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CoRI urges information access laws roll out now

By Correspondent James Kandoya

STAKEHOLDERS in the Coalition on the Right to Information (CoRI) have highlighted the importance of continued dialogue on how to further strengthen the country's regulatory environment for accessing information.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam, ahead of the international day for universal access to information, CoRI chairman Kajubi Mukajanga (pictured) said it was time for the Media Services Act to be revisited and the other act enshrining the right to information rolled out.

The coalition calls for presence of information officers, proactive disclosures and monitoring the observance of a law intended to ensure universal access to information.

As Tanzanians commemorate universal



This affirmation is consonant with the theme chosen for the 2021 International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), viz., "The Right to Know - Building Back Better with Access to Information."

access to information world day, stakeholders grouped in the Coalition on the Right to Information are calling for the government to roll out an access to information act, five years after enactment of the Media Services Act, which is partially tied to another Act that acknowledges the universal right to information, he stated.

CoRI was in particular urging the appointment of information officers in public institutions, having a clear mandate for providing information and knowing their roles and responsibilities under such legislation, especially article 7 of the current Act, he stated.

"Furthermore, regular proactive disclosure on key information about government institutions, including staffing, structure and description of information they may hold as provided for by article 9 is vital," he affirmed,

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Samia unhappy about councils, project deals

Directs ALAT to supervise council funds to vulnerable groups

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday tasked the Association of Local Government Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) to make sure it fully supervises the 10 per cent provided by the local councils to support projects from vulnerable groups.

Opening the ALAT electoral conference, she said local councils should focus on issuing funds for large projects whose benefits are clear and visible, rather than issuing small amounts to numerous people for purpose of enhancing affinities with their voters or personal interests.

She strongly objected to how councils implement development projects, underlining that value for money was absent, as the value of implemented projects does not correspond to the funds provided.

"Even as we continue providing funds, the project value relating to the money disbursed must be clearly visible," she emphasised, pointing out that supervision of revenue collection and expenditure in district councils was problematic.

While not tasking any particular agency or officials of local governments in relation to how they spend money, she urged ALAT and senior local government officials to closely

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NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna (L) presents to Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) secretary general Elihema Kaaya a dummy cheque for 150m/- meant as the bank's sponsorship for association's annual general meeting, which opened in Dodoma city yesterday. Looking on are NMB chief of wholesale Alfred Shao (2nd-L), central zone manager Nsolo Mlozi (C) and head of government business Vicky Bushubo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NMB digital hauls 6trn/- to Treasury

By Special Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has called on local government authorities (LGAs) to improve their fiscal operations by greater use of digital channels, with NMB Bank saying it has in place the requisite infrastructure to support such orientations.

CEO Ruth Zaipuna told President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday that in the past three years the government collected 6trn/- through the bank's digital finance platforms, as the president officiated at the opening



The bank's social investments are made in this sphere as the majority of the targeted beneficiaries liaise with local governments

of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) election meeting.

"Through our huge investments in digital innovations and virtual service delivery platforms, NMB Bank is now a key stakeholder for the government in revenue collection," she said, with NMB as lead sponsor for the gathering, noting that NMB was also a strategic partner for the government in undertaking major infrastructure projects.

Commending NMB Bank and other stakeholders for supporting the ALAT three-day gathering, President Samia said new leaders of the decentralisation lobby should see to it that its members go fiscally digital, challenged them to ensure all LGAs revenue collections and spending are done and recorded digitally.

New technologies are needed for

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Israeli firm mulls \$200m agri-business investment

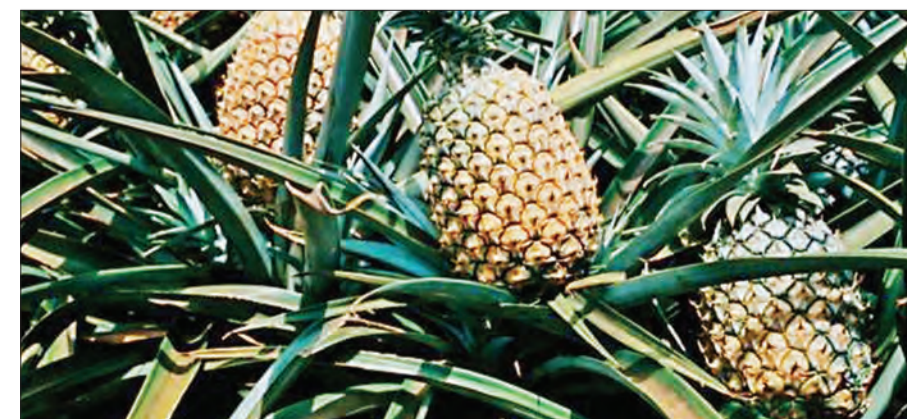
By Henry Mwangonde

AN Israeli company has announced plans to inject \$200 million into Tanzania's agro-industrial sector, an investment which is expected to employ more than 7000 people.

Avi Postelnik, the chief executive Officer of Smart Holding said the company is now doing ground work to prepare an enabled environment for kicking off the project.

Postelnik said the company will among other things set up a cattle farm to raise

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Samia unhappy about councils, project deals

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supervise how money is spent. She also instructed ALAT to go online in their activities by submitting local government reports on revenue collection and record services rendered to the people.

She promised hiring more experts for local government services and as revenue ability increases, also improve councillors benefits apart from the starting point in this year's budget, she stated.

She was unhappy with low participation of local residents in development projects, leading to poor location of vital services like markets for hawkers, and seeking to introduce unhelpful sweeteners for the use of such facilities.

Touching on the benefits of the recently introduced mobile cash transfer levies, she said the proceeds would help to build 15,000 classrooms all over the country, so that next January all pupils start school together.

The government's priority is to address challenges in education, building of dispensaries, roads and in a different address, power connection for all villages so as to improve social services delivery to the people.

She said these efforts are reflected in the massive allocation directed at the PO-RALG (President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments) which in the current financial year was allocated 7.3trn/-, or around 20 per cent of the entire government budget.

For his part, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that through the force account system there has been greater reliability in local councils' expenditure in development projects, demanding that ALAT work professionally on these issues.

PO-RALG minister Umyy Mwalimu said the government's decision to start paying allowances to councillors has been well

received, restoring respect for the role of ward councillors.

The ALAT general conference came under the theme "Elect Better Leaders for Sustainable Development," with ALAT deliberations also focusing on regulations relating to how town and municipal or city mayors work with district executive directors.



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Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja exchanges greetings with chiefs from various Ivory Coast tribes during the commemoration of World Tourism Day (September 27) held in Abidjan yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Happy Shayo

Israeli firm mulls \$200m agri-business investment

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2500 head for beef production, a feeding farm to raise 1500 cows and an automated milking plant.

The cattle plant will further include a processing and pasteurizing factory to produce and package milk and other dairy products.

"We will have a modern abattoir for the processing of beef products and cleaning of hides, abattoir services which will also be used by other beef farmers around the

country," he elaborated.

Currently the company is in discussions with the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) to form a mechanism for financing the project, whose mechanism involves setting up a syndicate of financiers to source the capital for this ambitious project, he stated.

The company similarly eyes poultry farming, divided into several sections including a broiler farm to supply approximately 26,000 tonnes of chickens per year. A layer farm to supply 60 million eggs per

year to the market and a hatchery to supply chicks to the boiler and layer farms are also planned, he explained.

The company will also engage in fish farming where fish farms, ponds and lake cages will raise about 10,000 tonnes of tilapia per year, with the ponds dedicated as a hatchery for fingerlings raising, he stated, alluding to a further project to process the fish into frozen fillet and other fish products for the local market and for export.

The company also plans to

invest in tropical fruit concentrates including a plant to process pineapples, passion fruit and mango into canned ring slices and chunks, also accommodating a plant to process and bottle pineapple, mango and other fruit juices.

Agricultural education and training centres will be used to train workers on advanced agriculture methods offered in Israel by enrolling Tanzanians for short and long periods in special projects of agro-sector education, the entrepreneur added.



Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (in black suit) pictured yesterday viewing finger millet planted in a Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute farm at Nzuguni in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

NMB digital hauls 6trn/- to Treasury

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efficiency and good governance purposes, so the new ALAT leaders should be champions of deployment and use of ICT in local governments operations for effective delivery of services and management of resources, the president underlined.

Local government authorities (LGAs) have for many years now been a strategic business and development partner for NMB Bank, as the bank is unrivalled in its close links with local governments, the CEO affirmed.

NMB services are fully available at the district level as NMB Bank is the only commercial bank with a branch in every district. The bank's social investments are made in this sphere as the majority of the targeted beneficiaries liaise with local governments, she stated.

One per cent of the post-tax profit that NMB Bank has been setting aside for philanthropic causes for 10 years now has made life better for many Tanzanians, she declared.

Over 500 participants of the ALAT meeting from 185 town, city, district and municipal councils heard that to date the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) investments, which focus on education, health and natural disasters, reach over 12bn/-.

More than 1,300 schools countrywide have received 85,000 desks while around 600 health centres were getting medical equipment from this source. More than 80,000 people have been trained in financial literacy, over one million benefit from programmes to help the needy when facing disasters like deaths arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, she elaborated.

Earlier this month, the bank launched the NMB Foundation to help broaden its social investment efforts and serve communities more

closely.

The bank also impressed the president with its special marathon run to collect 1bn/- in the next four years to help treat at least 240 fistula patients at CCBRT Hospital annually, with the CEO saying the set annual target of collecting 250m/-.

"The participation response was so impressive that we exceeded the first year target and collected 400m/- and all these funds have already been handed over to CCBRT to help treat 100 mothers who we believe will come from various district councils," she added.



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similarly underlining the need for a monitoring system to track information requests and the feedback provided.

For his part, the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) chairman, Deodatus Balile said that article 10 of the constitution recognises and promotes universal access to information, as it affirms that everyone has the right to seek,

receive and impart information.

The selective application of laws meant to advance and promote access to information was an obstacle to realising the right to information, as is the enactment of laws that run counter to the spirit of transparency, the media activist asserted.

Annastazia Rugaba, the "Twaweza" advocacy manager said that the world day event was a moment to highlight the importance of the

dialogue to strengthen the statutory regime for accessing information.

Extensive amendments to the Media Services Act of 2016; implementation of the Access to Information Act, 2016 along with improvement and implementation of embedded regulations would 'build back' strong institutions for sustainable development.

This affirmation is consonant with the theme chosen for the 2021

International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), viz., "The Right to Know - Building Back Better with Access to Information."

The day's activities focus on the view that the public need for accurate and reliable information has never been stronger than now, as countries struggle to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic while rebuilding communities and institutions, she added.



Coalition on Right to Information (CoRI) chairman Kajubi Mukajanga, who doubles as Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) executive secretary, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a joint statement by media institutions demanding that government press officers implement the country's Access to Information Act. He is with Twaweza manager Anastazia Rugaba (R) and Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) chairman Deodatus Balile. CoRI members include MCT, Twaweza, Sikika, Legal and Human Rights Centre, MISA-Tan, Tanganyika Law Society, Tamwa, Policy Forum, TEF, Media Owners Association of Tanzania and Jamii Forum. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

2.5bn/- earmarked to complete bridge connecting Tabora and Katavi regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

said Mwanga.

TANZANIA Roads Agency (TANROADS) anticipates to spend more than 2.5bn/- to finalise the construction of the Kalumbaleza bridge linking Rukwa, Tabora and Katavi regions.

Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti expressed his pleasure by the work pace saying the funds were provided by the government to alleviate transport challenges due to unfriendly bridge infrastructure.

Rukwa region TANROADS manager Eng Mgeni Mwanga said so far the construction of the bridge is 85 per cent complete and that by October 14 the project will be fully completed.

He said the government continues building bridges at various areas in the region and that so far work on three other bridges was progressing.

He said the project contract agreement was signed in January and the work begun in June this year with Sumri Enterprises, a Rukwa based firm.

Some of local residents thanked the government for the construction of the Kalumbaleza Bridge as now people can easily travel between Tabora and Katavi regions.

"Its initial cost was estimated at 1bn/- but due to destruction from seasonal rains, the cost rose to 2.5bn/- due to extra work including the increase to the bridge's length from 2.5 to 5.1 metres."

The Kalumbaleza bridge Project manager from Sumri enterprises, said Rajabu said one of the obstacles they faced was heavy rains that impeded work speed.

Govt to 'tighten noose' over drugs loss

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, has said the shortage of drugs at public hospitals is caused by unfaithful health workers, saying the government will tighten noose on drugs loss.

experts and stakeholders in drugs distribution in the country and called on them to have a strategic plan in record keeping to keep track of drugs' movements.

follow up system was now being discerned compare to five months ago when there were huge losses of drugs.

goods from MSD stores for use was 3.2bn/-.

She said to control the situation, the government has introduced a new system for collecting all reports from its departments dubbed Performance ScoreCard aimed at enhancing accountability among ministry's staff.

"The issue of drugs loss involves a few people whose vile plans can create huge destruction, we have therefore resolved that in addition to increase of the budget for drugs, the ministry will also be procuring drugs directly from factories to bring down costs," she said.

"Those who made follow ups and what they found was excellent, there was no drugs losses and no budget had been increased, we shall later come to explain on this, but the system has to a large extent helped in controlling drugs loss," Dr Gwajima added

She also said they discovered that the value of drugs dispatched to various centres and had not arrived was 354.7m/-, while the value of drugs that arrived at a department or a division but never reached patients at hospitals totaled 2.4bn/- while goods purchased from associates without MSD authorization totaled 5.6bn/-.

Dr Gwajima revealed this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when opening a meeting of

She said the issue is not entirely on poor supervision, but accountability and follow up on public resources done by unfaithful public officials.

She said follow ups was done for 18 months at Regional Referral Hospitals and whose reports were submitted on March 3 this year.

For his part, Daud Msasi, the Government Pharmacist said the country has a total of 18 drugs factory at various stages of construction, with some already operating all aimed at reducing drugs imports from the 88 per cent currently to below 30 per cent by 2030.

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Jenista Mhagama has urged young people to work hard and be more innovative in their work places so as to increase productivity and contribute to economic growth.

Youth urged to develop innovation to solve socio-economic problems

Most of the time even resolutions to put a friendly environment between the two sides have been proving no futile but Oryx has done it and this should be hailed as it will bring positive income not only to the factories, companies but to the national economic growth," she said.

TUICO secretary hinted on the note calling young people in various areas of work not to relax but rather be active and increase efficiency in everything they do.

Kalpeshi Metha commended the government through President Samia Suluhu Hassan for creating a conducive investment environment which attracts more people to invest and thus produce more employment opportunities.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the weekend during the signing of a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Oryx Energies and the Tanzania Union of Industrial and Commercial Worker (TUICO) as well as financial and service institutions, the Minister said young people should not stay relaxed after securing job opportunities but rather work hard to contribute to the growth of the companies.

"I am so happy to see the agreement speaking on increasing maternity leave period, this shows how you care a lot about the health of women and children, I encourage other companies to allocate special breastfeeding areas so as to allow mothers to take care of their children," she asserted.

Oryx Energies managing director

The minister also hailed Oryx for also funding school fees of the workers' children.

Bonicafe Mkakatisi,

Mhagama said the agreement will enable the employees to work in a more striking environment and benefit more.

She said signing of the agreement was a milestone stage for the employees and employers in the whole process of increasing incentives and productivity.

"It is very rare to see management striving to create a conducive and friendly environment with their workers.

KATIKA MAHAKAMA KUU YA TANZANIA DAR ES SALAAM UTHIBITISHO WA USIMAMIZI WA MIRATHI MRATHI NA 104 YA MWAKA 2021 MAOMBI YA BARUA ZA USIMAMIZI WA MIRATHI YA MAREHEMU MUSIMU MUKAMA KAYUMBA MWOMBALI DONALD BWIRE MASATU TAARIFA YA KAWAIDA (Kanuni ya 75) Watu wote wanaodai kuwa na haki na Mirathi ya marehemu alyeyajwa hapo juu wanafahamishwa kufika na kuangalia mashauri haya katika jalada kama wanaona inafaa kabla ya kutolewa kwa uthibitisho wa barua za usimamizi wa Mirathi kwa waomba-ji/mwombaji hapo juu. Mapingamizi yoyote kuhusu haya yawe yameandikishwa mnamo au kabla ya tarehe 21 Mwezi wa 10, 2021. Imewasilishwa Dar es salaam, leo tarehe 24 Mwezi wa 9, 2021.



CALL FOR CONSULTANCY: PROJECT EVALUATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION
Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) is a non-governmental organization that was found in 1989 and registered under the Non-Governmental Organization Act, No. 24 of 2002 as amended by Written Laws Miscellaneous Amendment Act no. 3 of 2019. The main objective of WLAC is to provide quality Legal services to disadvantaged Women and Children so as to safe guard their rights and improve livelihoods.

2.0 BACKGROUND
Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) through support from Legal Services Facility (LSF) implemented the "Legal Empowerment project on Labor rights to women and youths working in formal and informal sectors in Dar es Salaam". The main objective of the project was to improve working environment and reduce vulnerability and injustice among women and youth working in formal and informal sectors.

3.0 SCOPE AND FOCUS OF THE ASSIGNMENT
This project covered the 5 districts in Dar es Salaam namely Kinondoni, Kigamboni, Ubungo, Ilala and Temeke. The task will focus to evaluate the general aspects of the project component, logic, efficiency, effectiveness, relevancy and sustainability of the project.

4.0 DURATION AND TIME FRAME
The evaluation task is expected to be completed within 30 days.

5.0 CONSULTANCY COMPETENCIES, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS REQUIREMENTS.

- Masters degree in M&E, project management, social sciences, development studies, management, law or any other related studies.
- Strong technical and analytical capabilities and demonstrate the ability to collect, analyze and interpret data.
- At least 3 years proven experience with Project/Program Monitoring and evaluation.
- Quantitative and qualitative data management.
- Fluent in Swahili and English and able to work independently with minimum supervision and guidance.

6.0 DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
WLAC invites interested consultants to submit the following documents by 30th September, 2021, 16:00 hours.

- Expression of interest (Eoi) outlining how the M&E consultant meets the selection criteria and their understanding of the ToR.
- Names and contacts of three recent professional referees (previous clients) for whom similar work has been conducted.
- An example of similar pieces of work completed recently
- Curriculum vitae (CV) outlining relevant qualifications and experience.
- Itemized financial proposal.
- All documents should be submitted and be addressed to Executive Director, Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC), P.O BOX 79212, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or email: wlaac@wlaac.or.tz



ADMISSION INTERVIEWS

FEZA NURSERY AND DAYCARE (6 Months to 6 Years) FEZA PRIMARY SCHOOLS (STD 1 - 5)

02ND OCTOBER 2021 09.00 AM

09TH OCTOBER 2021 09.00 AM

16TH OCTOBER 2021 09.00 AM

Choose any suitable date for you

APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT:

- 📍 **DAR ES SALAAM - MBWENI**
Feza Nursery and Primary (Mbweni) NEW
- 📍 **DAR ES SALAAM - MIKOCHENI**
Feza Nursery and Daycare
- 📍 **DAR ES SALAAM - KAWA**
Feza Primary School
- 📍 **DODOMA - KILIMO KWANZA**
Feza Nursery and Primary School
- 📍 **ZANZIBAR - KISAUNI**
Feza Nursery and Primary School

0674 454 545

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0712 339 237

0762 508 000

0777 869 414



TADB financing factory to process cashew nuts from Mkinga District

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has financed the establishment of a small scale cashew nut semi processing factory in Mkinga District, Tanga Region. The project which is implemented in phases, sees the establishment of the processing facility in Mkinga in the first phase and financing cashew farmers with farm inputs for cashew productivity in the second phase.

Speaking during the launch of Innovating Cashew Value Chain by Care Tanzania in Tanga, TADB Eastern Zone Zonal Manager Jeremiah Mhada said that the bank has approved a loan facility worth US\$ 174,200 that will see buying of Cashew nut Machinery & equipment, Civil works for factory buildings and utilities and Working Capital for cashew nut purchase to Outgrowers Kilimo Industry Sigaya Limited.

"TADB has financed the company Out Growers Kilimo Industry Sigaya Limited to enhance value addition of Cashew nut and enable increase income of cashew farmers in Mkinga district. We believe that this facility will unlock the cashew value chain in Mkinga and bring new hope to cashew farmers whom many had abandon their farms due to market availability uncertainties," said Mhada.

Mhada emphasized the TADB role in catalyzing development of the agriculture sector and the vision to transform smallholder farmers into agri-business as he demonstrated how this investment is going to be an opportunity for smallholder cashew farmers who now will be linked to the market through their AMCOs DUGA.

Cashew processing allows development of cashew by-products which increases cashew value. The liquid inside the cashew shell when processed provides about 15% of oils which is medicinal and for industrial uses. Currently cashew nut shell liquid is sold to the European Union, United States, Japan and Republic of Korea market where by the leading suppliers are India and Brazil. Tanzania cashew by far has been termed the best in taste. According

to ANSAF, in the years 2016/17 Tanzania was the 3rd largest cashew producer in the world. Currently it ranks 4th in Africa. With 90% being exported raw.

"We at TADB hopes to stimulate increase productivity and this is a continuation of investments worth 33 billion already done to the value chain," Mhada affirmed.

"As AMCOs leaders we are happy with this investment. The investors have come all the way from Denmark to invest in our country and yet thought of a model that will as well enable local farmers get shares of the factory at 45%. Currently we are about 200 farmers and we are expecting more than 2,500 cashew farmers in this district to benefit too. By this we know that while TADB has not only financed Outgrowers but through it, it is reviving new hopes among us farmers," said Hassan Tuwano Duga AMCOs Chairperson Mkinga District Commissioner Col Maulid Surumbu called upon all stakeholders to reflect on their roles into the cashew productivity and define clearly those roles so that as the factory is fully installed by the next cashew season all stakeholders play their roles accordingly.

"What we want is accountability and responsibility. The government has ensured you the support you need, now we want to see increase in production of cashew in an acceptable quality for both local and international markets. 90% of our cashew is exported raw, this factory is offering Mkinga farmers with more income as a result of the factory in our District," affirmed Col. Surumbu

Extending gratitude to different stakeholders at the event with the presence of Tanga cashew board branch representative, Ughumba Kilasa said that the factory set by Out Growers Tanzania with TADB financing is going to enable more women and youth get income and thus improve their livelihood. "This move by TADB really is setting an exemplary of how Public Private Partnership can work to enhance improved livelihood among Tanzanians," she said.

To date, TADB has financed the cashew value chain with 33bn/-

Elephants, rhinos, chimps under siege with African tourism down

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN elephants, lions and rhinos face a renewed onslaught from poachers after Covid-19 caused cash from tourism to slump.

The pandemic has thrown African game reserves into crisis, virtually eliminating the tourism revenues that are vital for the conservation of gorillas, giraffes and other endangered species, according to a major new report.

The state-backed Kenya Wildlife Service, which is responsible for conserving and managing all the country's wildlife, has seen tourist revenue dive by 96 per cent since the pandemic struck.

Africa's tourism industry as a whole, responsible for most of the continent's anti-poaching and conservation funding, will lose up to \$250 billion (£183 billion) of earnings this year, according to United Nations estimates.

The funding shortfall has seen thousands of African rangers lose their jobs, and significantly reduced money for guns, equipment and other resources, allowing organised poachers to thrive.

And the problem is likely to get worse "as international borders open", the report found.

The pandemic has also reduced funding for more general conservation that has nothing to do with poaching, including looking after the plants and animals in the

area, such as by building electrified, game-proof fences that safely control their movement.

Subsistence hunting by locals, many of whom have become even poorer as a result of the pandemic and are forced into ever more extreme measures to feed their families, has also shot up.

As poaching levels have risen, one vulnerable area, the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, saw an 8,000 per cent increase in traps and snares recovered between May and July last year, the report noted.

Illegal logging has also jumped as a result of the pandemic, helping put hard-won conservation progress of crucial wildlife species such as Eastern Gorillas, Mountain Bongos and Lemurs in jeopardy, according to the report, by the conservation charities Tusk and Natural State, with contributions from 60 field conservation organisations in 19 African countries.

The endangered animals are variously hunted for their ivory, fur and skins as well as for bushmeat and, in some cases, for their purported - but unproven - medicinal benefits.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has been an unmitigated disaster for wildlife conservation in Africa, threatening to undo decades of progress," said Charlie Mayhew, chief executive of Tusk, a British charity for dedicated to wildlife conservation in Africa.



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank's (TADB) eastern zone manager, Jeremiah Mhada (L), pictured in Tanga city at the weekend with Mkinga district commissioner Col Maulid Surumbu, Outgrowers CEO Karsten Solaas, Duga AMCOs chairperson Projestus Rwehumbiza, TADB principal business development officer Furaha Sichula and Tanga Cashewnut Board representative Ughumba Kilasa holding a dummy cheque for 435.5m/- the bank has extended to support the construction of a cashewnut processing plant in the region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPA and MSCL tasked to prepare quality parking slot

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has directed the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) and the Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) to prepare a quality parking area of the new Mv Mwanza-Hapa Kazi Tu ferry whose construction has reached 54 per cent.

Deputy minister for Works and Transport Eng Godfrey Kasekenya made the directive when he inspected construction progress of the ship.

He said that MV-Mwanza, which will be the only big ship in Lake Victoria, is expected to commence operation in September 2022.

"This is the biggest ship to operate in Lake Victoria so make sure that all parking infrastructures are prepared because once completed, it is going to help address water transport challenges," he said.

He said: "Upon completion, the Mv Mwanza-Hapa Kazi will be plying between Mwanza, Bukoba and the neighbouring Uganda and Kenya thus helping address transport challenges and stimulate trade. The ship will open up trade and other economic activities in Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions through Kemono Bay."

"With the implementation of this project, passenger and cargo transport in the lake will significantly

improve, as well as trade within the country and neighbouring countries while injecting more revenues to the government," he said.

Eng Kasekenya said the government has already the contractor 70 per cent of the cost commencing President Samia Suluhu Hassan for facilitating issuance of the funds.

Philemon Bagambilana, acting managing director said the construction of the new ship is expected to cost 89.7bn/- with capacity to carry 1200 passengers and 400 tonnes of cargo.

Bagambilana said MSCL has also completed renovation of a New Victoria Hapa kazi Tu and the

New Butiama Hapa Kazi Tu ferries at a cost of 25.5bn/- and 5.7bn/- respectively. The ferries are now operating in the lake.

Lake Victoria port acting manager Vicent Steven said TPA has already conducted a feasibility study for the expansion and improvement of the parking terminal for all ships and they are currently in the procurement stage and searching for contractors.

The new MV Mwanza ship is constructed by contractors from GAS Entec Company and KANGNAM Corporation of South Korea and once completed will also be able to carry 20 min cars and three large cars.



Bishop Lucas Judah of the Mtwara Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania lays the foundation stone for a church building in Masasi District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has launched the Agricultural Technology Hub (ATH) in Dodoma Region in yet another bid to help increase the production and productivity of crops among the farmers in the central zone corridor.

Installed at Nanenane grounds, the center has been tailored to impart the agricultural extension officers and farmers in Dodoma and Singida regions with useful farming technologies.

Among the technologies, including improved seed technologies, good agronomic practices, post-harvest management, social-economic, and the farming system as well as integrated pest management, to mention but a few.

Speaking shortly after launching the hub, minister for agriculture Professor Adolf Mkenda observed that the major barrier of Tanzania's

TARI launches agricultural technology hub in Dodoma Region to increase crop productivity

agricultural sector was poor productivity among local farmers.

"Tanzania has been endowed with vast arable land that supports the production of different food and economic cash crops but the problem is poor productivity among our farming system," he observed.

He said even the most useful investors are failing to open large industries within the county due to a poor supply of crop-based raw materials.

"For instance, in Tanzania, one hectare of cotton produces between 200 and 350 tonnes, but in West Africa, they yield up to 1000 tonnes, in Egypt at least 2000 tonnes," he stated.

Citing more examples, minister Mkenda said Tanzania had netted a profitable market to export cassava

to China, but the deal has stagnated as the country has failed to cater to China's cassava market demand.

He challenged the farmers and agricultural extension officers in Dodoma and Singida regions to make sober use of the center in order to acquire helpful agro knowledge to help increase their productivity.

And he added the other factor which is upsetting the local agriculture sector was the lack of improved seed varieties.

"For instance, the country is currently witnessing an acute shortage of edible oil to the tune of compelling the country to spend billions of taxpayers' money to import edible oil, the poor development is only caused by lack of enough improved seed for sunflower in the country," he said.

Mkenda said the government will keep increasing budget allocation toward the key economic sector to allow more seed research, production, and multiplication in order to boost productivity.

Speaking earlier, Director General of TARI, Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo said the institute was currently implementing a country-wide strategy to impart the farmers with needed agronomic practices and technology.

So far, he observed, the institute has already opened at least 8 agricultural technology hubs to serve the farmers in different zones.

"We're working round the clock to uplift productivity among local farmers through imparting them with modern agro-technology," he detailed.



Contractors Registration Board (CRB), chairperson Consolata Ngimbwa (C) exchanges views with the chairman of the board's Mwanza regional chapter, Oscar Munisi (R), in Mwanza city at the weekend after closing a three-day financial management seminar for Tanzanian local contractors. Left is CRB assistant registrar (R&D), David Jere. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Africa Re, IFC partner on agric insurance

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA Reinsurance Corporation (Africa Re) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, have sealed an agreement to develop agriculture insurance market space in Nigeria.

Under the agreement, Africa Re, a pan-African reinsurance organisation, and IFC's Global Index Insurance Facility will help Nigerian insurance companies develop agricultural insurance products, and deepen their index insurance business lines.

These index insurance products will help protect farmers against environmental risks such as drought, floods, erratic rainfall and other natural hazards.

This no doubt will trigger innovative and more efficient solutions for small farmers, help them mitigate the effects of climate change-related shocks, protect them against catastrophic losses and access to finance.

The firms believed that the African agriculture insurance market has encountered several challenges that have resulted in the very low penetration levels of this class over

the years. Initially, indemnity-based products were a common feature. However, these products became riddled with high costs of administration and the inherent fraud risks made it difficult for underwriters to implement.

Thus a parametric solution was sought, specifically to encourage the smallholder farmers to access insurance at affordable terms. This solution is currently being adopted in many African markets.

Speaking on the partnership, Deputy Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer, Africa Re, Ken Aghoghovbia, said: "This initiative would certainly go a long way in moving Nigeria towards its goal of food security in line with Africa-Re's mission to support African economic development."

However, we are excited to be partnering with IFC in assisting Nigerian insurers to develop appropriate insurance products for smallholder farmers. This initiative will certainly help move Nigeria towards its goal of food security and it is in line with Africa Re's mission to support African economic development."

By Guardian Reporter

Combine forces to safeguard biodiversity in Rufiji River Basin, stakeholders urged

STAKEHOLDERS of the Rufiji River Basin have been urged to combine forces to fight the increasing human activities in the area so as to protect biodiversity.

Prof Japhet Kashaigili, supervisor and coordinator of the research project titled "Uncertainty reduction in models for understanding development applications" UMFULA, made the call recently in Iringa when presenting the research findings and closure of the project.

It was organised by the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. UMFULA - ('river' in Zulu), is a five-year research project aimed to improve climate information for decision-making in central and southern Africa, with a particular focus on Tanzania and Malawi to implement a 4-year research based project.

Prof Kashagili raised concern that

the increase of human activities along and in the Rufiji River Basin brings harmful impacts to the river and environment.

He said that there is a need for stakeholders and the community surrounding the basin to take keener interest in protecting its natural resources including fighting deforestation.

He said the UMFULA project research which commenced in 2015 and ended this year, has greatly helped the country to get more information that will help authorities to decide well in protecting the Rufiji River Basin (RRB)

Prof Kashaigili said the team worked to generate for the region new insights and more reliable information about climate processes and extreme weather events and

their impacts on water, energy and agriculture, with the aim to support long-term 5 to 40 years planning decisions around resource use, infrastructure investment and cross-sectoral growth priorities.

He said the technical knowledge gained and teams formed during this project are central to achieving the long-term goal of equipping users with a tool to enhance sustainable conservation of freshwater biodiversity.

"Using 34 modules used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has shown that the rainfall system is very flexible and that in the future there may be more or less rainfall especially in the southern parts of the basin so this information helps the country to plan if the rains are to increase what

can be done and if reduced what to do and so the project has identified important measures to take in the situations," he said.

He noted that data gaps and lack of access to freshwater biodiversity information in the Rufiji River catchment curtail informed decision-making for sustainable conservation of biodiversity of this river system.

He said as the country is implementing a number of strategic projects including the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP), having durable plans to ensure that there is steady supply of water so as to support power production is vital.

He said the project was implemented collaboratively by the Sokoine University of Agriculture

(SUA) and the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (London School of Economics and Political Science), University of Dar es Salaam, Kulima Integrated Development Solutions-South Africa, University of Oxford-UK, University of Sussex-UK, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-South Africa, University of Manchester-UK, University of KwaZulu-Natal-South Africa.

"We have witnessed massive deforestation and other human activities which pose great risk to the sustainability of the river basin, this needs collective efforts to ensure that the catchment is protected," he added.

The research has also identified that the increase of unmanaged agricultural activities within the

basin also affects wetland areas which are important in controlling sands from entering into the hydropower production dams, something which should be acted immediately.

Rufiji River Basin director, Eng Florence Mahay, said the findings of the research will help them plan better and come up with strategies on sustainable use of the catchment.

UMFULA is part of the Future Climate For Africa (FCFA) programme, funded by the UK Department for International Development and Natural Environment Research Council. The aim of UMFULA was to enable more effective use of climate information in decision-making and to provide support to planning for resource use, infrastructure investments and cross-sectoral growth priorities, through the identification of adaptation options that are robust and resilient in the face of climate change and other non-climate stressors.



Canara Bank (Tanzania) Ltd.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Canara Bank (Tanzania) Limited [CBTL] was registered under Tanzania Company Act, 2002 on 2nd November 2015. The bank has started Banking Operations on 9th May 2016 with opening of Dar es Salaam branch at Plot No 16/1, Elia Complex (GF), Bibi Titi Road, Zanaki, Dar es Salaam.

The Bank invites applications from suitably qualified and skilled persons to fill the following available vacancy.

1. HEAD OF TREASURY AND TRADE FINANCE

JOB PURPOSE:

The Head of Treasury and Trade Finance must be an experienced professional with knowledge of all matters concerning Treasury business and Trade Finance in the Bank.

Reporting to Deputy CEO, the incumbent is responsible for Marketing, delivery and management of the Treasury and Trade Finance products in accordance with the business strategy. Working closely with Deputy CEO in ensuring the delivery growth of high quality treasury products and services to clients and developing and managing relationships with Banks customers so as to ensure customer base and optimum customer retention and income generation from sales of all appropriate bank products to those customers.

KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Development, preparation, implementation and delivery of treasury business strategic plan, working in close liaison with the Deputy CEO and other Product partners.
- Coordination of customer relationships and treasury sales processes
- Identification of customer opportunities, both in-country and regionally.
- Identification of in-country competitive threats and market opportunities, to feed into product strategy
- To market and manage Trade Finance business
- To assist in the growth of Trade Finance business.
- To identify opportunities for new/improved Trade Products, to raise the profile of Canara Bank in the Trade Finance Market and make Canara Bank a reputable Bank for Trade customer's in Tanzania.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- University degree in Banking, accounting, Finance, economics, business administration or any other related field. Professional qualification in ACI will be an added advantage.

EXPERIENCE & COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

- At least five years of experience in treasury management with focus on Trade Finance and funding management preferably in bank
- A sound knowledge of sophisticated Treasury and Trade Finance products and ability to structure them appropriately in providing risk based solutions to customer requirements.
- Proficiency for evaluating market conditions and responding quickly, proactively and positively
- Proven leadership and people management skills with a high level of commitment and enthusiasm.
- Ability to manage and motivate staff
- Good analytical and decision making skills
- Ability to market and establish client relationships
- Knowledge of new and evolving technology systems including the benefits and shortfalls of investment thereof.
- Wide Trade product knowledge and knowledge of other products for corporate clientele to provide packaged solutions to meet the ever-increasing customer demands and sophistication
- Ability to carry out appropriate trade pricing recommendations
- Problem solving ability on customer queries and other issues affecting trade business
- Ability to network both with internal and external relationships in order to maximize the share of Canara Bank trade business

If you are meeting the above requirements e-mail the following:

- Covering letter clearly indicating the position,
- Curriculum vitae with copies of certificates of education and professional qualifications

All applications must be sent only to; recruitment@canarabank.co.tz not later than **16th October 2021**

- Applications not following the above specifications will not be considered.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Affiliate of the University of California, San Francisco

Plot 385 Mtitu Street, #7
PO Box 38665
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org

Job Opportunity – Health Information Systems Developer

Location : Dar es Salaam
Application deadline : October 4, 2021
Start date : November 15, 2021

Background:

The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) is engaged in a five-year Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Tanzania (CDC-Tanzania) to provide strategic information and health information systems (HIS) technical assistance to the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) as well as the United States' President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and their implementing partners (IPs). We are recruiting an individual through our affiliated international NGO 'Global Programs' to serve as a Health Information Systems Developer.

This is a full-time 12-month position with the possibility of extension subject to continued funding. The position is expected to start on November 15, 2021.

Main duties and responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Systems Integration and Informatics Director, the HIS Developer shall be responsible for designing, developing, implementing, testing, maintaining, auditing, and improving new and existing health information systems and project software. The developer will also bring expertise to activities related to developing interoperability between EMR, Lab, and other health information systems. The developer shall also ensure that all software developed conforms to set software development standards by conducting rigorous diagnosis, tests, code debugging, and technical documentation through reference manuals.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Work with the HIS team to design software solutions by studying information needs, systems flow, data usage, and work processes while adhering to the software development lifecycle.
- Evaluate, maintain, and evolve existing health information systems such as CTC2, CTC3, CTC Analytics, Monthly Portal, Lab Visual Tool, IQSMS, PTCQI, etc.
- Assist the HIS team in designing and implementing interoperability between existing health information systems such as CTC2, CTC3, CTC Analytics, Monthly Portal, Lab Visual Tool, IQSMS, PTCQI, etc.
- Support the piloting, rollout, training, and maintenance of HIS systems to Implementing Partners.
- Investigate, analyze, and make recommendations to management regarding technology improvements, upgrades, and modifications.
- Analyze user needs and software requirements to determine feasibility of design within time and cost constraints.
- Develop and coordinate software system testing and validation procedures, programming, and documentation.
- Prepare reference materials for users by writing operating

instructions, flowcharts, layouts, diagrams, charts, code comments, and clear code.

- Undertake other tasks within the scope of the role as directed by management from time to time.

Experience, skills, and minimum required qualifications:

- A Bachelor's Degree or equivalent qualification in computer science, software engineering, or information systems required. Experience working with health information systems required.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience as a software developer or engineer; demonstrable experience in developing a variety of software systems while taking on increasing responsibility for analysis, design, implementation, and development tasks [reference required].
- Advanced experience developing data-driven applications utilizing significant relational database engines as part of the overall application architecture (experience with at least two of the following is highly desirable: MS SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Ms Access).
- Working experience using jQuery, Git, Restful web services, Agile methodology, and android SDK.
- Advanced knowledge and skill with popular programming languages (either C#, JAVA, or PHP 7). Advanced knowledge in Python is an added advantage.
- Proficiency in developing and troubleshooting complex software systems that run in mixed environments including Windows on desktop, server, tablet, and mobile systems.
- Demonstrable skills in enterprise application integration.
- Ability to work successfully in a team.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Swahili.

Other desired skills/qualities:

- Excellent skills in critical thinking and analysis
- Excellent organizational and oral/written communication skills
- Ability to work independently and manage various tasks under tight deadlines

To Apply:

All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed in the minimum requirements above with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

All applications must include the following:

- A current CV with names and telephone numbers for at least 2 referees
- Copies of academic and professional certificates

Applications and supporting documents should be sent via e-mail to info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org and must be received by October 4, 2021.

NOTE: Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Four regions lead in use of mercury in gold processing

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

FOUR regions have been cited as leading in the use of mercury while women are in more danger in the adverse effects of the element in gold mining areas.

More than 80 per cent of gold processing in the country which is between 13.2 and 214.4 tonnes per year use mercury with the leading regions being Geita, Mbeya, Shinyanga and Mara.

In the circumstances, the government is set to reduce the use of mercury in gold processing by 30 per cent by 2025.

This was revealed here yesterday to reporters by the Environmental Engineer in the Vice President's Office, Kamkuru Maganya, at a two-day workshop on the Minamata Protocol and the Task Plan to reduce the use of mercury by gold miners.

He said between 20 and 30 per cent of gold miners are women who engage themselves in gold processing activities.

"The small miners sector provides direct employment to about 1.2 million people and indirect employment to 7.2 million, equivalent to 90 per cent of the labour force in the country's mining sector," he added.

He further said many of these miners are between 18 and 40 years old, performing their activities in the mines including rock blasting and gold processing.

"It is estimated that between 25 to 33 per cent of small gold miners in the country have been affected by mercury," he added.

He explained that so far there hasn't been an alternative to the mercury and what was being done is

to make sure the use of the chemical is safe by using protective gear and technology to protect miners' health and the environment.

Maganya said in order to control the effects of the mercury, Tanzania last year ratified the Minamata Treaty on the use of mercury and put up a national strategic plan in the reduction of the use of the chemical element to small gold miners.

He said the government has concentrated on the small gold miners because it affects a lot of people.

For his part, Eng. Abel Madaha from Tanzania Mining Commission (TMC) said the effects of mercury to humans are big even when using protective gear such as rubber gloves.

He said any one can be affected, but pregnant women, small children and young people were more prone.

"Various researched have found out that some small gold miners were found with a large concentration of mercury in their bodies, up to 13 times more than the required level given by WHO," he added.



It is estimated that between 25 to 33 per cent of small gold miners in the country have been affected by mercury



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with NBC Bank business director Elvis Ndunguru (L) in Geita town at the weekend during the launch of the 4th Mining Sector Technology and Investment exhibition. The bank has set aside 20bn/- in loans to small-scale miners. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Immigration officials in Kahama District holding illegal migrants

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

THE Immigration Department in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region is holding 21 immigrants from Burundi and Mozambique allegedly for entering the country without valid permits.

The immigrants were arrested during a special crackdown on foreigners who have entered the country illegally and those found to

be employed by locals contrary to the country's laws.

Addressing reporters here at the weekend, Kahama District Immigration Officer, Salumu Rashid said the operation was a routine one, aimed to control people from Burundi who have fled their country due to life hardships.

Salumu said the immigrants have been entering Kahama District and working in tobacco farms, selling

eggs, peanuts, buns and other small activities. He said others engage in cattle and goats keeping and have been coming into the country through unauthorized routes and upon interrogation after arrest, they said they have fled their country because of life hardships.

Salumu cautioned local people who host illegal immigrants, saying it is illegal, and if arrested legal steps can be taken against them.

He said in one month they arrest more than 50 illegal immigrants in various areas of the district, including bus stations, adding that, they do not easily admit to have come from Burundi.

He said it would be better for them to follow legal procedures when entering the country and if caught they face up to 500,000/- in fine or three years' imprisonment or both penalties.



Hai constituency legislator Saashisha Mafuwe (L) pictured in Machame Kati ward yesterday handing over to Hai district executive director David Lekei (C, in specs) improved coffee seedlings from the Tanzania Coffee Board. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Tanzania has below standards milk uptake - WFP

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MILK uptake in Tanzania is below the international standards, with one Tanzanian estimated to drink 50 liters a year compared to the required 200 liters, according to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Speaking ahead of International Milk Day, Mbeya Regional

Administrative Secretary, Anjelina Lutambi said the level of milk consumption is low, especially in primary schools, where she gave an example of Kilimanjaro Region, saying there are 24 schools that provide milk, Mbeya has four schools and Iringa has two schools, a situation she said is unsatisfactory.

She said Tanzania has 210 schools

with more than 9,000 students, who are in the process of drinking milk so through the celebrations the government will encourage the community to drink milk.

One of the milk traders Tausi Azory has said that despite the government's promotion of milk consumption, the dairy market is still small, which is contributing to the drop in prices.

Another milk seller, Janeth Samson said that there should be a system in place to provide education from the family level to encourage the consumption of milk at the county and village levels.

She said that at national level, the International Milk Day scheduled for September 29, will be held at Ruanda Nzovwe grounds in the city of Mbeya

Doctors in charge at referral hospitals now to be assessed on strength of five standards

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children has cited five issues with which Doctors in Charge at regional referral hospitals will be assessed regarding their work performance including implementation of directives from top officials.

Other things include income collection, accountability, improvement of medical services, creativity and addressing patients' complaints.

The remarks were made here yesterday by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Prof Abel Makubi at the meeting with the referral hospitals doctors in charge.

Prof Makubi said their work performance will be evaluated by looking into their accountability, leadership, patriotism and creativity in calling many sittings that involve staff and other workers in various medical issues.

He said they will also be assessed on how they implement directives from the top, for instance from President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and other top leaders.

"There are others who simply ignore the President or PM's directives, including guidelines, and after a month you are told to submit the report, but you don't, we will also look into issues of creativity, relations with fellow staff, we depend on you as you have great responsibility for your regions in making sure of the provision of quality medical services, as well as for eradicating complaints," said Prof Makubi.

He further said the government vows to continue improving the health services including expanding of specialists' services in regional and district hospitals, "the issue that we want to see is given priority," he added.

He added: "We like to see the regional referral hospitals are expanded starting this year, and to make sure all unfinished projects are finished, there are more than 22 buildings under construction, and since you are in those areas, make sure you closely supervise them to ensure they are completed, as the funds are available."

For his part, the Ministry's Assistant Director of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Dr James Kiogwe, called on the doctors to submit their strategic plans to the ministry taking into consideration the COVID-19 situation that has been causing various challenges, including ethics at work places.

"Of late, there have been many incidents involving health services providers that were unacceptable, and you must conduct meetings in your areas to make sure all staff and workers perform their duties responsibly," he added.



Of late, there have been many incidents involving health services providers that were unacceptable, and you must conduct meetings in your areas to make sure all staff and workers perform their duties responsibly



Muheza district commissioner Halima Bulembo (R) pictured yesterday having a word with small traders, chiefly relating to their activities. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Minister issues 45-day ultimatum for TRA officials to destroy abandoned plastic bags

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

MINISTER of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafo has given 45 days to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) manager at the Dar es Salaam port, Florence Mniko to destroy five containers carrying plastic bags at the Ubungo dry port.

Minister Jafo issued the directive when he made an impromptu visit at the Ubungo dry port where

he asked the TRA, Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) and the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to team up and obliterate the consignment of plastic bags that are banned from use in the country.

The containers of plastic bags were being shipped to Malawi but remained at the port for more than a year.

"I am giving you 45 days to dispose of these bags and after that I would like to get a report on the matter," the minister said.

TRA's port manager said the containers were on their way to Malawi and the DRC but stayed at the port for more than 21 days and was later abandoned by the importers.

In addition, Mnika said the country's law does not allow the use of plastic bags so TRA cannot sell the cargo in the said containers so now the only way is to burn them.

NEMC Director of Legal Services Bernad Kongola affirmed that there were five containers en route to

Malawi.

"We later received information that there were people who wanted to buy these goods but our law that came into force in June 2019 prohibits the importation and use of plastic bags therefore the government will take action to destroy it," he said.

In May 2019, the government announced a ban on the entry of all plastic carrier bags over environmental conservation reasons.

Impact Hub Dar es Salaam begins implementing drive on the attainment of SDGs

By Guardian Reporter

THE Impact Hub Dar es Salaam has started implementing the Accelerate 2030 programme so as to support the country's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Accelerate2030 is the world's largest programme supporting entrepreneurs from developing and emerging markets to scale their solutions for the sustainable development goals.

Rehema Mtandika, manager of Impact Hub-Dar es Salaam said in the statement that through Accelerate 2030 programme entrepreneurs are prepared for scaling, and at the global phase, which runs for six months with the focus on supporting the entrepreneurs to scale, while providing them with coaching support, linked with technical consultants, and exposed to the connection to funders.

"The Tanzania edition has been launched with a cohort of five businesses looking into contributing to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15), and Environment Conservation."

The programme applies "circular economy" principles to help them strengthen their business strategies. The entrepreneurs will be accelerated for a period of four months, offered local and global mentorship with expert support. There will also be capacity building through masterclass workshops, global peer to peer sessions, a virtual learning platform for resources, webinars and tools, and connections for collaboration.

"A unique online course from Accelerate2030 from Geneva and the International Trade Centre is offered to entrepreneurs with modules on leadership, resilience and energy management, impact management and measurement, scaling for impact, circular economy and business internationalization,"

she said.

Mtandika said the Tanzania Cohort includes PREYO Group Ltd which develops valuable automobile bushings and building materials with durability and affordable price from recycled plastic.

Jollie Reusable Pads & Accessories, an enterprise that produces affordable and better period hygienic alternative - sanitary pads, made from organic fabrics and pure cotton materials that are chemical free, and are reusable for up to two years; AGRILIFE, pioneering a waste-to-nutrient organic produce that is eco-friendly, and alternative protein for fish meal/ aqua feeds, fertilizer for crops nourishment, and sustainable protein ingredients for the poultry industry.

Another is ShuleYetu, a digital school management software system, and an e-learning platform for integrated parental involvement in students learning process with an innovative, yet cost-effective way to improve learning outcomes and ensuring that no child is left behind. Moreover, ELI Green Gold Farm Enterprise which is promoting improved cassava farming, buying dried cassava chips from smallholder farmers, manufacturing and selling cassava flour for domestic use and export purposes.

Mtandika said Impact Hub Dar es Salaam is part of the world's largest global network of entrepreneurs, dedicated to generating positive impact on a large scale through the generation of innovative, and tangible solutions to solve the world's most pressing problems.

"We develop support programmes for entrepreneurs (incubation, acceleration and escalation) in their different stages of development, social programmes, while giving them extensive experience in the design of innovative solutions for private companies, public organisations, and multilateral organisations, among others."

By Correspondent Crispin

Gerald

TANZANIAN parents and guardians have been urged to be good mentors to their children in nurturing their talents in order to make their dreams a reality.

Parents are the immediate caregivers who are responsible to make sure that children are given equal chances to make their dreams a reality.

AMREF Tanzania country director Dr. Florence Temu made the remarks over the weekend during the 10th graduation ceremony for standard seven students at Kilimani schools whereby a total of 100 students have graduated.

She said that children need to be groomed with a better understanding of how they can develop their dreams in order to succeed in what they want to be.

"I urge the students to keep more efforts in what they want to achieve in life in order to be better in a specific area," Dr. Temu who was the guest of honour insisted.

She applauds the effort of the Kilimani schools in making sure students are ethical, skillful, determined, and able to succeed.

For his part, Kilimani school director, Lazaro Peter said parents have got all the responsibility to make sure children are becoming what they intended to.

"We work together with parents to help identify the talents of students and look for a better approach to develop it for his or her benefit," he said.

Nurture your child's talents, Tanzanian parents advised

"The school management also has a special programme to support students with various skills which can help in their future," said Lazaro.

"We encourage students to learn science subjects and practice science projects in order to expand their ability of thinking and understanding," he said.

Lazaro added that the school is collaborating with parents to make sure that students are morally brought up with the discipline and good performance.

According to him, the programme

has encouraged a number of students in the school to have a passion for science subjects and to learn how they can excel in their lives.

He detailed that the school has been imparting different skills to students to help them nurture their talents and be able to use them for their future.

"We train students with skills in tailoring, scouting, art craft, painting, and decoration mainly to help them obtain extra skills to use for their future," he added.

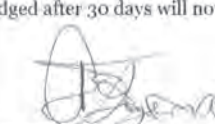
QUEENSWAY TRUSTEES (1998) LIMITED
Incorporation number 34463
The Companies Act, 2002
(Section 334 (1))

MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the General Public that at a duly convened meeting of Queensway Trustees (1998) Limited (the Company) company number 34463 which took place on 18 May 2021 the following special resolutions were passed:

1. that in accordance with section 333 (1) (b) of the Companies Act, 2002, the company should be wound up voluntary; and
2. that the members have approved the appointment of Joseph Cynock Lyimo of Pemba House, 369 Toure Drive, Oyster Bay, P O Box 45, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as the Liquidator of the Company.

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public and the parties concerned to submit their claims for admission within 30 days. Claims lodged after 30 days will not be considered for admission.


 JOSEPH CYNOCK LYIMO
 Liquidator
 For QUEENSWAY TRUSTEES (1998) LIMITED



PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR AIDS
(TACAIDS)



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Executive Director for Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), would like to inform all Stakeholders and the General Public, that since June 2021, TACAIDS offices have been moved to Dodoma City at Nzuguni area, Nane Nane Grounds.

Welcome all,

For more contact:
 Executive Director,
 Tanzania Commission for AIDS
 P. O. Box 2904
DODOMA, TANZANIA.

Tel: 026 2190600

E-mail: info@tacaids.go.tz or ed@tacaids.go.tz

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Strategic renewal in TANESCO reminder of earlier reform stint

NUMEROUS stakeholders were prying their ears to get a glimpse of indication on what the new management and board in the country's electricity corporation, TANESCO are being assigned to do, and how they expect to go about their new tasks. There wasn't much in terms of declaratory assertions or affirmations, either from incoming Energy minister January Makamba or the new board and management chiefs. It was a matter of piecing together intentions both in their appointment and the tone of declaration.

Reports rapidly said that the minister has issued directives to the TANESCO board and management to achieve targets of efficiency, profitability and good customer care. The new team was being introduced to zonal managers in Dar es Salaam, with a rather curious remark that there will be no interference from the government, asserting that this was one among the reasons for failures in achieving the company's goals. That remark can have a bevy of implications, but as President Samia Suluhu Hassan decided to replace the minister as well as the management and board, it is not clear that political supervision is the key here?

Bad political interference may constitute in being selective of who pays power bills and who does not, a situation which brought TANESCO to the brink of privatisation during the third phase presidency, if the company can't collect bills or place prepaid supply meters in major public institutions. This wind finally dissipated but there is a way in which history repeats itself, so it may be the case now. It is still unclear.

The government has altered the management and overall supervision of the corporation from

a public sector setting to something a bit different, which means it now has organisational reforms to carry out in order to enable the new board and management to stick to the management culture of their being hired. It quite simply means that TANESCO shares be placed on the stock exchange with a major buyer chosen by the government, stripping the corporation of its cultural drawbacks. The size of the managerial team in each district, numerous regions or zones is an issue; most big firms don't quite need expansive structures.

That is why the minister will have to follow up with structural changes for him to actually live up to his motto of ending political interference in how the entity is managed or in its day to day operations. One such problem he talked about was outage, that headquarters can't even know if there is power cut in a whole area until a resident phones, and it is unclear who receives the phone and how action teams are organised. A resident would have to phone a top company official, and again he would have to care about the issue, all of which is hypothetical - and only when there is fear of political fallout do they take care.

Put graphically, a government owned company can't operate without having to look over the shoulder as to what reactions its methods of lack of zeal are promoting, for instance at one time the late President Magufuli - who as a trained scientist could tell off 'professionals' without them being able to snide or chuckle that he was just a politician - why they shut down both Mtera and Kidatu dams to conduct maintenance work on both power stations. It appeared that this was designed; work could be rescheduled.

World Tourism Day a reminder to raise economic dynamism for local tourism

WORLD Tourism Day is commemorated each year on September 27 to foster awareness in individual countries and within the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. It is one of the more established of UN days, having been designated by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in September 1979 and being marked from the following year.

Chroniclers say the date was picked to enshrine the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes on 27 September 1970, thus took ten years to establish itself firmly on the world scene, an itinerary rather similar to ours, in the sense that we have always been a substantial part of world tourism, but scarcely with recognition.

This situation has started to change with Tanzania's attractions receiving high mention and awards in a number of tourism galas around the world, but numbers of visitors have remained somewhat constrained - even with fairly rapid increase in the past two or three decades. Tourism has been a major part of links and contentions in the East African zone, with stop-go declarations of a common regional marketing of tourism destinations, as suspicions of that outlook have never been soothed. We are somewhat closer to tourism sector regional cohesion in changes over the past six months, but definitely it isn't a new reality.

Locally however there has always been a discrepancy between our tourism wealth and the limited number of visitations at the local level, despite that institutions - especially schools - often make an effort to have a class of those finishing school, day Form IV or Form VI to visit a nearby tourism site for sentimentally enhancing exposure.

Families that can organise vacations or two to three day visits to tourist spots are few to say the least, while it is another matter to figure out how many can foot such costs but aren't willing to do so, or scarcely think of the issues. One reason is that people here don't have holidays strictly speaking, as most people (men or women) must put their hands on other things to make ends meet, not just salary.

One among themes that are being developed at UN level especially by UNWTO and affiliate member agencies is developing what are described as inclusive tourism destinations, "focusing on the capacity of tourism to integrate disadvantaged groups and benefit from its activity." This might be the case at UN level but policy focus here is on what the country as a whole benefits, and at certain points commercial entities in the tourism sector like those operating camps or hunting blocks have clear corporate social responsibility programmes. Surprisingly, so that such programmes are widely scattered all over the country, and also reduce government expenditure commensurably, divesting national parks may suffice.

Hunting of large mammals on an industrial scale decimated elephants and rhinos until 2016, with the nonsense supervision of the fifth phase government, but it is unclear if the new habits so cultivated will stand the constant temptation to go back, and if that happens, what solutions will be there. That is why thinking of deep reforms and collecting more taxes from the parks, not just arrivals, is something that is worth looking at, as we have zealous partners like the Frankfurt Zoological Society, the Dr Jane Goodall Foundation and others, to whom we can entrust our parks without fear of looting, etc.



By Samson Itodo

AS the world eagerly anticipates Africa's biggest election in 2023, policy capture, process manipulation, and geo-politics are defining the electoral framework reform process as veto players exercise their preferences for policy outcomes. As custodians of public interest, the National Assembly and the executive arm of government bear the burden of ensuring that the current reform process produces sustainable reforms, not ephemeral outcomes.

In July 2021, the National Assembly passed the Bill under controversial circumstances. In the House of Representatives, opposition lawmakers staged a walkout. At the same time, the Senate passed a controversial vote to subject INEC's constitutional power to electronically transmit election results to the approval of the National Assembly and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), a body unknown to the country's constitution. Overall, there were points of convergence and divergence in the voting patterns of legislators.

Despite the controversies trailing the amendment process, both chambers voted for several legal prescriptions in the Electoral Bill 2021 that will undeniably enhance the quality of the elections if strictly implemented.

A comprehensive breakdown of the timelines in the Bill shows that key electoral activities have been altered to address the logistical challenges posed by unrealistic timeframes in the current electoral act. To encourage early primaries, the compilation and submission of the list of candidates are concluded in time to give enough room for planning and printing sensitive electoral materials. The timeframe for submitting the list of candidates to INEC is extended from 60 days to 180 days before the date appointed for a general election. By this provision, all party primaries for the 2023 general election will be concluded by August 2022.

The voting pattern in the Senate and House of Reps indicates legislators diverged on sixteen clauses in the Bill. As evinced in the voting pattern, most legislators voted to advance partisan interests at the expense of public interest. However, this analysis focuses on three main issues which are pertinent to the ongoing reforms and the future of Nigeria's electoral process

Electronic accreditation of voters: The Bill makes provisions for electronic accreditation of voters using the Smart Card Readers or any technological device as may be determined by INEC. While

Electoral Bill 2021: Convergence, divergence, dilemmas for Nigeria



both chambers voted in favour of electronic accreditation of voters, the House of Representatives redrafted the provision and deleted the phrase 'any technological device' based on a motion for amendment moved by the Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon Femi Gbajabiamila. The House of Representatives position is too constricting and counterproductive, as it will undoubtedly impede INEC's ability to deploy new technologies for voter accreditation.

Electronic transmission of results: In line with constitutional practice, the Bill conferred INEC with the powers to determine the procedure for election results transmission. While the House of Representatives adopted the provision of the Bill, the Senate voted to subject INEC's power to transmit election results electronically to the approval of the National Assembly and the NCC. By all standards, the Senate's position amounts to a constitutional overreach as it violates Section 78 and Third Schedule Part 1(F) S.15 of the constitution, which stipulates that INEC shall not be subject to the direction of anybody or authority. INEC and other stakeholders have strongly condemned the Senate and urged the harmonization committee when constituted to adopt the House of Representative's position. A recent report released by Yiaga Africa contradicts the NCC's position that Nigeria is ill-prepared for electronic transmission of results. Data from the 2019 Presidential Election Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) shows that election results were transmitted electronically from the polling unit using the Smart Card readers. Since August

2020, INEC has conducted elections and transmitted election results from 20 States and the FCT, covering 26 constituencies spread across 83 LGAs. The Yiaga Africa report validates INEC's position on its preparedness to deploy technology to transmit election results fully. Unfortunately, the Senate insists on retaining its position on e-transmission of results.

Nomination of candidates by parties: Based on a motion for amendment moved by the Speaker of the House, the House of Representatives voted to expunge 'indirect primaries' as a mode for the nomination of candidates.

The arena of political action will shift from the legislature to the Presidency as soon as the divergent positions are harmonized. As the harmonization process begins, the committee is expected to navigate four dilemmas. First, whose interest should the electoral law serve? Public interest or the deeply entrenched partisan interests of politicians? Second, what level of deliberate discretion should be granted to INEC to determine the procedure for elections? Won't it amount to legislative overkill to maintain an overly prescriptive approach in an electoral law? Third, how can the high demand for electoral technology be managed against its potential risks to democracy? Lastly, what trade-offs will both chambers make to reach a consensus, given the strong divergent positions on the three crucial amendments highlighted in this article and the political heavyweights behind the proposed amendments?

Public interest should always

supersede partisan private interests. As custodians of the public interest, elected representatives are required to respect the will of the people when making laws. Jettisoning amendments like electronic transmission of results and electronic voting will betray public trust considering the current realities and the clamour for these rules. Vesting discretionary and rule-making powers on INEC in certain circumstances promotes innovation, creativity, and institutional responsiveness to rapid transformations in the electoral space, especially with respect to the digitization of the electoral process. No doubt, electoral technology will improve the integrity of elections, but it presents no guarantee that elections will stay clean. Nigeria cannot afford to surrender her democracy to machines; therefore, maximum safeguards must be instituted when deploying electoral technology.

In the final analysis, reform negotiation and implementation is a highly politicized process and a marketplace for political trade-offs and winsets. The big question is whether legislators see this reform process as an opportunity to reconnect the state to citizens or a window to change the rules of the game to guarantee their victory in the next elections. The riposte I consider viable is sustained external pressure from citizens, without which the chances of long-lasting outcomes are slim.

Itodo is the Executive Director of Yiaga Africa and the Convener of the Not Too Young To Run movement

START THE WEEK WITH CYNTHIA STACEY

Gambling in Tanzania...What should be the compromise?

JAMBO for the week, and I'm still settling in to the local rhythms, and customs, as I shed the 'mzungu' ones. But these lifestyle differentials have lessened over time, and helping to narrow the gap has been the gaming industry...which grows daily, here and in London.

When the controls on this business were relaxed in Britain, it took off in a big way, and their dominance on the nation's high streets altered the character of some small town centres, with as many as five or six, betting outlets together.

Is this happening here ...as overnight, local shops that have served the community, could well become mini 'betting bars' instead.

Critics in the UK have said fostering this industry seems like acquiring revenue at any cost, and wonder if the taxes it raises can justify its promotion, if the social problems caused, outstrip the economic gains.

So after long standing licensing laws in the nations pubs and entertainment sector were relaxed, it offered easier access to the widely promoted 'demon drink', and helped fuel the need for services like the well known Alcoholics Anonymous Association, and other organisations, who assist those addicted to their "booze" at any cost...whilst counselling groups also appeared, to deal with the misery gambling causes, for those in search of quick riches, but get 'empty' pocket' syndrome instead!

Gamblers, alcoholics and drug users, not surprisingly, often have similar sad tales to recount, as any addictions can result in the loss of a job, followed by debt through borrowing, and in the case of gamblers who often play on till they've nothing left, the loss of their homes, and even their families.

So apart from the tax input to the public coffers in the betting and gaming industry, in a cost benefit analysis, what would be the gains for the country...when offset against the negatives?

...and if that question is asked of a developing nation with a struggling economy, the drawbacks could have greater significance.

I saved a report from the local media some time ago, on ..."Gambling fever grips Tanzania", that stated, "this growing industry worth billions of shillings a year, poses serious concerns for youths becoming addicted to sports betting particularly".....and an MP's question in parliament at the time, asked what was happening to curb its rapid growth.

...to which a Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning responded by saying "the government supported the betting shops because they were licenced by the Gaming Board of Tanzania".....but such an answer is no answer at all!

Around 80 % of the nations population are aged 35 or below, so there's certainly a very lucrative market for this business, especially when aimed at young men, or as the



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newspaper report put it "these favourable demographics have enticed dozens of international and local companies to open all manner of gaming businesses in the country, to tempt the youth and the middle class Tanzanians".

Gambling addiction might potentially ruin lives but its allure is obvious, as sports betting a few years ago, was said to be contributing about 1.6 billion shillings each month to government coffers here, and revenue from casinos, slot machines and sports betting was booming, and often surpassing the targets.

More significantly, the acting Director General of the Gaming Board at the time, said sports betting isn't only about income, but is also recreational, and urged operators to open more centres in the rural areas.

But what a thought.....this 'recreation' if it took hold could possibly add debt, worry and mental misery to the

already anxious lives of the ragged rural peasants in the hinterlands, who face daily uncertainty which gambling wouldn't help, as there's nothing so uncertain as a little gamble...or a big one!

....but wait a minute...many rural dwellers don't have electricity do they....so they might be saved by that, as candle light gaming doesn't seem practical...though surprisingly they can be recruited as customers via mobile phones...if they have one.

I'm told that at the start of their gaming industry, Kenya allowed gamblers to use phones in order to bet, and redeem any prizes via money transfers. Though goodness knows what could be on offer for prizes nowadays, if there was any betting facilities in the rural sector....a tractor....an agricultural 'boda boda'....I don't know...a prize bull...or whatever!

.....I'm joking of course, but getting the balance and policy right for the nation on the gaming issue, requires a mighty ministry of heavyweights with economic and moral foresight, and how many country's can, or do, put their people before profit...the Scandinavian nations.....or Cuba...I don't know...but it doesn't appear to be Tanzania, where money and the pursuit of it takes precedence

Anyway, for me, an over saturated gaming culture in Tanzania is about as appropriate as shopping malls on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro....but that horror has already been given the go ahead, and will no doubt be labelled as progress.... so what's next....how about the State House converted into a hotel, with the proceeds going to worthy causes.....Yeh.....a good idealet's contact the Gaming Board to host it, for a once only occasion....place your bets please!

US 'double standards' seen as a hindrance



A volunteer places an American flag as part of a display to commemorate the victims of the Sept 11, 2001 attacks on US soil, at the Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, USA, Sept 8, 2021. (PHOTO / IC)

By Yifan Xu in Washington

GLOBAL counterterrorism collaboration is needed to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a haven for terrorists following the United States' withdrawal, observers in Washington say.

But one roadblock is how the US categorizes the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, or ETIM. The ETIM was designated a terrorist organization by the US in 2002 as Washington sought Beijing's help in what was called a global war on terrorism.

The ETIM has called for the independence of the Xinjiang autonomous region in Northwest China and is blamed for orchestrating conflicts and a series of terrorist assaults on China's northern border.

However, last November the US removed it from the terrorist list.

China has consistently expressed opposition to the move, saying the US applies a double

standard in designating terrorists.

The US placed the ETIM on the terrorist list because it was well established as engaging in terrorist activity and training with al-Qaida, said Bill Jones, the Washington bureau chief of Executive Intelligence Review. Removing the ETIM from the list was purely political, he said.

"The Trump administration made a political decision of withdrawing the terrorist designation of ETIM, and the Biden administration accepted it. (But) the US did not preclude that the ETIM was involved in terrorist actions. So it is creating a double standard trying to keep the ETIM alive."

This was clearly directed at China, and may have caused unrest in Xinjiang, Jones said.

"It is not only in counterterrorism. There is a clear distinction in how the US deals with the same phenomenon with 'friends' and those considered 'rivals'; it is clearly a geopolitical tool."

Samuel Mok, a former chief financial of-

ficer of the US Labor Department, said: "It is a political maneuver. The US is pursuing an ambiguous standard in the definition of terrorist, which sets the biggest obstacle to cooperation between the two sides."

Jones said that if the US put the ETIM back on the list it might help improve Sino-US relations.

Afghanistan is a place where the two countries can seek to work together, analysts say.

"Because US-China relations are at a low point, an uptick is theoretically possible," said Douglas Paal, a researcher at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"The fall of Afghanistan does diminish the US' tendency under Biden to insist on speaking from a 'position of strength' to Beijing."

Ian Johnson, a journalist who has spent 20 years in China, said: "Right now both countries must focus on points they have in common; this can build mutual trust and lead to smoother relations."



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO CONDUCT FINANCIAL AUDIT TO PARTNERSHIP FOR NUTRITION IN TANZANIA (PANITA) FOR FY2021

Background

PANITA - Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania - is a coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), with members across the country dedicated to building the political and public-will, commitment and support to end malnutrition in Tanzania. Besides, PANITA members are engaging both specific and sensitive nutrition interventions at their localities. It was established in 2010 through technical and financial support from Save the Children International (SCI), UNICEF and Irish Aid. PANITA as a platform for CSOs is working to provide technical support, sharing of information, learning space and synergy on nutrition advocacy both at national and local levels. The members have become a positive catalyst in enhancing Nutrition Sensitive and Specific activities within their localities; Sensitive sectors include but not limited to: Agriculture, Education, Health, Community Development, Gender, WASH, Livestock and Fisheries etc. PANITA operates in all regions in Tanzania through its members, where activities are coordinated in the 10 geographical Zones; this structural arrangement has resulted in a well-coordinated network, with an effective and wider coverage across the country. Overall, the secretariat engages with national level stakeholders while providing backstopping support to the members who operates at the community level. At large, PANITA members contributes greatly in raising nutrition awareness at the community level, particularly in rural areas.

The PANITA is planning to commission certified audit firms, with international reputation operating in Tanzania to audit its financial activities of the company for the period of January to December 2021; this contract might be mult year assignment up to a period of 4 years, pending satisfactory service.

Objective

The objective of the exercise will be to assess the financial management and general administration of funds by establishing the level of reliability and adherence to the basic accounting standards and procedures, and authenticity of the accounting records and documents. This includes auditing

procedures and internal controls applied in project implementation with emphasis on assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of financial systems used by PANITA. This exercise will be for PANITA office located in Dar Es Salaam

To achieve this objective, PANITA welcomes expression of interest from legally recognized Audit Firm to undertake this assignment.

Interested firms should forward:

- Company profile
- CVs of key personnel who will conduct the exercise
- Previous experience in similar activity
- Registration certificate
- Cost of the exercise (e.g. fees per person per day and the total cost of the entire audit exercise)
- CVs of the key staff who will lead the team that will conduct the audit
- CD containing Electronic Copy of the Expression of interest (Packed in the same envelop with hard copy)
- References

1. Expressions of Interest (both hard and soft Copies) packed in a plain sealed envelope clearly marked: Expression of Interest to Conduct Financial Audit to the Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), should be delivered by hand to: Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA), House No. 6, Rwehabura Street, Off Rose Garden Road, Mikochei A, Dar Es Salaam.
2. Deadline for submission of completed and sealed expression of interest is 12.00 (Noon) on 8 Day of October 2021
3. Any proposal received after this date or sent to another address will not be considered.
4. Please note that the cost of preparing the proposal and of negotiating a contract, including any related travel, is not reimbursable nor can it be included as a direct cost of the assignment.
5. PANITA is not obliged to select the lowest bidder, other criteria would be considered beyond costs.
6. Applicants wishing to get further information, you may contact us through our office phone number +255 222 701 753 during office hours - 8.00 AM to 5.00 PM local time.

Errant drone strike undercuts Biden vow to hit terrorists abroad

By Bloomberg

THE Pentagon's admission that a drone strike killed innocent civilians as US forces hastily withdrew from Afghanistan undercut one of the Biden administration's chief arguments for leaving – the ability to use “over the horizon” capabilities to hit terrorists.

The risk of drone attacks gone wrong remains. As vaunted as American drones and satellite technology are, there's still no substitute for boots on the ground, soldiers and agents who can provide the close-up intelligence on possible targets clarifying fuzzy data that's sometimes collected from thousands of miles away.

“You can't fight terrorism just from above,” said Christine Sixta-Rinehart, a professor of political science at the University of South Carolina and author of “Drones and Targeted Killing in the Middle East and Africa: An Appraisal of American Counterterrorism Policies.”

“You need on-the-ground people walking the streets, working the cities,” she said. “You can watch from the sky if you want to, but you can't hear what people are saying.”

That's what the US lost after troops completed their withdrawal last month, even as the Taliban regained control of the country. With drones sent from distant US bases in the Middle East, their time to gather intelligence before striking will be limited. And while Afghanistan isn't as much a black box as lawless territories in parts of Africa, officials concede the access to information has become much more obscure.

“Our intelligence-gathering ability in Afghanistan isn't what it used to be,” Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said on Aug 20.

That vulnerability – after a war fought to oust the Taliban, which gave safe haven to al-Qaeda terrorists – will be among concerns posed by legislators during hearings on Capitol Hill on Tuesday and Wednesday with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services, sent Austin a lengthy list of questions in advance, including requesting “a detailed description of any operational plan developed by the Department of Defense for future ‘over-the-horizon’ counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan

including the command and control organizational structure.”

Despite intense, bipartisan pressure in Congress to keep troops in Afghanistan or at least delay the withdrawal, President Joe Biden gave several reasons for ending America's longest war after almost 20 years. When pressed on how the US would respond if international terrorists regroup in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, Biden and Pentagon officials said America's “over the horizon” military capabilities would prevent that.

It's a tactic the US has put to effect using weaponry such as Reaper drones in other places, including Syria and Somalia. The pilotless aircraft can be deployed with minimal risk to US lives. But those efforts have also faced heavy criticism from human rights advocates, who say US strikes too frequently miss their mark, killing innocent people and ultimately undermining US interests.

In the strike that produced widespread outrage, the military killed what it thought was a terrorist loading explosives into a white Toyota shortly after a suicide bomber's attack outside the Kabul airport. Instead, the drone killed a worker for a US-funded aid agency who had loaded up jugs of water for his family. The 10 people killed included seven children.

“You think you'd kind of know when you off somebody with a Predator drone,” Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky told Secretary of State Antony Blinken at a Senate hearing this month. “Guess what: Maybe you've created hundreds or thousands of new potential terrorists.”

Secretary Austin, who expressed the military's deep regrets over the mistaken attack, has ordered a review of what went wrong, as has the Pentagon's inspector general.

General Kenneth F. McKenzie, head



In this file photo on Aug 30, 2021, Afghan residents and family members of the victims gather next to a damaged vehicle inside a house, day after a US drone airstrike in Kabul. (AFP)

of US Central Command, has described the strike as a “tragic mistake,” but cautioned against drawing “any conclusions about our ability to strike in Afghanistan” against Islamic State or al-Qaeda targets in the future. He told reporters this month that intelligence on an imminent terrorist attack in Kabul meant “we did not have the luxury of time” to study patterns of activity and other evidence that usually is gathered before a drone strike.

Wedding, hospital hit

It's hardly the first time a botched strike has occurred.

A study by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism in the UK estimated that between 4,126 and 10,076 people have been

killed by US drone strikes in Afghanistan since 2004. The Costs of War Project at Brown University found that airstrikes killed 700 people in 2019 alone, following the Trump administration's decision to relax the rules of engagement.

Among the debacles in Afghanistan over the years were strikes that decimated a wedding party and destroyed a hospital run by the humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders.

Critics question whether the continued reliance on drone strikes like the one in Kabul is compatible with the administration's focus on human rights.

“In this strike, we see the echoes of so many other civilian lives lost and gravely harmed, whether in wars like in Afghani-

stan, or outside of them, like in Somalia,” Hina Shamsi, director of the ACLU's National Security Project, said in a statement. “If President Biden truly means to center human rights, he needs to end the lethal force-first approach of the last 20 years, and also end this country's program of lethal strikes even outside recognized battlefields.”

Efficacy questioned

Others question the efficacy of drone strikes, even when they do hit their targets.

“It is sometimes the case that these so-called decapitation strikes can make a strategic difference, but typically they don't,” said Rosa Brooks, a law professor at Georgetown University who served as counselor to former under secretary of defense for policy, Michele Flournoy.

In any case, she added, “the US track record of hitting the right people and only the right people is not great. Period.”

The administration's claim that “over the horizon” capabilities will keep the terror threat in Afghanistan under control is just one of many issues this week's hearings with Austin and Milley will focus on.

Others include why the US military – after a generation of training Afghan's officer corps – didn't foresee the force's rapid collapse as American troops withdrew. There will also be scrutiny of the suicide bombing during the evacuation, which killed 13 US service members and scores of Afghans, and questions about American cooperation with the Taliban.

Brooks said the debate over drones is misleading, regardless of whether the weapons are effective.

Nansha district in Guangzhou drives high-quality development with innovation

By Luo Aihua,

WITH a designed top speed of 160 km per hour, Guangzhou Metro Line 18 in south China's Guangdong province, hailed as the fastest subway in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, impressed passengers with advanced facilities and smart services during its first trial run on Sept. 16.

After the north-south arterial subway line of Guangzhou is put into operation this year, it will shorten the travel time between downtown Guangzhou and the city's only subcenter Nansha district to about 30 minutes, and make Nansha more closely connected with Zhuhai and other cities in the Greater Bay Area.

As China recently issued new plans for the construction of the Greater Bay Area, including upgrading Hengqin New Area and expanding Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone in Guangdong, Nansha, which is a key part of the free trade zones in the Greater Bay Area, has also embraced new opportunities.

Industry insiders believe that the areas of free trade zones in the Greater Bay Area, including Nansha, Hengqin, and Qianhai, will generate stronger driving forces for high-quality development because of resource convergence. Faster development of the Greater Bay Area will certainly bring greater opportunities to the market.

Statistics suggest that Nansha registered a regional GDP of nearly 94.59 billion yuan (about \$14.64 billion) during the first half of the year, a year-on-year increase of 15 percent. From January to July, the district's value of foreign trade accounted for 24.4 percent of the city's total.



Photo shows an aerial view of Nansha district, Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province.

In recent years, Nansha has stepped up efforts to form an innovation-driven model for high-quality development. It has achieved 719 innovations, received incentives from the inspection teams of the State Council for business system reform, fiscal management and economical and intensive use of land, and ranked high among China's national-level new areas in terms of business environment, laying a solid foundation for its high-quality development and helping gradually develop the Greater Bay Area into an innovation highland.

A total of 40,534 companies were set up in Nansha during the first seven months of

the year, an increase of 1.07 times from the same period in 2020, according to Dong Ke, district mayor of Nansha district.

In the meantime, the district introduced 20 new investment projects from Fortune Global 500 companies, signed and kicked off 150 key projects worth over 450 billion yuan, enjoying strong momentum of development, Dong added.

Not long ago, Guangzhou OED Technologies Co., Ltd. and Fuzhou Soarfree Information Technology Co., Ltd. jointly hosted a product launch event in Nansha, during which they showcased their latest 6.3 mm electronic shelf label solu-

tion that requires no power supply and reprintable electronic paper.

In fact, such innovative products have continuously emerged in Nansha, behind which lie Nansha's efforts to underpin high-quality development with sci-tech innovation. The Nansha Science City, with a planned area of 99 sq. km, has become a major part of the comprehensive national science center of the Greater Bay Area.

The Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory (Guangzhou) in Nansha district has gathered 52 high-level scientific research teams made up of more than 1,000 personnel in marine field, including 17 teams led by academicians.

The branch of China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited in Guangzhou has seen its production capacity of shipbuilding and marine engineering equipment reach 5.58 million tons, becoming one of the country's three largest shipbuilding bases.

Automobile makers Toyota and Hycan have jointly launched a production base project in Nansha, aiming to foster a new energy automobile industry cluster worth over 100 billion yuan; and Cloudwalk, a Nansha-based AI enterprise, became a unicorn in the industry in less than three years.

Nansha has basically established an industrial chain of third-generation semiconductor industry, and witnessed rapid

growth of leading companies like APT Electronics Co., Ltd. and AcroPower Semiconductor Ltd.

Besides, a batch of innovation-driven pharmaceutical companies based in Nansha district, including MingMed Biotechnology Co., Ltd. and TCR Cure Biopharma Ltd., have made major breakthroughs in the research and development of medicines.

To attract more talents and motivate companies to innovate and build a cradle of original innovation, Nansha has rolled out a package of policies, including providing a maximum of 200 million yuan of financial support for each scientific research platform and high-caliber talents a settling-in allowance of up to 10 million yuan.

Since the permanent venue for science forum of the Greater Bay Area was located in Nansha, the district has gathered pace in integrating into the global innovation network and formed an innovation landscape featuring the Nansha Science City, Nansha International Financial Island, science forum of the Greater Bay Area and International Special Talent Zone, becoming a key driver of innovation in the Greater Bay Area.

People's Daily

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Rescuers pull villagers from flood waters in Xingyang city in China's Henan Province.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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CAPITAL RADIO

EAMCEF provides 6bn/- for nature reserves' sustainable development

By Guardian Reporter, Kilolo

THE Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) has dished out more than 6bn/- in subsidy for sustainable environmental development in nature reserves in the Arc's mountain ranges since its establishment.

The subsidy has been targeting three main areas in the environmental preservation in the nature reserves aimed at protecting their existing biodiversity, research and community projects for people living near them to discourage them depending on forest products for their livelihood.

There are nine nature reserves that benefit from EAMCEF's subsidy, according to the Fund's Executive Director, Francis Sabuni.

These include Chome, Amani, Nillo and Magambanature Reserves located in northern regions of Kilimanjaro and Tanga; and Uluguru, Kilombero, Uzungwa, Mkingu and Uzungwa National Park in Iringa and Morogoro regions.

Sabuni said in these reserves subsidy's funds have been directed towards strengthening infrastructures including tourists' infrastructures including roads and tourists resting areas; strengthening of patrols and clearing of demarcation areas to wade off fire hazards.

In regard to community projects for people living around the reserves, Sabuni said they have empowered via friendly projects including beekeeping, planting of tree seedlings, poultry, fish and farming and dairy livestock keeping.

"Incidents of fire in the forests sometimes caused by traditional beekeeping practices have greatly

been reduced following the introduction of modern beekeeping practices.

In addition, he said game poaching of game for food has also been reduced.

Among beneficiary of community projects include a group of people living with HIV/Aids called KIWAIVIKAI in Idete Ward in Kilombero District who have been facilitated in modern beekeeping practices for income generation.

Mkingou Nature Reserve Chief Conservator, Hamisi Ghanji said the funds received from EAMCEF about 24m/- each year has greatly assisted in keeping the forest reserve safe from frequent operations to ward off invaders including marijuana farmers.

In the Uluguru Nature Forest Reserve (NFR) and Uzungwa Mountains National Park wild fire incidents have been reduced and the number of tourists visiting the area has been increasing due to improvement of roads getting into the nature reserves. The two nature reserves have unique features—waterfalls, flowers, wild animals and birds that lure more visitors.

In Kilolo district, many people living in the villages bordering Kilombero and Uzungwa Scarp nature forest reserves who used to cultivate in water sources have also changed their mindsets after being enabled to set up fish farming projects using the same areas and thus earn money and good nutrition.

"Fish farming is now on the widespread as more villagers are venturing in it. We started with two fish ponds, but now there are 29 ponds for groups and individuals and the problem of stew



EAMCEF-empowered poultry farmer in Kilolo District, Iringa Region

is now over and no one has any idea to go into the forest to hunt for wild animals as it was before," said Leo Sowo secretary of the Kilolo district fish farmers' forum.

EAMCEF board chairman Prof. John Kessy said that the fund was established to stop unsustainable harvesting of mountain resources.

He says with a US\$5.9 million funding from the Royal Norwegian government, EAMCEF is implementing a five-year (2011-2016) project dubbed Improving Conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountains Forests of Tan-

zania. Eastern Arc is recognised globally as part of one of the 34 biodiversity hotspots characterized by high concentrations of endemic species currently under great threat of extinction.

The Eastern Arc Mountains forests form major catchment areas which collectively provide water for most of the nation's coastal communities accounting for 25 per cent of mainland Tanzania's population of over 40 million and most of the major industries in the country.

The scheme is also supported by the government and its development partners, including the

World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme.

Most people living in surrounding rural areas depend heavily on subsistence agriculture and forests for their livelihoods. A growing population is also piling pressure on nature.

Estimates suggest that more than 70 per cent of the original forest cover has been destroyed in the Eastern Arc Mountains forests. Over the past 100 years, large tracts of forest have been converted to farmland, or lost due to timber harvesting and uncontrolled fires.

About 60 per cent of Tanzania's electricity is generated from water sources originating in the forests, including Kidatu, Mtera, Nyumba ya Mungu and Kihansi hydropower stations.

The Eastern Arc Mountains covering an area of 5,350 square kilometres in 15 districts of Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Dodoma and Iringa regions, mean almost everything.

The mountains mean biodiversity, they mean water, they mean tourism and they mean irrigation farming. In short, they are the heartbeat of the country's economy.

Studies propose policy changes for Ebola vaccination in Africa

By Paul Adepoju

TWO new studies found that the Ebola vaccine – being used for ring immunization in West African countries that have recently reported cases of Ebola – is safe and generates strong immunity in both children and adults.

The World Health Organization and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said that the findings of the studies are expected to bring about policy changes in the continent's response to Ebola to include children in vaccination campaigns.

In May 2014, the government of Sierra Leone announced an Ebola outbreak, and as it was responding to the outbreak, clinical trials targeting adults and children in Sierra Leone's Kambia district for Johnson & Johnson's two-dose Johnson Ebola vaccine regimen – called Ad26.ZEBOV and MVA-BN-Filo vaccines – were planned to test the safety and

effectiveness of the vaccine.

During the 2014-2016 outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, 28,652 cases and 11,325 deaths were reported. Approximately 20% of cases were in children under 15, and children younger than 5 years old are at a higher risk of death than adults.

Before the trials eventually commenced, the outbreak had slowed down and the team of researchers led by Dr. Muhammed Afolabi and Dr. Daniela Manno, both from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, had to pivot the goal of the study from testing for effectiveness to its safety and ability to generate strong immune responses.

Working with the health authorities in Sierra Leone, the researchers recruited children and adults in separate studies. According to the findings published in The Lancet Infectious Disease Journal – the vaccine was found to be safe and generated adequate immune responses in both adults and chil-

dren.

The first study found the vaccine regimen was well tolerated and induced antibody responses to Zaire ebolavirus 21 days after the second dose in 98% of adult participants, with the immune responses persisting for at least two years.

Among children aged 1 to 17, the second study found the vaccine was "well tolerated with no safety concerns," and "induced robust humoral immune responses, suggesting the suitability of this regimen for Ebola virus disease prophylaxis in children."

Ebola virus antibody responses were observed in 98% of children aged 12 to 17, 95% of children aged 4 to 11, and in 98% of children aged 1 to 3, 21 days after receiving the second dose of the vaccine.

Afolabi told Devex the evidence provided by the study is expected to bring about policy changes including the inclusion of children as young as 1 in Ebola vaccination

programs.

"The results show that this vaccine regimen has the potential to save many young lives," Afolabi said.

The vaccine is currently administered through a ring vaccination approach in which adult contacts of suspected cases and front-line health workers are given the doses. Children below the age of 17 are excluded due to a lack of data regarding safety and efficacy in children.

The studies also reported evidence that booster doses of the vaccine could increase protection.

"Booster dose[s] produced a rapid and strong increase in antibody concentration. This supports the recommendation of the provision of a booster dose in previously vaccinated people when there is an imminent risk of Ebola infection," Manno said.

From years to months: How the Ebola response is getting better
Ebola outbreaks are now con-

tained in a matter of months, as opposed to what previously took years. Over the weekend, Guinea was declared Ebola-free and so was the African continent.

Researchers are also carrying out further studies in Sierra Leone to investigate whether the vaccines are safe and induce immune responses among infants aged under 1, and to follow up with the adult and child participants over 5 years old to assess the potential for long-term protection.

Last month, WHO announced that front-line health workers, practitioners of traditional medicines or traditional healers, and commercial motorbike riders who received the first dose of the vaccine were being given their second jab to maximize their protection against the disease.

For the exercise, the target beneficiaries were those that had been identified as high-risk groups and selected for preventive vaccination

to protect them in the event there was a cross-border transmission of the disease, which had re-emerged in Guinea in February 2021.

Over 16,000 beneficiaries including health workers, and high-risk groups in border communities and the major referral public and private hospitals were prioritized for the preventive vaccination.

Reacting to the findings of the Ebola vaccine clinical trial, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, said the study findings were "extremely good news."

"This is a vaccine that can be used more broadly, including protecting children from being infected by Ebola, so this is a very important finding that can be worked into the process of preparing supplies," she said.

Dr. John Nkengasong, director of Africa CDC also called for the revision of Ebola prevention and control policy guidelines in the continent

Salt-tolerant crops 'revolutionise' life for struggling Bangladeshi farmers

By Redwan Ahmed

LIKE millions of people across Bangladesh, Anita Bala, 45, relies on a small plot of land to feed her family.

But for years nothing would grow. Her husband farmed shrimp in the salty ponds on their land, but the surrounding ground was barren. Bala's efforts to cultivate beans and pulses failed repeatedly. Eventually she gave up.

Bala lives in a village in the southern coastal region of Patuakhali district, an area extremely vulnerable to flooding and cyclones, and her farming problems were a result of increased salinity in the soil. She is not alone. According to Dutch NGO Cordaid, 53% of coastal Bangladesh is affected by salinisation. By 2050, it is predicted that one in seven people in the country will be displaced by climate breakdown. The sea level is projected to rise by 50cm over the same period, leading to a loss of about 11% of Bangladesh's land.

As well as the natural disasters aggravated by the climate emergency, unsustainable shrimp farming compounds the problem, jeopardising the lives of those who rely on agriculture.

But the farmers of Patuakhali are adapting. Following the lead of an innovative Dutch farmer who discovered that some varieties of fruit and vegetables can grow – and thrive – in saline soil, ICCO (now part of Cordaid) began introducing farmers in the region to salt-tolerant crops. Its project, the Salt Solution, reached 5,000 small-scale farmers, including Bala, who said the technique has "revolutionized" her farming practices. Saline-tolerant seeds imported from the Netherlands were distributed, demonstration plots established and training in new planting methods given. Lead community farmers were identified to help spread the word.

Potatoes, carrots, gourds, red beets, cabbages, Indian spinach, coriander and more have been harvested since the project began in 2017. The initiative aims to reach another 5,000 farmers by 2024.



Farmers can grow crops adapted to the saline soil that affects more than half of coastal Bangladesh.

Abdul Aziz, 50, a farmer and one of the community leaders of the project, pointed towards his farmland in Kumirmara village, where he's harvesting bitter gourds and watermelons.

"I've used raised beds to plant the seeds. Raised beds provide multiple benefits – the weed growth is reduced and the roots have an easier time growing. In between, trenches can be used for easy growing leafy plants. And before planting, we test the soil for the salinity level using a rapid test kit," said Aziz.

In the past, the farmers had to take soil samples to a government-run laboratory many miles away, so ICCO introduced a saline testing

kit that gives results in minutes and helps farmers decide which seeds to plant for maximum yield.

"Smallholder farmers all over the world will be hardest hit by the effects of climate change, such as this problem of salinization. With this form of climate adaptation, we turn a growing problem into a sustainable solution. Instead of fighting the salt in the soil, we want salt-affected soil to be able to be used for agriculture again," said Masud Rana, from ICCO's agriculture division in Bangladesh.

Four years on from the start of the pro-

ject, ICCO has teamed up with private and public institutions to ensure the initiative is sustainable long term. Partners include Bangladesh Agricultural University, which is adding saline agriculture to its curriculum; and the Soil Resource Development Institute, which helps inform government policy. Bangladeshi seed company Lal Teer is developing commercially viable, affordable seeds to reduce reliance on imports.

"We as an aid agency have certain limitations. If we can't ensure the logistics, the training and the skills of the farmers will go in vain," said Rana.

In the meantime, the Salt Solution project has helped improve the diets of thousands of farming families, as well as providing a source of income through the sale of excess crops.

"The extra money means that I can pay for my son to go to high school now," said Bala.

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With the World Bank's 'doing business' out of business, what should come next?

GENEVA

LAST week the World Bank announced it was "discontinuing" its "Doing Business" report, which ranks countries on the ease of opening and operating a company.

It cited the outcome of an investigation that found the World Bank had changed the rankings under pressure of funding. This wasn't the first time the rankings had come in for criticism. A 2008 internal evaluation report highlighted their lack of transparency, while in 2018 the Bank's chief economist, Paul Romer, resigned decrying data manipulation.

In truth, the rankings had for some time faced a credibility issue. My colleagues and I saw this first hand. And there were a number of reasons for it.

Firstly, Doing Business had become too politicised. It was originally intended as a way to measure improvements in countries' business environments. It used an index score based on the number of procedures and time to for example start a business or get a construction permit - there were ten indicators.

However, the Bank also used it to rank countries, fêting top scorers and reformers. Governments soon saw a good ranking as an end in itself, regardless of how it impacted their development. A slip in rank could be politically damaging.

The rankings ostensibly promised a rigorous evaluation of each country's business environment. Yet with a small team in Washington DC operating in what the investigation described as a toxic environment, much of the work evaluating the ten indicators in 190 countries was farmed out to national volunteer panels, who were asked to amend or approve pre-filled questionnaires.

Not all were experts on the matter and some did not even work in the country. Many we spoke to barely gave the questionnaire a glance before signing off. Further, the English questionnaires posed challenges in countries where the language isn't commonly spoken.

The result was that governments didn't always see their hard work reflected in the rankings, leading to lobbying campaigns that, perhaps unsurprisingly, favoured those with greater weight and not always in the right way.

Some governments complained that their score changed for little reason, and in the case of Chile, according to the party in power. The untransparent nature of the changes contrasts for example with UNCTAD's Global Enterprise Registration index, which specifically invites input from the public.

The investigation confirmed a perception that rankings were helped by paying the World Bank to advise on reforms instead of turning to development institutions such as UNCTAD or UNDP.

It noted that, "the vast majority of Bank employees that we spoke to raised the issue of the inherent conflict of interest that advisory services create."

The methodology also had its flaws. It did little to distinguish between good procedures, such as ensuring compliance with environmental rules, and unnecessary red tape, such as requiring yet another stamped and notarised copy of a document.

And while reforms to the business environment can be measured in the number of days and procedures saved, it didn't measure their impact.

For example, at the start of Covid we helped Benin move the process of creating a business online, meaning it could be done from a mobile phone instead of spend-



ing days queuing at government offices in the tropical sun. It also cut total time to two hours. But it didn't end there.

As a result of the changes, which made life easier for those short on time or far from the capital, the number of companies created increased by 43 percent, half started by under-30s, half in rural areas and a third owned by women. This impact, more than a simple ranking, should be the real cause for celebration.

So, what happens next? The Bank's board has said it will "be working on a new approach to assessing the business and investment climate." What could this look like, how can it encourage real development, how can it be depoliticised, and is it still relevant?

Doing Business is meant to promote development by making it easier for the private sector to operate.

Therefore, it shouldn't just measure if reforms make procedures easier on paper, but if they're actually leading to more companies being created, and if so where and by whom? In other words, is there a real development impact?

It should also measure if procedures are clearly understood. Because lack of clarity on which paperwork to prepare, where to go, how much to pay and what to

expect often discourages business owners from registering, perpetuating the informal economy. Hanoi municipality in Vietnam shows how this can be done well.

The team should be sufficiently staffed to operate without an extensive reliance on volunteers, and any desk analysis should be double-checked with field visits to government offices, backed by surveys of private companies.

The team's independence could be protected by a committee with membership from other development organisations. That committee would oversee the elaboration of each report. It would also hear appeals from governments who feel that the index does not correctly capture their situation.

The construction of the index should be published online, including the data collected, decisions on outliers and any other assumptions, such that a member of the public with adequate statistical expertise could reasonably generate the same results.

For transparency's sake, the consideration of appeals by governments should also be published.

The index should be less political. This means no rankings. Reforms aren't a race, and quality trumps quantity. An improved business environment is a

means to an end but not an end in itself.

The final question though is whether such an index is still needed at a time when many governments, pushed by Covid and the demands of younger entrepreneurs, are shifting their administrative procedures online.

Earlier this year, Bhutan made it possible for small business owners to register their companies through a government website and receive automatically-generated legal documents by email in seconds.

As more governments adopt that same platform and technology, countries will soon be separated by hours or minutes rather than weeks and days. Procedures will be reduced to a single step.

Under this scenario, it is not clear that there will be anything left for Doing Business to measure.

'Building Back Better': Jordan's road to green economic recovery

NEW DELHI

FOR the first time in decades, Jordan's economy contracted in 2020. COVID-19 took a heavy toll on the economy, and it was concerning for the country, particularly because Jordan had managed to grow at an average rate of 2%, despite regional and international shocks to its economy amounting to 44% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the past decade.

In 2020 GDP contracted 3.5% YOY, with a projected rebound towards the middle of 2021. The unemployment rate in Jordan increased to 22.7% of the labor force in 2020 from 19.1% a year earlier. It is the highest jobless rate since at least 2005.

The Government of Jordan (GoJ), in light of COVID-19, has taken steps to respond to both the health and economic risks associated with

the pandemic. Both are said to be of concern because some of the pandemic restrictions continue to extend into 2021, and economic recovery could be stalled. One of the key solutions that Jordan has readily embarked on is a climate-responsive recovery and a new growth trajectory strategy. Jordan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement on climate change is one of the key platforms through which it hopes to achieve its green development measures.

"Jordan's climate-responsive and green economy framework focuses on several key sectors: water, waste management, energy, agriculture, tourism, and transport, in addition to health as a key adaptation sector," says Lamia S. Al-Zoa'bi, Director of Development Plans and Programs in Jordan's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC)

in an interview given to IPS News.

"In Jordan, the focus is on a climate-responsive, green recovery that can create jobs and economic transformation (JET), through a focus on public/private investments and climate finance," says Al-Zoa'bi.

The climate action plan adopted a comprehensive set of strategic climate responses, including Jordan's initial Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in 2015, followed by its first NDC in 2016. Building on these efforts, and in collaboration with national and internal stakeholders, the country launched its NDC Action Plan with priority projects in 2020, with support from the NDC Partnership.

The Ministry of Environment, with support from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), launched the Green Growth National Ac-

tion Place (GG-NAPs) 2021-2025, which are mainly medium-term implementation plans. A majority of actions in the GG-NAPs are climate responsive and aligned with NDCs, which have a longer time frame for implementation until 2030. Through the Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), Jordan conducted a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) for 35 priority climate actions contributing to the implementation of Jordan's NDC as previously identified by Sectoral Working Groups jointly with a climate finance strategy.

Earlier in June 2021, The World Bank Group approved a US\$500 million program to catalyze public and private investments in Jordan for a green and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this statement, World Bank Group's Mashreq Regional Director, Saroj Kumar Jha says, "Jordan has been one of the most active and pio-

neering countries in the region in ratifying and adopting international climate change initiatives, including the Paris Agreement. Jordan can now capitalize on these efforts to become an attractive destination for green and climate-related investments."

The Inclusive, Transparent and Climate Responsive Investments is part of the US\$1.1 billion recently announced for Program-for-Results (PforR), through combined loans and grants, financing support from the World Bank Group and other international partners to support Jordan in responding to the pandemic and promoting an early, climate-resilient, and inclusive recovery.

According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Mediterranean region, which is home to several countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), has been described as a 'climate change hotspot'.

According to the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, climate-related hazards, such as extreme temperature droughts, flash floods, and storms, affect Jordan. These hazards are increasing in frequency and intensity over the years due to climate change. Jordan, however, positioned itself well ahead in tackling these issues by advancing its climate policy framework under the Paris Agreement, which it ratified in 2016. Jordan was amongst the first countries to launch a Climate Change Policy in 2013 and has consistently issued its national communications under the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC).

Ahead of COP26, Jordan is updating its NDC, building on a prioritization exercise conducted in 2020 in five key sectors as part of its engagement with the NDC Partnership. "The NDC Action Plan seeks to scale renewables

and energy-efficient measures, adapt water, agriculture and health sectors to climate impacts, and strengthen the resilience of disadvantaged groups and vulnerable ecosystems," says Al-Zoa'bi.

So far, cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for reducing GHG emissions and potential climate impacts have been conducted for 35 prioritized NDC actions.

"Generating new jobs while maintaining social protection is one of the main short-to-medium-term priorities, given the record unemployment that comprises almost 25% of the labor force. While existing jobs are under pressure from the tourism sector fallout, the path to recovery in international arrivals is uncertain. Increasing tax revenue is an important outcome, as both current and projected fiscal deficit levels require new sources of tax income. All of these are seen to be drivers for green recovery in Jordan," Al-Zoa'bi says. **IPS**



RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Transport institute contracts Dar firm to undertake ESIA at JNIA, KIA

By Smart Money Reporter

PRIOR to commencing the construction of its Center of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations premises at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, National Institute of Transport has contracted TRES Consult Tanzania Limited to undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment at the site.

The NIT has also tasked the same firm to do an ESIA at Kilimanjaro International Airport where another training facility will be constructed. The NIT's projects at JNIA and KIA are financed by a World Bank loan under an East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP).

ESIA are mandatory studies for any large construction project required by National Environmental Management Council in order to grant clearance for construction work to start.

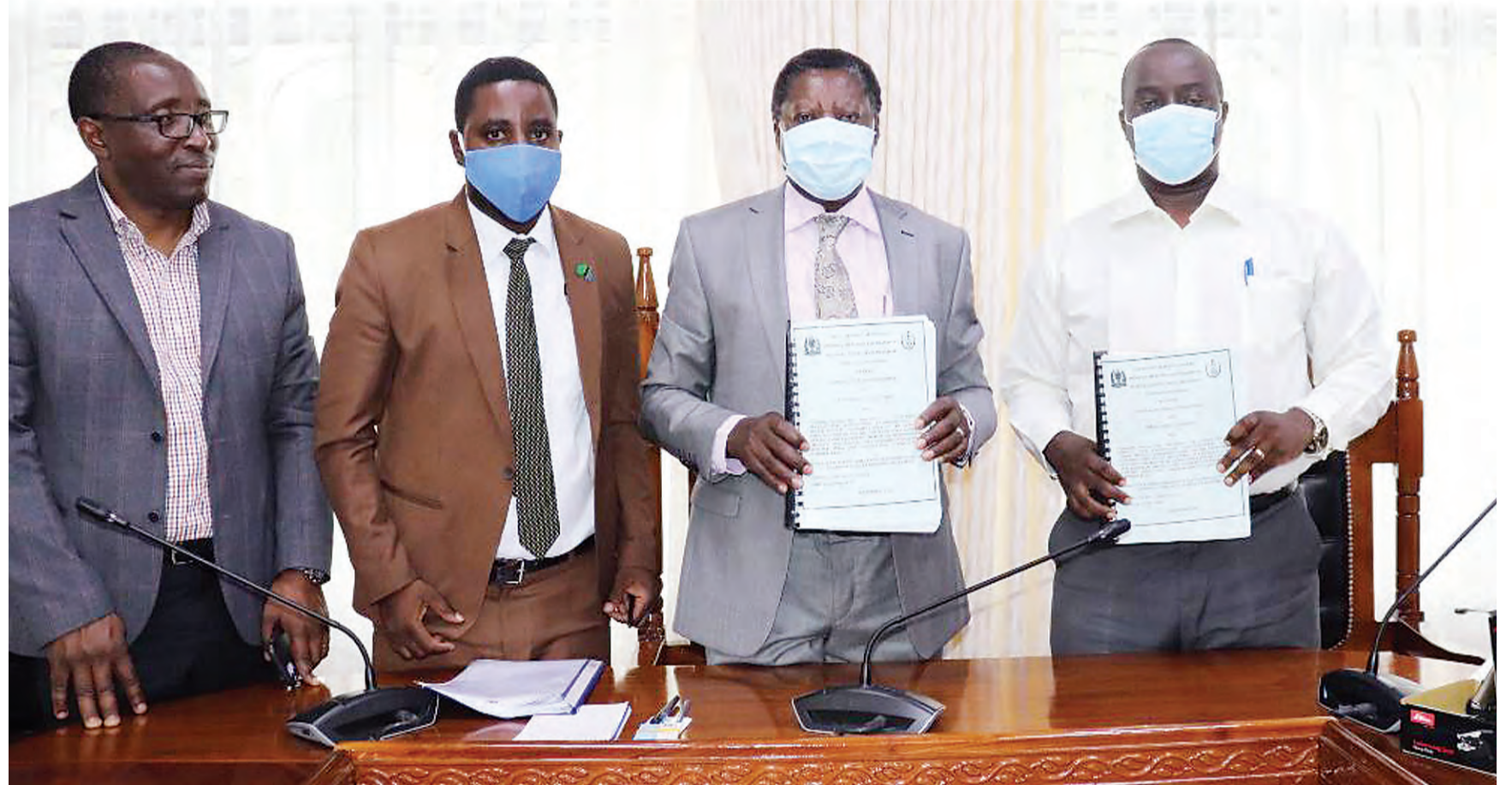
Speaking at the signing ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Friday, NIT Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said TRES Consult has the capacity to deliver after a careful vetting and assessment of several others.

"We are certain that they will properly conduct the environmental impact assessments at both of the proposed project sites at JNIA and KIA," Prof Mganilwa said. Seconding his boss, NIT Deputy Rector for Academic, Research and Consultancy, Dr Prosper Mgaya said they believe that TRES Consult will complete the work given on schedule.

Commenting on the deal, Center of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations (CoEATO)'s Manager, Abubakar Noor said after the ESIA is completed with NEMC permit issued, construction work of four main buildings, one at JNIA and three at KIA, will start.

Noor pointed out that the buildings which will include aircraft hangars, will enable aviation students get practical training after theory currently going on at NIT for those doing aircraft engineering and pilots. "The signing of the contract is an important step in the project's implementation," he said.

In remarks after signing the contract, TRES Consult's



NIT rector, Prof Zacharia Mganilwa (3rd L) and TRES Consult Tanzania Limited's managing director, Bashiru Abdul, display documents after signing a contract for the company to undertake an environmental and social impact assessments at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Friday last week. Photo courtesy of NIT

Managing Director Bashiru Abdul thanked NIT leadership for having confidence in his company. "We wish to thank your esteemed institution for giving our company the opportunity to work on this and we are promising to deliver," Bashiru said.

He said TRES Consult is fully certified and registered by NEMC as a qualified firm with necessary

environmental experts capable of doing the ESIA but also environmental audits as per regulations governing the sector.

Bashiru noted that his company has undertaken a number of similar assignments including those of airport construction and development. "We were involved in conducting the ESIA for the construction

of Terminal III at JNIA," he added noting that the exercise was conducted in 2018.

Between 2014/18 TRES Consult was also involved in environmental monitoring of water quality, air quality, noise and vibration at JNIA and a similar assignment at KIA prior an expansion project between 2016/18.

Tanzania joins list of most attractive destinations for investment in Africa

JOHANNESBURG

EGYPT is the continent's top investment destination with Morocco second and South Africa third says RMB's Where to Invest in Africa 2021 report. Based on their operating environments, other high-scoring countries have moved up the rankings - notably Rwanda and Botswana, now in fourth and fifth position respectively.

The positive global sentiment that saw the year 2020 in was short-lived when SARS-CoV-2 began ravaging the globe. The nature of the virus and lockdown legislation demanded a new sociological construct that still tilts the scales of the work-life balance.

Recession hit - putting amongst others the spotlight on salient aspects of human interaction. Covid-19 brought into sharp focus the vast disparities in access to basic health and wellbeing services across countries. It was also a cata-

lyst for the adoption and utilisation of technology as a means to interface.

New world, new approach
Author of the report, RMB Africa economist, Daniel Kavishe, says a new world called for a new approach to the publication and this year's report assesses the extent of the pandemic's impact by sketching the landscape of the continent pre-Covid-19, and then painting a picture of both its actual and potential outcomes through and post pandemic.

Where previous editions positively projected Africa's prospects, discerned through reliable and readily available data, Covid-19 has muddied the analytical waters and compelled the team to adapt their methodology. The approach required an extra layer of sophistication.

"We created a new set of rankings that incorporated some of the unavoidable Covid-19-induced

challenges, of which the operating environment score was one," says Kavishe. A fiscal score was also part of the methodology. This, says Kavishe, was essential because "fiscal scores are important indicators of how governments respond to Covid-19."

Key themes
The publication needed to explore key themes emanating from Africa's developmental aspirations. "Of these, three are central to fighting the pandemic and resuscitating economic conditions," contends Kavishe. "They are government intervention, a focus on our triple-threat sectors, and healthcare."

Historically, investment destinations in Africa have been ranked based on the tenets of economic activity and business operating environment. Aimed at investors targeting real assets in an economy or looking to expand businesses that rely on physical infrastruc-



RMB Africa economist, Daniel Kavishe.

ture, the rankings offer a strong basis for investing.

Fiscal score
This year demanded more nuance. In addition to traditional indicators, corporates and investors needed to be made aware of the state of a country's government finances and its ability to aid its economy in crisis.

"The inclusion of a fiscal score in our rankings aimed to score governments' fiscal positions and provided a basis from which investors can understand specific jurisdictions," says Kavishe. "Although the pandemic brought

much devastation, it also enabled opportunities for reimagining policies and trade relationships.

"Increasingly clear now is that home-grown strategies to tackle poverty, inequality and unemployment across Africa must be implemented. If not, all of Africa suffers," Kavishe says. He adds that capital will flow naturally to economies offering a good mix of opportunity and ease of doing business.

That's at a country level. The interconnectedness of economies widens the investment scope: stakeholders can consider the continent from a regional perspective, leveraging the performance of one state (country) against another. Top 10 investment-attractiveness ranked countries:

Egypt: While Egypt's economy was hard hit by the pandemic, it was also one of the first to bounce back to a path of growth. This, owing to the swift measures it introduced and the fact that it been on a stronger footing at the outbreak of Covid-19.

Morocco: The economy of Morocco continues to benefit from

political stability. A special fund to combat Covid-19 was established in 2020, representing 2.7% of GDP. Two thirds of the funds were to be provided by private sources and one third by the government.

South Africa: The southern-most country in Africa offers a strong manufacturing and retail base that will continue to support southern African regional economies with goods and services.

Rwanda: The country continues to benefit from the efforts it has made to improve its operating environment. Furthermore, as part of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST), various investments should support the construction and energy sectors over the next few years.

Botswana: The country has high foreign-exchange reserves, which have enabled it to weather the pandemic-induced economic storm better than most. The Pula Fund, a sovereign fund created in 1994 that finances a large part of the budget deficit, has meant that fiscal dependency on debt has been low.

Fuel shortages pressure Johnson as UK crisis escalates

LONDON

UNDER increasing pressure to do more to ease a supply chain crisis in Britain after pumps ran dry at some gasoline stations because of panic buying, Prime Minister Boris Johnson is under increasing pressure to do more to ease a supply chain crisis in Britain after pumps ran dry at some gasoline stations because of panic buying.

With a shortage of truck drivers raising the prospect of widening disruption to food and fuel deliveries in coming weeks, the government moved late on Sunday to temporarily suspend competition rules and allow companies to coordinate fuel supplies to the most affected regions.

That came after Johnson announced measures including a u-turn on relaxing immigration rules for foreign truckers and poultry workers and called in army examiners to help ramp up driving tests for heavy goods vehicles. The prime minister is considering plans to use soldiers to drive

tankers around the country, the Financial Times reported, citing unidentified officials.

"We have long-standing contingency plans in place to work with industry so that fuel supplies can be maintained and deliveries can still be made in the event of a serious disruption," Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said.

Businesses and opposition politicians said the 5,000 new visas for haulers until Christmas would barely scratch the surface of a 100,000 shortfall that's been exacerbated since the U.K. left the European Union. Ruby McGregor-Smith, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, likened the visas to "throwing a thimble of water on a bonfire." Drivers queue for fuel at a Tesco petrol station in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, U.K., on Sept. 24.

While some countries across Europe are contending with soaring energy prices and pockets of labour shortages, the U.K. is facing a particularly taxing winter as it recov-



Signs reading 'Sorry out of use' on pumps at a BP Plc petrol station in Loughborough, U.K., on Friday, Sept. 24, 2021.

ers from the pandemic. Recent weeks have seen hospitals struggling with a backlog of patients, empty supermarket shelves and now lines at gasoline stations.

Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, blamed Johnson's government for failing to prepare for the consequences of Brexit. The U.K. voted to leave the EU in 2016 and its post-departure transition agreement ended at the beginning of this year. "We've got an absolute crisis in this country through a lack of planning on behalf of the

government," Starmer said.

Finding truckers

BP Plc, the second-largest fuel retailer in the U.K., said it had run out of the main grades of fuel at almost a third of its stations. Outside the motorway network, at least half of petrol stations had run dry by Sunday, the Financial Times reported, citing Brian Madderson, chairman of the Petrol Retailers Association.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps on Sunday sought to allay concerns, telling BBC television "there's actually plenty of petrol to go around." The shortage of drivers for the fuel supply industry amounted to "one, two, three hundred." He nevertheless left open the prospect of drafting in the army to supply petrol stations. "We'll do whatever's required."

Until the weekend, the government had insisted that haulage companies should train up locals and paid them more. The changes to immigration rules - which also add 5,500 visas for poultry workers - lasts

for 12 weeks.

Johnson has talked up Brexit as an opportunity to remake the British economy away from the EU's rules and its labour pool. The argument is that foreign workers dragged down domestic wages and discouraged recruitment and training. But business argues it needs a longer period to transition away from that reliance on EU workers.

Furlough ends

The food and fuel shortages add to a pile of daunting challenges for Johnson, with Britons facing a surge in electricity and gas prices just as some key pandemic support measures are unwound.

The flagship furlough program that saw the government pay the wages of more than 11 million jobs during the pandemic ends on Sept. 30. The Labour Party released analysis late on Sunday that showed some 81,000 aviation workers are among those who risk losing their jobs when the furlough program closes.

Smallholder farmer decries 'exploitative' global prices before FAO summit leaders

By Smart Money Reporter

A small scale local farmer identified as Oscar who took part in a Food and Agriculture Organization sponsored survey which involved peers in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Uganda, has denounced an exploitative market system that pays them peanuts for their commodities.

Oscar who was among hundreds of small scale farmers who use radio and mobile phones to send message of optimism and caution to world leaders attending Food Systems Summit in Rome last week, said the global food supply system is characterised by inequalities.

"Our crops are bought at a very low price," he said. "The businessmen and middlemen buy our crops at their prices and not at farmers' prices." Oscar is quoted in a FAO statement released ahead of the Food System Summit.

Of the thousands of farmers who took part in the four-country survey, two-thirds believe their children can succeed in farming, though many cautioned that food systems will need to change in order to make living incomes possible. In response, 3,494 participants left 11,854 answers and 2,648 audio messages.

The Tanzanian farmer called for better access to loans and credit, inputs, better markets, and more information, as well as better training on farming techniques and business management. Women farmers, in particular, emphasized the need for access to loans, credit, and financial support as vital for their success.

"This is particularly critical for women smallholder farmers, who produce more than half of all the food that is grown yet continue to face discrimination resulting in limited decision-making power, access to and control over productive resources that limit their participation in local food systems," said Angeline Munzara, World Vision International spokesperson. "Listening to their voices and solutions to transform the food system is essential to ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all," Munzara said.

The survey's other findings included: Many respondents noted specific concerns about the effects of chemical pesticides



Smallholder maize farmers attending their crop in Mbeya region.

and fertilizers on the safety of food, and emphasized the benefits of agro-ecological approaches and basing food production around local farming systems; and More than 90 percent of respondents felt there was something they could do in their community to cope with climate change. Less than 1 in 12 said the only way to cope with climate change would be to move away from their homes.

Another finding was that, compared to men, women were more concerned about household nutritional intake, were more likely to consider loans and credit as key to farming success, and relied more strongly on informal networks such as friends and neighbours for information.

Listening to Rural People is an official submission to the Food Systems Summit (FSS) which took place on Thursday, 23 September. Under the leadership of Secretary-General, António Guterres, the FSS is the culmination of 18 months of engagement with governments, food producers, civil society and companies on how to transform the way we produce, process and consume food. The FSS is intended to produce actionable commitments from heads of state and other leaders.

"There's growing global recognition that solutions can only be sustainable and relevant if they reflect people's local realities and experiences. But leaders often struggle with how to access the opinions of people, especially in remote areas. Radio, combined with new technologies, is a powerful tool that is too often overlooked," said Hélène Papper, IFAD spokesperson.

"With direct input from so many rural farmers, we now have greater insight into their challenges, and how we can support their strong desire to stay in their communities and build a future for their families in agriculture. These are the voices that global leaders gathering for this week's Food Systems Summit need to hear, and act upon," Papper said.

"Small-scale farmers working on plots less than two hectares produce over 30 percent of global food and yet there are significant barriers to their participation in global discussions and decision-making processes," said Kevin Perkins, Farm Radio International spokesperson. "This report helps change that. Our goal was to create a platform for rural people, especially women and youth, to share their concerns and solutions for a healthier, more sustainable, productive, and equitable food system," Perkins said.

Gamblers lose taxation battle

NAIROBI

GAMBLERS have lost bid to suspend implementation of the government's decision to introduce additional taxes on all transactions conducted through online betting sites. The gamblers said the government, through the Finance Act 2021, has introduced an extra tax of 7.5 percent on top of the 20 percent tax imposed on all winnings.

While describing the taxes as excessive, the gamblers urged court to stop the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) from enforcing a provision in the Excise Duty Act introduced by the Finance Act, 2021 by collecting or demanding payment of the new taxes imposed on transactions conducted by online punters.

They argued that the enforcement of the disputed law risks killing the betting industry in Kenya and the livelihoods of millions because punters are being taxed on every step and on the entire value of transaction when placing bets.

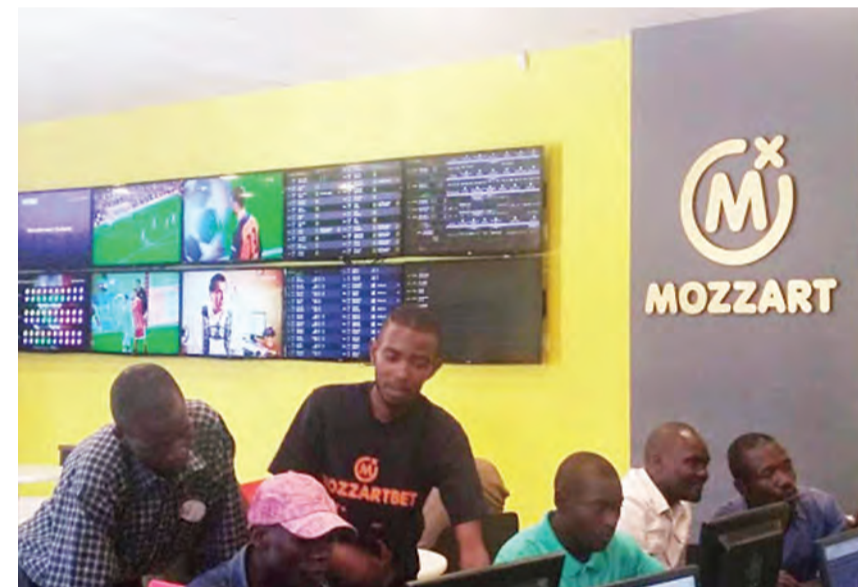
But Justice George Odunga declined the request saying that while the implementation of the legislation may have ripple effects on how the betting industry operates, it has not been contended that the said implementation has the immediate effect of leading to closure of business. He also found that the gamblers do not dispute the fact that whatever payment shall have been made pursuant to the said legislation can be recovered however tedious the process might be.

"It has been contended which is not disputed that some of the online betting sites are already complying with the provisions (of the disputed law) which are being challenged by the gamblers," said Justice Odunga.

That being the case, he said, it is his view that public interest militates against the suspension of the disputed provisions since at the end of the day, should the gamblers succeed, KRA may be directed to refund whatever shall have been collected. On the other hand, the KRA stated that should the petition fail, it would not be able to recover the lost taxes.

In their application, the gamblers argued that if the disputed law is not suspended, then they will suffer untold prejudice because their gross wagered amounts will be subjected to an excessive, discriminatory and illegal tax. They told the court that they engage in gaming as a source of entertainment and earning upon which they support themselves and their family and dependents.

They said under the new law, all transactions by punters have been subjected to excise duty on the mobile phone money transfer charges payable to the government as specified in the Part II (Excisable Services) of the First Schedule to the Excise Duty Act. The court heard that punters are not sellers of any category of specified goods or services in the gaming sector but investors who stake bets on online platforms provided by the betting companies.



Football match gamblers at a pub in Nairobi.

E-commerce becoming the new normal for consumers

JOHANNESBURG

NEW data from FNB shows that South African e-commerce growth has continued to build on the momentum spurred by the Covid-19 hard lockdown with more consumers embracing online shopping and numerous brands heavily investing in their digital presence.

Total e-commerce spend recorded on FNB Merchant Services grew 19% year-on-year during the first half of 2021 compared to 2020. During the same period, the active e-commerce merchant base increased by 22%.

Thokozani Dlamini, FNB Merchant Services CEO, says Covid-19 regulations coupled with the country's varying risk-adjusted lockdown levels have resulted in digital shopping becoming the new normal for consumers and businesses.

Furthermore, the stellar e-commerce growth recorded over the past year confirms the consistent shift in shopping patterns, adoption of new technologies and methods of interaction in the retail and work environments.

Sector performance

The bank provided an overview of key sector performance in e-commerce between January and June 2021 on FNB Merchant Services, compared to 2020: Transportation and related services: 46%; Lodging/accommodations/travel arrangements: -9%; Retail: 6%; Marketing/subscriptions: -35%; Educational services: 47%; Electronic, electrical and computer: 47%; Outdoor/recreational: 18%; Home and office furnishing: 34%; Restaurants, bars, fast food and related: 36%; and Grocery shops, supermarkets, butcheries, bakeries and related: -8%.

Building on the momentum from last year, demand continued to be largely driven by educational services on the back of home-schooling and distance-learning requirements, and electrical and computing equipment.

"Logistics has also become an important component in e-commerce customer experience by ensuring that merchants deliver goods and services to customers in the shortest time possible. As a result, we saw a substantial increase in transport and related services for the first half of the year," adds Dlamini.

Brick and mortar spending

The risk-adjusted, phased reopening of the economy during the first half of the year has resulted in total brick and mortar spend jumping 28% year-on-year compared to 2020 during the Covid-19 hard lockdown when it was down by -13%. Despite this being a strong recovery, it hasn't been enough for the brick and mortar sector to fully recover as additional lockdown measures are still impacting the economy.

The active brick and mortar FNB Merchant base has increased 18% over the same period but is only 12% higher than 2019 and justifies to the loss experienced last year as many business sectors were hardest hit.

"With many brands heavily investing in e-commerce, the challenge is no longer just on encouraging consumers to adopt online shopping, but gaining a competitive edge by delivering a personalised, engaging, mobile, efficient, seamless checkout and quick delivery of goods and services," concludes Dlamini.

CURRENT NEWS



Rwandan president Paul Kagame addresses Chinese tour agents virtually.

Kagame invites Chinese tourists to visit Rwanda

KIGALI

PRESIDENT Paul Kagame has extended an invite to Chinese tourists to visit Rwanda to experience unique wildlife and African hospitality noting that the country grants visa on arrival to all Chinese citizens.

Kagame was speaking, virtually, on Sunday 26, September at the opening ceremony of the Second China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo (CAETE) in Changsha, Hunan Province which was also attended by other Heads of State from Africa including Senegal and Algeria.

Rwanda is among other African participants attending the expo in Changsha, which opened on 26th September. For this year's CAETE, Rwanda was invited as one of the "guest countries of honour," which gives a platform for more visibility and media coverage.

The expo with the theme, "New Start, New Opportunities, and New Accomplishments", is co-

organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Hunan's provincial government. During his address, Kagame welcomed tourists saying that Rwanda grants a visa on arrival to all Chinese citizens.

Kagame also noted that 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between Rwanda and the People's Republic of China adding that Rwanda looks to deepen ties further going forward.

"Our firm intention is to deepen our relationship even further in the next half century of cooperation," he said. He hailed the growing China-Africa cooperation through Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) noting that it had led to among other things trade deals for Rwandan companies supplying agricultural commodities to the Chinese market.

"We have already seen the value of this event. At the first Expo in 2019, Rwandan companies secured rewarding trade deals, notably in the supply of specialty agricultural commodities to the Chinese market. This success has served to raise the ambition of our agribusiness sector even higher, and we appreciate the posi-

tive response by Chinese consumers to Rwanda's high-quality chilli, tea, and coffee," he said.

During the expo, Chinese consumers will be able to learn more about Rwanda's excellent products including coffee, tea, chili, avocado oil, and handcrafts among others. In recent years there has been a growth in the number of enterprises from Hunan establishing business ties with Rwandan companies in investment and trade. In August 2021, the first ever shipment of dried chili from Rwanda and the first from Africa arriving in China, in Hunan Province.

With a GDP of more than \$600 billion, Hunan ranks in the top 10 richest Chinese provinces and boasts 10 competitive industrial clusters including agro-processing, construction machinery, electronics, new materials, automobiles and parts and mining.

Recently, on behalf of the City of Kigali, the Embassy of Rwanda to China signed a letter of intent with Hunan Province, aimed at deepening economic cooperation between the two sides with industrial development and education among others.

The influence culture has on marketing in present day life

By Alley Mtatya

SOMETIMES finding that first spark is really hard. The dangers of a blank mind, page or screen. What about the possibilities too. Ways to discover those diamonds in the rough and transform them into desirable gems. Well you're not that far from discovery if you look around you, sparks will fly off.

But when it comes to generating ideas, I equate borrowing with research. Digging deeper to gain a better understanding of the external relationship between business and culture, the culture I am referring to is the influence of youth, religion, family, education or other social systems on its people. How they live their lives and the choices they make. Marketing always exists in an environment shaped by this culture.

Setting the trend

There are trend setters that disrupt the market on a daily basis and once this happens it becomes an opportunity for brands or products to ride on this wave. It could be outfits that a popular musician wears, popular food spot or lounge that pulls a certain crowd, a popular application or video trending on social media but whatever it is brands are readying to ride on this fame.

Each brand has its own persona, some brands can adapt to change and work with modern time or trends but some brands stick to traditional culture choosing respect, ethics or professionalism. Tanzania's vast population is made up of the youth. The youth spend most of their time on social media following and adapting to the ever evolving trends "digital culture" and then set the culture base for the rest of the country. "I know it's a psychology of a topic."

Living in a mix of reality

This reminds me of the movie 'The Truman Show,' in a perfect man-made bubble of a world that was custom made. Do you remember Truman was a naive, goofy and optimistic everyday man, played by Jim Carrey.



Truman lived in what looked like an idyllic life. Until one day, when a bizarre device dropped from the sky and he saw a crack in his dome of a universe. Over time he became more and more sceptical of his surroundings and started to question everything. Thus he plotted for his escape. Well not to be shallow, but these days it feels like we're living in the same Truman show a virtual reality kind of experience and we can see our finite borders.

Fast forward, indeed we are also governed by what is wrong and what is right. The ethics and procedures of marketing and advertising control how far you can take the culture of marketing with your brand. Culture echoes the moral and ethical creeds and standards that tell of how people should behave and interact with others. They act as a prescription for the correct moral behaviour, they lend meaning and coherence that govern and provide a means of achieving a sense of integrity, safety, and belonging for your brand.

Companies that want to market effectively always take culture into consideration. They know that in order for their efforts to succeed they have to understand the people to whom they are marketing.

Brand familiarity through culture

Depending on the culture brand translation, localization might be good or bad but it boils down to the product on offer, your branding or visual essentials and marketing goals should be coherent and more. 'Borrowing' so to say is essential when it comes to building your brands positioning through effective culture translation

that blends with society as a centre-piece.

When you craft your marketing strategy based on culture you will begin to also understand your customer and in the process learn of new customers. In the past you tailored your marketing content for specific up-market customers but now you designed your content to embody the local culture. Snap! The public then notices and consumes your brand thereby changing the dynamics of your consumer portfolio.

"Hey it's about how to promote your product to people from different cultures or demographics." When you combine the demographic data of the customers with cultural insight you build a truly meaningful cultural strategy.

Culture vs time vs innovation

For newcomers, the only way to stay in competition is to adopt an innovative strategy. An organization that has a unique, creative, or innovative strategy can hold its strategic position in the industry and it is less likely to be imitated by competitors. "Well when people are stuck in "the bubble," innovation will force them to change, so we've seen."

New technology is developing at a fast pace that the majority of the youth can keep up with. To be relevant in Tanzania's market innovation will help you reach the mass segment while keeping your brand relevant in today's culture.

Time will tell if your brand can adapt to changing times. I mean reflect back on your life the transition you have gone through in terms of music, fashion, food, cars etc. Personally I'm into old school music but my fashion is modern and up to date, so I say, with my murky face. "We love old cars but them new cars are more innovative and advanced making life more fun, advanced but simple. What we are going through is a culture shift through business innovation and modern culture trends.



For newcomers, the only way to stay in competition is to adopt an innovative strategy. An organization that has a unique, creative, or innovative strategy can hold its strategic position in the industry and it is less likely to be imitated by competitors. "Well when people are stuck in "the bubble

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Sars claiming 'astronomical' R19bn in taxes from company accused of tobacco smuggling

PRETORIA

A recent court case brought by South African Revenue Service (Sars) against Verbena Freight and Logistics Management provides a fascinating window into the world of tobacco smuggling and its staggering impact on the fiscus. The Pretoria High Court ordered the final winding up of Verbena after Sars claimed an amount of nearly R19 billion in unpaid taxes.

In an affidavit before the court, Pule Mantso, operations manager within the debt management department which is part of the Illicit Economy Unit at Sars, claimed Verbena owes a staggering R18.99 billion in taxes - most of this (R18.88 billion) in the form of unpaid customs duty. Also outstanding is R31.38 million in value-added tax (Vat) and R73.65 million in income tax.

Verbena is described as a company specialising in cross-border transport and customs clearing and forwarding across southern Africa. The company has its own fleet of vehicles and a sister company based in Zimbabwe.

Sars audit

Sars launched an audit of the company in 2019, and found the company had imported 8.1 million kilograms of tobacco between March 2016 and February 2019, all of this supposedly "care of" eight other entities listed on the customs.

Mantso says the Customs Act does not provide for the import of goods "care of" a third party. Verbena also acted as clearing agent for the imported tobacco, which entered via the Beitbridge border post. In terms of the Customs Act, excise duty is payable on locally manufactured cigarettes. Several requests were made to Verbena to provide details of the imports "care of" the third party entities, but no meaningful response was received.

In December 2020, attorneys representing Sars informed Verbena that it had been concluded that the imported goods had been removed to premises controlled by the company and had been used to manufacture illegal cigarettes. In March 2021, Sars issued letters of demand for R18.88 billion in unpaid customs duties, which Verbena failed to pay.

Assets attached

Sars then obtained a judgment against Verbena, and the sheriff attached eight trucks and other assets with a total value of R2.2 million. "This is dismally insufficient to make payment of the R18 billion due to Sars in relation to the customs debt," deposes Mantso.

Sars officials then tried to track down other assets in Musina in Limpopo, but three of the given addresses could not be found and a fourth was a residential address, with the occupants knowing nothing about Verbena.

Verbena's attorney replied to Sars on July 12, saying most of the company's vehicles were either in disrepair or had been exported out of SA, and as such it was no longer the owner of the exported vehicles. No proof of transfer of ownership or export was provided, says Sars, though eNatis documents showed that Verbena was still listed as owner of the vehicles. Sars says it is assuming Roy Muleya and Ruth Dhlwayo are responsible for the management of the company.

Intensified investigations into illicit tobacco smuggling

Sars says it has intensified its investigations into the illicit trade in cigarettes which is reckoned to cost the fiscus billions of rands a year in lost revenue. Its investigations show large volumes of tobacco being imported to SA on the pretext of

As OPEC reopens the taps, African giants losing race to pump more

LAGOS

TOP African oil exporters Nigeria and Angola will struggle to boost output to their OPEC quota levels until at least next year as underinvestment and nagging maintenance problems continue to hobble output, sources at their respective oil firms warn.

Their battle mirrors that of several other members of the OPEC+ group who curbed production in the past year to support prices when Covid-19 hit demand, but are now failing to ramp up output to meet soaring global fuel needs as economies recover.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+) agreed in July to add 400 000 barrels per day (bpd) to production from August until December 2021, slowly phasing out the unprecedented supply cuts.

However, Nigeria and Angola have underproduced by an average of 276 000 bpd so far this year out of their combined average OPEC quota of 2.83 million bpd according to Refinitiv data. They are likely to remain below quota through the end of the year, according to industry sources and Reuters calculations.

The oil not pumped is worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Lockdowns aimed at stemming Covid-19 last year hindered the supply of spare parts and prevented maintenance work. Companies battered by a 20-year low in crude prices also postponed major investments.

Kola Karim, chief executive of Nigerian producer Shoreline Natural Resources which has eight producing fields pumping around 50 000 bpd, said the backlog meant it would be one to two quarters before Nigeria could pump at its full capacity.

The maintenance backlog covers everything from servicing wells to replacing valves, pumps and pipeline sections. Companies are also behind on plans to do supplementary drilling to keep production stable. These issues impacted virtually all companies in Nigeria, Karim said.

"So now things are breaking...we're now facing the music," he told Reuters, though he added that the country would catch up on production by early 2022 as companies rush maintenance and repairs.

Two sources, one at Nigerian state oil company NNPC and another close to Angolan state oil company Sonangol, confirmed the countries were struggling to raise output. Spokesmen at NNPC and Nigeria's oil and finance ministries did not reply to requests for comment.

Oil Minister Timipre Sylva told journalists last week that he expected Nigeria to meet its quota within a month or two, but did not specify how. The government has previously pointed to a recently signed oil overhaul law as key to boosting investment and production. Angola's finance ministry told Reuters that it could struggle to meet its target for years.

Decline and underinvestment

In June, Angola's oil minister, Diamantino Azevedo, lowered its targeted oil output for 2021 by 27 000 bpd to 1.19 million bpd, citing in a statement production declines at mature fields, drilling delays due to Covid-19 and "technical and financial challenges" in deepwater oil exploration. That is below the current 1.33 million bpd quota.

Angola pumped roughly 1.3 million bpd in 2020, down from its record peak above 1.8 million bpd in 2008. It has embarked on a string of reforms to boost output. "The reality is only five countries can actually hit these quotas in our view," said Amrita Sen of Energy Aspects. "The rest are struggling with high decline rates and underinvestment." Those five are Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq and Azerbaijan.

In Nigeria, five onshore export terminals run by oil majors, which typically export around 900 000 bpd, handled 20% less oil in July than the same time last year, despite relaxed quotas, according to analysis shared only with Reuters from consultancy Hawilti Ltd. The decline indicates lower production from all the onshore fields that feed these



Kola Karim, chief executive of Shoreline Natural Resources.

terminals.

Only French oil major TotalEnergies' new deep offshore oilfield and export terminal Egina, had been able to quickly turn the taps back on, said Mickael Vogel, director at Hawilti, citing an analysis based on data from Nigeria's Department of Petroleum Resources. Onshore oilfield output has lagged as companies struggled with a lack of workers and cash.

"Putting those wells back onstream has been more challenging than they thought," Vogel said. Nigeria has not met its quota

since July last year according to Refinitiv data. Angola, Africa's second-largest exporter, has pumped below its target since September last year.

It has struggled for years as its oilfields age and decline, and exploration has been insufficient to compensate, Justin Cochrane, director for African Regional Research for IHS, said. Angola's largest fields began production in the early 2000s and are past their plateau.

The country made a string of reforms in 2019 aimed at boosting exploration,

including allowing companies to produce from marginal fields adjacent to those they already operate. The pandemic stunted the impact of those reforms.

By May, not a single rig was drilling in Angola for the first time in nearly 40 years. Since then, only three offshore rigs have resumed work. "They're swimming against the tide with declines outpacing new production," Cochrane said.

WORLD

Panic buying leaves up to 90% of fuel pumps dry in British cities

LONDON

UP to 90 percent of British fuel stations ran dry across major English cities yesterday after panic buying deepened a supply chain crisis triggered by a shortage of truckers that retailers are warning could batter the world's fifth-largest economy.

A dire post-Brexit shortage of truck drivers in Britain has sown chaos through supply chains in everything from food to fuel, raising the spectre of disruptions and price rises in the run up to Christmas.

Just days after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government spent millions of pounds to avert a food shortage due to a spike in prices for natural gas and its byproduct, carbon dioxide, ministers repeatedly asked people to

refrain from panic buying.

But queues of dozens of cars snaked back from petrol stations across the land on Sunday, swallowing up supplies and forcing many gas stations to simply close. Pumps across British cities were either closed or had signs saying fuel was unavailable, Reuters reporters said.

The Petrol Retailers Association (PRA), which represents independent fuel retailers which now account for 65 percent of all UK forecourts, said members had reported that 50 percent to 90 percent of pumps were dry in some areas.

"We are unfortunately seeing panic buying of fuel in many areas of the country," Gordon Balmer, executive director of the PRA, who worked for BP for 30 years, told Reuters.

"We need some calm," Balmer said. "Please



A member of staff directs drivers in a queue for fuel at a closed Sainsbury's petrol station in south London on Sunday. AP

don't panic buy: if people drain the network then it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Britain is considering calling in the army to ensure fuel supplies reach consumers, according to The Times and Financial Times.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said there was no shortage of fuel and urged people to refrain from panic buying.

Hauliers, gas stations and retailers warned that there were no quick fixes as the shortfall of truck drivers - estimated to be around 100,000 - was so acute - and be-

cause transporting fuel demands additional training and licensing.

Supply chain crunch

Britain's retail industry warned the government on Friday that unless it moves to alleviate an acute shortage of truckers in the next 10 days significant disruption was inevitable in the run-up to Christmas.

For months, supermarkets, processors and farmers have warned that a shortage of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers was straining supply chains to breaking point -

Kremlin confirms Putin, Lukashenko had many discussions about NATO's Ukraine expansion

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN and Belarusian Presidents Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko have repeatedly discussed the topic of NATO's potential expansion into Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"The issue of the NATO infrastructure's potential expansion into the Ukrainian territory had been repeatedly mentioned by President Putin," he said when asked about Lukashenko's relevant remark.

When asked what Moscow and Minsk can do in response to such a move by NATO, Peskov noted that it would be "actions aimed at ensuring security of the two states."

According to the spokesman, Putin told Lukashenko that NATO's expansion into Ukraine would be regarded as crossing Russia's red lines.

Earlier yesterday, the Belarusian leader said that the topic of NATO's expansion was hashed over during his talks with Putin. According to him, the leaders are engaged in consultations about it and agreed that Russia and Belarus need "to take some actions".

Agencies

Missed checks due to COVID-19 could lead to wave of heart disease in Australia - report

CANBERRA

HUNDREDS of Australians could have serious and even fatal consequences from preventable heart conditions after skipping routine health checks during the coronavirus pandemic, a report has found.

The Heart Foundation on Sunday released an analysis of heart health checks conducted across Australia since March 2020.

It revealed that at least 27,000 people have been forced to skip checkups due to COVID-19 restrictions. According to the Heart Foundation modeling, 345 heart attacks, strokes or heart-related deaths could have been prevented over the next five years if the checks had not been missed or delayed.

Garry Jennings, the foundation's chief medical adviser, said the missed checks could lead to a wave of heart disease in Australia.

"Fewer people having a heart health check means that risk factors like high blood pressure and high cholesterol, which are generally silent or symptom-free, go undiagnosed and potentially worsen, increasing people's risk of a heart event in the future," he said in a media release.

"What we do not want to see is a drop in heart health screening coupled with what we are seeing overseas as a result of the pandemic, in that people with heart attack symptoms are waiting longer to seek medical attention. This could create a dangerous situation."

The report found that Queensland and Western Australia, the mainland states least affected by COVID-19, averaged 30 heart checks per 1,000 people compared to the national average of 25.

The heart health check is available to all Australians aged 45 and over and Indigenous Australians aged above 30 through their doctors. The checks were temporarily added to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) in 2019, meaning they are subsidized by the government.

"This concerning data reinforces the urgency of making heart health checks a permanent part of the MBS," Jennings said. "Doctors will be dealing with a backlog of people who need preventative heart health care for years to come."

Xinhua

Indian farmers' shutdown call leads to long traffic jams around Delhi

NEW DELHI

LONG traffic jams were witnessed on the main roads entering Delhi yesterday morning due to the one-day "India Shutdown" call by farmers, who have been protesting for the past 10 months against the three farm laws passed by the federal government last year.

Yesterday's countryside shutdown marked the completion of one year of the passing of the three farm laws. A huge, 2 km long, traffic jam was seen at the Delhi-Gurgaon border, which connects Delhi with the neighbouring state of Haryana, as cops frisked all vehicles entering Delhi to ensure there weren't any farmers sitting in the cars.

The protesting farmers have been restrained from entering Delhi to carry out their agitation. The farmers' shutdown call got the support of major opposition political parties, including the Indian National Congress (INC), besides a few other smaller parties.

The three farm laws opposed by the farmers are - the "Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020", the "Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020", and the "Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020".

For nearly 10 months thousands of farmers have been sitting at various border points around Delhi as the federal government refused them to allot a piece of land inside the Indian capital city to carry out their protests.

Xinhua

Outcome uncertain as Japan's ruling party to vote on next PM

TOKYO

JAPAN'S ruling party votes on tomorrow for the country's next prime minister in an election that has turned into the most unpredictable race since Shinzo Abe made a surprise comeback almost a decade ago, defeating a popular rival in a runoff.

The winner of the Sept 29 contest to lead the conservative Liberal Democratic Party is almost certain to succeed Yoshihide Suga as premier because the party has a majority in parliament's powerful lower house.

Running for the top post are vaccine minister Taro Kono, 58, a US-educated former defense and foreign minister; ex-foreign minister Fumio Kishida; former internal affairs minister Sanae Takaichi, 60; and former internal affairs minister Seiko Noda, 61.

The race has introduced a rare dose of uncertainty into Japanese politics after Abe's nearly eight-year tenure that made him the country's longest-serving premier. Abe ran uncontested in 2015 and roundly defeated his sole rival three years later.

Last year, LDP factions rallied around Suga after Abe

quit, citing ill-health. But Suga's voter ratings tanked over his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting him to announce his departure ahead of a general election that must be held by Nov 28.

"This time there is no bandwagon to jump on and factions are divided," said Steven Reed, a professor emeritus at Chuo University. "That's pretty rare."

Contenders need to attract votes from grassroots LDP members and rookie lawmakers, more likely to be swayed by popularity ratings, while also wooing party bosses. But rank-and-file members will have less say if no candidate wins a majority and a second-round vote is held between the top two contenders.

Public broadcaster NHK reported on Sunday that Kishida led among lawmakers and Kono, followed by Takaichi, among party members and that a second-round runoff vote was inevitable.

Neither Takaichi nor Noda, seeking to become Japan's first female premier, were initially viewed as having any chance. But analysts say support from Abe and core conservatives has bolstered Takaichi's chances, though she remains a long shot.



Candidates for the presidential election of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party pose prior to a joint news conference at the party's headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, on Sept 17, 2021. The contenders are (from left) Taro Kono, the cabinet minister in charge of vaccinations; Fumio Kishida, former foreign minister; Sanae Takaichi, former internal affairs minister; and Seiko Noda, former internal affairs minister. AP

Security, economic policies

A win by Kono or Kishida is unlikely to trigger a huge shift in policies as Japan seeks to revive an economy hit by the pandemic, but Kono's push for renewable energy and to remove bureaucratic obstacles to reform have made him appealing to investors and business chiefs.

Both share a broad consensus on the need to beef up Japan's defenses and strengthen security ties with Washington and other partners including the QUAD grouping of Japan,

the United States, Australia and India.

Takaichi has been more outspoken on hotbutton issues such as acquiring the ability to strike enemy missile launchers. She has also made clear that as premier, she would visit the Yasukuni Shrine for war dead. Kono has said he would not. Kono and Kishida have pointed to the failure of Abe's signature "Abenomics" mix of expansionary fiscal and monetary policies and growth strategy to benefit households but offered few specifics as to how

to fix the flaw, while Takaichi has modelled her "Sanaenomics" on her mentor's plans.

All of the candidates are expected to put efforts to redress Japan's huge public debt on the backburner while focusing on fiscal stimulus to revive the economy.

The candidates have also clashed over cultural values, with Kono favouring legal changes to allow same-sex marriage and separate surnames for married couples, both anathema to conservatives like Takaichi. Agencies

Australia's PM yet to commit to attending UN climate summit

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison, under pressure to step up the country's efforts to cut carbon emissions, has yet to decide whether he will travel to Glasgow to meet other world leaders for a critical climate meeting in November.

Australia, the highest per capita carbon emitter among the world's richest nations, has so far refused to endorse a net zero emissions by 2050 target or double its emissions cutting target for 2030 to match pledges by the United States, Britain, Japan and the Euro-

pean Union.

Foreign Minister Marise Payne said on Monday that Australia had yet to decide who would attend the UN climate summit in Glasgow - called COP26 - but would first firm up a long awaited plan to cut emissions.

"One thing we are absolutely committed to, as we have said, is setting out our long-term emissions reduction plan prior to the COP and that is what we're focused on as a government," Payne told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio.

"Australia will be strongly represented at the conference no matter by which senior Aus-



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

tralian representative, and our commitment is very clear."

Morrison has just returned from Washington, where, amid security and climate talks, he struck an emissions-cutting

deal with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi focused on the supply of hydrogen and cheap solar technology.

"That's what gets you to net zero, because unless we can put developing countries and developed countries on the path to net zero, well, the world just gets hotter," Morrison told U.S. CBS News program Face the Nation.

Morrison has said Australia "wants to achieve net zero as soon as possible and preferably by 2050" and that the country expects to beat its pledge to cut carbon emissions by 26 percent to 28 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Coal and gas are Australia's second and third largest exports, making any move to curb fossil fuel use challenging for the country's politicians.

Facing an election by May 2022, Morrison needs to appease moderates in his Liberal Party pressing for more climate action, but at the same time needs support from the rural partner in the ruling coalition, the Nationals, which is concerned about the impact of tougher carbon targets on farming and coal mining.

"This is a very vexed issue," Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce said on ABC TV.

Agencies

Nansha district in Guangzhou drives high-quality development with innovation

WITH a designed top speed of 160 km per hour, Guangzhou Metro Line 18 in south China's Guangdong province, hailed as the fastest subway in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, impressed passengers with advanced facilities and smart services during its first trial run on Sept. 16.

After the north-south arterial subway line of Guangzhou is put into operation this year, it will shorten the travel time between downtown Guangzhou and the

city's only subcenter Nansha district to about 30 minutes, and make Nansha more closely connected with Zhuhai and other cities in the Greater Bay Area.

As China recently issued new plans for the construction of the Greater Bay Area, including upgrading Hengqin New Area and expanding Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone in Guangdong, Nansha, which is a key part of the free trade zones in the Greater Bay

Area, has also embraced new opportunities.

Industry insiders believe that the areas of free trade zones in the Greater Bay Area, including Nansha, Hengqin, and Qianhai, will generate stronger driving forces for high-quality development because of resource convergence. Faster development of the Greater Bay Area will certainly bring greater opportunities to the market.

Statistics suggest that Nansha registered a regional GDP of nearly 94.59 billion yuan

(about \$14.64 billion) during the first half of the year, a year-on-year increase of 15 percent. From January to July, the district's value of foreign trade accounted for 24.4 percent of the city's total.

In recent years, Nansha has stepped up efforts to form an innovation-driven model for high-quality development. It has achieved 719 innovations, received incentives from the inspection teams of the State Council for business system reform, fiscal management and economical and inten-

sive use of land, and ranked high among China's national-level new areas in terms of business environment, laying a solid foundation for its high-quality development and helping gradually develop the Greater Bay Area into an innovation highland.

A total of 40,534 companies were set up in Nansha during the first seven months of the year, an increase of 1.07 times from the same period in 2020, according to Dong Ke, district mayor of Nansha district.

In the meantime, the district introduced 20 new investment projects from Fortune Global 500 companies, signed and kicked off 150 key projects worth over 450 billion yuan, enjoying strong momentum of development, Dong added.

Not long ago, Guangzhou OED Technologies Co., Ltd. and Fuzhou Soarfree Information Technology Co., Ltd. jointly hosted a product launch event in Nansha, during which they showcased their latest 6.3 mm electronic

shelf label solution that requires no power supply and reprintable electronic paper.

In fact, such innovative products have continuously emerged in Nansha, behind which lie Nansha's efforts to underpin high-quality development with sci-tech innovation.

The Nansha Science City, with a planned area of 99 sq. km, has become a major part of the comprehensive national science center of the Greater Bay Area.

People's Daily

Putin, Erdogan to discuss situation in Syria, Libya and Afghanistan – Kremlin spokesman

MOSCOW

PRESIDENTS Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey will discuss a wide range of issues at their upcoming meeting, including the situation in Syria, Afghanistan and Libya, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"I think that Syria will top the agenda, as well as Afghanistan, they will also exchange views on Libya and other global issues," he said when asked about the agenda of the talks.

Peskov emphasized that "every time, the presidents have things to discuss."

According to him, apart from regional issues, the agenda of the upcoming talks will also include economic matters "because there is indeed a lot of common work in terms of bilateral relations, including joint economic projects, trade and economic ties," the Russian presidential spokesman noted.

"This is what the two countries' companies are interested in, this is why the presidents always discuss it," he added.

Putin and Erdogan are expected to hold talks in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi on September 29. The Turkish leader said earlier that he planned to discuss the Syria issue with Putin in order to come to an important solution.

The two leaders last met in March 2020 in Moscow. Later, they spoke on the phone and via video conference due to the coronavirus pandemic.

South Korea's Moon hints at dog meat ban amid debate over animal rights

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's President Moon Jae-in said yesterday there might be a need to prohibit dog meat consumption amid debate over the controversial practice and growing awareness of animal rights.

While no longer as common as before, dog meat is eaten mainly by older people and is served in some restaurants and can be bought at specific markets.

Moon (pictured) made the remarks after being briefed by Prime Minister Kim Bo-kyum on efforts to improve the handling of abandoned animals and a mandatory registration system for dogs.

"After the briefing, he said time has come to carefully consider imposing a dog meat ban," Moon's spokeswoman Park Kyung-mee said in a statement.

It was the first time that Moon raised a ban, which is likely to give fresh momentum to debate over whether to curtail the practice.

To boost their popularity, several presidential hopefuls have pledged to ban dog meat in recent weeks, especially as dogs have become popular as pets and advocacy groups have urged South Korea to close down restaurants and markets selling dog meat.

Lee Jae-myung, governor of the country's most populous province of Gyeonggi and a leading presidential contender from Moon's party, has vowed to push for a ban through social consensus.

But Yoon Seok-youl, an opposition frontrunner, has said it was a matter of people's personal choice.

A poll commissioned by animal welfare group Aware released this month said 78 percent of respondents believed the production and sale of dog and cat meat should be prohibited and 49 percent supported a consumption ban.

But, another survey by polling firm Realmeter found people were divided over whether the government should ban eating dog meat, though 59 percent supported legal restrictions on dog slaughter for human consumption.

Dog meat sellers have insisted on the right to their occupation, saying their livelihoods are at risk.

Agencies



China-Africa expo unleashes new cooperation potential

CHANGSHA

THE Second China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo opened on Sunday, unleashing new potential for cooperation between China and Africa.

The four-day event, held both online and offline, and themed "New Start, New Opportunities, and New Accomplishments," has attracted nearly 900 enterprises from about 40 African countries and China, according to the organizers.

The expo in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, features exhibitions on the fruits of China-Africa economic cooperation, African brand commodities and specialty products such as coffee and nuts. The event also includes forums on cooperation in areas such as food and agricultural products, the healthcare industry, financing, infrastructure and the private sector.

The expo has a total exhibition area of 94,000 square meters this year, with Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal the guest countries of honor.

"China-Africa economic and trade cooperation is at a critical period of transformation, upgrading, and improving quality and efficiency," said Wang Bingnan, China's vice minister of commerce, at the opening ceremony.

Organizing a successful China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and building a high-level pilot zone for economic and trade in-depth cooperation will effectively promote China-Africa market connectivity and the sharing of factors and resources, while contributing to stabilizing and facilitating industrial and supply chains and the building of a new development pattern, Wang added.

First launched in 2019, the expo is a major platform for strengthening economic and trade cooperation between China and African countries. Among the new measures to pro-

mote two-way trade, the expo this year included new special events to promote African products such as coffee.

In Africa, a key region of SANY's international development, the company will focus on major engineering projects and infrastructure construction to provide cost-effective products and more efficient and perfect services, said Liang Wengen, chairman of China's machinery giant SANY Group.

The Changsha-based company first exported its products to Africa in 2002 and has long been a leader among Chinese exporters of machinery to the continent.

"The company will also actively share its experience in industrialization development with African enterprises, especially SANY's experience in exploring intelligent manufacturing, to contribute more wisdom to Africa's industrialization development and industrial upgrading," Liang added.

By the end of 2020, China had been Africa's largest trading partner for 12 consecutive years. Bilateral trade registered robust growth this year, with trade volume rising 40.5 percent year on year to 139.1 billion dollars in the first seven months. It is a record high, year on year, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

With the support of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, small and medium-sized African enterprises have established partnerships with Chinese companies and entered the Chinese market, Senegalese President Macky Sall said via video at the expo's opening ceremony.

Noting that China and Africa together constitute a market of more than 2.5 billion consumers, Sall said the two sides should reinforce complementary advantages in the agriculture and industry sectors to optimize industrial transfer, as well as economic and trade cooperation.

Xinhua

Tech, politics and ambition: How Huawei's Meng Wanzhou stepped into a perfect storm between China and US

By Zeng Ziyi, Wang Xiaonan

AFTER nearly three years of being under house arrest in Canada, Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou and her legal team reached a deal with the U.S. Justice Department on Friday which allowed her to return to China.

The moment marked the end of a lengthy legal and political saga which took place amid rising tensions between Beijing and Washington.

Shortly after the deal was reached, Meng boarded a government-chartered Air China flight headed to the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen where Huawei is based. She landed at the city's airport Saturday evening. According to Xinhua News Agency, this is the result of unremitting efforts by the Chinese government.

"Over the past three years, my life has been turned upside down. It was a disruptive time for me as a mother, a wife and a company executive. But it really was an invaluable experience in my life," she said. "I will never forget all the good wishes I've received from people around the world. As the saying goes, the greater the difficulty, the greater the growth."

Meng, 49, has not pleaded guilty to fraud charges. Under the agreement, she will not be prosecuted further in the U.S. and the extradition proceedings in Canada will be terminated, according to a statement released by William Taylor III, one of the lawyers representing Meng.

"Facts have already proven that this is a political persecution against a Chinese citizen and its aim is to suppress Chinese high-tech companies," said China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying on Saturday.

On December 1, 2018, Canadian authorities arrested Meng at the request of the U.S. government which accused her of wire fraud and sought her extradition. The incident took place as the Trump administration adopted an aggressive approach in dealing with China on a variety of issues including trade and technology.

Four months before Meng's arrest, the U.S. government fired the opening salvo against Chinese high-tech companies by issuing a ban on the federal government use of products by Huawei and ZTE - two leading Chinese providers of telecom equipment, citing national security concerns. The following year, Huawei was added to the U.S. Commerce Department's Entity List, which effectively banned American companies from doing business with the Chinese tech giant.

Amid the frictions between the Trump administration and Beijing, Meng's arrest at the hands of the Canadian government quickly ignited the fury of the Chinese public, many of whom took to social media to express their anger at and distrust of Canada's legal system.



Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou waves as she steps out of an airplane after arriving at Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport in Shenzhen, China, on Sunday (Xinhua).

Since August 18, 2021, nearly 15 million people from over 100 countries including the U.S., the UK, Australia and Canada have signed a petition launched by the Global Times newspaper along with an open letter sent to the Canadian Ambassador in China Dominic Barton, demanding Meng's immediate and unconditional release.

Why now?

Over the past three years, Meng's detention has been a thorny issue between Beijing and Washington. Tensions that were unfathomable years ago have taken an incendiary crescendo.

There are two factors that facilitated the release of the Huawei CFO, according to Guo Changlin, a former senior diplomat at the Chinese Embassy in the U.S.

"U.S. President Joe Biden is looking to meet with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the G20 summit due to be held in Rome in end-October. [Also] Justin Trudeau has just been re-elected as Canadian prime minister [by a narrow margin] and is eager to fling off Meng's case, which after all is a prolonged bone of contention between China and Canada," Guo told CGTN during a phone interview.

Despite Washington's hardline China policy, Biden himself developed a close relationship with Xi when the two were vice presidents. Biden has been to China four times and the two met 11 times in person, noted Li Cheng, director of the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution.

"My point was that when I came back from meeting with him and traveling 17,000 miles with him when I was vice president and he was the vice president - that's how I got to know him so well," Biden remarked during a February town hall meeting. "They have a personal friendship but how far Biden could go in light of nationwide anti-China sentiments remains to be seen," said Guo, also a senior research fellow with the Taihe Institute.

Li believes that Biden has to flex his muscles since every move he makes is aimed at gaining support from a voter base embracing the anti-China messaging. "He's not that confrontational himself," he added.

The Biden administration doesn't want to see China-U.S. competition spiraling out of control. U.S. government officials stressed on various occasions that they did not seek conflict with Beijing.

What does Meng's release mean to China-U.S. ties?

The deal which allowed Meng to return to China shows Washington's attempt to prevent the stiff com-

petition from veering into a conflict, but it falls short of being a reversal in bilateral tensions, according to Guo.

The charges against Huawei remain in place, and the tech giant is still on the U.S. blacklist. The next 14 months, by the end of which the indictment will be fully dismissed, are not without risks.

The tech war is brewing, Huawei and other high-tech companies will probably face more scrutiny. The U.S. pioneered the third industrial revolution after two world wars tanked the European economy. Over the decades, it's been at the very top of the pyramid, leading the world with sophisticated technology. However, material abundance decoupled from human labor has left many problems unsolved. China and the U.S. have become fierce contenders in the fourth industrial revolution, which is dominated by chips and algorithms.

The White House listed China as "the only competitor potentially capable of combining its economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power" in its Interim National Security Strategic Guidance. A hawkish China policy has become a consensus between Republicans and Democrats despite their deepening feud at home.

For many veteran observers of bilateral ties, the engagement policy that dominated Beijing-Washington relations for nearly 50 years has been whisked to a bygone era, giving way to rising tensions.

"The end of the engagement era could date back to 2010 when China surged to be the world's second-largest economy," said Guo. He felt the shift in Washington's attitude toward Beijing between 2010 and 2012 when he worked at the Chinese embassy in the U.S. When China's GDP exceeded 60 percent of that of the U.S. in 2014, hostility grew, with containment policies ranging from trade to human rights over the years.

Washington's attempt to contain Beijing in the high-tech realm predates Donald Trump's trade war and continues to this day.

"A high-tech decoupling is looming but Meng's release may help with bilateral cooperation in lower-end tech areas," noted Guo.

CGTN

German center-left SPD wins general election- provisional results

BERLIN

GERMANY'S center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) won Sunday's general election with 25.7 percent of the votes, beating the conservative union CDU/CSU, according to the provisional election results released by the Federal Returning Officer early yesterday morning.

The SPD's share of the votes surged by 5.2 percentage points from four years ago, while its main rival the conservative union of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its sister party Christian Social Union (CSU) suffered heavy losses.

The provisional results showed the CDU/CSU union took only 24.1 percent of the vote in this year's parliamentary election, 8.9 percentage points lower as compared with that of last election. It marks the end of the dominant role of the conservatives ever led by incumbent Chancellor Angela Merkel for over a decade in the country's Bundestag, or the lower house of Parliament.

Olaf Scholz, SPD's chancellor candidate who is also incumbent vice-chancellor and finance minister, received long-time applause from his party members in SPD's headquarters in Berlin after the preliminary exit poll had projected the leading position of his party.



Chancellor candidate of Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) Olaf Scholz (2nd L) attends a rally at the SPD headquarters in Berlin, Germany, on Sunday.

"I'm happy to see so many here and of course I'm happy about the election result ... Many citizens want that the next Chancellor is Olaf Scholz," he said.

Four years ago, it had taken over 170 days after the election until the new federal government was sworn in. Once again, tough negotiations for a coalition agreement are likely to happen since the provisional election results indicated a more fragmented parliament, in

which parties have to scramble for alliances to cross the threshold of 50 percent of all seats.

Meanwhile, with Annalena Baerbock as chancellor candidate, the Green Party received 14.8 percent of votes in the election, making it the third-largest political faction in parliament, followed by the business-friendly Free Democratic Party (FDP) and the right-wing and Eurosceptic party Alternative for Germany with 11.5 percent and 10.3 percent respectively, ac-

ording to the Federal Returning Officer.

Scoring 4.9 percent of the votes, the far-left Die Linke (Left Party) failed to pass the five-percent threshold to enter the parliament.

Various three-party coalitions, the "traffic-light" coalition between SPD, Greens and FDP, and the "Jamaica" alliance -- CDU/CSU, Greens and FDP, among others, are conceivable, as many observers predicted.

Armin Laschet, the CDU/CSU chancellor candidate and also minister-president of the North Rhine-Westphalia state, told a televised debate late Sunday that he wanted to get it done by Christmas, and Scholz echoed his main rival by saying that he wanted the negotiations on forming a new government to be speedy.

"My wish is to get over it quicker. It would be absurd to name a date. But it would be good if it were over by Christmas," Scholz said.

Around 60.4 million people are eligible to vote in Germany this year, and the country is divided into 299 electoral districts.

According to official statistics, voters' turnout of Sunday's general election stood at 76.6 percent, slightly higher than that of four years ago. Xinhua

SPORT

Rapper Rosa Ree engaged to longtime lover



Artist Rosary Iwole, alias 'Rosa Ree'.

By Elizabeth Richard, TUDARCO

TANZANIAN female rapper, Rosary Iwole, aka 'Rosa Ree', is now engaged to her longtime boyfriend, a businessman known as 'King Petrouse', after she had accepted his proposal in an engagement dinner, which took place last weekend.

On Friday, the rapper took to her social media to let her fans know of the engagement by posting a series of pictures and videos of herself and her new fiancée on the dinner date.

Some of the photos feature Petrouse posing in one knee down proposing to Rosa Ree who looked very happy.

"Woke up this morning like, this happened? I wasn't dreaming? I said Yes to my best friend," she said.

Petrouse also took to social media to express his love and confidence in their relationship.

"The beginning of forever! We are getting married! Anyone can catch your eye but it takes someone special to catch your heart," he wrote.

The engagement was not the first time they posted each other on social media as they have many pictures together captioned with affectionate messages and have also been traveling together.

Petrouse works with a tour and travel company that has been supporting Rosa Ree's music.

Initially, Rosa was rumoured to be dating popular Kenyan singer, Timothy Owor, aka 'Timmy T'Dat', after they posted several suggestive pictures together and released their song, 'Vitamin U', in 2019.

The song's video had the two in raunchy, almost-nude scenes, which led to the song being restricted on YouTube and Rosa Ree being banned by the National Arts Council (BASATA) for six months.

The two however denied that they were dating but rather everything was work-related and casual.

The engagement confirms that she is not dating 'Timmy T'Dat' as previously thought and that she is now officially off the market.

Diamond, Rayvanny, Zuchu nominated for AFRIMA awards

By Elizabeth Richard, TUDARCO

SEVEN Tanzanian artists have got nominations for the 2021 All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA), scheduled for September 19-21 in Lagos.

Public voting for the AFRIMA got underway yesterday after the African Union Commission (AUC) and the International Committee of AFRIMA released the list of nominations for the awards on September 22.

Over 400 artists across Africa and the Diaspora submitted 8880 songs to be adjudicated and among those were seven Tanzanian artists.

Here is a breakdown of the nominations which include Tanzanian artists.

For the 'Best Female Artist in East Africa' category, nominees from Tanzania include Faustina Mfinanga, aka 'Nandy', Rosary Iwole, aka 'Rosa Ree', and Zuhura Othman, aka 'Zuchu'.

For the Best Male Artist in East Africa's category, nominees from Tanzania include Shariff Ramadhan, aka 'Darassa', Naseeb Abdul, aka 'Diamond Platnumz', Rajab Abdul, aka 'Harmonize', and Raymond Mwakyausa, aka 'Rayvanny'.

'Diamond Platnumz' is nominated for Artist of the Year, competing against Afrobeats giants, Ayodeji Balogun aka 'Wizkid', Damini Ogulu, aka 'Burna Boy', and David Adeleke, aka 'Davido', from Nigeria.

For the 'Best African Collaboration' category, 'Wahh' by 'Diamond Platnumz' and legendary Soukous singer, Congolese Koffi Olomide, and 'Number One' by 'Nandy' and Nigerian singer, Joeboy, were nominated from Tanzania.

'Berna Reloaded' by Chinedu Izuchukwu, popularly known as 'Flavor', featuring 'Diamond

Platnumz and Congolese, Fally Ipupa, and 'Wahh' by Diamond Platnumz and Koffi Olomide are nominated for the Best African Video award.

Rosa Lee was nominated for Best Reggae/Dancehall with her song 'That Girl'.

The song 'Wahh' by Diamond Platnumz and Koffi Olomide and 'Berna Reloaded' by Flavour featuring Diamond Platnumz and Fally Ipupa are nominated for 'Best Artist in African Dance and Choreography'.

'Zuchu' is nominated for the Breakout Artist of the Year prize, competing with successful newcomers like Temilade Openiyi 'Tems', and Omah Lay from Nigeria.

Lastly, 'Number One' by 'Rayvanny' and 'Zuchu', and 'Wahh' by Diamond Platnumz and Koffi Olomide, is nominated for the Song of the Year award.

In total, the awards consist of 28 continental awards (Africa as a whole) and 10 regional awards (different areas) while the Legend Award category will be free of voting as it will be announced on the stage.

The nominees' list comprising 28 continental award categories and 10 regional award categories released for public voting on www.afrima.org is coming a few days after a rigorous long-week adjudication process.

"The remaining two categories - Legend award category will be announced at the awards, while Best Soundtrack in a movie/series/documentary film category was suspended due to low-quality entries for this year's edition," Head of Culture, African Union Commission on the jury, Angela Martins, said.

The main event has been slated for November 21-19 in Lagos, Nigeria.

SPORTS

New Mainland Premier League season's kick-off is nigh

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT has to be said that things have been going rather swimmingly for Yanga of late.

Firstly, there was the cheerful revelation that Yanga had amassed a princely sum of money from gate collections in league games last season, which was admirably higher than the sums of money totaled by any other team in domestic football's top tier league.

Hot on the heels of this pleasant revelation came Yanga's slim 1-0 victory against old foes, Simba SC, in the traditional curtain-raiser to the new season, the Community Shield encounter.

Indeed, considering that Yanga has agonizingly endured a lengthy league title drought for the last four seasons, thanks to Simba SC's unchallenged hegemony over the local top flight, it seems only reasonable to suggest that Yanga's triumph in the Community Shield clash will send an ominous statement of intent to all comers that Yanga will go all-out to be crowned league champions in the new season whose start is almost upon us.

As for Simba SC, its defeat to Yanga, no matter how much of a blow it was, will likely not set off the alarm bells ringing in the Msimbazi Street side's camp.

After ruling the roost in the domestic top flight for the last four years, many Simba SC fans will likely regard their team's loss in the Community Shield match as a minor bump on the road.

Still, it is hoped that those figures at the helm of Simba SC will prove to have more sober heads than the club's many aficionados, who are entirely within their rights (based on their team's vice-like grip of the league trophy) to still go about chest-thumping that their defeat to Yanga last weekend was a mere blip and that



Kagera Sugar FC players (in green kits) and Geita Gold FC players in action when the sides met in a practice game in Geita recently. PHOTO: KAGERA SUGAR FC

Simba SC will undeniably show that it is still the top-dog on the home football patch once the new season gets up and running.

In the wider picture, though, it is anticipated that the battle for the much sought-after league trophy will be a three-horse race with Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC all zealously vying for the title.

The unknown factor in this equation is whether we will witness the stunning ascent of a few underdogs who will not only ruffle the feathers of the triumvirate but give the 'Big Three' clubs a serious run for their money.

It should be noted that in the past, the likes of Mbeya City FC and Mtibwa Sugar have obstinately stood in the way of Simba SC and Yanga furthering their lofty title ambitions and they have exemplarily fulfilled this role too.

One hopes, however, that we will be treated to a veritable bare-knuckle battle royal for the title, whichever way the cookie crumbles.

Let us now alter our gaze to Cameroon where the hitherto prodigiously prolific goal-scorer, Samuel Eto'o, has declared that he intends to stand for the presidency of the Cameroonian Football Federation (FECAFOOT).

Indeed, it is no secret that despite flashes of brilliance here and there, that once intimidating aura of invincibility which used to surround Cameroon has now discernibly faded.

In my book, Eto'o's amazingly immense wealth of experience as a football star extraordinaire would come in very handy if he were elected as the next FECAFOOT president.

So, here's hoping that Eto'o emerges triumphantly as the new FECAFOOT president after the imminent, high-stakes elections are done and dusted.

Budding musician releases new songs

By Beatrice Philemon

AN up-and-coming Tanzanian musician, Regina Kihwele, aka 'Gynah', last weekend held a live performance that was attended by her fans in Dar es Salaam.

'Gynah', further, released an Extended Play (EP), which contains eight songs. The songs are 'Najaribu', 'It's You', 'Tell Me', 'Groovin', 'Get Away', 'Mulasi', 'Kahawa', and 'Boom Boom'.

The performance, known as 'Kahawa Night', took place at Little Theatre in Kinondoni.

The event went hand in hand with the launch of her clothing brand, known as 'Gynah', which was supported by CRDB Bank and Tabasamu PR and Media Personnel.

'Gynah' noted so far two songs, 'Mulasi' and 'It's You', are now available on social media platforms, whilst the remaining tracks will be released very soon online, given the artist and her producers are still working on them.

Wearing impressive pink trousers and a purple blouse, whilst having a smile on her face, 'Gynah' took the stage and performed her song, 'Groovin'.

Her performance went well and the song was accompanied by a fashion rehearsal and received massive applause at the end.

Her vocals were sharp and she was well received by journalists and fans in the hall.

Apart from doing music, 'Gynah' noted she come up with new a film, 'Mulasi', which explains how mental health disorders, especially depression and stress, prevent women from making their dreams come true.

The track 'Mulasi', she added, aims at comforting women when they are feeling sad.

"I'm very proud to be part of this film because I have been nominated by Lake International PanAfrican Film Festival to contest for the Best Actress in Africa prize and a Classic Actress prize," she said.

Apart from that, 'Gynah' will take part in the Best Actor competition that will take place in Kenya from November 3-6, bringing together artists from South Africa, Cameroon, Uganda, Ghana, and the hosts, Kenya.

National Arts Council (BASATA)'s Arts Officer, Ibrahim Ibengwe, noted: "I'm very impressed with 'Gynah', she is a very talented young girl and exceptional musician, she can sing best solo songs, she is a fashion designer for her company named 'Gynah' and she is an actress," he said.

The official disclosed: "Apart from



An up-and-coming artist, Regina Kihwele, aka 'Gynah', sings at a live performance the musician staged in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: BEATRICE PHILEMON

that she has been nominated for the Best Artist in Africa's award and we feel this is a big achievement for her and Tanzania as well because Tanzania will be well-known for its arts and culture and help us to promote what it offers in the fashion industry as well."

He called on different stakeholders to promote arts domestically because there are so many talented young people in fashion and music who need to show their talents.

Highlighting registration, he said right now BASATA has introduced an online registration system to help artists and other people to register their works online.

"Artists keen on registering their works will be required to send all required documents to BASATA online and the council will issue a control number for payments and then the artists will get receipts after payment," he said.

Ibengwe pointed out: "Right now people will not be compelled to travel from up-country to Dar es Salaam for registration, everything is now available online."

BASATA is an organization established under the National Arts Council Act No. 23 of 1984. It is a government agency for the revival, promotion, and development of

arts in Tanzania.

The council strives to nurture artistically conscious and active Tanzanians who are motivated to fully participate in the production and consumption of good art.

BASATA facilitates the production and consumption of good artworks and services.

The core values of BASATA are promoting and developing an authentic Tanzanian art tradition, upholding professionalism and excellence, and promoting creativity and attentiveness in the arts.

Real Madrid liberated by Ancelotti return but tougher tests await

MADRID

CARLO Ancelotti called it his "honeymoon period" at Real Madrid and club and coach want to enjoy it while it lasts.

Madrid face Sheriff Tiraspol on Tuesday in the Champions League on the back of a 1-0 win away at Inter Milan that already appears to have put Ancelotti's team in charge of Group D.

And Madrid have started fast in Spain too, after five wins and two draws have taken them to the top of La Liga, three points clear of Atletico Madrid and five ahead of Barcelona.

Ancelotti was asked on Friday when the honeymoon period would end after Madrid's 6-1 thrashing of Mallorca.

"When it's going to end, I'll tell you but so far, I'm fine," he said.

It is not just the results that have lifted the mood, after a summer that began with Atletico winning the title and ended with Real Madrid making around 50 million euros in profit from the transfer window and failing to sign Kylian Mbappe.

It is the performances that have excited the fans and given some freshness to a squad that appeared to have grown stale under Zinedine Zidane last season.

Zidane's success at the helm was historic but his style, whenever it was possible to identify one, was cautious, prioritising defensive solidity, honed from his years at Juventus under Marcello Lippi, over attacking exuberance.

Ancelotti has taken the hand-brake off and the result has been younger players flourishing and the goals flying in.

Real Madrid have scored 21 in seven La Liga games this season, a total that has been spread across eight different players including Karim Benzema, Vinicius Junior, Marco Asensio, Eduardo Camavinga, Gareth Bale, Dani Carvajal and Nacho Fernandez.

Benzema has eight of them, as well as seven assists, the Frenchman

enhancing his claim to be Lionel Messi's heir as the best player in La Liga and perhaps even the best all-round striker now in the world.

While Benzema's displays are nothing new, the likes of Vinicius and Asensio have exploded into life under Ancelotti, with Asensio scoring a hat-trick against Mallorca in midweek and Vinicius discovering a more clinical edge that had been previously so lacking in his career.

The 18-year-old Camavinga is already a fans' favourite.

"Camavinga has no pressure, his character is like that, he is very cheerful, he gets along well with his teammates, he tries to learn Spanish quickly," said Ancelotti. "It is the freshness of youth."

When Ancelotti's arrival was confirmed, some were disappointed Madrid had not been bolder, accusing the club of choosing a safe option instead of a more ideological coach in the mould of Thomas Tuchel, Julian Nagelsmann or Pep Guardiola.

The success of the attack has even made Ancelotti nervous, with a greater focus on the defence contributing to a goalless draw against Villarreal on Saturday.

"To be honest we have been focusing a lot on the defensive area because it was the aspect that needed the most improvement," said Ancelotti.

But while greater challenges lie ahead, the merits of his appointment have so far been clear, with Real Madrid enjoying the freedom that comes with reduced expectations and the emergence of youth.

"My relationship with the club is very good at the moment, it is a honeymoon period for me," said Ancelotti this week.

"We will have less brilliant moments, but my respect for this club will always be there, for what this club represents, the president, the fans. More complicated moments will come but we will have a good time."

AFP

Kane stuck in 'smashed' Spurs spiral

LONDON

HARRY Kane knew he could ill afford to waste another season of his prime years at Tottenham, but Spurs' refusal to entertain Manchester City's interest has left the England captain stuck in a side going nowhere fast.

Yet to score in the Premier League this season, Kane cut a frustrated figure as Spurs were blown away in the first-half of Sunday's north London derby to lose 3-1 to Arsenal and fall into the bottom half of the table.

Any semblance of optimism around the club after keeping Kane against his will and winning Nuno Espirito Santo's first three league games in charge has quickly vanished.

Three consecutive defeats, by a combined score of 9-1, have been the reality check of where Spurs stand and why Kane wanted to leave to add trophies to individual accolades and goalscoring records.

"We lost complete control in the first-half. We got smashed," said Spurs captain Hugo Lloris.

"When you concede three goals in each of the last three league games you cannot hide the problems."

Had Kane have had his way, he could have been leading the line for City this weekend as they beat Chelsea to show they remain the side to beat in the title race.

Next up City travel to face Paris Saint-Germain in the pick of this week's Champions League ties. Tottenham, by contrast, host Slovenian side NS Mura in the Europa Conference League.

That was not the level Kane envisaged playing at when he signed a six-year contract in June 2018 just months before Tottenham moved into a new £1.2 billion (\$1.6 billion) stadium and reached the Champions League final for the first time.

Spurs' world class arena was on show around the globe on Saturday as Oleksandr Usyk stunned Anthony Joshua to claim three

heavyweight boxing belts.

But they do not have the team or manager to match those surroundings.

Nuno was finally hired, nearly three months after Jose Mourinho was sacked, when initial approaches to bring back Mauricio Pochettino and for Antonio Conte failed.

The Portuguese did not hide from his responsibility for Spurs' latest defeat.

"The performance was not good. The game plan was not good. The decisions were not good," said Nuno.

"I take responsibility because the decisions were not right according to the game plan. I won't name individuals but the game plan was not right according to the players who were on the pitch."

However, there are already doubts as to whether the former Wolves manager is the man to bridge the gap to the top four in the manner Pochettino did to qualify for the Champions League four years on the spin between 2016 and 2019.

Any chance of overhauling one of the established top four of City, Chelsea, Manchester United or Liverpool would depend on Kane finding his best form.

But he looks mentally and physically drained from a summer of transfer speculation and the disappointment of England's Euro 2020 final defeat on penalties to Italy.

With supporters back in stadiums and the after-effects of the failed European Super League project lingering, Spurs chairman Daniel Levy feared he would face a fans revolt if he sold last season's top scorer in the Premier League.

But even with Kane, Tottenham have gone backwards in the past two years.

The chance to sell the 28-year-old and rebuild the squad with the windfall was passed up.

On the evidence of the first two months of the season, that has been an opportunity missed for both player and club.

AFP

Neither Arsenal nor Spurs are where they want to be. Only one looks capable of climbing out of their hole

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THE challenge facing Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur these days is the same – restoration to their former glory – but Sunday's emphatic 3-1 Gunners win suggests only one of these old rivals know how they want to go about it. Late September is too early to definitively assess the limit of any team's aspirations, but the manner of this one-sided encounter created a clear sense that Arsenal are looking to the future while Spurs continue to cling to the past.

The Gunners' £140 million summer spending spree comprised six signings under the age of 23. Four of them started on Sunday in a team whose average age was just over 24, a profile bolstered further by the inclusion of their two brightest homegrown talents – Emile Smith Rowe and Bukayo Saka – who both scored and were the epitome of the club's spirit and endeavour throughout.

They began with a purpose Spurs completely lacked. Tottenham's attitude was exacerbated by a bizarre game plan in which they seemingly attempted to beat Arsenal without playing a midfield. Tanguy Ndombele and Dele Alli vacated the central area of the pitch far too often, leaving Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang completely overwhelmed as the home side swarmed all over them.

Spurs found a semblance of shape in the second half but the game had long ended as a contest by that point as Smith Rowe, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Saka swept Arsenal into a three-goal lead inside 34 minutes – the earliest either side has ever scored that many in a north London derby. Son Heung-Min managed a 79th-minute consolation to bring a modicum of respect to the scoreline during a half in which substitutes Oliver Skipp and later Emerson gave them a little impetus, but don't be fooled: Spurs were almost entirely absent during the periods of the game that actually mattered.



Aubameyang delivered Thierry Henry's trademark celebration with the Arsenal legend in attendance at the game. (Agencies)

Harry Kane eventually appeared. Even as a shadow of his best, it was still an improvement on what had gone before, testing Aaron Ramsdale with a low shot from outside the box before lifting another effort wide of the goal after a brilliant first touch. Yet his wait for a Premier League goal this season goes on.

The sight of Kane applauding an almost entirely empty Spurs end at full-time almost summed up the present malaise: a player who doesn't want to be at the club trying to acknowledge supporters who had already left in disillusionment at the team's approach. Kane was denied the summer move to Manchester City he wanted, but if his body is still present, his mind appears to be elsewhere.

It remains one of the most pressing issues for Nuno Espirito Santo to address. Chairman Daniel Levy claimed in May that Spurs would appoint a coach to replace Jose Mourinho who would "return to playing football with the style for which we are known – free-flowing, attacking and entertaining."

The confusion that followed – pursuing various candidates to an ad-

vanced stage, including Hansi Flick, Erik ten Hag, Antonio Conte, Paulo Fonseca, to name just four, and there were more – before settling on Nuno has bled onto the pitch. Spurs simply do not know what sort of team they are trying to be, caught between the enterprise of Mauricio Pochettino and the pragmatism of Mourinho.

"A lot of things went wrong, starting with the decisions I made," said Nuno, bluntly. "The game plan didn't work out because we didn't decide it well."

Boardroom machinations are not always reflected in results so directly – the presence of Spotify owner Daniel Ek alongside Arsenal legend Thierry Henry at Emirates Stadium was a reminder of the change of ownership many in attendance would still like to see despite Kroenke Sports & Entertainment's (KSE) summer outlay – but the correlation at Spurs is clear.

KSE kept faith with Mikel Arteta after a dismal start because they believed in the vision the Spaniard has for the future. There are no guarantees this buoyancy will continue – confidence is more capricious in these parts than most – but Arteta can now point to a tangible return to validate

his talk of a "process" and "transition," management buzzwords that can feel hollow without the performances to back them up.

Arsenal won the FA Cup in 2020 under his stewardship but that was achieved with a safety-first, defensive setup designed to contain and counter the best sides, specifically Manchester City and then Chelsea in the semifinal and final. This victory over Tottenham was the opposite, on the front foot throughout, overwhelming their bitterest rivals with an irresistible mix of quality and control to the raucous glee of fans dressed in red.

"When you are trying to rebuild and trying to do the right things, you have to stay by your values," Arteta told BBC Sport. "Now we are creating the connection with our supporters."

There is, however, a warning from history. Arsenal beat Spurs in March but won just one of their next five to end their hopes of qualifying for European competition. Two years ago, they came from 2-0 down to draw with Spurs in September only to win four of their next 22 in a run that cost Unai Emery his job as manager.

Arsenal face Brighton & Hove Albion and Crystal Palace either side of next month's international break before a home game against Aston Villa and a trip to Leicester City. It is a run that is not without dangers but one that offers a path for further progress.

Spurs have the Europa Conference League to complicate games against Villa, Newcastle United, West Ham United and Manchester United during the same period, and Nuno is in a race against time already to establish an identity for this team. He has managed Spurs in just 10 competitive games and they end a painful day level on points with Arsenal even after such a chastening 90 minutes, but already it feels as though the pressure is on.

Neither of these sides are where they want to be at present, but only one looks ready to make the climb right now.

Is Arsenal actually better than we thought?

By Nicholas Mendola, Yahoo Sports

LET'S overthink a small sample size for a minute and overlook the fact that the following question isn't necessarily an either/or affair.

Is it more likely that Arsenal's 3-1 North London derby win over Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday signals that Mikel Arteta's Gunners are much better than we thought or that Spurs might be quite subpar?

Arsenal is now the only Premier League club to win its last three matches while Tottenham is one of only two to lose its last three (Norwich City is 0-6).

So while there's a good chance Arsenal's desperate and commanding performance joined Tottenham's sleepy start to represent the perfect derby storm, might the match and both clubs' changing fortunes signal a significant shift in how we view North London's two top clubs?

"The case for Arsenal being much better than we thought

Let's start with this from Opta: Arsenal has now won 15 of its 28 Premier League matches in 2021. That's the fifth-best total in the league even with the Gunners' 0-3 start to the season.

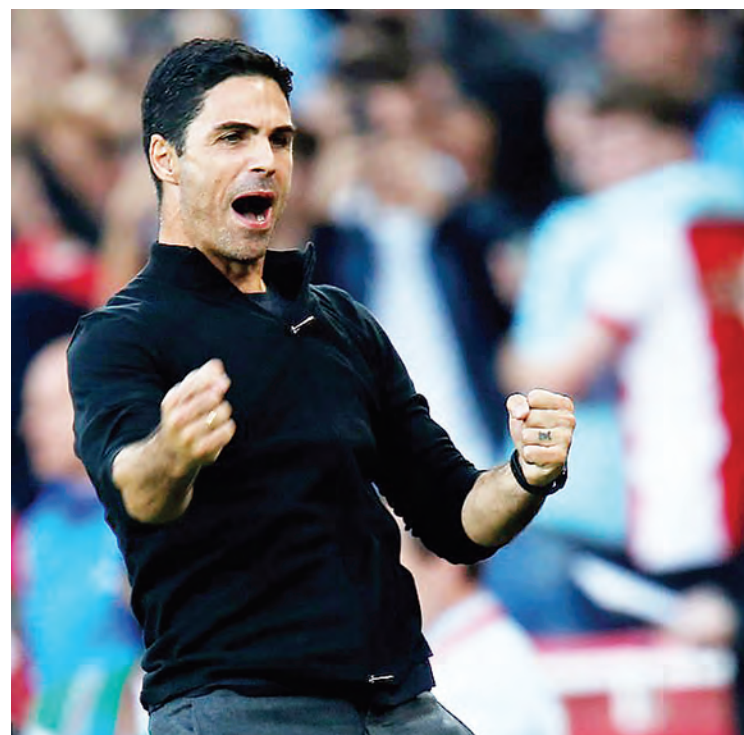
The Gunners were also without Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Alexandre Lacazette, and Thomas Partey over COVID-19 isolation, and Thomas also missed time with injury. For a player who'd start on 95% of the teams in Europe's top leagues, that's not a minor absence.

The club was also working Ben White into the fold and had designs on letting Aaron Ramsdale take the goalkeeping reins from Bernd Leno.

Oh, and they took a while to land Martin Odegaard, a key piece in their attack.

Now consider that the losses occurred with many of the above absences and against Brentford, Chelsea, and Man City, two who've proven to be good and a third with the potential to be one of the best promoted teams in some time.

Anyone saying that the wins came against Norwich City, Burnley, and



Mikel Arteta and Arsenal haven't had much to smile about this season but this was their best performance to date. (Agencies)

Spurs should be made to contend with the above notion in a firm and direct fashion.

Arsenal had also underperformed its expected goals for and its expected goals allowed, another feather in the cap of someone proposing that the Gunners are okay.

"The case for Tottenham as significantly worse than we thought

Tottenham leaves the embarrassment

ing loss to Arsenal with the Premier League's second-worst expected goals, fifth-worst expected goals allowed, fourth-fewest actual goals, and three-straight losses that saw the opponents score three or more times.

They hung onto Harry Kane, but has Harry Kane hung onto them? The Spurs striker had a couple of chances on Sunday but was far from the force

than combined so well with Heung-min Son last season.

And for those requesting a change in manager, remember how the project was viewed by big name bosses when Spurs had to work so hard to land Nuno Espirito Santo. The ex-Wolves boss, by the way, beat Arteta's Arsenal twice last season and can't make any tackles or produce any shots.

Spurs have produced just 35 shots in open play and conceded 71.

There's also this: Tottenham has been produced four-straight performances below 1.00 in expected goals, and was bossed in that department during its most memorable win of the season.

"What's more likely?

Look, there's no way that a team with Harry Kane, Heung-min Son, and Nuno Espirito Santo lacks the pride to rise above midtable and into the top-six discussion at some point this season.

Bad defending aside – we have to think Cristiano Romero rises above Eric Dier to start at center back more often than not – Spurs aren't nearly as bad as their first half versus Arsenal.

As for Arsenal, the club did what it did today without Alexandre Lacazette and Nicolas Pepe contributing, and Arteta is still working several pieces into the fold.

That said, there are more questions about Arteta as a manager than Espirito Santo.

Force us to project and we'll say Arsenal will out-punch a few teams this season and does seem to have it defending in an improved state. We'll vote that it's more likely Arsenal is decent than Spurs very poor.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Neither Arsenal nor Spurs are where they want to be. Only one looks capable of climbing out of their hole

Wounded Simba SC starts Premier League title defense

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will start its hunt for a fifth consecutive Mainland Tanzania Premier League title with a trip to Musoma.

The reigning champions today take on last term's fourth-placed side Biashara United at Karume Stadium.

Simba SC head into the game on the back of two successive losses to age-old rivals, Yanga, and DR Congo outfit, TP Mazembe, and head coach, Didier Gomes da Rosa, knows that another defeat could put his job on the line.

Striker Chris Mugalu will be the man in the spotlight after he was guilty of missing several chances in Saturday's derby defeat against Yanga.

Last season's top scorer, John Bocco, will also look to get on the scoresheet to help his side redeem themselves.

Biashara United meanwhile, brought in tactician, Patrick Odhiambo, after the exit of another Kenyan coach Francis Baraza, and Odhiambo enjoyed good results as he guided his charges to a CAF Confederation Cup place for the first time in their history.

Simba SC holds an advantage in the head-to-head record as they have won five of the last seven fixtures.

The hosts will look to Ghanaian youngster, Christian Ziggah, and Tanzanian forwards Atupele Green and Kelvin Friday, for inspiration if they are to register their first victory over Simba SC.

In Dodoma, hosts Dodoma Jiji FC will be hoping to start their 2021-22 Mainland Tanzania Premier League campaign on a high when they host Ruvu Shooting in their opening match of the season at the Jamhuri Stadium.

Dodoma Jiji FC, coached by Mbwana Makata, claimed a league double over Ruvu Shooting last season and would be hoping to continue their dominance as they start their second season in the topflight.

In Mbeya, Tanzania Prisons visit Mbeya City FC eager to pick maximum points in what used to be a cross-town rivalry between the two sides before the former migrated to Rukwa last season.

In head-to-head stats, Mbeya City FC and Prisons have met in 16 league matches since 2013/14.

Prisons have claimed five wins compared to four for the Mbeya City FC boys, while seven matches have been drawn.

When the teams met last season, there were no winners as they drew both games.



Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly, Martin Ngoga (R), presents various gifts to overall winner of Diplomatic Golf competition, Dier Mohamed, held for two days from 25th to 26 September at Kilimanjaro Golf (Kiligolf) in Arusha last weekend. Looking on (C) is Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Damas Ndumbaro. PHOTO: LUSUNGU HELELA

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

NIRVANA
Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Aruti Aces' cricketer, Salum Jumbe (L), gets Colourflex Man of the Match prize from Nandakishan of First Middle East Distributors once the outfit took on FMED Upanga side in this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's clash, which took place last Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Coach Poulsen announces 25-man Taifa Stars squad, recalls Mkude



Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA senior national football side 'Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen has named a 25-man squad ahead of next month's 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Benin.

Tanzania is set to resume its 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign during the October international break with a highly-anticipated doubleheader against Group J rivals Benin.

Poulsen's side currently sits atop the log standings after recording a draw against neighbours, DR Congo, in Lubumbashi in their opening match, before taking all three points at home following a 3-2 win over Madagascar in Dar es Salaam.

Ahead of next month's encounters, the Danish has announced a provisional 25-man squad that is largely the same as the team he picked the last time.

Tanzania will host Benin, nicknamed 'Squirrels', on October 7 before travelling to Cotonou three days later for the second leg.

There was no place for Salum Abubakar of Azam FC, while Simba midfielder, Jonas Mkude, was recalled to the team.

New Simba signing, Dennis Kibu, continues to miss out as he sorts out his citizenship though Poulsen insists he is still part of the team. Poulsen pointed out: "I still have Dennis Kibu in my plan, but it depends on his citizenship issue. I don't know what I can say but he is in my plan. If possible, it would be wonderful to have him there."

"This is the team we have and as I mentioned we will report on October 3 and start training on October 4."

"No doubt Benin is a strong team, we are also a strong team. We have the respect from our opponents."

"We also have a strong belief in ourselves, each other, and also believe in the team. I think the

confidence is growing."

Goalkeepers: Aishi Manula (Simba SC), Metacha Mnata (Polisi Tanzania), Wilbroad Maseke (Azam FC), and Ramadhani Kabwili (Yanga).

Defenders: Israel Mwenda (Simba SC), Kennedy Juma (Simba SC), Mohammed Hussein (Simba SC), Erasto Nyon (Simba SC), Dickson Job (Yanga), Bakari Mwamnyeto (Yanga), Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC), Edward Manyama (Azam FC) and Nickson Kibabage (KMC FC).

Midfielders: Meshack Mwamita (Kagera Sugar), Novatus Dismas (Maccabi Tel Aviv/Israel), Muzamil Yassin (Simba SC), Jonas Mkude (Simba SC), and Feisal Salum (Yanga).

Forwards: John Bocco (Simba SC), Iddi Suleiman 'Nado' (Azam FC), Abdul Suleiman (Coastal Union), Mbwana Samatta (Royal Antwerp/Belgium), Reliants Lusajo (Namungo FC), and Simon Msuva (Wydad AC/Morocco).

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Aruti Aces moves to top position in DC Caravans T20 Cricket Cup Group A

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM cricket fraternity members' eyes were on the 2021 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans Cup match between holders, Aruti Aces, and FMED Upanga, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's oval last weekend.

Qualification for the competition's knockout stage as Group A leaders was at stake as Harab Motors Pak Stars lost their match against NTS Bosch Gymkhana.

FMED Upanga cricketers won the toss and elected to field first, restricting their opponents to 144 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs.

While FMED Upanga was successful in taking wickets during regular intervals, every player in Aruti Aces contributed with the bat to ensure that they set a target of 145 runs with the loss of eight wickets.

Salum Jumbe recorded 21 runs not out, experienced performer, Ally Mpeka, and Jumanne Mohamed chipped in with 21 runs apiece for Aruti Aces.

In return, FMED Upanga was unable to find a stable partnership that would help the outfit attain the target.

Whilst the outfit's opener Rishen Patel scored 36 runs from 45 deliveries, the bowling onslaught by the opposition ensured that they were knocked over for 106 runs and winning by 38 runs.

Medium-pacer, Salum Jumbe, Mohammad Ali, and pacer Kibwana Salum notched two wickets each.

Jumbe was awarded the Colourflex Man of the Match award for his 21 runs not out from 26 deliveries and two wickets in four overs, giving away only 16 runs in the process, in what was a very well-balanced, all-round performance.

Mohammad Ali went home with the NGK Gathani Moment of the Match award for his explosive 18 runs from eight balls.

The Petrofuel Purple Cap holder, Ally Mpeka, was unable to add to his tally of 10 wickets and is now followed closely by his teammate, Salum Jumbe, with seven wickets.

This victory ensured that Aruti Aces takes the group's top position ahead of Harab Motors Pak Stars, who are level with the former on points, but Aruti Aces have a net run rate of 1.56 compared to Harab Motors Pak Stars' 1.37 net run rate.

All eyes are now set on Group B where Aurobindo Aga Khan SC, Alliance Caravans, and Honest Logistics SKLPSC are tied with four points each.

The DC Caravans T20 Cup has been held annually since 2015. Petrofuel Limited is the title sponsor of this year's tournament and is joined by Colourflex, TATA International, and Pepsi as the co-sponsors.

This year's tournament features the top 10 teams in the country playing under the franchise model with each team being backed by top corporates in the country.

The teams include Aruti Aces, Kaon Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, NTS Bosch Gymkhana, and FMED Upanga placed in Group A. Aurobindo Aga Khan SC, Horizon Teleports Annadil Burhani, Honest Logistics SKLPSC, Balakrishna Strikers and hosts, Alliance Caravans, make Group B.

Other sponsors of the tournament include NGK Gathani, Jihusu, Flashnet, RAS Logistics, Mlimani City, AOne Bottlers, Kishen Enterprises, Samaki Samaki, Delta Africa, DeepHeat, and GI Security.

Whilst the outfit's opener Rishen Patel scored 36 runs from 45 deliveries, the bowling onslaught by the opposition ensured that they were knocked over for 106 runs and winning by 38 runs