase in malnutrition and food insecurity in most African countries. In Kenya, for instance, in 2008, an estimated 1.3

million people in rural areas and between 3.5 million and 4 million in urban areas were food insecure. This is despite Kenya exporting more than 3 billion dollars in food crops in 2010.

Cultivation of cash crops has also led to the excessive use of fertilizers and agrochemicals, which have harmed our bees and soil and aquatic organisms, and left our water bodies choking with pollution. The need for more land for cash crop cultivation has led to massive deforestation, which has further degraded soils and increased water scarcity. According to the Ndung'u land report, from 1963 to 2003, 11,000 acres of forested land in Kenya was excised off to create the Nyayo Tea zones. In 1988, Transmara Forest Reserve lost 937.7 hectares to Kiptagich Tea Estates.

**Monocropping issues**

Agricultural commercialisation has led to monocropping. This introduction of new and similar crops into farmers' fields has drastically altered the diversity of local varieties previously cultivated by farmers. Farm agricultural diversity has been killed under the false assumption that local varieties have low productivity. Ownership of diverse indigenous seed varieties has shifted from smallholder farmers to multinational corporations. The farmer no longer controls and owns the seeds he grows. New patented varieties, often marketed as high yielding varieties, require smallholder farmers to purchase the seeds from one supplier, in this case, the multinational corporations.

Growing monocultures on farms only advances the global agenda of globalisation, which is often controlled by global corporations. Monocultures have been proven to displace the biodiversity on farms. The UN International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in Leipzig Germany, 1996, noted that industrial monocultures in agriculture had replaced 75 per cent of all agro-biodiversity.

In addition, Western agricultural corporations and governments are now pushing African countries to industrialise their agriculture. Consequently, food crops, such as rice, wheat, and maize, are currently grown as cash crops. These crops currently account for more than 50 per cent of the world's calorie intake. An indication of the loss of agricultural diversity is the fact that today we have more Kenyans consuming imported maize, wheat, and rice as opposed to millet and sorghum so much so that the former have become the staple foods.

It is this reliance on food and agricultural imports that has seen most Kenyans go to bed on an empty stomach. What's worse, in the wake of COVID-19, farmers are losing their produce due to lack of markets or are sell it at throwaway prices.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, in his March address, encouraged traders and farmers to continue with their agricultural activities so that Kenyans can have access to farm produce at all times – a clear indication that smallholder farmers produce the food consumed in the country.





# Let's fight this together: Corruption is a devouring fire with nothing to do with race

By Themba Dlamini

JUST because there was rampant corruption during apartheid, it doesn't mean we should tolerate it now. It is not a black or white, rich or poor problem, but a South African problem - corruption is a battle between good and evil.

Friends or foes? To this day, I cannot tell whether Biva and Xamu cared for or hated each other. Drunk or sober they were always together - drinking, dissing, disagreeing, and donnering each other.

"Muyeke (leave him)! Biva muyeke!" shouted Jolo, my gogo, after Biva clobbered Xamu with a knobkerrie on the head. Xamu lay dazed on the gravel, his blue overall now covered in the powdery dust he lay on. He rolled his head to show a long, jagged scar glistening with sudden scarlet, dust-tinged droplets on his crown. Biva stood tall with his right fist fastened to the knobkerrie, drunk with rage and umqomboti, licking his bleeding lips.

Suddenly, a loud shout pierced the air. Turning towards the noise, I saw billowing smoke and a ghastly orange grin rapidly tearing across the Nkabinini (Kwazulu-Natal) village outskirts as it approached Xamu's rondavel. Fire! In a flash, Biva dropped the knobkerrie. He scurried to help the other villagers quell the fire before it ravaged Xamu's rondavel. Xamu also got up and limped off, clutching his head, to join the firefighting effort.

## ADVERTISING

It strikes me that South Africa's race relations are much like Biva and Xamu. One moment, the first black Springbok rugby captain is lifting the Webb Ellis trophy and we are all swept away on a euphoric wave of national unity - and the next, we are at each other's throats over a Helen Zille tweet... only to be jointly singing, a few days later, the tune against black oppression and white supremacy - unifying under hashtags like #BlackLivesMatter. And so, the whirl of hugs and punches continues.

Unless you live under a rock, when it comes to corruption, there are often subtle yet blatantly racist and cantankerous ideological positions and delusions on the subject - ranging from the smug "see what happens when you put blacks in charge" (which is often disguised as concern for the poor, who are being exploited by elite blacks), to the Ace Magashule crowd crying that "the white oppressive apartheid regime ate well for years from corrupt proceeds and now it is our turn." And let's not forget the head-in-the-sand



crew that says, "Oh well, corruption happens the world over... there is no need for alarm."

While there are grains of truth in all these postures, they are, however, dosed with microscopic but deadly distortions.

The racist is right - when we speak of corruption, we usually focus on government, and it is common knowledge that government is dominated by black South Africans.

Ace is right - under apartheid, there was zero transparency and corruption galore. In fact, some municipalities did not even produce financial statements, let alone audited ones, until the dawn of democracy; the stringent PFMA and MFMA laws only being promulgated in 1999 and 2003 respectively.

Regardless, it is government and not the private sector that has bound us to a R70-billion IMF sovereign loan, and it is the state that is the guardian of the nation's resources, wealth, and wellbeing, and hence a higher standard is required. This has nothing to do with race.

The head-in-the-sanders are right too - corruption is a global phenomenon and not unique to South Africa (or the African continent for that matter). According to the Corruption Perception Index, which ranks public sector perceived corruption

in 180 countries, South Africa is not the most corrupt country in the world. Instead, we are 70th in the rankings.

Over 90% of the ingredients of rat poison is harmless, but it only takes a small amount of poison to kill. In the same way, it is the minuscule omissions and bits of misinformation that poison and polarise Mzansi racially, instead of inspiring a unified front against corruption.

In the media, the lion's share of the corruption narrative focuses on the state, as it should, and not the private sector. However, there is a subtle danger in this singular narrative that reduces the corruption debate to issues of race. It's noteworthy that the private sector is dogged by embezzlement, bribery, collusion, anti-competitive practices, project overpricing, shell companies, and nepotism, to name but a few ills.

Dare I say, if most of the listed companies were to undergo stringent auditing by the Auditor-General, they might still receive unqualified audit opinions, but possibly not "clean" audits as per the strict definition by the AG.

Regardless, it is government and not the private sector that has bound us to a R70-billion IMF sovereign loan, and it is the state that is the guardian of the nation's resources, wealth, and wellbeing, and hence a higher standard is required. This has nothing to do with race.

And just because there was rampant corruption during apartheid, it doesn't mean we should tolerate it now. It is not a black or white, rich or poor problem, but a South African problem that is a battle between good and evil.

Several studies highlight the fact that inequality helps promote corrupt behaviour. South Africa is particularly vulnerable due to having the highest inequality rates in the world, which in turn are a direct consequence of having a past marked by mass economic exclusion.

As a seven-year-old village boy, I asked uGogo Jolo why Biva ran to stop the fire from consuming Xamu's house when they were on the verge of killing each other only moments before?

"If the fire got big enough to consume Xamu's rondavel, Biva will be unable to stop it from devouring his shack," Gogo explained.

Our NDP ambitions to eradicate poverty and inequality, and repair years of harm caused by apartheid, will require us to put out the fire of corruption in a way that secures our collective future.

Corruption is a devouring fire that, if left unquenched, will soon grow big enough to consume both black and white aspirations.

As weird and senseless as Biva and Xamu's bickering was, at least they had enough sense to put their differences aside and join efforts to fight the fire for the collective good.

The ANC's tender love: How Covid-19

became the golden goose that kept on giving

Covid-19 came. The music stopped. Who will be the comrades' saviour this time? Step forward our golden goose. Give us our tender golden eggs. The tender goose hasn't stopped giving, not even in the throes of a pandemic. The comrades can't afford to see it self-quarantining.

If there is one word I despise in the South African lexicon, it's "disingenuous", which is a word so loved by journalists and politicians when they disagree with someone's viewpoint.

But I am tempted to deploy it when I consider Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's professed disgust at the reported cases of irregularities and possible theft relating to the Covid-19 government contracts. In his tweets, he has described a tender as an "ethical contract" and expressed his dismay that some people stole during a pandemic and even asked, "what kind of people are these criminals?"

Well, I have words to describe Mboweni's reaction to the reports of his comrades' latest brew of shenanigans. Disingenuous is definitely not one of them. I choose one or two of the following: hoodwink, or perfunctory, or prevarication, or legerdemain, or rhetoric perhaps?

Mboweni has of late been trying to distance himself from the ANC's controversial policies (for example, on the mandate of the Reserve Bank), and has, correctly, voiced his displeasure with the less-than-stellar conduct of some of his colleagues in the party.

It is clear that he is uncomfortable in the ANC and he knows that he is unpopular with some factions there. In my view, he is trying his utmost to avoid being drenched with the same pungent drops of manure that are cascading over the ANC.

However, he cannot have such an easy pass. People like him, including Cyril Ramaphosa, have for many years been occupying various leadership positions in the ANC.

He has been part of the inner sanctum since his days as a student in Lesotho. It is not like he has just woken up to the party's weaknesses and its members' predilection for self-gratification and rank opportunism.

Therefore, the hullabaloo around the latest revelations on the Covid-19 tenders should not shock him.

# It's no coincidence that Covid-19 infects disproportionately

By Bonang Mohale

GLOBALLY black people are more than four times more likely to die from Covid-19 than white people, exposing a stark and dramatic divergence in the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

As the story of the coronavirus pandemic unfolds, global data is revealing a clear over-representation of black people and women, both in rates of infection, prognosis, and mortality from Covid-19, and the importance of systemic inequality. The topic of inequalities has always been central to social justice, sociology and related fields such as social policy, gender studies, critical race studies and human geography.

Most recently, digital inequality has emerged as a major topic. Rightly so, as Covid-19 spreads across the world, cross-cultural comparisons are at the forefront of people's minds. Race and ethnicity, as well as religion and faith, continue to be powerful forces in demarcating social divisions and inequalities in contemporary societies, despite the ever-growing diversity of our global cities.

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, China. "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2" (SARS-CoV-2) was confirmed as the causative agent of what we now know as "Coronavirus Disease 2019" (Covid-19). Since then, the unprecedented, unrelenting and uncertain virus has spread to more than 193 countries, including South Africa.

Picking up from where Minister of Health, Dr Zwelini Mkhize, left off in his 19 June 2020 address to the University of the Western Cape community on "Social Solidarity and Equitable Health Care for all in a time of Covid and Beyond Webinar", where he opined that "we have a double whammy of non-communicable and communicable epidemics - the main ones being hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, trauma, TB and HIV. It was everyone's well-expressed fear that, after the virus was imported by generally affluent members of society, a spillover into vulnerable sectors of society was inevitable and there would be no telling what would happen to the poor, the malnourished, the elderly and those living with co-morbidities, including the world's largest population of people living with HIV".

Our worst nightmare is about to be realised as this pandemic cuts a swathe across our townships and densely populated and impoverished areas that are characterised by a lack of viable and scalable factories, industries and commerce. Covid-19 has not obliterated these from our environment. If anything, it has initially exposed, not created, our long-standing vulnerabilities if we do not effectively deal with the scourge.

Black people are more likely to contract Covid-19, less likely to be tested and treated, and more likely to die, if they contract the virus, due mainly to the history of systemic racism in the world.

South Africa's deficiency in outsourcing our supply chain and manufacturing of, among others, medical devices such as personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators as well as medicines and lack of ownership of active pharmaceutical ingredients was severely exposed. As of Sunday, 26 July, just four months since South Africa's index Covid-19 patient, of



From discrimination to language, a variety of factors are affecting different groups' vulnerability to coronavirus - with sometimes devastating results

the 434,200 confirmed positive cases, 249,015 were females. This is 57.8% when you exclude the 2,820 that the Department of Health classifies as "unknown cases".

According to the Office of National Statistics, globally black people are more than four times more likely to die from Covid-19 than white people, exposing a stark and dramatic divergence in the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. This virus has sadly appeared to have a disproportionate effect on people from poor backgrounds. We are now number five in the world, after the US, Brazil, India and Russia respectively, in terms of total cases. In the end, however, health disparities are fundamentally a political problem. This is the direct result of an inequality of power over 426 years between the employed and unemployed, rich and poor, black and white, private and public, the haves and the have-nots, urban and rural, male and female, etc. The proof point is the fact that not everyone is affected equally by Covid-19 and that the pandemic most definitely worsens inequality.

This has come at a time when the nation is contemplating the National Health Insurance

Bill, which is anchored in the tenets of the Presidential Health Compact and Quality Improvement Plan, the United Nations Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, signed only in September 2019, whereby we joined all nations of the world as we committed to the full attainment of Universal Health Coverage by 2030, and the Health Market Inquiry published by the Competition Commission in November 2019 which highlighted the gross inequity in health care, driven by fundamentally anti-competitive activity in the private sector and the flaws in legislation that allowed for the environment to thrive.

suddenly appear, putting this country's most vulnerable people on the frontline and, similarly, the solutions needed are bigger than just addressing Covid-19. The raw disparities are easy enough to document.

Black people are more likely to contract Covid-19, less likely to be tested and treated, and more likely to die, if they contract the virus, due mainly to the history of systemic racism in the world. Researchers say we must not only look at race, but also the disparate conditions that come from living in poverty. They are calling for research that explores social differences in health and the social determinants that

play a major role in health outcomes. The data available show that racial disparities in health reveal the lack of health resources for black people and vulnerable communities, including health insurance and access to healthcare, including the provision of health products and services.

But they also point to living conditions, employment, education and even the impact of the environment. A lack of credible and solid information and even misinformation within black communities can and has played a role in our response to Covid-19 and guidelines to mitigate the disease. The inequalities that predate Covid-19 did not suddenly appear, putting this country's most vulnerable people on the frontline and, similarly, the solutions needed are bigger than just addressing Covid-19. The raw disparities are easy enough to document.

The root cause of these disparities is not biological, but is the result of the bone-deep and pervasive impacts of systemic racism and still prevalent apartheid spatial planning.

We must all collectively call it what it is and to explicitly name systemic racism as a direct threat to public health, long before Covid-19 visited and was subsequently allowed to inhabit our shores. Black people are more infected because we are more exposed and less protected. Once infected, we are more likely to die because we carry a greater burden of chronic diseases from living in totally neglected, underinvested and disinvested poor communities with equally poor food options, coal stoves and dust-poisoned air quality and because we have less access to healthcare.

We must also look at the way vulnerable communities live, often in smaller, cramped informal settlements and, for a lucky few, four-roomed houses and in some cases, with no access to water to wash our hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.

There is inherently no social distanc-

ing and zero self-quarantine in informal settlements: Alexandra (located less than 4km from the richest square mile in Africa, Sandton, is a prime example of an informal settlement that suffers from issues caused by stormwater runoff and flooding.

With a population estimate of 180,000 to 750,000 people, it is severely overpopulated, in an area equal to 6.91km<sup>2</sup>) and Soweto (the largest black city in South Africa, but until 1976 its people could have status only as temporary residents, bordering the city's mining belt in the south). Its name is an English syllabic abbreviation for South Western Townships inhabited by over two million people - an official population estimate of about 1.3 million people and about 356,000 formal households (in an area of about 200km<sup>2</sup>), with families of five on average, from a member who is a frontline worker when they are all living in a shack, one and two-bedroom four-roomed houses! The chances of working from home are nil with only 10.4% of households with direct access to the internet and many homes with only a single device - old fashioned, not a smart cellular telephone.

... The majority of testing centres are placed in more affluent areas. Other challenges such as not having a car or not having a doctor's letter to get a test still make mitigating the virus in black communities, especially the 34% who live in rural areas, nearly impossible. By the time symptoms drive people to emergency rooms of often broken and dysfunctional health facilities, it is too late.

With 13.5 million of us currently totally dependent on not-so-safe, not-so-accessible and not-so-affordable taxis filled 100%, ferrying us the average of 40 minutes to and from work, that is about 40km away and gobbling up at least 40% of our wages, we have a perfect concoction in which the virus has no option but to thrive. Many of us have no places to exercise safely and we live in unhealthier places, often next to toxic dump sites, by design and not by choice.



# PASS Trust becomes best NGO supporting agricultural sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

IT was song and dance over the weekend for the Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region after the trust won the hearts of the judges as the best institution among NGOs supporting the agricultural sector in the country.

The trust whose main objective is to facilitate access to finance through credit guarantee schemes with commercial banks covering the entire agribusiness value chain beat other institutions to emerge the first winners in the NGOs category.

They were closely followed by the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) in the second position and Tanzania Business Women Association (TABWA) in the 3rd position.

"We accept this award and recognition as the best institution in our category and say that this win is for all of us including our agribusiness entrepreneurs and stakeholders who have made it possible for us to serve the country through credit guarantee," said Nicomed Bohay, PASS managing director.

In the same breath, PASS which participates in this year's Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition in three locations—Simiyu, Mbeya and Morogoro regions. It emerged first winners in Mbeya (Southern Highlands) and also becomes the second in Morogoro (Eastern Zone) at the exhibitions that were held at John Mwakangale grounds and Julius Nyerere grounds respectively.

"This win gives us more strength and the resolve to work even harder and ensure we reach as many beneficiaries as possible in our quest to improve lives through agribusiness transformation. This is indeed a show of the confidence that farmers and indeed the country have bestowed on us," added Bohay.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who had earlier toured the PASS stand in preparations for the closure of the Nane Nane celebrations expressed satisfaction with the work done by the

institution in offering credit guarantee to agribusiness entrepreneurs in Tanzania.

In his closing speech, Majaliwa called on agricultural entrepreneurs to take advantage of the PASS Services to improve agricultural production.

"We have many institutions that we can use in this country to support us improve production. PASS for instance is here to stand with entrepreneurs who need agricultural financing. They will support you through credit guarantee to access funds in the banks," said Majaliwa.

The Prime Minister as well commended the Trust for its role in supporting the cotton transformation in Simiyu region and the country at large.

"You are doing a great job PASS Trust. The government is paying a lot of attention on the activities around the cotton transformation not just in Simiyu region but the entire country," the premier added.

In reaching out to its beneficiaries in the entire agricultural value chain spread across Tanzania, PASS offers a partial credit guarantee cover to collaborating banks as a means of topping up inadequate collateral to enable clients get financing. PASS provides banks with a 60% guarantee (up to 80% for women) of the loan amount. Beneficiaries can be individuals (SMEs or farmers) or farmer groups. PASS also offers Business Development services such as feasibility studies, supports development of business plans and conduct training or organisation of farmer groups.

Until March 2020 (2000 - 31 March 2020), a total of 36,007 projects worth TZS 916.4 Billion shillings had been approved and guaranteed by PASS, with at least 1,196,891 agribusiness Entrepreneurs benefiting from this guarantee. It is worth noting that of this numbers; more than 45% are women. The beneficiaries are drawn from farmers groups, SACCOs, cooperatives, farmers' associations, and companies, individuals and women groups involved in agribusiness activities.



PASS staff display trophy the trust won as the best institution in the NGOs category. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Immediately after the announcements of the various wins for the trust, PASS Trust staff went into a celebratory mood with staff dancing to tunes of "Tunawezesha" a word denoting the support that the trust gives to agricultural entrepreneurs.

In Simiyu, the trust beneficiaries took to the floor, dancing with their various products that they had exhibited

throughout the period as sign of satisfaction with the win that the trust had received. "I am very happy to be associated with PASS Trust. They are the reason why I have come here for the 8 days to testify to the world that I benefited and I am successful because I chose the Pass Trust Credit Guarantee," said Kaswahili, a beneficiary and chairman of Chato Agricultural Marketing Co-op-

erative Societies (AMCOS) who is a pass credit guarantee beneficiary.

In the Southern Highlands region and the Eastern Zone, PASS Staff led by the Zonal branch manager Ally Mwajasho and Hadija Seif respectively went into a celebratory mood with a dinner organized for their entire staff as well as their beneficiaries who participated at the Nane Nane Fair 2020.

# 'Govt revenue collection system reduces avenues for corruption'

By Guardian Reporter, Simiyu

TANZANIANS are required to recognize the importance of the revenue collection systems established by the government that aimed to reduce avenues for corruption to bolster good governance.

Speaking during his visit at the Ministry of Finance and Planning pavilion at the ongo-

ing Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition at national level at the Nyakabindi Grounds in Simiyu Region, the minister for Industry and Trade Innocent Bashungwa said corruption will go down if close contact between parties on financial matters also go down.

"The financial systems adopted by the phase v government are electronic hence a person

can make payment to the government via his mobile phone without meeting with any official, this step will reduce the environment for soliciting corruption," explained Bashungwa.

He congratulated the Ministry for Finance and Planning for having in place good financial policies that has assisted in railroading the country to middle Economy status before the year it was envisioned -

2025. He said his ministry will work together with the finance ministry through Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA) to educate small traders and factory owners on accounts keeping to strengthen the industrial sector.

In regard to agriculture, Bashungwa noted that in the period 2014-19 1.3tr/- was spent every year to import food including wheat and edible oil, both of which could be

obtained in the country.

The Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga advised that the issue of Value Added Tax (VAT) on bags for locally produced cotton, cashew nuts and coffee should be reviewed in order to spur competition against imports that enjoy tax remission.

He said during the Covid-19 pandemic period some foreign countries including neighbouring

countries closed their borders preventing export of various goods including crops.

He added that his Ministry and other stakeholders were greatly affected, saying they plan to convene a joint meeting during the ongoing Nananene Exhibition comprising the Ministries of Finance, Works, Transport and Communications, Agriculture and Industry and Trade including institutions there-

of to discuss on the challenges posed by the disease.

The head of government communication unit in the Finance and Planning Ministry Benny Mwaipaja thanked the ministers for visiting their pavilion, saying the government was doing all that was possible to ensure the agricultural and industrial sectors contribute to the country's economic growth.

# Government comes up with innovative digital verification solution for inputs

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

AGRICULTURE minister Japhet Hasunga has launched a special input verification service known as 'T-HAKIKI' which is using technology to reimagine agriculture in Tanzania by providing accessible, scalable solution for smallholder farmers whilst bundling verification with the inputs farmers already use, in this case seeds and pesticides.

T-HAKIKI is an electronic verification system where you dial \*148 \*52 # and enter the numbers in the scratch panel on the seed packets or on the pesticide bottles to confirm the authenticity of the input.

The launch of the service is aimed at liberating farmers in the fight against counterfeit seeds and pesticides, took place yesterday inside the Pavilion of the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL), at the Nane Nane National Exhibition held at Nyakabindi Stadium in Simiyu region.

Speaking at the launch, Hasunga said that counterfeiting in Africa's agricultural input sector takes multiple forms- from imitation branding and packaging to partially diluted or entirely fake products.

"As a result, it has created many

challenges for the agricultural sector which is an important sector that contributes to increasing productivity in the national economy, in the sense that this service is a real savior for our farmers.

He said in ongoing efforts to support government efforts on towards agriculture, the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) in partnership with Quincewood Group Limited and other agricultural sector stakeholders such as the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) and Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) have now come up with a technological solution to end the use of fake inputs in Tanzania.

In addition, the Director General of the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI), Dr. Margaret Mollé said the innovations went in line with the goals of President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli in revolutionizing the agricultural sector.

While the Director General of the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI), Patrick Ngwedigi said the service will help the farmers to understand the proper use of these inputs at their convenience just via their mobile phones.

"This is certainly the best revolution



Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga (second left) launches a special input verification service known as 'T-HAKIKI' inside the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) Pavilion, at the Nananene National Exhibition held at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region.

that will save the farmer but also help the Government dealing with unscrupulous traders. T-Hakiki will revolutionize agriculture sector and improve food security hence increasing the income of smallholder farmers and reduce the prevalence of counterfeit/adulterated agricultural inputs in Tanzania," he said.

HOW T-HAKIKI WORKS!

In addition, TTCL Director General, Waziri Kindamba said the technology aims to open a new page for farmers by coming up with a solution that is easily accessible.

Because the service will help farmers identify fake inputs and provide them with information as one of

the steps to end the use of fake inputs.

"T-Hakiki is a USSD system where you dial \*148\*52# and enter the codes that are found once you scratch the labels on seed packages or pesticide bottles to verify the authenticity of the input. The T-Hakiki service is available on all mobile networks and is free," he said.

# IITA develops digital platform to access agronomic supports for cassava farmers

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu,

Simiyu

THE international Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has innovatively designed a digital agronomic platform dubbed; 'Akilimo' to help farmers grow cassava in a smart way.

It is a suite of decision support tools for cassava growers, extension workers and organizations that promote improved cassava cultivation practices.

Speaking to the farmers who visited IITA pavilion at Nananene exhibitions in Bariadi, Simiyu region, Abubakari Mzanda, Assistant Research Of-

ficer, IITA - Tanzania, has said the platform has been developed by evaluating agronomic technologies in the fields of over 5,000 cassava growers in Nigeria and Tanzania under the framework of African Cassava Agronomy Initiative (ACAI) project. "We combined these results with geospatial

soil and weather information to train models and predict how cassava will respond to these agronomic technologies," he said.

According to him, the app can be accessed on google play store, where extension agents can access it freely. The tool packages different recommen-

dations for cassava cultivation which are termed as 'use cases'.

The app gives recommendation on fertilizer use in cassava, best planting practices and weed management, scheduled planting and high starch content, and cassava sweet potato intercropping. Through these use cases extension agents can

avail the recommendations to the farmers.

What extension agents are required is to fill in the correct information on the tool so that it can correctly provide with appropriate recommendations regarding cassava cultivation. The information such as location, field operations, type of fertiliz-

ers available need to be initially filled in the tool for the app to give the recommendations

"During this Nane Nane farmers exhibition IITA is pioneering this motto by participating fully displaying agricultural innovations that provides solutions for agricultural problems," he said.



# What of Poverty Pandemic Two?

By Togba-Nah Tipoteh

**I**N Poverty Pandemic One, the main point made is that perennial and pervasive poverty remains the principal threat to life. This point was made in June 2020, when 15 per cent of the world's population lived in poverty while seven million corona virus cases existed globally, constituting 10 per cent of the world's population (UNDP Multi-dimensional Poverty Index; WHO). A month later, WHO reports that the total number of corona virus cases has reached the sixteen million persons figure, more than double the figure a month ago.

Given the forgoing WHO Report about the current number of corona virus cases globally, some persons are concluding that the corona pandemic is the most important pandemic to be given attention. Isn't it true that were global poverty to have been given top priority in the alleviation of pandemics, the world would be better prepared to handle any public health pandemic? Certainly, with the poor population being given highest poverty alleviation priority, notably with better public health conditions, the world would be better prepared to handle any other pandemic.

In the industrialized or developed countries, like the United States of America (USA), with the world's largest economy, there continues to be life-threatening inadequacies related to corona virus testing, mask wearing, ventilators and social distancing (CDC; Johns Hopkins University Health Center).

With these inadequacies in the developed countries, the public health inadequacies in the developing countries would be even greater, as they are shown to be currently. In fact, the best evidence to make the point about the Poverty Pandemic is seen in the current surge of corona virus case in the USA and Brazil.

There are typical cases of the bad public health situation in the developing countries. First, there is the irrelevant curative system rather the relevant preventive system. Second, many patients get to a public health facility and there is no public health personnel to attend to them and they end up dying because of this lack of attention.

Third, many patients die because of the attention given to them by unqualified and incompetent public health personnel, including medical doctors. Fourth, many patients die because of the lack of medicines, which get stolen by medical practitioners who run their respective private businesses with impunity, and fifth, many patients die because of the lack of electricity.

The corona virus pandemic is yet another Wake-up Call to the Global Community for top priority attention to be given to solving the perennial and pervasive problem of poverty.

Meanwhile, delivering his special message on the occasion of the observance of the 173 Independence Anniversary of Liberia, President

George Weah called on Liberians to put aside their political, religious and social differences for the good of the country. "We are one people, who pledge allegiance to the same flag," the President said.

A week later, the country President Weah governs was plunged into yet another violent turn, dealing a painful reminder of Liberia's bitter past, just when the post-war nation is nurturing its burgeoning democracy.

IT all started early Thursday morning when some residents in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, the home of late President Samuel Kanyon Doe, launched an attack on Mr. Alexander Cummings, leader of the Collaboration of Political Parties (CPP) and the Alternative National Congress (ANC) and Representative Yekeh Kolubah (ANC, District No. 10, Montserrado County), while on their way back from Maryland County where they had traveled to celebrate the 173rd Independence anniversary of Africa's oldest republic.

OVER the past decade, Africa's oldest republic has held three successive elections, and one successful transfer of power from one government to the next.

WHEN FORMER PRESIDENT Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf transferred power to Mr. Weah in January 2018, it was the first time in 75 years that presidential power had been transferred peacefully and democratically in Liberia.

**THE TRANSFER BEFORE in 1944**, saw William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman receive the baton from his predecessor Edwin Barclay.

**TUBMAN** was elected unopposed and went on the rule for 27 years until his death in a London hospital on July 23, 1971.

**BUT EVEN AMID THAT TRANSITION**, Liberia remains a fragile state. Institutions are still young and are being tested, and resources remain scarce. Nations in a state of fragility, particularly post-conflict nations, need special attention and support.

THIS FRAGILITY was made even more complicated following last Thursday's attack. Mr. Cummings believes that the attacks were orchestrated by the county government. "To come to Grand Gedeh and to have rock throwing, threatening our lives. It's just unacceptable. We have a constitutional right to be here, to express our points of view, we did so peacefully. And to have some Grand Gedeans - and I believe this was orchestrated, this was not spontaneous, to come and threaten us, it is just unacceptable. This is not the Liberia we all want to live in, we all are striving for, we all trying to improve."

**KAI FARLEY**, Superintendent of the county, told FrontPageAfrica after the incident that it is unfortunate that Mr. Cummings would say that as a political leader of an institution. "For Hon. Cummings to say I came forcibly asking him out of the county that is not true. It was something that was suggested by the Deputy Police commander in the county in the presence of Hon. Cummings. Hon. Cummings even asked me, but what's your suggestion? And I told



The World Bank predicts that COVID-19 could force 50 million people into extreme poverty

him that based upon the advice of the Joint Security; I think that this is something that we should go by".

**THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH** has not said a word since the incident took place although the activities of two officials on the social medium Facebook are raising eyebrows, triggering concerns from the opposition community that the attacks may have the backing of the administration.

Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahngon posted on Facebook Thursday: "Racoon Supposed to Know Le Stick to Clean His Butt on... Go and Try Palm Tree Again, Ehn You say Da You alone Crazy?"

Also, Presidential aide Sekou Kalasco Damaro changed his profile photo to that of former President Samuel Kanyon Doe, who hailed from Grand Gedeh County. Damaro defended the post insinuating that changing his photograph to the former president's is not a crime.

**PRESIDENT WEAH** owes it to Liberia as its leader to put his officials in check, especially within close proximity to him.

**THE FAILURE** of the administration to speak on the issue is getting the attention of stakeholders.

**AT THE WEEKEND**, the Catholic Diocese of Cape Palmas, whose pastoral and administrative jurisdiction cover the five counties of the south-east of Liberia, has expressed grave concerns about the incident of intimidation and threats of violence by some residents of Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County against a political grouping of Liberians exercising its constitutional rights to free movement and peaceful assembly, which occurred on July 30, 2020.

**IN A STATEMENT ISSUED** in Monrovia Friday, the Cape Palmas Diocese described the attacks as a gross violation of the fundamental rights

to free movement and peaceful assembly goes against the principle of political tolerance and peaceful co-existence despite differences of political association and ideology. "We have seen that when we become politically intolerant, we invite ourselves to breakdown and destroy, and undermine the foundations of Liberia's peace, stability and development," the statement said.

**THE DIOCESE'S** statement signed by Bishop Andrew Jagaye Karnley, said the response was necessary due to Liberia's tragic history that it is democratically unhealthy and portends danger to the peace and stability of the country.

**SAID THE DIOCESE:** "It also violates the fundamental rights of the members of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) and other collaborating opposition parties to free movement and peaceful assembly as enshrined in Chapter 3, Article 17 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic Liberia which states, "All persons, at all times, in an orderly and peaceful manner, shall have the right to assemble and consult upon the common good, to instruct their representatives, to petition the Government or other functionaries for the redress of grievances and to associate fully with others or refuse to associate in political parties, trade unions and other organizations."

**WE AGREE WITH** the Diocese that in the face of these presenting threats to Liberia's collective peace and security, silence, including from the Church or State, offers the wrong signal to the perpetrators that their actions are acceptable, and makes us collectively complicit.

**THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION** must strive to always been seen as taking the high road, even against those perceived as enemies or strong critics of the administration.

**FAILURE ON THE PART** of the administration to respond is likely to open old wounds and disagreement that could plunge the country into chaos.

**THE COUNCIL of Patriots (COP)**, organizers of last year's June 7 successful protest, has urged the administration to muster the courage to show leadership by condemning such actions and launch a full-scale investigation into the gravely disturbing matter. "The CoP believes that this is a calculated attempt ahead of the Special Senate Elections to intimidate the opposition through violent tactics. This will NOT work!" the statement said.

**THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION** must sanction a fair and impartial investigation and erase the perceptions in the air that it approved of the attacks on the opposition figures.

**ALL THIS** when many are concerned about the integrity of those appointed at the National Elections Commission (NEC) and their ability to oversee free, fair and transparent elections both in 2020 and 2023.

**ACCEPTING THE 2018 Charles T. Manatt** Democracy Award, shortly after leaving office, former President Sirleaf trumpeted that Liberia's successful political transition was reflective of Africa's quest for democracy. "It is a continuum of the continent's struggle for liberation and freedom. This is particularly important in Africa, where we tend to focus on elections and celebrate them as "the milestone." But, as it is often said, "elections do not a democracy make." We must look behind the process and examine the barriers that shut down competition before the campaigns ever start."

**AFTER 173 OF INDEPENDENCE**, Liberia is still struggling to find its footing. With every passing day, month, year or decade, new problems emerge, and new leaders or rulers arrive on the scene with lofty promises and ideas, pledging to be much better than the previous bunch of actors.

**THE SAD REALITY** is that the more things change, the more they seem to remain the same. As fragile as Liberia is at the moment, a lot remain uncertain. If the government cannot address unfolding developments, now compounded by an emerging political crisis that has the potential to disrupt the country's hard-fought peace, Liberia and the Weah administration may be sitting on a ticking time bomb on the verge of explosion.

Liberia officially the Republic of Liberia, is a country on the West African coast. It is bordered by Sierra Leone to its northwest, Guinea to its north, Ivory Coast to its east, and the Atlantic Ocean to its south-southwest. It covers an area of 111,369 square kilometers (43,000 sq mi) and has a population of around 4,900,000. English is the official language and over 20 indigenous languages are

spoken, representing the numerous ethnic groups who make up more than 95 per cent of the population. The country's capital and largest city is Monrovia.

Liberia began as a settlement of the American Colonization Society (ACS), who believed black people would face better chances for freedom and prosperity in Africa than in the United States. The country declared its independence on July 26, 1847. The U.S. did not recognise Liberia's independence until February 5, 1862, during the American Civil War. Between January 7, 1822, and the American Civil War, more than 15,000 freed and free-born black people who faced legislated limits in the U.S., and 3,198 Afro-Caribbeans, relocated to the settlement. The settlers carried their culture and tradition with them. The Liberian constitution and flag were modeled after those of the U.S. On January 3, 1848, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, a wealthy, free-born African American from Virginia who settled in Liberia, was elected Liberia's first president after the people proclaimed independence.

Liberia was the first African republic to proclaim its independence, and is Africa's first and oldest modern republic. It retained its independence during the Scramble for Africa. During World War II, Liberia supported the United States war efforts against Germany and in turn, the U.S. invested in considerable infrastructure in Liberia to help its war effort, which also aided the country in modernizing and improving its major air transportation facilities. In addition, President William Tubman encouraged economic changes. Internationally, Liberia was a founding member of the League of Nations, United Nations, and the Organisation of African Unity.

The Americo-Liberian settlers did not relate well to the indigenous peoples they encountered, especially those in communities of the more isolated "bush". The colonial settlements were raided by the Kru and Grebo from their inland chiefdoms. Americo-Liberians developed as a small elite that held on to political power, and indigenous tribesmen were excluded from birthright citizenship in their own land until 1904, in an echo of the United States' treatment of Native Americans. Americo-Liberians promoted religious organizations to set up missions and schools to educate the indigenous peoples.

In 1980 political tensions from the rule of William R. Tolbert resulted in a military coup during which Tolbert was killed, marking the beginning of years-long political instability. Five years of military rule by the People's Redemption Council and five years of civilian rule by the National Democratic Party of Liberia were followed by the First and Second Liberian Civil Wars.

These resulted in the deaths of 250,000 people (about 8 pc of the population) and the displacement of many more, and shrank Liberia's economy by 90 per cent. A peace agreement in 2003 led to democratic elections in 2005, in which Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected President. National infrastructure and basic social services were severely affected by the conflicts, with 83 per cent of the population now living below the international poverty line.

The Pepper Coast, also known as the Grain Coast, has been inhabited by indigenous peoples of Africa at least as far back as the 12th century. Mende-speaking people expanded westward from the Sudan, forcing many smaller ethnic groups southward toward the Atlantic Ocean. The Dei, Bassa, Kru, Gola, and Kissi were some of the earliest documented peoples in the area.

This influx of these groups was compounded by the decline of the Western Sudanic Mali Empire in 1375 and the Songhai Empire in 1591. The area now called Liberia was a part of the Kingdom of Koya from 1450 to 1898. As inland regions underwent desertification, inhabitants moved to the wetter coast. These new inhabitants brought skills such as cotton spinning, cloth weaving, iron smelting, rice and sorghum cultivation, and social and political institutions from the Mali and Songhai empires. Shortly after the Mane conquered the region, the Vai people of the former Mali Empire immigrated into the Grand Cape Mount County region. The ethnic Kru opposed the influx of Vai, forming an alliance with the Mane to stop further influx of Vai.

People along the coast built canoes and traded with other West Africans from Cap-Vert to the Gold Coast. Arab traders entered the region from the north, and a long-established slave trade took captives to north and east Africa.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 120 00--

**WORD-FIT**

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

5 LETTERS: FEW, ADD, ANA  
 4 LETTERS: MEAN, TAME, NOSE, NEWS, REAP, DINE, MINT, (7 WORDS)  
 5 LETTERS: LEAST, AWASH, POEMS, TAPES, EGRET (5 WORDS)  
 6 LETTERS: CAREER, STRIVE, ANSWER, AMORAL, ASSETS (5 WORDS)  
 7 LETTERS: MALINDI  
 8 LETTERS: ADAPTORS  
 10 LETTERS: TYRRHENIAN

**CROSSWORD**

1 Printed publications  
 5 a female servant  
 7 plural form of ass  
 8 sliced bread broiled to make it crisp  
 10 Creator of heaven and Earth  
 11 edema  
 13 submit to the authority of  
 15 an organic compound made by replacing the hydrogen of an acid by an alkyl or other organic group an indirect reference  
 17 make a bleating sound  
 20 apparition of dead people

**Down:**  
 1 to specify  
 2 a time for anticipation  
 3 sending mail through the post office  
 4 a small South African antelope  
 6 a roof that resembles a half circle  
 7 to make ashamed  
 9 a hollow ball of perforated metal to hold tea leaves  
 12 the mark or line left by a fold  
 14 an adolescent  
 16 a sudden cry in a loud voice  
 17 syrian cloth  
 18 to move at a slower pace to stay behind the others

**SOLUTIONS**

W O R D - F I T

C R O S S W O R D



## BUSINESS

RECORD

## CRDB Bank disburses 1.6trn/- loans to agriculture sector in past three years

By Guardian Reporter

**A**GRICULTURE has been the largest recipient of loans disbursed by CRDB Bank Plc with over 1.6trn/- given to the sector in the past three years, Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela has said.

Briefing Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa who visited the bank's pavilion at the ongoing 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibitions being held at national level in Bariadi District of Simiyu region, Nsekela said the Tier 1 capital bank has given 40 percent of the loans disbursed to the agriculture sector in the country.

"The country has over 57 financial institutions that have given loans to the agriculture sector and together they have 60 percent stake in the market compared to CRDB which has a 40 percent market share," Nsekela said.

He pledged to continue backing government efforts to modernise agriculture by lending to farmers, input suppliers and agro-processor to enhance the value chain needed by smallholder farmers to grow and graduate into commercial farmers.

"We have also been giving farmers training on basics of financial management and agribusiness adoption once they open accounts with us," he added while stressing that CRDB has a long history of supporting the sector.



CRDB's managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela.

The CRDB chief further noted that the Dar es Salaam based lender has started strategic plan with a slogan, 'Our agriculture, our industries, our economy,' which is aimed at boosting the value chain to ensure that commodities are valued added by going into the

market.

"Through this plan, we also aim at giving farmers affordable loans with modest interest rate, finance agro-processing factories and training smallholders' farmers on modern agriculture practices, saving but also borrowing and repaying," he noted.

Last year, the bank disbursed 707.2bn/- in loans to the agriculture sector of which sugar producers got 167.3bn/-, 103bn/- went to tobacco producers, cotton got 97bn/-, cereals got 89.9bn/- and tea producers received 63.2bn/- among many others.

"Other crops of strategic importance such as cashew nuts, sisal and forests got 59.5bn/- in all," the CRDB Managing Director added while revealing that thousands of farmers have opened 'Fahari Kilimo' Accounts which are tailor made to meet their needs.

In remarks after the briefing, Prime Minister Majaliwa commended CRDB for being patriotic and targeting smallholder farmers who are an important group of producers assuring the country of food security and foreign currency.

"I can only say that the government will continue working closely with banks such as CRDB which are doing a very good job of lubricating economic growth through financing different sectors," Majaliwa pledged.

EQUALITY

## Women dominate car purchases – so why aren't cars designed for them?

JOHANNESBURG

Given that women buy or influence the purchase of up to 85% of vehicles, it is perhaps surprising to discover that many cars are simply not designed and tested with members of the fairer sex in mind. The good news – especially in Women's Month – is that this is a situation that is changing...

According to Consumer Reports, crash test dummies typically represent men. "This despite the fact that women obviously drive to work, take road trips, and ride in cars with friends, and even though female bodies react differently from male bodies in crashes," it warns.

This situation prevails even though – according to the book, "Influence: How Women's Soaring Economic Power Will Transform Our World for the Better" – women influence a full 85% of all car purchases. This is a situation that some carmakers are seeking to address and change. Volvo, for instance, has been addressing this issue for over a decade.

"It is concerning that many cars have not been tested (and therefore designed) for the female form, resulting in many cars being driven by women that are less safe than they are for men," says Charmagne Mavudzi, Director of Customer Experience at Volvo Car South Africa.

To address the imbalance, Volvo launched the Equal Vehicles for All –

or E.V.A. – Initiative. "We want to make cars safer for everyone – not just safer for the average male," notes Mavudzi. But how has the carmaker practically achieved this?

It has developed the Whiplash Protection System – which means that there's no longer a difference in whiplash risk between men and women (typically, women are at higher risk of whiplash than men). Women have specific protection needs, also in side-impacts. The shorter a person is, the lower in the car and closer to the steering wheel they sit – which makes Volvo's Inflatable Curtain that covers the full window a vital safety feature.

Some of these initiatives aren't new. "We have tested with a female crash test dummy since 1995. We also developed the world's first average-sized pregnant crash test dummy in the early 2000s," reveals Mavudzi.

But they remain as relevant today – especially since women are one of the fastest-growing groups of car consumers in the world. "When a woman steps into a car to drive, she assumes she's safe. Yet, as recently as 2019, most automakers were still producing cars based exclusively on data from male crash test dummies. Practically, this means that women run a higher risk of getting injured in traffic than men. Unless, of course, they're driving a Volvo," says Mavudzi.



Charmagne Mavudzi, director of customer experience at Volvo Car South Africa.

ADVICE

## PM wants NMB Bank to help graduate subsistence into commercial farmers

By Guardian Reporter, Bariadi

THE country's smallholder farmers who dominate agriculture production should be assisted by large banks such as NMB Bank Plc to graduate into large scale commercial farmers.

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa said in on Friday after paying a courtesy call at NMB's pavilion at the ongoing 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibitions being held at national level in Bariadi that the bank has done a very good job in sensitising farmers on modern farming and agribusiness but more needs to be done.

"Like these livestock keepers help them move from being traditional pastoralists with huge herds of cattle but living poorly with no bank accounts. Help them understand that they should sell part of their cattle and keep money in the bank, they should maintain small herds of cattle but improve productivity," Majaliwa said.

He said smallholder farmers also need to be taught the same techniques so that they should cultivate on small plots but produce high quality commodities with high yields. "They also need to be mobilised to borrow and growth their



NMB's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi.

businesses by employing modern techniques," the PM added.

Briefing the PM on NMB's activities in agriculture, Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi said the Tier 1 capital bank has invested heavily in the agriculture value chain as a mean of helping to modernise the sector.

"NMB has been working with farmers and other agro-industry stakeholders for many years and so far this year, we trained over 57,000 Agriculture Marketing and Cooperative Societies leaders and over 141,000 smallholder farmers countrywide," Mponzi said while noting that the agriculture value chain has also benefitted from loans worth over 800bn/-.

He said the Dar es Salaam based lender has also trained the farmers and Amcos leaders on the importance of saving and borrowing to invest in the businesses but also buy insurance cover for life and property.

"Because of our work with farmers, the bank has been recognised by organisers in 'Nane Nane' exhibitions in Central, Southern Highlands and Western Zones this year," the NMB Chief of Retail Banking added.

RELIEF

## Moroccan King orders dispatching of humanitarian aid to Lebanon

RABAT

King Mohammed VI of Morocco ordered the sending of emergency medical and humanitarian aid to the Lebanese Republic following the tragic explosion in the port city of Beirut which

claimed several victims while also causing significant material damage.

King Mohammed VI gave instructions to his government to immediately deploying a military field hospital in Beirut in order to provide emergency medical care to the people injured in this incident.

The field hospital is made up of 100 people, including 14 doctors with various specializations (ICU specialists, surgeons, traumatologists, ENT specialists, ophthalmologists, burn treatment specialists, neurosurgeons, pediatricians, pharmacist), specialized nurses and support staff. It will house an operating

room, hospitalization, radiology and sterilization units, a laboratory and a pharmacy.

Moroccan aid also includes a batch of first-aid drugs, food products (canned food, legumes, powdered milk, oil, sugar, etc.), tents and blankets for the accommodating disaster victims. It also

includes preventive medical equipment against Covid-19, notably protective masks, visors, coats and hydro-alcoholic gel.

The Moroccan King sent a message of condolences and compassion to President of the Lebanese Republic, Michel Aoun, in which he expressed, on his

behalf and that of the Moroccan people, his sincere feelings of compassion and solidarity with Lebanon in these difficult times, assuring him that the Kingdom of Morocco stands by the side of the brotherly Lebanese people.



## SCIENCE-BASED

# Nelson Mandela institute's research meant to solve challenges in society

By Guardian Reporter

RESEARCH carried out by experts at Arusha based Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology are targeted at finding solutions to society's different challenges.

A senior lecturer at NM-AST, Dr Gabriel Shirima said at Northern Zone 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibition that the university's researches are tailor made to solve problems in all sectors of the economy.

"Our studies focus of challenges which the public is facing in agriculture, livestock keeping, fisheries and many more. For example, we have done research on use of bio pesticides to treat diseases in both animals and plants," he said.

Dr Shirima further noted that through participation at this year's 'Nane Nane' exhibitions, NM-AST showcased different researches conducted in the past which offer farmers solutions to their daily challenges such as controlling pests and diseases.

He also noted that NM-AST ex-



Pupils from Kimandolu Primary School in Arusha are briefed by Bioconversion Technology Africa Company's official, Jacqueline Godfrey on use of NM-AST's research to find solutions to challenges facing farmers. This was the Northern Zone's 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibitions held at Them River grounds. Photo: Guardian Photographer

perts also conducted field visits to farmers to find out challenges that they face and offer them solutions. "Bio pesticides which we have studied and made have assisted in addressing locusts invasion on farms in recent years," the NM-

AIIST Senior Lecturer added.

Dr Shirima further explained that the university has done extensive research in different fields is already in use both in Tanzania and other African countries. "We have also come up with low cost

technology to treat perishable commodities and reduce post harvest losses being experienced by smallholder farmers," he underlined noting that fruits and vegetables are being preserved using the technology.

Small scale entrepreneurs have also benefitted from the university's researches which address their challenges such as lack of knowledge on modern agriculture practices to increase yields while also improving quality.

## PESSIMISM

# SA's gold industry has been dying slowly for years

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's gold industry has been dying slowly for years. As the coronavirus undercuts the already fragile case for investment, its platinum mines may be next.

Beset by power and water shortages, alongside whipsawing government policies, South African producers have cut spending over the past decade on mines responsible for 75% of global platinum supply. The virus is accelerating that trend, damping demand for the catalytic converters that are the largest users of the metal, while stimulus packages push automakers to speed a shift to electric vehicles.

A series of mega open-cast projects risk being shelved - depriving a recession-hit economy of essential investment - but the toughest blow may land on the so-called western limb, the traditional heartland of the nation's platinum belt.

"The western limb region has been the bedrock of South African platinum and that is in decline," said Mandi Dzungwa, an analyst at Kagiso Asset Management Ltd. "It is the end of an investment cycle in those type of mines." Shunning capital spending leaves one of South Africa's biggest export industries in limbo, just as the demise of the nation's gold mines enters its final phase. With about 170 000 people employed in platinum mining, the timing is bad for President Cyril Ramaphosa as he battles the biggest economic contraction since World War II.

Output from South Africa's 130-year-old gold industry slumped over the past three decades as the geological challenges of operating the world's deep-



Johan Theron, a spokesman for Impala Platinum Holdings Limited.

est mines pushed up costs. The platinum deposits discovered by Hans Merensky in the 1920s contain about three-quarters of the world's known resources, but were only exploited in the 1950s with a surge in demand from

carmakers using the metal to cut exhaust pollution.

"The sun is definitely starting to set over some of the conventional, deep, high-grade, western limb areas," said Johan Theron, a spokesman for Impala Plati-

num Holdings Ltd. "It's exactly like gold: there is more gold, but it's deeper and requires more capex and prospects of making a return are slim." Platinum output peaked in 2006, and the lack of investment in deep-level

western limb shafts will result in a further sharp contraction in production over the next 10 years.

The windfall from surging palladium prices - another platinum-group metal produced at South African mines - refilled the coffers of local producers over the past 18 months but hasn't been enough to justify large capital expenditure projects. That's delaying the construction of the next generation of mines on the northern limb of the platinum belt, and hastening reserve depletion.

Delaying Investment

In June, Implats balked at investing about R12 billion on building a new mine at Waterberg on the northern limb of the platinum belt. The outlook doesn't support such spending over the next decade, said spokesman Theron.

Anglo American Platinum has delayed a decision until the second half of next year on whether to spend as much as \$1.5 billion (R26.5 billion at current exchange rates) on expanding output at its key Mogalakwena mine. Vancouver-based Ivanhoe Mines said it's still evaluating finance for its new Platreef project, which could require about \$1.5 billion of investment.

Still, notwithstanding the investment hiatus, the platinum sector remains in better shape than South Africa's gold industry. Even without further spending, some deep-level mines have a 30-year lifespan, according to James Wellsted, a spokesman for Sibanye Stillwater, the world's No. 1 platinum miner. Still, investment decisions are complicated because of an uncertain regulatory and policy environment, among other challenges, Wellsted said.

With the pandemic creating doubts over future demand, the development of new, lower-cost mines has been put on hold. "With Covid-19, all the companies went into cash preservation mode," said Arnold Van Graan, an analyst at Nedbank. "Over the next decade, there could be a big step change down in PGM production, if the industry does not invest."

## PROTECTION

# Zimbabwe may offer insurance to investors in new stock market

HARARE

Zimbabwe shut down its stock market and then ejected the continent's oldest insurer from the bourse. Now it's hoping to entice investors to a new exchange with a plan to package equity purchases with political-risk cover.

Justin Bgoni, who is setting up the foreign-currency-only market at the iconic Victoria Falls near the Zambian border, knows it's a tough sell. As chief executive officer of the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, he had to deal with trader and investor complaints after the government suspended dealing for five weeks. Trading resumed on the existing exchange on Monday.

"There's no doubt about it, the closure of the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange makes it difficult," he said in interview from Harare, the capital. "We're trying to see whether we can get a country-insurance product for the exchange to mitigate the risk."

The stock market has become a haven for savers seeking to outrun inflation of more than 700%. But, with the economy imploding, the ruling party blamed Old Mutual for contributing to a plunge in the Zimbabwean dollar, and ordered its removal from the bourse.

Differences between the 175-year-old insurer's share prices in London, Johannesburg and Harare were being used by local businesses to calculate a future rate for the domestic currency. As part of the deal to reopen the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, Old Mutual and two other companies with multiple listings had to agree to move to the Victoria Falls bourse.

The aim of allowing dealing only in foreign currency on the new exchange is to address two of the biggest concerns of investors: the weakening of the local currency and moving money in and out of the cash-starved country, Bgoni said.

"It's to minimize exchange risk, raise capital and to ensure that clearing and settlement will be as easy as possible," he said. It could open within weeks, but still needs to overcome concerns that the ruling party may again force the government to make changes to its capital markets.

The exchange is in talks to find insurance that will cater for policy changes that fundamentally alter the valuations of companies, Bgoni said, declining to identify the international providers. It is still working on the finer details of how the cover could work.

Government support

The government is getting behind the plans for the new exchange, which has been in the making for almost a year, the CEO said. Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube in July offered tax breaks to companies as an incentive for listing on the bourse.

Authorities do not have ambitious targets for new listings. They are content with one or two by the end of the year amid the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, with a more aggressive push in 2021. Even before the onset of the virus, there was a dearth of listings, with the last initial public offering in 2016. "We want to attract investors who understand the country risk and understand what they are getting themselves into," Bgoni said.



Justin Bgoni, CEO of Zimbabwe Stock Exchange.

## BACKLOG

# Nigeria: banks owe telcos US\$45 million over USSD suspension

LAGOS

Commercial banks in Nigeria owe local telecommunications companies over N17-billion (approximately US\$45-million) as a result of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) suspension of its determination on USSD pricing

last year.

USSD real time messaging technology offers a shorter turnaround time than SMS, and is used to exchange information regarding applications for accounts, balance and other enquiries, money transfer, airtime vending, bill payment etc.

Following accusations of unsolicited deductions on bank accounts, Nigeria's Minister of Communication Dr Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami blocked a planned move by operators to charge users N4 (US\$0.013) per every four seconds for USSD access to banking services in October 2019.

Pantami has called for a review of the USSD pricing by all parties involved after attempts to establish that the USSD is a service from telecommunications services providers to banks and not to consumers.

According to Pantami, banks should therefore pay for using telecom networks

and infrastructure, including USSD channels through which they deliver services to their customers. The Commission also amended Complaints Categories and Service Level Agreements (CC/SLA) with operators and other stakeholders.

Under the new CC/SLA, specific timelines were set for con-

sumer complaints related to billing, voice clarity, call disruption or fluctuation, problems arising from installation and location of Base Transceiver Stations etc. to be addressed by telecommunication companies.

Speaking at a virtual sectoral forum on Thursday, organised by the Association of Telecommu-

nications Companies of Nigeria, NCC Executive Vice Chairman Prof. Umar Danbatta highlighted the Commission's role in resolving consumer-related complaints against telecommunication operators and said 98% of complaints received between January 2019 and April 2020 have been resolved.



APPRECIATION

# Mangalam Birla's struggling telecom carrier sees increase in stock



Indian billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla.

MUMBAI

For investors riding a rally in India's wireless carriers, the best returns are coming from an operator that's warned it may collapse without help from the government.

Although Vodafone Idea hasn't made a profit since 2017 and ended the last fiscal year with a record \$10 billion loss, its shares have more than doubled in the past three months. The surge has been driven mostly on optimism that the Indian government will rescue the beleaguered carrier after the Supreme Court burdened it with billions of dollars in fees.

Gains made by the penny stock outpaced the 51 per cent jump for Reliance Industries, the conglomerate behind India's No 1 carrier, and the 3.1 per cent gain for Bharti Airtel, the No 2 rival. The joint ven-

ture between UK-based Vodafone Group and the group controlled by Indian billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla had already been struggling in the face of a devastating price war since the entry of Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio Infocomm in 2016. Vodafone Idea has shed millions of subscribers amid intense competition, and has said it may no longer be a "going concern."

"Vodafone Idea appeals to a very different class of investor," says Vivekanand Subbaraman, associate vice president, Ambit Capital. "It is a market way of saying that if it survives, it is going to be worth a lot more." With James Murdoch severing the final ties with his family's media empire, his brother Lachlan Murdoch - a prodigal son of sorts - is left as the last and most likely successor to their billionaire father Rupert Mur-

When James Murdoch announced that he was leaving the News Corp board - after clashing over the company's editorial direction - it was just the latest step in distancing himself from the sprawling Murdoch operations. The 47-year-old, who'd once seemed most likely to take over for his 89-year-old father as the head of the family business, is now focused on building his own collection of media and technology assets.

The split punctuated something that's become clearer for several years: Lachlan Murdoch, 48, is poised to take the reins when the time comes. "We're grateful to James for his many years of service to the company," Rupert Murdoch and Lachlan Murdoch, who serve as co-chairmen of News Corp, said in brief response to James Murdoch's departure. "We wish him the very best in his

future endeavours." Lachlan Murdoch was named chief executive of Fox Corp after the company sold most of its entertainment assets to Walt Disney in a \$71bn transaction last year. James Murdoch had run the business before the deal, when it was known as 21st Century Fox. But when Lachlan Murdoch was appointed CEO in 2018, his brother wasn't even mentioned in the press release announcing the move.

Lachlan Murdoch has taken a roundabout route to succession. He abruptly quit the family business in 2005 and set up an investment firm in Australia called Illyria. During the years of his exile, his younger brother climbed the ranks. He ran BSKyB in Europe and News Corp's media assets in the region, but a phone-hacking scandal in the UK hurt his reputation. In 2014, Lachlan Murdoch

returned to the fold, taking senior positions at the newly split News Corp and 21st Century Fox. The following year, he became Fox's executive chairman. James Murdoch was CEO of the company, but his older brother was firmly back in the family's good graces.

When Disney agreed to buy most of 21st Century Fox, including its movie studio, James Murdoch's future became less clear. There was speculation that he would become a Disney executive while Lachlan Murdoch ran what was left of Fox.

Instead, he left to build an empire of his own. His investment firm, Lupa Systems, is the backer of media and technology businesses - everything from a Norwegian drone company to a chain offering virtual-reality experiences in malls.

OPTIMISM

# Gulf energy ministers see encouraging signs of the global economy improving appreciably

ABU DHABI

Energy ministers from the Gulf are committed to comply with supply cuts to balance oil markets as they see 'encouraging' signs of improvement in the global economy.

Ministers from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Iraq in a call on Friday discussed global oil demand recovery. They also reviewed the progress the Opec+ group of oil producing nations, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, has made so far in implementing production cuts, the UAE's state news agency Wam said in a statement. "Full compliance to the Opec+ deal, including making up for the limited progress on adherence, would speed up the recovery of the global oil market to the best interest of oil consumers and producers alike, the energy industry and the world economy," the statement said.

Efforts across the globe to reopen economies in "a safe manner" were also discussed during the call. The Gulf energy ministers said they are committed to supply cuts "to further speed up the oil market's rebalancing."

Opec+, which is led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, began easing an historic pact to slash production earlier this month as global demand for crude picked up. The alliance is now cutting back 7.7 million barrels per day of output. Iraq, as well as Nigeria, Kazakhstan

and Angola, failed to fully comply with the earlier pact by the group to cut 9.7m bpd from the market. The curbs, which were introduced from May until July have helped in stabilising energy markets that suffered record crunch in demand and prices.

On Friday, Iraq pledged to cut 400,000 barrels per day of output to make up for its lack of compliance with an Opec+ pact to reduce production. Iraq's oil minister Ihsan Abdul Jabbar said Opec's second largest producer will commit to the cut in production, in addition to the 850,000 bpd it is due to make in August and September.

"The reduction could be adjusted when the six secondary sources publish their production figures," a joint statement by the Iraqi and Saudi energy ministries on Friday said. The secondary sources refer to data from the energy industry provided by organisations such as the International Energy Agency.

Additional cuts would bring the total volume of Iraq's output reduction to 1.25 million bpd. Oil prices, which rose to five-month high last week, gave up some of their gains on Friday as tensions between the US and China. US President Donald Trump issued an executive order banning companies and individuals from engaging in business with Chinese parent companies of WeChat and TikTok.



Iraq's oil minister Ihsan Abdul Jabbar.



ITV		MONDAY 10 Aug		TUESDAY 11 Aug		WEDNESDAY 12 Aug		THURSDAY 13 Aug		FRIDAY 14 Aug		SATURDAY 15 Aug		SUNDAY 16 Aug		MON 10 Aug		Tues 11 Aug		Wed 12 Aug		Thurs 13 Aug			
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13:00	Mjue Zaidi	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
14:10	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
15:00	Meza huru	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
16:00	Watoto Wetu	16:00	HABARI	16:00	HABARI	16:00	HABARI	16:00	HABARI	16:00	HABARI	16:00	HABARI	16:00	HABARI	16:00	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
17:00	The Base	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
18:10	Aibu yakao rpt	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
18:15	Mapishi	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
18:45	Kesho leo	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
19:00	Afya ya Jamii	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live	09:00	Advanced Player League Cricket Tournament 2020 (APL 20) -Live
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## WORLD

## President Trump signs coronavirus relief orders after talks with Congress break down

BEDMINSTER, N.J.

PRESIDENT Donald Trump signed executive orders on Saturday partly restoring enhanced unemployment payments to the tens of millions of Americans who lost jobs in the coronavirus pandemic, as the United States marked a grim milestone of 5 million cases.

Negotiations broke down this week between the White House and top Democrats in Congress over how best to help Americans cope with the heavy human and economic toll of the crisis, which has killed more than 160,000 people across the country.

Trump said the orders would provide an extra \$400 per week in unemployment payments, less than the \$600 per week passed earlier in the crisis. Some of the measures were likely to face legal challenges, as the U.S. Constitution gives Congress authority over federal spending.

"This is the money they need, this is the money they want, this gives them an incentive to go back to work," the Republican president said of the low-

er payments. He said 25% of it would be paid by states, whose budgets have been hard hit by the crisis.

Republicans have argued that higher payments were a disincentive for unemployed Americans to try to return to work, though economists, including Federal Reserve officials, disputed that assertion.

Trump's move to take relief measures out of the hands of Congress drew immediate criticism from some Democrats.

"Donald Trump is trying to distract from his failure to extend the \$600 federal boost for 30 million unemployed workers by issuing illegal executive orders," said Senator Ron Wyden, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee. "This scheme is a classic Donald Trump con: playing at leadership while robbing people of the support they desperately need."

The Democratic-majority House of Representatives passed a coronavirus support package in May which the Republican-led Senate ignored.

Democratic presidential candidate



U.S. President Donald Trump shows signed executive orders for economic relief during a news conference amid the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), at his golf resort in Bedminster, New Jersey, U.S., on Saturday. REUTERS

Joe Biden called the orders a "series of half-baked measures" and accused Trump of putting Social Security "at grave risk" by delaying the collection of payroll taxes that pay for the program. Trump also said he was suspending collection of payroll taxes, which pay for Social Security and other federal programs, an idea that he has repeatedly raised but has been rejected by both parties in Congress. He said the suspension would apply to people making less than \$100,000 per year.

His orders would also stop evictions from rental housing that has federal financial backing and extend zero percent interest on federally financed student loans.

Trump initially played down the disease's threat and has drawn criticism for inconsistent messages on public health steps such as social distancing and masks.

He spoke to reporters on Saturday at his New Jersey golf club, in a room that featured a crowd of cheering supporters.

## FAR APART

Nearly two weeks of talks between White House officials and congressional Democrats ended on Friday with the two sides still about

\$2 trillion apart.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had pushed to extend the enhanced unemployment payments, which expired at the end of July, at the previous rate of \$600 as well as to provide more financial support for city and state governments battered by the crisis. Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer on Friday offered to reduce the \$3.4 trillion coronavirus aid package that the House passed in May by nearly a third if Republicans would agree to more than double their \$1 trillion counteroffer.

White House negotiators Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chief of Staff Mark Meadows rejected the offer.

The \$1 trillion package that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell unveiled late last month ran into immediate opposition from his own party, with as many as 20 of the Senate's 53 Republicans expected to oppose it.

Trump did not rule out a return to negotiations with Congress.

"I'm not saying they're not going to come back and negotiate," he said on Saturday. "Hopefully, we can do something with them at a later date."

Agencies

## HONG KONG

THE Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Saturday expressed strong indignation over and protested against the so-called sanctions announced by the US Department of the Treasury on officials in charge of Hong Kong affairs of the Central People's Government and the HKSAR government, stressing that such sanctions will only be self-defeating.

A spokesperson for the commissioner office said that it is a legitimate right of countries to formulate and implement national security law.

By establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security in the HKSAR, the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National

## US sanctions 'only to be self-defeating'



This Nov 17, 2016 photo shows the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Central.

Security in the HKSAR has brought Hong Kong back to the right track and ensured greater success of "one country, two systems," which has gained broad support.

However, the United States has been bent on obstructing and undermining the HKSAR's efforts to safeguard national security by attacking and smearing the national

security law in the HKSAR, and now imposing the so-called sanctions on officials in charge of Hong Kong affairs of the Central People's Government and the HKSAR government, the spokesperson said.

In doing so, it has laid bare its intention to deny others the basic right to install a security door at home, its hegemonic practice of trampling upon principles of international law and basic norms governing international relations, and its hypocrisy in claiming commitment to Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson pointed out that Hong Kong is part of China, and any external force shall not interfere in Hong Kong affairs. The HKSAR has the full support of the motherland.

Therefore, no scheme to mess up Hong Kong will ever succeed, and no coercion, pressure or sanction will ever hold back the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the steady and sustainable development of "one country, two systems."

The spokesperson emphasized that the Chinese government is rock-firm in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, in implementing "one country, two systems," and in opposing external interference in Hong Kong affairs.

Any US sanction is futile, the spokesperson said, adding that on the contrary, it will only reflect its wishful thinking to play Hong Kong as a card against China and anxiety about China's development, and further confirm that "one country, two systems" will enjoy brighter prospects and that China's national rejuvenation is an unstoppable trend.

Xinhua

## US may lose in Trump's TikTok war, expert warns

NEW YORK

AS the Trump administration is threatening to ban popular apps including TikTok and WeChat, "the United States may lose in Trump's TikTok war," warned an expert.

Wei Shangjin, professor of finance and economics at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business and School of International and Public Affairs, said forcing TikTok to be sold cheaply to a "very American" buyer will endanger many US firms in the Chinese market, according to an opinion published by Project Syndicate on Thursday.

"If China were to mimic Trump's gambit - alleging, without providing evidence, that some US multinationals are potential national-security threats - it could force them to sell their operations to 'very Chinese' buyers."

Although the Chinese government has not yet done so, the risk has become higher now," said Wei, who served as chief economist of Asian Development Bank during 2014-2016.

US President Donald Trump on Thursday issued an executive order banning any US transactions with Chinese tech firm ByteDance, owner of TikTok, starting in 45 days.

TikTok has been downloaded over 175 million times in the United States and over 1 billion times globally, according to the executive order, which claims that the app automatically captures "vast swaths of information" from its users, posing risks to US national security.

A similar executive order has also been issued for WeChat, a messaging and social media app owned by Chinese tech giant Tencent.

Although Trump's actions could yield a short-term gain for the United States, they have introduced severe potential risks to US interests, not to mention international and domestic rules of commerce, Wei said.

"After all, what would happen to business confidence if governments assumed that they could extort private enterprises at will?" Wei added.

Trump is essentially doing what the US has long accused China of doing: disrespecting private property, presuming guilt without evidence, eroding foreign firms' legitimate rights without compensation, and using arbitrary, opaque rules to block them from operating in the country, according to Wei.

"There is still time for the Trump administration to change course and avoid damaging US interests. But the clock is running - tick tock," Wei said.

Xinhua

## Afghanistan to release 400 'hard-core' Taliban to start peace talks

KABUL

AFGHANISTAN agreed yesterday to release 400 "hard-core" Taliban prisoners, paving the way for the beginning of peace talks aimed at ending more than 19 years of war.

Under election-year pressure from US President Donald Trump for a deal allowing him to bring home American troops, the war-torn country's grand assembly, or Loya Jirga, on Sunday approved the release, a controversial condition raised by the Taliban militants to join peace talks.

"In order to remove an obstacle, allow the start of the peace process and an end of bloodshed, the Loya Jirga approves the release of 400 Taliban," the assembly said in a resolution.

Minutes later, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said, "Today, I will sign the release order of these 400 prisoners."

Last week Ghani invited some 3,200 Afghan community leaders and politicians to Kabul amid tight security and concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic to advise the government on whether the prisoners should be freed.

With the release, the Afghan government will fulfil its pledge to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners.

Talks between the warring Taliban and government will start in Doha this week, Western diplomats said. Ghani appealed to the hardline Islamist group to pledge to a complete ceasefire ahead of talks.

Deliberation over the release of last batch of Taliban prisoners, accused of conducting some of the bloodiest attacks across Afghanistan, had triggered outrage among civilians and rights groups who questioned the morality of the peace process.

In 2019 alone, more than 10,000 civilians were killed or injured in the conflict in Afghanistan, putting total casualties in the past decade over 100,000, a United Nations report said last year.

Ahead of the Loya Jirga, Human Rights Watch cautioned that many of the prisoners had been jailed under "overly broad terrorism laws that provide for indefinite preventive detention".

Ahead of November US elections, Trump is determined to fulfil a major campaign promise of ending America's longest war. The drawdown will bring the number of US troops to "a number less than 5,000" by the end of November, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said in an interview broadcast on Saturday.

Agencies

## AIIB won't get involved in members' political disputes - bank president

AS an international multilateral institution, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) can't get involved in any political disputes of its members, said AIIB's incumbent president when asked whether Indian projects were affected by the rising tensions between China and India.

"China and India are the first and second biggest shareholders of AIIB, and they have cooperated quite well (on AIIB projects)," Jin Liqun, AIIB president, said when interviewed by thepaper.cn.

Currently, India holds an 8.6 percent share in AIIB, while China holds a 30.8 percent share.

According to Jin, international

multilateral institutions evaluate projects from various perspectives, such as the economy, finance, environmental protection. Everything except politics.

"It's not surprising that our members sometimes have some conflicts, but we will look forward. AIIB is a platform for cooperation, and is not burdened by certain temporary friction," he said.

Jin also noted AIIB has a large number of Indian employees, and he hopes AIIB can be a bond linking every member, allowing them to see more common ground rather than being encumbered by temporary conflicts.

He said that when AIIB engaged



Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank headquarters in Beijing

in a project in India in 2017, there were already doubts among Indian citizens, who questioned why India had to borrow money from a Chinese bank.

Jin made his comments at a time when tensions between China and India have been upgraded over military disputes. India has taken action against local Chinese companies, including bans on 59 apps developed by Chinese firms like TikTok.

Jin also said that AIIB will offer more explanations and undertake necessary publicity work to help people understand AIIB's work.

Global Times

## Diplomat says detention of 33 Russians in Minsk was third country's provocation

SOLNECHNOGORSK

THE detention of 33 Russian nationals was a carefully designed provocation of a third state, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Saturday.

"The story about 33 Russian citizens detained in Belarus has been rocking the information space for a week minimum. It was presented as almost a Russian operation to deploy some specially trained people to destabilize our neighboring country.

And what has turned out? It

happened to be a third country's provocation as is now being established based on the facts," she said.

"People have lived on that for a week. Over a week, it was a talking point, articles were written, conclusions made, an outlook on the future shaped," she said.

"How difficult it will be to give up the assertion that has been shaped in those recent days, as it is hard to admit being wrong."

Zakharova (pictured) also noted that it is unacceptable to use the situation with Russian

nationals detained in Belarus for electoral purposes.

"Those people's guilt has not been proved. It is inadmissible to use these people for certain electoral purposes or interests," the diplomat said.

"The main thing is that it is inadmissible to use this situation, to promote - as it has already been reiterated at all levels - that performance with participation of Russian citizens for electoral goals."

Citing a source with the Russian intelligence agencies, the Russian daily Komsomolskaya Pravda reported on Friday that



the Russian nationals, who were detained in Belarus in late July, fell victim to a provocation orchestrated by the Ukrainian intelligence agencies.

The article depicts how the Russians were recruited. The so-called 'employers' called from virtual numbers. In the phone calls, they used false identities and fake positions in the Russian major oil company Rosneft.

Belarus reported about the detention of 33 Russian nationals in the early hours of July 29. Minsk claimed they are em-

ployees of a foreign private military company. According to late reports, they are suspected of plotting mass unrest.

Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier pointed out that Moscow did not yet have complete information about the incident.

Nor did Russia know about any illegal activities that could have prompted their detention. He said that statements that these developments were linked with the upcoming presidential elections in Belarus were mere speculations.

Agencies



# Pandemic puts millions of Europeans on path to a debt crisis

By Bloomberg

MORE economic upheaval is on the horizon in Europe as plans to end the unprecedented support for workers during the coronavirus pandemic threaten to tip millions of households into a debt trap.

Organizations that help individuals sort out their financial problems are warning of a sharp increase in the number of families burdened by bills they can't pay. Even in savings-rich nations such as Germany and Austria, citizens are starting to worry.

"In some provinces, we already see significantly more enquiries from people seeking advice compared to last year," said Maria Kemmetmueller, deputy director of the organization of debt counseling agencies in Austria. "In the autumn, we expect an increase in counseling everywhere of as much as 40 percent."

Such struggles are one of many threats to the economic recovery from the coronavirus. They undercut spending, and some studies suggest a risk to broader financial instability as defaults mount.

## Fragile households

The European Consumer Debt Network, which tries to combat over-indebtedness, estimates that as much as 10 percent of European Union households already have a problem, and adviser Kosta Skliris reckons that will at least double.

A study by the Bruegel think tank in Brussels found that almost a third of European households reckoned they'd be unable to cover an unexpected expense even before this crisis. Southern European nations were found to have more "financially fragile" families.

The Resolution Foundation said this month that 44 percent of UK households before the crisis would be unable to cover their bills if they lost their main source of income over a three-month period.

The loss of a wage is a key cause of financial problems, so the full force of the pandemic has been kept at bay so far by furlough programs. Yet many governments, worried about their own debt burdens, are planning to wind down that support, potentially sending unemployment soaring.

"The need for advice is going to rise significantly," said Roman Schlager,



Pedestrians stand in line to collect food parcels from the food bank run by Dads House charity in London, UK, June 2, 2020. (File photo)

spokesman for the German association of debt counselors and a debt expert at Caritas, which has seen demand for online help rise 30 percent.

"The debtors will first try to cope themselves, sometimes fatally so," he said. "At some point they'll realize they can't manage on their own, which is when they turn up in counseling."

The issue underscores how the economic crisis threatens to aggravate inequality. The OECD warned last month of a particularly severe impact on low-earners, women, migrants and young people. They are less likely to be able to work from home during lockdowns, and are often employed in sectors hit hardest by the coronavirus

such as retail, tourism and hospitality.

Higher-earners could also be hit though. The self-employed are vulnerable as they tend to rely on a small number of clients and may not have access to all government support programs. On an even broader scale, the European Central Bank cited household debt sustainability as one of the risks in its latest Financial Stability Review in May. Temporary relief from loan repayments could mitigate that, but only in the short term.

## Debt advice in Europe

Dealing with the problem is frustrated by insufficient infrastructure such as debt-relief agencies. In many countries, debtors will be left in the hands of private lawyers, unregulated counselors or other organizations without expert knowledge.

Households will also turn to options such as payday lenders, despite ultra-high interest rates, according to ECDN's Skliris. Or they'll struggle to make their payment at the expense of missing others.

"People tend to draw out their situation out of reasons of shame or pride," he said. "Often they try to fill a hole by digging another hole." **Agencies**

## Measures taken in all refugee camps in Ethiopia to curb COVID-19 spread

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on Saturday disclosed that isolation facilities were set up in all refugee camps across Ethiopia to temporarily quarantine possible suspected COVID-19 cases.

Ethiopia hosts about 769,310 refugees and asylum seekers as of July 31, constituting one of Africa's largest refugee population, according to the UN refugee agency. Most of the refugees are accommodated in 26 refugee camps, largely depending on humanitarian assistance.

The UN refugee agency, in its situation update issued on Saturday, said that it is working to equip the isolation facilities and extend support to the Ethiopian government-run treatment centers, which are also accessible to refugees.

As of Saturday, the East African country reported 22,253 positive COVID-19 cases as the death toll due to illnesses related to the pandemic rose to 390, with growing community transmissions of the virus, according to the Ethiopian Ministry of Health.

The Ethiopian government and its United Nations partners have previously adopted a coordinated approach concerning the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, mainly in areas related to contact tracing, case investigation, case management, prevention and control of infections. The UN refugee agency also revealed that a total of 37,407 hand-washing stations have been installed in communal centers and households in all of the 26 refugee camps to promote regular hand-washing with soap.

It also noted that some 140,000 surgical masks were distributed within the refugee camps, with an additional 200,000 masks to be distributed soon. Over 2,150 health and community outreach workers have been also trained to help in awareness raising, case investigation and management, as well as mitigation, prevention and control of the virus, it was noted.

In the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, which is considered to be the hotbed of COVID-19 infection in Ethiopia, the UN refugee agency stressed that it is supporting more than 27,500 urban refugees currently reside.

Xinhua

# Lebanese protesters storm ministry buildings as anger grows

BEIRUT

LEBANESE protesters stormed government ministries in Beirut and trashed the offices of the Association of Lebanese Banks on Saturday as shots rang out in increasingly angry demonstrations over this week's devastating explosion.

The protesters said their politicians should resign and be punished for negligence they say led to Tuesday's blast, the biggest ever to hit Beirut, that killed 158 people and injured more than 6,000, compounding months of political and economic meltdown.

A policeman was killed during the clashes, a spokesman said. A policeman at the scene said the officer died when he fell

into an elevator shaft in a nearby building after being chased by protesters.

The Red Cross said it had treated 117 people for injuries on the scene while another 55 were taken to hospital. Policemen wounded by stones were treated by ambulance workers. A fire broke out in central Martyrs' Square.

Dozens of protesters broke into the foreign ministry where they burnt a portrait of President Michel Aoun, representative for many of a political class that has ruled Lebanon for decades and that they say is to blame for its current mess.

"We are staying here. We call on the Lebanese people to occupy all the ministries," a demonstrator said by megaphone.



A protestor is evacuated from clashes during a protest against the political elites and the government after this week's deadly explosion at Beirut port, Lebanon, on Saturday. (AP)

About 10,000 people gathered in Martyrs' Square, some throwing stones. Police fired tear gas when some protesters tried to break through the barrier blocking a street leading to parliament, a Reuters journalist said.

Police confirmed shots and rubber bullets had been fired. It was not immediately clear who fired the shots. Riot police shot dozens of teargas canisters at protesters, who hit back with firecrackers and stones.

TV footage showed protesters also breaking into the en-

ergy and economy ministries.

They chanted "the people want the fall of the regime", reprising a popular chant from the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011. They held posters saying "Leave, you are all killers".

The US Embassy in Beirut said the US government supported the demonstrators' right to peaceful protest and urged all involved to refrain from violence.

The embassy also said in a tweet that the Lebanese people "deserved leaders who listen to them and change course to respond to popular demands for transparency and accountability".

Prime Minister Hassan Diab said the only way out was early parliamentary elections.

## 'GO HOME!'

The protests were the biggest since October when thousands of people took to the streets in protest against corruption, bad governance and mis-

management.

"You have no conscience, you have no morality. Go home! Leave! Resign, Enough is enough," shouted one of the protesters. "What else do you want? You brought us poverty, death and destruction," said another.

Soldiers in vehicles mounted with machine guns patrolled the area. Ambulances rushed to the scene.

"Really the army is here? Are you here to shoot us? Join us and we can fight the government together," a woman yelled.

Tuesday's blast was the biggest in Beirut's history. Twenty-one people were still reported as missing from the explosion, which gutted entire neighbourhoods.

The government has promised to hold those responsible to account. But few Lebanese are convinced. Some set up nooses on wooden frames as a symbolic warning to Lebanese leaders.

Agencies

# Chinese AI a rare arena which blazes a trail - Megvii CEO

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is a rare arena in which China has been leading the way from technological innovation to the implementation of technologies, the head of Chinese AI unicorn Megvii Technology said on Wednesday, downplaying concerns over US export controls and the firm's Hong Kong listing.

The Entity List, a US export control list, would have an impact on Chinese technology firms factoring in the need for US supplies, but the impact on Megvii would be lessened, Yin Qi, co-founder and CEO of the Beijing-based AI firm known for its facial recognition platform Face++, told a media briefing in Beijing.

He cited indigenous algorithms that are at the core of the firm's AI prowess. In a sign of technological confidence, the firm announced in March it would open-source its proprietary deep learning framework MegEngine, making the platform accessible to developers across the globe.



Visitors explore an exhibition with AI technology on July 8 in Shanghai, East China. (File photo)

The 1.0 version of Megvii's Brain++ architecture, built to enable algorithm training at scale, will be officially launched in September, according to Yin, highlighting the firm's temperature screening solution as part of the AI-enabled response to the coronavirus outbreak which is accelerating digitalization.

The AI unicorn was founded in 2011 by three Tsinghua University graduates - Yin, Tang Wenbin and Yang Mu.

Eight Chinese tech firms in-

cluding top AI startups such as Megvii, SenseTime Group and YITU Technology were added to the US Entity List in October 2019.

An increasing number of Chinese entities were put on the list amid heightened tensions between the world's top two economies. In a fresh move, the US commerce department announced earlier in July the addition of 11 Chinese firms including Nanchang O-Film Tech and Beijing Liuhe BGI to the list.

China-origin AI algorithms are fairly on par with, if not better than their global counterparts, Xiang Ligang, director-general of telecom industry association Information Consumption Alliance, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

The nation's large user base and wide-ranging AI application scenarios underpin its competitiveness in an era where AI usage becomes increasingly prevalent, he said.

When asked about Megvii's IPO postponement, Yin remarked that the firm is continuing its steady push for its listing and is awaiting the right timing.

Megvii keeps its business healthy and maintains an adequate cash flow, he said, noting that the firm not only wants to go public but hopes for a stable performance after the Hong Kong listing.

The firm filed for an IPO in the Hong Kong market in August 2019.

Global Times

# British policy towards Russia consists of 95% of deterrence and 5% of dialogue, envoy says

LONDON

THE policy of "deterrence and dialogue" towards Russia chosen by NATO and Britain consists of 95% of deterrence and only 5% of dialogue, Russia's Ambassador in the UK Andrei Kelin said in an interview with the Chinese TV channel CGTN on Saturday.

"NATO has taken a position as a leader of the western world - a policy of deterrence and dialogue towards Russia, and London would like to be a leader in these efforts.

But there is 95% deterrence and only 5% of dialogue," he said, adding that the Russian side is worried about another wave of accusations against Moscow "in the recent days in the media here and Britain." "It of course provides little appetite in Moscow to develop dialogue," he noted.

The ambassador referred to the state of relations between



the UK and Russia as difficult. "Political contacts are close to being frozen. And this is very bad.

I have seen some expression of intentions to review this policy to restart a relationship in the political field. But all of this is being damned by this attack order and once again," he said.

"The government in London

should be realistic. It should understand the benefits of co-operation and working with Russia but not against Russia.

Deterrence is the policy that has been, as I said, taken up against Russia, and of course it is not a cooperation that we have all envisaged," Kelin emphasized.

Agencies

# China's successful launch of Tianwen-1 Mars mission marks steady progress in exploring the outer space

CHINA launched its first Mars exploration mission Tianwen-1 on July 23 with the fourth Long March-5 rocket coded as Long March-5 Y4 at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in south China's Hainan province.

The Mars probe is expected to take about seven months to reach the planned orbit around Mars, after which it will carry out tasks of orbiting, landing and roving in one mission.

On July 27, with its optical navigation instruments, the probe captured an image of the Earth and Moon from some 1.2 million kilometers away from Earth.

China has made a lot of preparations for the mission. The Beijing Aerospace Flight Control Center has carried out repeated drills for various systems to support the launch, while the Xi'an Satellite Control Center in northwest China's

Shaanxi province has improved the adaptability of the space-ground communication system for the mission.

Deep-space ground control stations in Kashgar, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and Jiamusi, northeast China's Heilongjiang province, had been well-prepared to provide support in measurement and control before the launch.

Meanwhile, two Tianlian satellites, China's tracking and data relay satellite series, had constantly sent telemetry data back to the ground from the geosynchronous orbit.

The reason why China chose to launch its Tianwen-1 probe to Mars at this time of the year is to

take advantage of the Hohmann transfer orbit, which is considered the best route from Earth to Mars.

Proposed in the 1920s by German engineer Walter Hohmann, the Hohmann transfer orbit forms every 26 months and falls in the summer this year.

What's the most difficult part of the Mars mission?

To escape Earth's gravitational field and fly to Mars, an object has to reach the "second cosmic velocity" of about 11.2 kilometers per second. The greater the mass of the object is, the more difficult it is for the object to attain the speed.

The Tianwen-1 probe, however, weighs about five tonnes, making

it the heaviest deep-space probe ever launched by China.

This mission marks the first time that Long March-5 carrier rocket exceeds the second cosmic velocity, the fastest China's carrier rockets have gone to date.

Another problem for the mission lay in the information transmission. The fastest speed at which human beings can transmit information is the speed of light, which is 300,000 kilometers per second.

However, the distance between Mars and the Earth exceeds 50 million kilometers at the closest and reaches 400 million kilometers at the farthest, which results in an information transfer delay ranging from several minutes to

dozens of minutes.

The delay in information transmission means the Tianwen-1 probe can't be directly controlled by the control center on Earth and needs to deal with the unknown environment in the deep space by itself and make judgments and choices on its own.

What's the purpose of the Mars mission?

The purpose of the Mars mission is not just reaching Mars, as the real goal is to collect as much effective scientific data as possible, according to Liu Tongjie, spokesperson for China's Mars probe mission as well as deputy head of the Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Center under the China National Space

Administration (CNSA).

The orbiter is equipped with seven instruments and the rover set up with six payloads, Liu added. After it landed on Mars, the Tianwen-1 probe will send back images of Mars, investigate the surface and geological structure of the planet, measure and record the climate and magnetic fields, and collect a large amount of scientific data.

## Why Mars?

Mars has similar natural environment with Earth and has always been a priority target for manned deep-space exploration outside the Earth-Moon system, Liu pointed out.

In previous explorations, human beings have found evidence

that suggests the existence of water on Mars.

Since then, whether Mars is hospitable to life and whether it has connections with Earth have become major scientific issues of the research on Mars. The study of Mars is believed to be significant for understanding the evolution of the Earth.

Tianwen-1, meaning Questions to Heaven, comes from a poem by Qu Yuan (about 340-278 BC), one of the greatest poets of ancient China.

Although about 2,300 years have passed, human beings nowadays still have many questions about the outer space.

People's Daily



## Serena Williams is fit and ready to play after 6-month break



Serena Williams

LEXINGTON, KY.

SERENA Williams flexed and then kissed a sinewy right bicep to show down time well spent in training even without bench pressing.

"This is God given, thank you very much," the 23-time Grand Slam champion said as she thanked her mother, Oracene.

Williams now looks to flex her muscles on a tennis court for the first time in six months.

She is preparing for the inaugural Top Seed Open that opens Monday near Lexington, a recently added hard court tournament that serves as a tuneup for this month's U.S. Open in New York.

The WTA's first event in the U.S. since March features a spectator-free field that includes sister Venus Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam winner herself, Victoria Azarenka, Sloane Stephens and rising star Coco Gauff.

Serena Williams, ranked No. 9, is competing for the first time since playing for the U.S. in the Fed Cup in February. The pandemic quickly shut everything down the next month, forcing an extended layoff.

Williams has a history of blood clots and pulmonary embolisms that have affected her lung capacity. She has been "super, super careful" in avoiding exposure to COVID-19. The 38-year-old acknowledged during Saturday's virtual news conference that she's been "a bit of a recluse," in addition to owning 50 face masks and taking social distancing to an extreme.

"And everyone in the Serena bubble is really protective because at the end of the day, yeah, it's cool to play tennis, but this is my life and this is my health," Williams said.

"I've been a little neurotic to an extent, but that's just what I have to be right now."

Williams and Azarenka enter the tournament with open minds, hungry to

resume competition.

"You want to just start somewhere," said Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champ ranked 58th.

"You can practice for so long, but there's nothing like playing actual matches where you know the atmosphere. I don't really know what to expect because I've only played once in Charleston without the crowd. It's going to be an adjustment."

The road no doubt goes through Williams, the tournament's only top-10 player and a presumptive favorite no matter the circumstances. If the results from Williams' previous comeback from a long break are any indication, she has something to look forward to.

Williams returned from the September 2017 birth of her daughter, Olympia, to reach the past two finals at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. She began this year by winning the ASB Classic in New Zealand before reaching the Australian Open round of 32 and splitting two first-round matches at the Fed Cup.

She has also stayed busy during the lockdown.

Williams is in the process on building a home gym in her Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, home. Her husband, Reddit founder Alexis Ohanian, built a tennis court for her. Both have also spoken out on social justice issues during a tumultuous summer in which the death of Breonna Taylor during a raid by Louisville police sparked ongoing protests.

Williams is pursuing a 24th Slam that would tie Margaret Court's record. That quest will resume at the Open. For now, she looks to shake off the rust from a long absence - much like everybody else.

"Everyone has to take a break and pause," she said. And it'll be really fun and interesting to see how we play."

(Agencies)

## Yanga psychological pathos in team recruiting; Club bigwigs playing games

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

PATHOS and alienation is how one can describe the current scenario at Young Africans SC (Yanga) where there is virtual chaos all over, with the vitriolic exit of former head coach Luc Eymael as a pointed illustration of what isn't going well in the club. Since his acrimonious departure a few other developments have taken place, like axing more than a dozen players and randomly recruiting others, perhaps seen juggling the ball very well somewhere, or shining in some supposedly important local clubs, whereas the club really needs players that can turn up for higher level clubs. How does a club recruit players without a tenured coach?

Selecting a player to feature for a major soccer club (at any level of league soccer) presumes first the presence of a coach, as a scout may notice a good player but can't tell in what manner he is likely to be required to play and if he fits the bill, or someone else could be picked instead. When a player's skills are looked at via the looking glass of a clear football pattern, the degree of his usefulness to the team becomes clearer than if one is just looking at raw skills like dribbling or locking horns. It means that a recruiting scout who isn't working under a coach is unlikely to know what player is actually needed, keeps erring.

That in itself explains the swathes of players recruited by the club and then being axed at times not the following season but midseason, for equally chaotic recruitment of other players. One reason for this situation is that the club lacks a proper sponsorship mechanism, as even the now famed GSM Group is only partially involved with the club,



Yanga players feature in training session in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League, which climaxed last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

and doesn't provide what in commerce would be identifiable with 'comprehensive insurance.' In that manner the pet-sponsors that surround the club at the moment wish to identify themselves not by beefing up club resources and recruiting a dependable coach, but players.

The reason or this misdirected effort is easy to figure out, namely that those who put money to get players aren't investing but playing to the club fans' gallery, wishing to be known as the 'big potato' who brought this or that player, and leaving it to the coach to make him useful. At the same time this kind of recruitment fosters big headedness in players, as right from the start a player has a 'godfather' who has staked his dignity in the usefulness of the player, who sees himself as privileged, and when he touches some cash, it is to another 'gallery' that his mind is directed. It is to enjoy the fruits of his worthiness, etc.

A player can only work hard if he pleasing a task master, namely the coach, not a suitor who gets pleased with him prior to starting

any training whatsoever, as after such recruitment the player will seek to soften his 'arduous' training at, say, Mtibwa Sugar to live more softly to enjoy his bigger purse content. In real life being promoted to play for the Jangwani Street side would be a hefty challenge for the player, but non-procedural recruitment and resulting big headedness signals the opposite. That he has now reached the apex of his career and he only needs to put up 'acceptable' levels of training to fit into the squad.

Even when a coach is the one who makes the selection for recruitment, and there is no issue that the player being recruited has an excellent track record, it doesn't always work as expected. For instance Mbwana Samatta was recruited as a particularly successful player at Simba SC to shift to TP Mazembe where he also excelled, moved to KRC Genk where he also excelled, thus being recruited to Aston Villa FC at the short window early this year. There are grumbings at Aston Villa for a 10m pound player scoring one goal in the

half season in which he played - all other things remaining equal, as they say.

That same situation can be considered at Yanga, that a player may excel at Mtibwa Sugar or somewhere else but isn't capable of shining at a club that demands decidedly more from its players. Noticing the difference isn't easy, as one can see in the case of Samatta, that pundits expected he would do well as at Aston Villa the combination of players is even stronger. But he just didn't have the stamina, or the skills.

Those who are now recruiting players left, right and centre for the Jangwani Street side should know that they will not succeed to put up a team (whose work is of course to defeat Simba SC in the course of pursuing the premier league title, a tall order). What they first need to do is to ensure that the club has proper organization, the requisite resource base to pay players on time, and a coach that is capable of being satisfied with that environment and yield results. It isn't haphazard recruitment of players, first.

## Booker's 35 points lead surprising Suns past Heat 119-112

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

DEVIN Booker scored 35 points and Jevon Carter added a season-high 20 points as the Phoenix Suns remained undefeated in the NBA restart, beating the Miami Heat 119-112 on Saturday night.

Carter made six of eight 3-pointers as the Suns improved to 5-0 in the restart.

"I think this bubble opportunity was big for us and we're taking advantage of it," Booker said.

Miami is currently the No. 4 team in the Eastern Conference playoff standings. Duncan Robinson and Tyler Herro each had 25 points to lead the Heat.

The Suns continued to thrive as the only undefeated team and biggest surprise in the Disney bubble.

Phoenix began the restart schedule with the second-worst record of the 22 teams in the field and the worst mark in the Western Conference.

"I just think we had a group who wanted to come here and prove they were worthy of being here," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "They heard a lot of stuff that was being said."

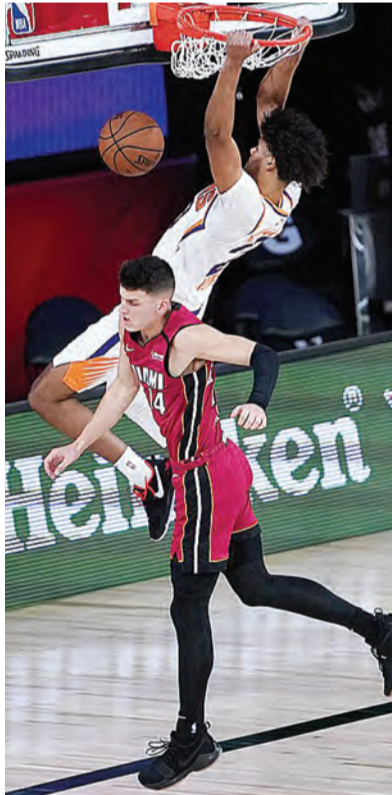
The Suns have played like serious playoff contenders. Led by Booker, Phoenix had wins over Washington, Dallas, the Los Angeles Clippers and Indiana before beating Miami. The Suns entered Saturday's schedule only 2 1/2 games behind eighth-place Memphis.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said his team must be better at winning battles for the ball.

"Those second-chance opportunities during those swing moments during the course of the game really kept us at bay and kept them in control when they needed to do it," Spoelstra said.

Miami had an opportunity late in the game.

Three free throws by Robinson cut the Suns' lead to 115-112 before Miami's Bam Adebayo was called for goaltending on a shot by Booker. The review with 11.2 seconds remaining confirmed the call and



Phoenix Suns' Cameron Johnson dunks over Miami Heat's Tyler Herro (14) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Aug. 8, 2020 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

extended the lead to five points.

Led by its backcourt scoring from Herro and Robinson, Miami quickly led by double figures at 19-8. The Heat couldn't pull away and the teams were tied at 60-all at halftime. The Suns led 88-86 entering the final period.

Luka Doncic scored 36 points in his NBA-leading 17th triple-double and the Dallas Mavericks scored the last seven points of regulation to force overtime, going on to a 136-132 win over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night.

Doncic also had a career-high 19 assists and 14 rebounds on the day the 2019 NBA Rookie of the Year was named a finalist for the most improved award.

"He's getting better by the hour, by the day," coach Rick Carlisle said. "I was most impressed with his leadership throughout the game. Kept a real calm demeanor, kept

guys playing during some tough stretches."

Milwaukee star Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks before fouling out in the final seconds hours after the reigning MVP was named a finalist for the award along with LeBron James and James Harden.

Brook Lopez scored a season-high 34 points for the Bucks, who have already clinched the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

"It's great to be in this situation," Lopez said. "We've had a lot of these situations all year long so there's a lot we can take from this."

Doncic's final assist was a between-the-legs pass to Maxi Kleber for a three-point play and a 133-128 lead.

After a dunk from Antetokounmpo, Doncic hit a runner to get the lead back to five with 11 seconds to go as the Mavericks kept alive slim hopes to get out of the seventh seed and avoid a likely first-round matchup with the Los Angeles Clippers. Dallas played its third overtime game out of five in the bubble, winning for the second time.

"I'm feeling fresh and just trying to make the right decision," said Doncic, who has three triple-doubles in five games since the restart. "Sometimes I take a shot and I shouldn't have."

Doncic hit two free throws with 21 seconds left in regulation, and the Mavericks forced overtime when two putback attempts by Milwaukee wouldn't go in after a missed 3-pointer from George Hill.

"One of the most talented guys I've ever played against," Antetokounmpo said of Doncic, his fellow All-Star for the first time this season. "He's making the whole team better, and he's going to keep getting better."

The foul that sent Doncic to the line was originally called as the sixth on Antetokounmpo. The Bucks challenged, and the foul was switched to Khris Middleton.

The Mavericks scored the first nine points of overtime on a 3-pointer from Tim Hardaway Jr. and two

more from Dorian Finney-Smith, extending to 16-0 a run that started late in the fourth quarter. Finney-Smith had a career-high 27 points with 11 rebounds.

In a matchup that included three of the four players averaging at least 30 points and 10 rebounds in the bubble, Doncic and Antetokounmpo hit those marks again. Dallas' Kristaps Porzingis fell short, getting 26 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out.

Meanwhile, Jamal Murray scored 23 points in his first game of the NBA restart, including the tying and go-ahead baskets, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Utah Jazz 134-132 in two overtimes Saturday.

The Nuggets overcame Donovan Mitchell's 35 points for Utah, including a 3-pointer with 4.2 seconds remaining in the second overtime. But he missed a desperation heave from near half-court as the game ended.

Murray, playing his first game since March 11 after missing four games with left hamstring tightness, sank a fallaway jumper for a 123-all tie and then beat the shot clock with a go-ahead 3-pointer. He had 12 rebounds and eight assists, just missing a triple-double.

Murray played 39 minutes and remained in the game despite showing obvious signs of fatigue as Denver gained momentum for the playoffs.

"I was only supposed to play 22," Murray said when asked about his minutes. "It's cool. I like challenges and it feels a lot better now that we got the win."

AP



## Messi inspires win over Napoli but Barca will need more against Bayern

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi scored a brilliant solo goal as Barcelona saw off Napoli on Saturday but they are likely to need something even more special from their captain to beat Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals.

Messi's weaving run and finish came between an early Clement Lenglet header and a Luis Suarez penalty, also won by Messi, as Barca stormed into a 3-0 lead in the first half at Camp Nou.

But Lorenzo Insigne gave Napoli hope just before the interval and an unconvincing second period from Barcelona left them hanging on for a 3-1 win on the night, 4-2 on aggregate.

"A second goal would have given them a feeling of euphoria that can hurt you," said Barca coach Quique Setien.

"It's normal to get a little nervous."

In winning the penalty, Messi took a heavy kick from Napoli's Kalidou Koulibaly and needed treatment.

"It was a heavy knock," said Setien. "It will have to be treated but I don't think there is a problem."

After finishing five points behind Real Madrid in La Liga, Barca resumed in the Champions League with doubts hanging over the form of the team and the future of their coach.

Setien said on Friday he had not considered resigning but failure in Europe, after a turbulent domestic campaign, would likely take the decision out of his hands.

Victory against Napoli eases the pressure but the performance will not inspire confidence, even with Messi seemingly rejuvenated after three weeks rest.

Napoli, whose own league season only finished last weekend, should have had the advantage of rhythm but a disastrous opening half an hour left them with too much to do.

Koulibaly, linked with a move to several elite European clubs this summer, endured a particularly disappointing night.

Yet Barcelona will have to improve significantly to match Bay-

ern, who advanced after putting seven past Chelsea over two legs and are arguably favourites to win the tournament.

"It's going to be very complicated," admitted Setien ahead of the quarter-final on Friday.

Messi now has four goals in his last three games and in a one-off match in Lisbon, the Argentinian is capable of anything.

But Bayern have their own trump card in Robert Lewandowski and a more complete team that makes them heavy favourites to reach the semis.

Napoli began an eventful first half by hitting the post as Dries Mertens went close with a miskicked half-volley, only for Lenglet to head in for Barca from Ivan Rakitic's corner after nine minutes.

Messi made it two after a barnstorming run in which he fell to the ground only to dart back up and bundle his way through three Napoli defenders before curling into the far corner.

He thought he had another after finishing off a delightful pass from the outside of Frankie de Jong's right foot but it was ruled out, the ball feathering Messi's arm as he controlled it.

But he could not be surprised for long, harrying the unsuspecting Koulibaly in the penalty area and poking the ball away from his opponent, who was already swinging to clear and succeeded only in bringing Messi down.

Messi needed treatment and deferred the penalty to Suarez, who drove into the top corner but Napoli made it 3-1 deep in first half stoppage time, Insigne scoring from the spot after Rakitic barged into Mertens.

Napoli needed two more to progress and enjoyed their best spell early in the second period.

They might have tested Barcelona's nerves if Arkadiusz Milik's header 10 minutes from the end had stood while Hirving Lozano's late header hit the foot of the post.

Barca were relieved to hear the whistle.

AFP

## 'Maestro to Mister': Italy legend Pirlo replaces Sarri as Juventus coach

MILAN

FORMER Italy and Juventus star Andrea Pirlo was appointed the Italian champions' new coach, just hours after Maurizio Sarri's sacking with the club promising a "new chapter in world football".

Sarri, 61, leaves Juventus after just one season, a day after the Italian giants crashed out of the Champions League in the last 16 to French club Lyon.

The 41-year-old Pirlo, with no previous top-level coaching experience, recently took over the Juventus U23 side and arrives on a two-year contract.

"The choice is based on the belief that Pirlo has what it takes to lead from his debut on the bench, an expert and talented squad to pursue new successes," Juventus said.

"Today, begins a new chapter of his career in the world of football: from Maestro to Mister."

Sarri took over on a three-year contract last summer, after leading Chelsea to a Europa League triumph, but failed to deliver on the promised revolution in style on the pitch.

Pirlo's swift appointment, a day after their Champions League exit, is again a bold choice for club president Andrea Agnelli.

Other former players have turned to coaching such as Zinedine Zidane, Frank Lampard and Gennaro Gattuso, but Pirlo does so without experience.

The former midfielder does, however, know Juventus and its players well after an impressive four-year spell from 2011 to 2015.

"Pirlo has had a legendary career as a player. In his four years at the centre of the Juventus midfield, he won as many league titles, a Coppa Italia and two Italian Super Cups," Juventus said.

AFP

# 'Enormous anticipation' as Bayern plot Barcelona defeat in Champions League

BERLIN

TREBLE-CHASING Bayern Munich are relishing their Champions League quarter-final against Barcelona in Lisbon after Robert Lewandowski netted twice to seal a 4-1 home win over Chelsea on Saturday in the last 16, return-leg tie.

"The anticipation is enormous. Barcelona has a good team with very good players, but if you look at the last few weeks, we can fly to Portugal with a lot of confidence," said Bayern defender David Alaba.

Lewandowski, the Champions League's top-scorer, bagged his 12th and 13th goals in Europe this season and played a part in all four Bayern goals in Munich on Saturday.

Leading 3-0 from the first leg at Stamford Bridge in February, before the coronavirus pandemic halted the competition, Bayern progressed 7-1 on aggregate.

"We can be pleased, it was our first game for a month and it's not easy to keep the rhythm," added Alaba.

"We have prepared for this for the last two weeks and you could see the result."

The Bundesliga and German Cup champions will meet Barcelona next Friday in Lisbon for a place in the semi-finals.

Lewandowski netted a penalty with just 10 minutes gone at the Allianz Arena.

Winger Ivan Perisic then doubled Bayern's lead before England striker Tammy Abraham tapped home a loose ball to give Chelsea brief hope.

However, replacement midfielder Corentin Tolisso put the result beyond doubt when he fired home a Lewandowski pass with 14 minutes



Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, the Champions League's leading scorer this season, played a hand in all four goals for the home side at the Allianz Arena. (Agencies)

to go.

"I am really happy with how we played over the 90 minutes, the first 30 minutes we shut Chelsea out," said Bayern head coach Hansi Flick.

This was a world-class display from Lewandowski who added a late header to his pair of assists.

He is now four goals short of Cristiano Ronaldo's record of 17 Champions League goals in 2013/14.

"It's not a goal of mine," said Lewandowski when asked about Ronaldo's record.

"We have a few more

games in the knock-out round and I am just as happy creating goals as scoring them."

The Poland star was also coy when asked about a rivalry with Barcelona star Lionel Messi.

"We have to perform well and show our quality as a team against a good Barcelona side, it's a big game for everybody."

**- Early penalty -**  
After a ruthless display in the first leg, Bayern picked up where they left off six months ago.

They took the lead when Serge Gnabry, who scored

twice in London, spotted the run into the box of Lewandowski, who was tripped by Chelsea goalkeeper Willy Caballero.

The Poland striker was initially flagged offside, but VAR ruled otherwise.

Caballero was booked and Lewandowski converted the resulting penalty for his 12th goal in seven Champions League games.

He turned provider on 24 minutes as Bayern kept up the pressure.

After Mateo Kovacic lost possession near the halfway line, the ball was worked to Lewandowski who squared for Perisic to

fire home.

Callum Hudson-Odoi, who was linked with a move to Munich at the start of the season, beat Manuel Neuer on 28 minutes only for the goal to be ruled out by VAR for an offside.

However, Chelsea pulled a goal back just before half-time.

Bayern goalkeeper Neuer could only parry a shot by Hudson-Odoi and Abraham tapped home the loose ball on 44 minutes to make it 2-1 at the break.

Mason Mount forced Neuer into a low save early in the second half, while Bayern lost defender Jerome Boateng to a leg injury with an hour gone.

He was replaced by Niklas Sule as Perisic made way for Brazil playmaker Philippe Coutinho.

Flick also changed both defensive midfielders, Thiago Alcantara and Joshua Kimmich, for the final 20 minutes.

It paid off two-fold as moments later Tolisso, on for Alcantara, made it 3-1 when he turned home Lewandowski's pass on 76 minutes.

Alvaro Odriozola, on for Kimmich, then supplied the silky cross on 84 minutes which Lewandowski headed home for his 53rd goal in 44 games this season.

AFP

## Man U, Inter favourites for Europa League in unique German finale

LONDON

MANCHESTER United, Inter Milan and Sevilla headline a quintet of former champions travelling to Germany for a remodelled eight-team straight knockout tournament that will crown the winner of a Europa League campaign heavily disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

All games from the quarter-finals onwards in this season's competition will be played behind closed doors as one-off ties across four venues -- Cologne, Duisburg, Dusseldorf and Gelsenkirchen -- following a five-month interruption.

While a Champions League berth still awaits the victor of the final in Cologne on August 21, much has changed since the COVID-19 outbreak that brought European football to a standstill in March.

"There are rules and regulations on the bubble that's going to travel. We've got to stick together, stay together in and around the hotel and the training ground," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said of the strict health protocols clubs must respect.

Players and staff will undergo virus testing before departing for Germany and again on the eve of a match once arriving, a process repeated for each subsequent game in the final tournament.

UEFA has advised teams to travel on charter flights and minimise contact with the general public, strongly recommending the use of exclusive hotels -- to which players will largely be confined -- in order to avoid potential cross-contamination.

Masks will not be required for substitutes and coaching staff but they must maintain social distancing when seated, with players instructed to limit contact as much as possible when warming up. Match balls will be disinfected before kick-off and at half-time.

United, the 2017 winners, face FC Copenhagen in Monday's quarter-final in Cologne while Serie A runners-up Inter take on Bayer Leverkusen in a clash of former UEFA Cup champions at Dusseldorf Arena.

- Premier League collision course -  
England forward Jesse Lingard, who played in United's 2-0 win over Ajax in the final three years ago, is



Harry Maguire and Manchester United take on FC Copenhagen in the Europa League quarter-finals next week. (Agencies)

confident the team can capture the title for a second time.

"We can't wait to get there and play this game now. 100 per cent I want to win it again," Lingard told MUTV.

"Lifting a trophy is a special feeling you can't really explain and winning it before you take that confidence forward. We have got a mixture of youth and experience in the squad and for the young lads to win their first trophy, it will be perfect for them."

Should United advance to the last four they would face either Sevilla -- who have won the Europa League and its precursor, the UEFA Cup, a record five times -- or Premier League rivals Wolves in Cologne on August 16.

Wolves are through to a first European quarter-final since 1972 but were punished by UEFA in mid-week after failing to comply with Financial Fair Play requirements. They take on Sevilla in Duisburg on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Inter beat Getafe 2-0 in a single-leg last-16 tie Wednesday in Gelsenkirchen, and Antonio Conte's men harbour hopes of adding to the three UEFA Cups won in the 1990s.

"This is an important competition. It doesn't matter where and under what conditions you're playing, you should only be focused on the upcoming match," midfielder Christian Eriksen told Inter TV.

"It's certainly not as fun playing without fans, the atmosphere isn't there. We'll try to excite them while they're watching on TV, and we're hoping that we'll be able to embrace our supporters again soon."

Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk, winners of the 2009 edition, play Swiss outfit Basel in the other quarter-final in Gelsenkirchen.

This year's Europa League final was initially due to be played in the Polish city of Gdansk in late May before the health crisis forced a change of plans.

Gdansk will host next year's final instead.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# TFF set to decide Morrison's fate today



Bernard Morrison

announced that it will make its ruling today on the signature forgery case, which was filed by the Ghanaian player.

Simba SC on Saturday posted on their social media pages pictures showing the player putting on the Msimbazi Street-based side jersey and smiling while signing for the club.

However Yanga also posted a media release saying they are closely following all the developments and maintained that the player belongs to them as he signed a two-year contract which ends on July 2022.

"Yanga management is closely following what is going on on the social media... we are keenly and seriously following and, if confirmed, serious action will be taken (which will serve as an example) to all concerned parties," the club stated in a media release.

"The club wishes to inform its supporters and fans to remain calm as the player Bernard Morrison has a contract with Yanga which runs up to 2022 and his case against Yanga is still with TFF, it will come on Monday (today) for hearing," the club disclosed.

A few months ago, Yanga had announced that the player has signed a two-year contract extension with the club which runs up to 2022.

However, Morrison disputed

the statement, saying he did not sign any new contract with the Jangwani Street-based club.

He filed the matter to TFF, challenging that his signature on the contract was forged. The federation reported the matter to police for further investigation.

The TFF's Legal, Ethics and Players' Status Committee Chairman, Elias Mwanjala, was quoted in the press saying that the signature forgery case which was filed by Morrison was referred to the police force for further investigation and the results will be known today.

"The matter was under police force to verify signature forgery claims as filed by player Bernard Morrison, police are compiling the results, the ruling will be made on August 10 (today)," he said.

Yanga and the player have been at loggerheads but the boiling point reached during the club's embarrassing 4-1 defeat in the hands of Simba SC in the semi-final of Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), when Morrison was substituted and walked straight down the tunnel to the dressing room and left.

His action did not please many football followers, who described the event as a total disrespect to football in the country, as in normal circumstances a substituted player is supposed to sit on his side's bench.

## SPORT

### 'Enormous anticipation' as Bayern plot Barcelona defeat in Champions League

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

### Kamania stars as Chui Challengers thrash Tembo Stars in 2020 APL

By Guardian Reporter

CHUI Challengers' cricketers recorded 30-run victory over Tembo Stars in the 2020 Advanced Players League (APL) duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Chui Challengers went on to amass 141 runs for seven wickets in 20 overs after they were put in to bat first by Tembo Stars that had won the toss and elected to bowl.

Opener Kishen Kamania ended nine runs short of a half century to give Chui Challengers the much needed confidence, when it came to the pursuit of an imposing total.

He cracked three fours and two sixes, making up for a rather less impressive showing by fellow opener, Ejaz Aziz. Aziz faced early exit, posting four runs.

Jitin Pratap Singh, batting at number three, posted 39 runs, which included four fours, to help Chui Challengers pile up more runs and skipper Riziki Kisetu recorded 24 runs, blasting a six.

Tembo Stars spinner Athuman Kakonzi put his experienced to show, ending with three wickets and leading 15 runs in four overs.

Pace bowler Ally Mpeka also had significant bowling performance for the squad, finishing with two wickets and leading 24 runs in four overs.

Needing 142 runs to come out victorious, Tembo Stars had a somewhat encouraging start to the chase, given captain Abhik Patwa notched 21 runs, which consisted of four fours.

Kakonzi boosted his squad's chase with his 39 runs, which consisted of five fours, Nassor Zahoro posted 16 runs, which included two fours.

They were dealt a blow once Mpeka faced early exit, managing seven runs, as efforts by the remaining batsmen to turn the side's fortunes around hit snag.

Tembo Stars ultimately ended with 111 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs to concede the loss.

Vipin Abraham closed out the innings with youngster Amiri Sadiki, Abraham posted 10 runs not out whilst Sadiki registered one run not out.

Chui Challengers' youngster Johnson Nyambo had an impressive day with the ball, given he took three wickets and leaked 21 runs in four overs to successfully keep Tembo Stars batsmen in check.

Nyambo was in the end presented with man of the match prize for his exploits.

In yesterday's other encounter, which took place at the same venue, Simba Kings recorded a three-wicket victory over Royal Rhinos.

Royal Rhinos were bowled out for 96 runs in 19.5 overs and, much as they had faced a modest target of 97 runs, Simba Kings had to give their all to eventually mount a chase, dropping seven wickets in 20 overs.

Simba Kings had, in the process, posted their second victory in a row. They had opened their campaign impressively, notching a similar win over Buffalo Blasters a day back.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized league, which will climax on Sunday this week, takes place with a view to raising the standard of the sport at the domestic level.

Six franchises are participating in the T20-formatted showdown. The outfits are Simba Kings, Chui Challengers, Royal Rhinos, Twiga Titans, Tembo Stars and Buffalo Blasters.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE possibility of Ghanaian winger Bernard Morrison playing for Tanzania's football powerhouse, Simba SC, will be known today as Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) is today set to make its ruling on the contract dispute with the winger's former club Yanga.

The federation, through

its Legal, Ethics and Players' Status Committee, last week

### Vodacom Tanzania now affirms to keep on supporting Premier League

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania, main sponsors of the /20 Vodacom Premier league (VPL), on Friday awarded top performers of the just ended top flight.

Speaking at a ceremony that was held in Dar es Salaam, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office-Regional Administration and Local Government-Suleiman Jaffo, who graced the ceremony, commended Vodacom for their commitment and support to football development in Tanzania over the years.

"Vodacom sponsorship of the Mainland Premier League has indeed raised standard of football in Tanzania. I commend all stakeholders, who have made this day a success. It is indeed outstanding," he disclosed.

"I call on the organizers of the awards to widen the number of categories to include supporting sectors such as sports presenters."

Director for the Commercial Business Unit at Vodacom Tanzania, Linda Riwa, congratulated all winners of various categories and pledged her company's continued support in raising the standard of football in the country.

"As you are aware, Vodacom has entered a partnership agreement with Tanzania Football

Federation (TFF) in which the association will receive 9bn/- over a three-year period from 2019 to 2021.

"We continue to support development of football in Tanzania by nurturing talent and boosting the whole football industry, impacting football clubs, players, referees, assistant referees, coaches, suppliers, contractors and employment," she said.

"I reaffirm Vodacom's commitment in supporting development of football and the industry around it in Tanzania through sponsorship of the Premier League. And we look forward to another brilliant coming season," Linda concluded.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, said; "The level of football in the country has evolved to the standard you see today, with countless players of the senior national team now playing outside the country, this is testimony to concerted efforts by football fans and stakeholders, such as Vodacom, who have made this possible."

The VPL Player of the Year, Cletous Chama of Simba Sports Club, said he was delighted to be honoured among top football players in the country and called for more corporate support to boost the game in

Tanzania. "I am honoured to be picked among top players this season. I thank stakeholders such as Vodacom who are supporting the game in Tanzania and contribute to raise standards and talent of young players," he stated.

Vodacom Premier League's winners, Simba Sports Club, had many of their players laying their hands on the honours.

Other awards in various categories included the VPL best coach award that went to Sven Vandembrock of Simba SC, best defender award which went to Nicholas Wadada of Azam FC. Chama also lifted the VPL best midfielder award.

The best goal of the season's award went to Paston Shikala of Mbeya City FC, the VPL best U-20 player honour went to Novatus Dismas of Biashara United and the best goalkeeper's prize went to Aishi Manula of Simba SC.

The most disciplined team's award went to Kagera Sugar FC, top referee's honour was won by Dar es Salaam's Ramadhan Kayoko, whereas the best assistant referee's honour went to Hamdan Said from Mtwara. The total value of the awards amounted to over 263,000,000.00/-.

### JKT Club holds sway in National Open Boxing Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NATIONONAL Services Headquarters (MMJKT) club's boxers have emerged as overall winners of the just ended National Open Boxing Championships which was held at Tanganyika Parkers venue, Kawe in Dar es Salaam.

Open Boxing Federation of Tanzania (OBFT) Secretary General Lukelo Wililo said the MMJKT Club collected eight gold medals, six silver medals and nine bronze medals, followed by Magereza Club boxers who collected four silver medals and two bronze medals.

He hailed the competition shown by all boxers at the championships, which attracted boxers from Mwanza, Morogoro, Iringa, Dar es Salaam, Coast Region and clubs, namely MMJKT, Magereza and Kawe.

"We are very delighted with the level of competition shown by local boxers at the just ended championships, we thank all those who contributed to its success," he said.

Wililo said in the Light Flyweight division, Abdallah Mohamed of MMJKT won gold medal while Hamad Hashim and Mustafa Amri from Iringa and Kawe Club respectively won silver medals and Azizi Chala from MMJKT Club won bronze.

In Flyweight category, Issa Omari from MMJKT won gold medal while Mbwana Innocent and Iddi Athuman, both from MMJKT, won silver medals and in the Bantamweight division, Hussein Juma was awarded gold medal, John Mchonga from Magereza, Bakari Mohammed from Iringa and Boniface Mligwa from MMJKT both won silver medals.

The OBFT secretary general said in Lightweight category, Mwarami Mganda from MMJKT won gold medal, Hussein Mrutu, also from MMJKT, won silver medal, Edward Sanki and Said Kanenda both from the National Service Headquarters team won bronze medals.

In the Light Welterweight category, MMJKT boxer Sebastian John won gold

medal while Shaban Mganda from the same club won silver medal and Omari Salum and Yusuf Mambo from Magereza and MMJKT respectively won bronze medals.

In the Welterweight category, Mohamed Juma from MMJKT won gold medal, Gurushid Rashid from the National Services Headquarters team won silver medal while bronze medal went to Hilal Mwanje and Minhadi Ally from Kawe and MMJKT respectively.

In the Middleweight category, MMJKT boxer Haruna Sinundo was awarded gold medal, Uled Rashid from MMJKT won silver medal, whilst Magereza boxer Joseph Walter and National Service Headquarters team boxer Daniel Elyankunda won bronze medals. Mwanza-based boxer Mussa Changarawe won gold medal while Justine Chota from Magereza won silver medal and MMJKT boxers Abdallah Ndambe and Emmanuel Augustine both won bronze medals in Super Heavyweight category Alex Sita MMJKT won gold medal and Godfrey Samwel and Philemon John, both from Magereza, won silver and bronze respectively.

Wililo also announced that at the end of the championships, OBFT awarded boxing coaches for their outstanding contribution to the development of the sport in the country.

He mentioned the coaches as Anthony Kameda from Magereza, MMJKT coaches Mazimbu Ally and Fatuma Manzi, Samwel Kapungu 'Batman' from Iringa, Zacks Mwaseba from Morogoro, Amani Kidava from Kawe, Dar es Salaam and retired army officer, Michael Changarawe, who has been in the sport for more than 50 years.

Wililo also disclosed that the National Clubs Championships will be held in Babati, Manyara next month.

Regions, which have confirmed their participation in the showcase, he disclosed, are Arusha, Singida, Kagera, Mwanza, Iringa, Morogoro, Mbeya and national security institutions.



Team Kiba's Aggrey Morris (L) and Hassan Dilunga (R) keep Team Samatta's winger, Bernard Morrison, in check in a charity match involving the two sides, which took place at Mkipa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Team Kiba posted 3-1 victory over Team Samatta. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

### Flexibles by David Chikoko

