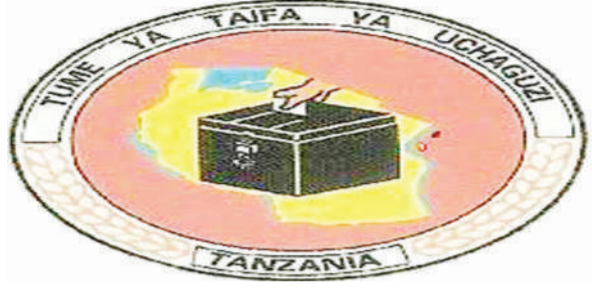




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Rebuilding pillars reroutes Dar-Morogoro SGR test drive

By Correspondent James Kandoya



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa listens to a briefing from the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) Director General Masanja Kadogosa during an inspection tour at the firm's main station in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

INITIAL test drive on the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line slated for August will not start from the Dar es Salaam station as planned due to the need for rebuilding of some pillars in the city.

Briefing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who toured the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) managing director Masanja Kadogosa said that the drive will start at Pugu station on the outskirts of the city.

"There are some pillars at Kamata area that are being rebuilt to meet agreed standards," he said, noting that reconstruction will be completed by December and the drive will then start at Dar es Salaam station.

Kadogosa said SGR construction from Morogoro to Dodoma will also be completed by August, with wagons and locomotives set to arrive in Dar es Salaam by July 15.

Construction of the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro section stands at 91 percent, where a small portion had been commissioned, meanwhile as engineers at the Dar es Salaam station (renamed Tanzanite) were finalizing the installation of communication systems, the premier was told.

When the station starts operation it will have floors with shops, bank outlets, restaurants, a VIP lounge, Immigration Department offices along with four hostels and minibars, he said.

The station is designed to be a business center with 40 percent of its investments targeting the private sector, he stated, while the premier highlighted a number of business opportunities for local investors interested in the business spot.

The PM assured the public that all major projects taking place including SGR will be completed on the specified time frame, as the government was well organized in supervising the construction progress.

"I assure you that funds do not pose problems. We have the funds to complete all the projects taking place in different parts of the country to bring about

'Deaths from GBV attacks on increase'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

DESPITE years of efforts to tame gender-based violence (GBV) countrywide, more women and children still suffer physical and sexual abuse - with more attacks turning fatal, a recent report has indicated.

Executive Director for the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC), Anna Henga said here yesterday that the 2020 Human Rights Annual Report

for Tanzania shows that 26,544 GBV-related attacks occurred in the past year alone.

"In addition to reported cases, the center has recorded 32 instances of women killed by the husbands or conjugal partners during the year," she said, noting that there were 4397 cases of sexual defilement of children.

Around 7263 women were raped in the course of last year, while more and more female children were initiated

into early marriage and genital mutilations, the report shows.

Cases of GBV and cruelty against women and minors are not only on the increase countrywide but getting deadlier, leading to a series of deaths and permanent injuries for scores of victims, the director underlined.

LHRC is coordinating a five day training session for social welfare officers from various regions on ways of addressing such challenges, expecting to come up with proposals for ultimate solutions on those problems at the closure of the session on Friday.

Participants are being trained on

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Deby's son takes over after leader dies 'in battlefield'

N'DJAMENA

CHADIAN army top brass yesterday named General Mahamat Kaka, son of the country's long-serving President Idriss Déby, as the new leader.

This came just hours after the military announced that Déby was wounded while fighting rebels in Kanem region and succumbed to the injuries.

However, some media outlets reported that the naming of Déby's son as leader

violates Chad's constitution which stipulates that the Speaker of Parliament should take over in the event of a presidential vacancy.

The death announcement came just 24 hours after provisional election results projected he would win a sixth term in office, meanwhile as the cabinet and the legislature were dissolved during electioneering. The military has imposed a curfew and shut the country's borders.

Déby, 68, spent three decades in power and was one of Africa's longest-serving leaders.

A military council led by Déby's son, a 37-year-old promoted to four star general, will now govern for the next 18 months.

Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno will lead the council but "free and democratic" elections will be held once the transition period is over, the army affirmed.

An army officer by training, Déby came to power in 1990 by an armed uprising. He was a long-time ally of France and other

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Mohamed Farmaajo accepts AU mediation

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S President Mohamed Farmaajo on Monday accepted the intervention of the African Union (AU) in the dispute over elections in his country.

This apparent admission of the continental body's help will, however, be accepted as long as Somalia retains its sovereignty.

President Farmaajo, who arrived in Kinshasa for an official visit on Monday, met DR Congo President Félix Tshisekedi, who is also the AU chairman, for two hours.

During the meeting, he briefed President Tshisekedi on the political and security situation in Somalia.

"President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed particularly insisted that the African Union and chairman should play a leading role to facilitate and frame the negotiations and the dialogue between all the Somali stakeholders," a dispatch from the Presidential Palace in Kinshasa said.

It noted that the African Union



desires "to reach an agreement between Somalis for the good of the Somalis."

President Tshisekedi welcomed the Somali president's willingness, in the spirit of African solidarity, to confide in him as current President of the African

Union in accordance with the relevant provisions of the AU Charter.

President Farmaajo's trip came as pressure mounted on him to quell the tension that arose last week after the Lower House of Parliament voted to

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Rebuilding pillars reroutes Dar-Moro SGR test drive

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development," he declared.

Supervision also intends to ensure value for money in all the projects, he said, expressing satisfaction on the progress reached in the standard gauge railway project, praising the TRC management and board for the good work done.

On January 20, 2016, it was reported that the then Railway Assets Holding Co. Ltd (RAHCO) before merging with TRC floated a tender for the supply of electric trains to be used on the SGR line, still in the early stages of construction.

The overall assets holder was seeking the supply, testing and commissioning of 14 electric locomotives for freight trains and five electric multiple units (EMU). An EMU is an electric passenger

train that has self-propelled carriages which use electricity as the locomotive power. An EMU requires no separate locomotive, as electric traction motors are incorporated within one or a number of the carriages.

RAHCO was also looking for the supply of three electric locomotives for departmental trains, 15 first class coaches and 45 economy class coaches, the reports said.

The tender notice informed that the government, through RAHCO, had already set aside funds in the financial year 2017/18 for the purchase of the rolling stock.

"The funds would be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for supply, testing, commissioning and training of rolling stock for the railway system to operate in the Tanzania central railway corridor," it affirmed.



Zanzibar President and chairman of Revolutionary Council Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi talks with the leaders of Zanzibar Widows Organisation (ZAWIO) led by the organisation's board chairperson who is also Deputy Speaker of the House of Representative Mgeni Hassan Juma and the director general Tabia Makame Mohammed at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

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Western powers in the battle against jihadist groups in the Sahel region.

Ahead of the election on 11 April, Déby campaigned on a platform of bringing peace and security to the region.

But there has been growing unhappiness over his government's management of Chad's oil resources.

Déby "breathed his last defending the sovereign nation on the battlefield," an army general said in a statement read out on state TV.

He had gone to the frontline, several hundred kilometres north of the capital N'Djamena at the

Deby's son takes over after leader dies 'in battlefield'

weekend to visit troops battling FACT rebels, (shorthand for Front for Change and Concord in Chad).

Founded in 2016 by disillusioned former army officers, the group accuses President Déby of repression in the run-up to the election.

The group built up a base in Libya in the Tibesti mountains, which straddle northern Chad and part of southern Libya.

On election day the group mounted an attack on a border post and gradually advanced on N'Djamena.

The latest clashes began on Saturday. An army general told Reuters news agency that 300 insurgents were killed and 150 were captured. Five government soldiers were killed and 36 were injured, he said. The figures could not immediately be verified.

Several embassies in the capital have urged their staff to leave.

N'Djamena has come under rebel attack before and there was panic in the city on Monday, with parents taking their children home from school, as tanks were deployed along the main roads.

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issues of human rights, gender based violence, and the Law of the Child, rules of handling juvenile delinquency and duties of enforcement organs in relation to children or children abuse, possible conflicts with laws, and the welfare of victims of violence.

Lake Zone regions and the western regions were marked out as notorious for the frequency of gender based violence by comparison with other regions.

Rasheed Maftah, the Director of Social Welfare Services at PO-RALG (President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments); officiated at the opening of the training session, telling participants that

'Deaths from GBV attacks on increase'

the government target for the past decade was to cut down cases of gender and child violence to less than 50 percent by the year 2025.

"In addition to reported cases, the center has recorded 32 instances of women killed by the husbands or conjugal partners during the year."

So far each district, ward and in villages local authorities and the police have established gender desks aimed at addressing such situations, he stated.

The LHRC in association with PO-RALG intends to reach out to 750 social welfare officers in continuing training sessions across the country so as to empower community workers in handling cases of violence against women and children, the director added.



Vice-President Dr Philip Mpango's new style of greeting Chief Secretary ambassador Hussein Katanga shortly before they held talks at State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: VPO

TRA: More traders now paying taxes voluntarily

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) said yesterday that more traders are now paying taxes voluntarily compared to the past when some of them closed shops after seeing the authority's officials.

TRA Director for Tax Payer Services and Education, Richard Kayombo made the statement in Dar es Salaam when briefing journalists on the 'door to door' campaign going on at different regions countrywide.

"More traders are now paying taxes because we are approaching them in a friendly way, they can also face our officers and raise their concerns; they no longer fear us," said Kayombo adding they have embarked on a new campaign

to educate Tanzanians on the important of paying taxes for the country's development.

"Reports from our managers shows an increased number of identified tax payers; the number includes those paying their tax arrears," he added.

According to him, the campaign has so far been conducted in Geita, Kinondoni, Arusha, Dodoma, Singida, Pwani, Mtwara, Mbeya and Mwanza regions. He said TRA officers are now conducting the campaign in Kilimanjaro, Ilala and Temeke.

Kayombo said the campaign will be sustainable targeting to increase the number of tax payers. He said campaign will promote voluntary tax paying habits amongst Tanzanians. He promise to release data and the amount of taxes collected during

the campaign immediately as the new financial year begins.

"We are opening all the time; we have been receiving complaints and work on them within five days as per our customer care guidelines," he said calling upon TRA's regional and district managers to adhere to the provided guidelines to reduce customer complaints.

He explained that decisions to launch the 'door to door' campaign was reached following tax estimation complaints from some dishonest TRA officials. He said during the campaign, TRA officers visit businesses to ensure proper tax estimation.

Kayombo added that when TRA officials visit traders they also inform the district, regional and local government authorities to ensure smooth operations.

"The campaign has helped us to know some of the identified tax payers with Tax payer's Identification Number (TIN) who are still assisted by our officers so that they start paying taxes accordingly," said Kayombo.

Speaking after swearing in newly-appointed ministers and those who changed portfolios at State House Chamwino recently, President Samia Suluhu Hassan ordered tax authorities to stop frustrating businesses and harassing taxpayers, but devise strategies to expand the tax base to meet collection targets.

The president said tax collectors have been employing enforcement tactics that pushed traders to close shop. She said that vicious tax collectors take away tools of work from business people.

Mohamed Farmaajo accepts AU mediation

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extend its mandate and that of the president by two years.

He had initially argued the Lower House had performed its legal duty of legislating. He accused the external partners of interference and vowed to stand by the decision of Parliament.

But the African Union whose combat force, Amisom, is still guarding key installations in Somalia; the European Union which pays Amisom soldiers, the UK and US both of who give substantial security support and the UN; all rejected the extension.

Farmaajo argued there had been no extension, saying that Parliament had merely delayed elections to allow time for preparations for universal suffrage.

From Saturday, however, he started speaking to key partners including the US, UN and the UK. He is seeking support for the extension, which he hopes will create a better environment to prepare for polls. His rivals have, however, rejected the extension and threatened a parallel process, which donors have warned they will reject as well.

"In their discussions, President Farmaajo talked about the need to encourage African solutions to

African problems and as such he has indicated his government's willingness to see the African Union take a leading role in the facilitation of engagement process that will lead to dialogue among Somali stakeholders," said Mohamed Abdirizak, Somalia's Foreign and International Cooperation Minister.

"The issue of political transition in Somalia is an internal issue," Abdirizak added.

Speaking to the press, the two heads of state said they had discussed bilateral relations. Farmaajo returned to his country on Monday afternoon, confident that the AU will do everything possible to reconcile the Somali parties.

AGENCIES

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The issue of political transition in Somalia is an internal issue

CORRECTION

In our Monday's edition of The Guardian newspaper – Front Page windows – we inadvertently referred Dr Baghayo Abdallah Saqware as Commissioner of Insurance. In fact he is Executive chairperson for Africa College of Insurance and Social Protection (ACISP). Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA)'s Commissioner of Insurance is Dr Mussa Juma. We regret for the error – Editor



Minister for Industries and Trade Prof Kitila Mkumbo talks with Dangote company drivers in Mtwara Region on Monday after reaching a consensus to end the 12-day strike. Photo: Correspondent Abdallah Khamis

US celebrates 5 years of improved children skills through education

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THE United States government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has pledged to continue supporting the country's education sector particularly the children and youth.

Speaking at the opening of a virtual meeting to celebrate advancements to basic education achieved through five years of the Tusome Pamoja ("Let's Read Together") activity and two years of the HesabunaElimuJumuishi ("Inclusive Arithmetic and Education"), USAID mission director Andrew Karas said education serves as a driver for all other development and for the reduction of extreme poverty.

Karas remarked, "We believe that if children are healthy, well-nourished, educated, and supported by their caregivers and communities, then they will have the necessary skills to become productive young adults, well-positioned to pursue and achieve their aspirations."

The virtual event, "Celebrating Five Years of Early Grade Reading, Math and Inclusive Education," highlighted the successes and sustainability of the activities in early grade reading, math, and inclusive education for the pre-primary and primary education sector.

The Tusome Pamoja activity improves the quality of early grade basic skills instruction, improves teaching methods and skills, and engages parents and communities toward helping improve education outcomes.

Its partner activity, HesabunaElimuJumuishi, introduces math instruction and

training for teachers to better respond to the needs of children with disabilities.

Both activities collaborate with the Ministry of Education on the Mainland and Zanzibar, Tanzania Institute of Education, Zanzibar Institute of Education and PORALG and PORALG-Special Department.

The US government provides substantial assistance to Tanzania and sponsors a wide range of programs across many sectors.

In the past five years, USAID invested \$82 million in basic education in Tanzania. To date, the Tusome Pamoja activity has reached over 2.4 million children across 3,060 schools with reading, writing and arithmetic interventions.

Meanwhile, over 20,000 teachers have been trained in phonics-based teaching methods for literacy and numeracy.



We believe that if children are healthy, well-nourished, educated, and supported by their caregivers and communities, then they will have the necessary skills to become productive young adults, well-positioned to pursue and achieve their aspirations

Bukoba DC directs installation of lightning arrestors in all schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

BUKOBIA District Commissioner Deodatus Kinawiro has instructed the Bukoba district council director Solomon Kilimike to look for funds for installing lightning arrestors in all primary and secondary schools, as well as in offices of public institutions to reduce effects from lightning, including deaths to school children.

The DC gave the instruction at a councillors' meeting a few days after a Form IV student at kabugaro secondary school in Bugabo ward, Gisera Oswald was struck by lightning and died on the spot.

"Lightning is a problem for the entire Bukoba District, hence I instruct you, in collaboration with

your councilors to look for funds from anywhere as soon as possible for the purchase of lightning arrestors in the schools," said the DC.

He said the tragic lightning incident that killed a student shocked him even though it was not the first one, saying they have been happening frequently and "if the issue cannot be solved, many children will die or maimed."

Kinawiro said geographically the entire Bukoba District was prone to lightning strikes, hence, he said, the only way to avoid such hazards was to install lightning arrestors especially in places with huge concentration of people.

The DC also lashed at parents who keep at home children struck

by lightning instead of sending them to the hospital for treatment.

He said two years ago during the Uhuru Torch race there was a heavy rain and secondary school students took shelter in a shed, but as they were inside lightning struck, some were wounded, but astonishingly, he added, parents kept their children at home, the situation that saw one child's leg amputated.

He said lightning arrestors were important and gave an example of Katoma secondary school that was struck by lightning several times.

He said he instructed the district executive director to install a lightning arrestor and that since then the school had not experienced lightning incidents.



Lightning is a problem for the entire Bukoba District, hence I instruct you, in collaboration with your councilors to look for funds from anywhere as soon as possible for the purchase of lightning arrestors in the schools

NEC to conduct by-election rerun in 18 wards on May 16

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has announced the rerun of a by-election at ward level, saying a total of 18 wards will participate in the elections.

Speaking at a training held here to returning officers NEC legal services director Emmanuel Kavishe said the by-elections will be held on May 16, this year.

He said the regions involved in the reruns include Tanga, Coast, Kilimanjaro and Arusha.

"The Commission has announced that on May 16 this year by-elections in 18 wards in 17 districts will be conducted, but here in Tanga Region four districts have assembled for

training purposes - Kibaha (Coast), Monduli (Arusha), Bumbili (Tanga) and Same (Kilimanjaro).

"Already we have begun the three-day training for returning officers to remind them what the laws say and how the elections will be conducted

"We shall be here in Tanga for three days so that together we can discuss views that will be tabled, exchange of experiences, and how to conduct the elections successfully in our districts," said Kavishe.

Kavishe said the training was being given to 28 officials including four executive directors of the named regions who are directly appointed as returning officers for the elections.

He further said there are also other officials who were experienced and have done election supervision work several times, but insisted that they should abide by what they have been instructed to.

For his part, the returning officer for Same District Hellen Mshana said in the by-elections rerun they were well mobilised, saying the by-election was a result of the death of the former Muhenzi ward Councillor Allan Mbaga.

"Already we have begun the three-day training for returning officers to remind them what the laws say and how the elections will be conducted"



Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander SACP Lazaro Mambosasa shows to journalists in the city yesterday some motorcycles which were impounded by police for various criminal offences. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND
LICENSING AGENCY



PRESS RELEASE

EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Dar es Salaam, April 2021

The Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) cordially informs Company owners and the general Public that, the Minister for Industry and Trade through Government Notice No. 189 of 12th February, 2021 extended the time for submission of information on Beneficial Owners for a period of twelve months from 1st January, 2021 to the Companies registered before 1st July, 2020.

The requirement to submit beneficial ownership information arises from the amendments of the Companies Act, Cap. 212 which were done through the Finance Act, 2020.

This extension of time has been granted in accordance with section 459A of the Companies Act, Cap 212 which empowers the Minister to extend the time for submission of Beneficial Ownership information.

BRELA in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade is in the last stages of completing The Companies (Beneficial Ownership) Regulations that will specify the modality of submission and keeping of beneficial ownership information. Once the Regulations are published, BRELA shall start receiving the said information.

For more details, kindly contact us through email address usajili@brela.go.tz, phone number +255 (0) 22 221 2800 or visit our office located at The Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives Building, 6th floor, Lumumba Street, Dar es Salaam.

Issued by;
The Information and Communication Unit BRELA

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Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam (RCD) president Nirmal Sheth (R) hands over a donation of one of 160 desks to Dar es Salaam City Council acting director Tabu Shaibu (2nd L) and Buyuni primary school head teacher Maurid Chimanya recently. Left is the Club's project director Kumail Manji. The Club's and other stakeholders organised the donation of 410 desks for both Buyuni and Zavaia primary schools at Chanika to help 1430 pupils' perform better in their studies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Manga primary school faces bad infrastructure'

By Guardian Correspondent,

Ludewa

A TOTAL of 300 pupils at Manga primary school in Ludewa District, Njombe Region fail to attend classes every time it rains due to poor infrastructure of the school which is dilapidated.

The school was constructed in 1943 and has since then been used without being renovated a move that makes leaning a challenge.

The head master Odeta Mganwa said there are only four classes which are now being used by pupils from Standard One to Seven.

"Infrastructure at the school is not satisfactory at all because we have poor classes and broken desks which threatening the lives of our pupils because even ventilation is problem as well," he said.

The Councilor for Madilu ward Eugen Mlwilo said the new building at the school was built in 1989 with funding from the primary education development programme.

"The infrastructure status at our school is not satisfactory, it has 79 years since it was established and I have been following up with the district council on what should be done but nothing is happening," he said.

However, the outcry on the poor infrastructure at the school has reached stakeholders including NMB Bank in southern highlands which has been touched by the

challenge.

The bank's manager for the zone Straton Chilongola said health and education are key sectors for better welfare of the society hence the bank will contribute materials for the construction of the school.

Receiving the materials, the District Commissioner for Ludewa Andrew Tserere said the project to construct the school needs commitment and directed the community to start the project immediately.



The infrastructure status at our school is not satisfactory, it has 79 years since it was established and I have been following up with the district council on what should be done but nothing is happening

Talgwu welcomes wage bill increase

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

TANZANIA Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU) has welcomed a statement by the president of The Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) to increase the wage bill.

The remarks were made by the

Talgwu administrative committee for Singida region Clement Njou when he addressed journalists.

He said it is long time public servants especially those from local government have missed the increase as well as promotions.

He said they believe that the wage bill will be increased this

year and their grades promoted because they believe that a woman is kind a person.

He said through the coming Labour Day next month, President Samia Suluhu Hassan will increase salaries especially those with low pay because they are the majority.

Apart from the salary increment, the member also requested the president to promote workers but also consider paying them money which they were supposed to get when they were sacked from the public service for having standard seven qualifications during the previous administration.

'Investors assured of conducive and business investment climate'

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE government yesterday assured investors of continued improvement towards conducive business and investment climate.

Deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), William Ole Nasha said when speaking at a meeting that brought together directors from the National Housing Corporation (NHC), National Social Security Fund NSF and Medical Stores Department (MSD).

The meeting which was held at Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) offices in Dar es Salaam aimed to discuss how the government can create an enabling environment for investors and outline strategies to ease the way of doing business in Tanzania.

"Since President Samia Suluhu Hassan got into power she has been addressing challenges facing investors. Samia made it clear that there are many complaints from investors that there such as bureaucracy in some public institutions and agencies," said the deputy minister.

He added: "We need to remove all the barriers and bureaucracy in our offices because apart from delaying commencement of projects, it makes the government lose revenues and employment."

Ole Nasha noted that President

Samia formed the particular ministry for investments to facilitate smooth investors operations in the country.

He said his ministry is determined to make sure all the strategic projects which were started in the previous phase government are completed accordingly.

He said the president has been insisting to complete all the strategic projects currently under implementation, hence the need for government officials to supervise them closely and ensure they are completed within schedule.

"You should work day and night so that we don't to support the president. All the outlined projects must be completed as per agreed schedule," he added.

The deputy minister said that his ministry will continue meeting with different institutions and agencies to bring them closer to TIC as well as to identify challenges facing investors and suggest solutions.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary Prof Godius Kahyarara said they have organised themselves to implement all the government directives including finding solutions to challenges facing investors.

He said some of the challenges facing investors include delays in land acquisition and work permits.



The remains of Mike's beach hotel cottages after having been destroyed by fire at Ushongo Beach village in Pangani District, Tanga Region over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mtwara

INDUSTRIES and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo has said the government will make sure the rights of Tanzanians working in various industries are taken care of.

He said the welfare of Tanzanian workers was of paramount importance and that the government won't allow its people to leave as they are immigrants in their own country.

Prof Mkumbo issued the remarks when he toured Dangote cement industries in Mtwara recently and held a meeting with

Minister assures the rights of workers in various industries

workers who were on strike.

He said despite government having the right to protect its people, it also has the role to protect investors so that they become good ambassadors whenever they move out of this country.

"It is our role to ensure there is peace but also protect the investors and the rights of workers, in our internal meeting that out of the ten issues that you were complaining about they will

be worked upon," he said.

For his part, the minister for Investment Geoffrey Mwambe said it is sad that during the days of the strike there is no work that was done hence derailing efforts to promote investments in the country.

He said the employment matter is not in the hands of Dangote cement because it has been given to agents therefore there was need to seat with the agents to see what can be done.

Some of the issues that have been agreed during the meeting are to increase the allowance for drivers from 35,000/- to 50,000 then pay for traffic fines that result from the company's poor vehicles. The other issue was the timely maintenance of vehicles.

The Regional Commissioner for Mtwara Region Gelasius Byakanwa urged the drivers to join trade unions to better help themselves in solving the challenges facing them.



We need to remove all the barriers and bureaucracy in our offices because apart from delaying commencement of projects, it makes the government lose revenues and employment



Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Simai Mohammed Said inspects students' exercise books at Kisiwa Panza secondary school during his official visit in Pemba yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

Covid-19 pandemic impetus for greater regional integration, African countries told

By Guardian Reporter

AS countries rebuild their economies following COVID-19, Africa needs to step up productive and infrastructural integration, participants heard at a regional presentation of the African Regional Integration Index (ARII) held virtually last week.

The index, a joint publication of the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission, provides up-to-date data on the status of regional integration in Africa and assesses the level of integration for every regional economic community and its member countries.

The index report underlines the need for a renewed commitment to regional integration within Africa, speakers said. They noted that the beginning of trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area in January 2021, amid the Covid-19 pandemic and its disruptive impact on movement and economies, had thrown this into sharper focus.

Alhaji Rashid Kibowa, Director of Trade at the East African Community Secretariat, said the Index report has great potential to address the three major challenges currently facing the continent: the Covid-19 pandemic, implementation of the AfCFTA, and poverty reduction.

"There is a need for more dialogue on the ARII and methodology issues to expand the scope of coverage of the assessed integration areas. The fundamental issues behind the ARII ought to be whether integration exists for Africa and whether it is effective in terms of achieving poverty reduction and

socio-economic transformation for the continent," said Kibowa.

The report, released in May of last year, found that overall scores for countries in Southern and Eastern Africa show huge room for improvements, especially as to integration within the continent.

The index indicates that overall, the level of integration on the continent is low, with an average score of 0.327. It notes that Africa is poorly integrated on the productive and infrastructural dimensions, which are key aspects forming the foundations upon which the other dimensions of regional integration depend to function.

"The latest edition of the African Regional Integration Index is not only timely but handy to help any African country identify its main strengths and weaknesses with its regional integration performance," said Stephen Karingi, the Director of the Regional Integration and Trade Division of the East African Community.

Jean-Guy Afrika, the African Development Bank's Acting Director for the Regional Integration Coordination Office, said the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities of the continent, especially the low levels of intra-African trade and the proliferation of non-tariff barriers.

"The continent will only grow economically if we allow the free flow of goods and services across our borders, allow free movement of people, and scale up regional value chains. As a matter of urgency, we bring down tariff and non-tariff barriers, encourage cross-border trade, and open the African skies," Afrika added.

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

Stick to laws, regulations to avoid unnecessary loss, traders told

IMPORTERS and sellers of products that fall under compulsory standards have been insisted to adhere to the laws and regulations in order to avoid engaging in an unnecessary loss.

This was said in Kigoma Region by the Head of Western Zone of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Rodney Alananga, during an impromptu inspection in markets.

The inspection was carried at Kakonko, Buhigwe, Kasulu, Uvinza and Kigoma districts targeted distributors and sellers of lubricants, motor vehicles auto parts, construction equipment, food, and cosmetics.

It was intended to verify whether the goods sold in the markets met required standards or not in order to avoid importation of substandard products which have been entering into the country through unofficial routes

or locally produced without following requirements.

TBS officials and those from the district councils also had time to educate sellers and buyers on preserving their goods and the importance of reading information on packaging labels. They informed food and cosmetics traders to adhere to the quality and safety of their products being kept on their premises.

Alananga cautioned traders that if found with substandard goods they will be compelled to destroy at their own cost which is not healthy for their development.

He also insisted them to contact the TBS offices in case they need any professional assistance.

For his part the Food Safety officer at TBS, Elisha Meshack

said that the inspection was sustainable and will involve various goods in all sectors excluding medicine. He said similar exercise is still going on in Mpanda, Tanganyika, Mpimbwe, Sumbawanga, Kalambo, and Nkasi districts in Western Zone.

"This is a continuation of our daily activities, our organisation will make sure that similar inspection is carried to all districts countrywide to ensure that the issue of substandard goods is minimized or come to an end," he said.

Speaking, the TBS Quality Assurance Officer Emmanuel Mushi, maintained that food and cosmetics traders who have been inspected and given costs to pay to do so immediately so that they

can get a permit to conduct their activities in registered premises.

Earlier, the manager at Malagarasi Mineral General Supply identified as Samir Adam hailed TBS for bringing the services close to them since they have got enough cooperation at the Western Zone office in Kigoma.

"In the past, we had a challenge of getting the certificate and a timely visit by your officials, now with the close Western Zone office we get maximum assistance," he said.

During the inspection exercise, TBS officials had a chance of meeting traders face to face telling their roles including those assumed by the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA).

Simiyu RAS urges local councils to establish business entities

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

SIMIYU Regional Administrative Secretary Miriam Mmbaga has called upon all local councils in the region to establish business entities as they will assist to increase councils' revenues.

Mmbaga issued the appeal to councils' executive directors on Monday during a training seminar on how to establish business companies, the seminar that was organised jointly by the Community Development Planning College in villages, Mwanza Branch and the Office of the Simiyu Regional Commissioner under UNDP sponsorship.

She said in establishing companies, priorities should be accorded to both readiness and self-assurance in order to attain positive achievements.

She said such companies would assist local councils to generate revenues to supplement funds from the central government that have not been sufficient in implementing development projects.

The training's facilitator Dr Fredrick Sagamiko who is also Maswa District Executive Director said he believed the training will spur changes in the local councils. Dr Sagamiko said he understands each local council has projects being implemented or in strategies to establish them hence he called on them to transfer the project into business entities for the good of the councils.

For his part, the Bariadi District Executive Director James John said the training that aim of empowering in starting projects through companies have given them a vision and the correct path in their implementation.

Meatu District Council Legal Officer Kabisa Joel said through the training, legal officers have a big contribution in ensuring the companies are established by adhering to the relevant laws to avoid problems in regard to ownership of shares.

The coordinator from the Community Development Planning College in villages, Mwanza Branch Bonamax Mbaso said they were monitoring the training in collaboration with the office of the Simiyu Regional Commissioner to ensure the implantation of strategic projects.



She said in establishing companies, priorities should be accorded to both readiness and self-assurance in order to attain positive achievements

TMDA destroys impounded drugs unfit for human use

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) in Southern Highlands Zone has impounded and destroyed human and livestock medicines that were found with various deficiencies, including not having been registered and others their period of use had expired.

This was revealed in Mbalizi town, Mbeya District by the Acting TMDA Manager for the Southern

Highlands Zone Anitha Mshigati, during the exercise to destroy the medicines.

She said the destruction of the medicines and medical devices was a result of a crackdown in various areas of the Zone which also discovered the illegal importation of unregistered drugs and others with the time for use expired, but were still being sold in pharmacies and health centres.

"We have been conducting inspections in various, and have

interrogated the owners involved in order to take further legal steps including imposition of fines and paying the cost for the destruction of the medicines," Mshigati said.

She said TMDA continues to provide education to the people to identify registered medicines and those which their dates for use have not been expired.

Mshigati further said the hazards for using such medicines were immense to the health of the people and urged

them not to buy such medicines due to their low costs, they should look for their quality and safety.

She said such crackdowns by TMDA are sustainable and will ensure all such medicines are removed from the pharmacies and health centres for destruction.

Some residents of Mbalizi town praised TMDA for destroying the condemned medicines and called for proper education to identify such drugs.

TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to procure goods under the following tenders

1. ITB-TZA-004232 SUPPLY OF TOOLS FOR BIO-BRIQUETTES PRODUCTION
2. ITB-TZA-004234 SUPPLY OF TOOLS FOR CHAR PRODUCTION

Therefore, the Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo request the suppliers to submit their prices for the above goods.

The bidding documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 21th April, 2021 during the working days and hours. 8:00 Am to 4:30 Pm in the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. **You can call on: +255627428470 or through email jackson.maseke@drc.ngo** to receive the soft copy by email.

**The closing date for the submission of the bids is
04th May, 2021 at 4:30 Pm.**

The ITB's will be opened in a public session on 06th May, 2021 at 10:00 AM at DRC Kibondo Office, PO Box 177 Kibondo by the DRC Tender Opening Committee.

You can return your bid form through RFQ.TZA@drc.ngo OR DIRECT TO THE DRC OFFICE otherwise is void

NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators will be held virtually, on 6th May 2021 from 10:00 am. Meeting link to be sent to Members.

The agenda of the meeting is as follows: -

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Adoption of the Agenda;
3. Adoption of the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31/12/2019;
4. Appointment of Auditors;
5. Closing of the meeting.

Issued on 21st April, 2021 for and on behalf of the Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators (TIArb) by

**Executive Secretary
Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators**

Reform farming to live prosperity dream, Mkenda urges Tanzanians

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Agriculture, Prof Adolf Mkenda, said here yesterday that Tanzanians will be able to live their tripartite dream of eradicating poverty, industrialisation and closing the gap between the haves and have-nots by making earnest reforms in agriculture and increasing productivity.

He told reporters at the end of the Board of Directors of the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) that there is no better way the reforming agriculture except by increasing productivity. Agriculture, he said, is a very strategic sector because besides producing food for the nation, it is important in making the industries grow.

About two thirds of Tanzanians are engaged in farming in one way or another, the minister said, explaining that despite that fact agriculture contributes below one third to national income while poverty remains a big challenge.

"As a ministry responsible for agriculture our resolve is to increase the farmer's income. However, that will only be possible when we shall succeed to effect reforms by increasing productivity," he said.

The professor defined productivity as a union of harvests and human labour put in farming in order to get commensurate harvests. This, he said, includes research, use of right farm

inputs and good use of extension services.

He called for continued research on fertilisers, seeds and soil health in order to make meaningful farming reforms possible, double harvests and shield the farmers from price-fall shocks, adding that if productivity will increase the farmer will use a small area but get bumper harvests and be able to shoulder the cost of living.

The minister said there has been a culture of increasing acreage when the price of a crop goes up. But, he explained, the truth is that Tanzania is able to double the current amount of cashew nuts produced in southern regions and eradicate poverty by effecting reforms and increasing productivity. The minister said research shows that Tanzania produces 1.6 tonnes of palm oil crop per hectare while countries where Tanzania imports palm oil produce 10 tonnes per hectare.

"Let's continue research on fertilisers, soil health and superior seeds that will double harvests so that the farmer remains unaffected in the event of price falls for his produce," he said.



As a ministry responsible for agriculture our resolve is to increase the farmer's income



Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office William ole Nasha (L) being welcomed at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) where he held a meeting with the ministry officials and directors of NSSF, NHC and MSD in Dar es Salaam on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

World Vision provides 6.9 million/- sanitary pads to five primary schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

WORLD Vision Tanzania has donated 600 sanitary pads valued at 6.9m/- that will be provided to five primary schools in Muleba District, Kagera Region.

Speaking at the event to hand over the pads, the representative of world vision Tanzania Zonal Manager Victor Nsiima said the sanitary pads will increase school attendance and examination

passes to girl students.

"The pads will also help in enhancing the liberty by girl students to participate in various activities at the school, including sports. The school that benefitted from the donation include Mayondwe, Kimbugu, Kagondo 'A', Kagondo 'B' and Bushumba primary schools," he said.

Nsiima said apart from the sanitary pads, World Vision also provided 440 school desks valued at 33.7m/- to eight primary schools in the district including

Bugasha, Kabuleme, Bushumba, Mayondwe, Kashumbillo, Kimbugu, Katoke 'A' and Katoke 'B'.

Speaking on behalf of the schools that received sanitary pads, Davian Nyanto, a Bushumba Primary School teacher said girls have been facing with various problems whenever they enter their periods while at school often preventing many of them to stay in class.

"We thank World Vision for the sanitary pads assistance that are

reusable, the girls will use them for a period of one year, hence they will study their lessons well," said Nyanto.

Receiving the pads and desks, Muleba District Commissioner Richard Ruyango appealed to students and teachers to take care of the desks for them to last long.

Due to lack of unsafe environment a girl students can go 40 days without going to school out of the 194 school days missing out about 137 lessons in a year.



Mbeya district council chief medical officer Dr Yahya Msuya explains a point to Nsambya primary school pupils on how to wash their hands during the handing over ceremony of latrines built by United Nations Children's Fund over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Z'bar government recognises social services contribution by SDA church

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has assured leaders of the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) Church in Tanzania that it will continue to work together with them and recognise their contribution in assisting the provision of social services in Zanzibar.

Zanzibar president Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi issued the assurance on Monday at Zanzibar State House when he met with SDA church leaders.

Dr Mwinyi said his government will continue its cooperation with the Church as it values its big contribution in its provision to social services to the

community.

He said the church has spiritually built up its followers in working together with the government in the development of the education and health sectors in both Unguja and Pemba.

He explained that the government will be ready to ensure all projects initiated by the church including health education attain its goals in serving the community.

He also congratulated the church for supporting government's efforts in the education sector by strengthening the sector at Ali Khamis Camp school in Pemba by assisting science teachers including with

books.

He also praised the church for its assistance towards the health sector in its Meya Dispensary in Zanzibar's Magomeni area that has been operating for a very long time.

He also praised the church for its readiness in establishing a vocational college, the step that will strengthen the vocational education sector in particular for the youth.

For his part the church's Bishop and Chairman of its Board of Trustees, Mark Malwa Malekana and Bishop of the Church's Southern Diocese with other members of the church from Zanzibar praised president

Mwinyi for his fast pace in bringing development to Zanzibar as well for his vision in the Blue Economy and promised that his church will continue to support in attaining its set goals.

Bishop Malekana said in Zanzibar the church was established in 1986 by starting to provide spiritual and social services to the people.

He said in regard to social services, the church established medical services in two health centres in both Unguja and Pemba as well as an elementary and primary schools at Tomondo, and as for now it plans to establish a secondary school.

Religious leaders in Pemba lashes at Zanzibar Alcohol Drinks Control Board

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

RESIDENTS and religious leaders in Ole Constituency in Pemba have held prayers calling for the maintenance of peace to the Government of National Unity (GNU) but at the same time blasted the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board for its violation of the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act (No. 9 of 2020).

The special prayers was conducted at Uwandani Jumaa Mosque and attended by more than 200 residents and religious leaders from Uwandani, Mjanaza and Vikunguni, and were led by Sheikh Ali Said Ali.

Sheikh Ali said Muslim believers have been forced to conduct prayers after seeing peace and solidarity were being maintained and lambasted all unlawful acts.

For his part Muslim Preacher Rashid Khamis from Kangagani said the Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board is supposed to respect the 2020 Alcoholic Drinks Control Act that was endorsed by the House of Representatives and came into force on May 11 last year.

He said Muslim leaders have been shocked after realising that eight firms were given permits to import alcoholic drinks instead of three as the law had stipulated under Section 33(1).

Khamis added: "We are asking the Members of the Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board to go back and abide by the law, else they should all resign as they have failed to perform their duties in accordance with the law."

For his part, Sheikh Kombo Ali Abdallah said the new law on alcohol has great benefits for the community if it is correctly implemented by the board.

But he said the board has already started to go astray by

permitting more than three firms to import alcohol into Zanzibar.

Speaking after the special prayers some Ole residents, including Bihetu Hamad and Mwajuma Ali said they hail the government for the new law on alcohol control.

The said ethics in the society were plummeting due to the increase of alcohol use and advised permits given to firms that were illegally licensed to import and deal with alcoholic drinks be withdrawn.

They also called for the resignation of the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Masoud Ali Mohamed for failure to take steps appropriate steps.

Speaking from her office, the Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board's Secretary Zainab Makame Mussa said they used wisdom to protect government revenue, and that is why they set aside the law's requirement in issuing permits to more than three firms.



We are asking the Members of the Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board to go back and abide by the law, else they should all resign as they have failed to perform their duties in accordance with the law



Kigoma Regional Commissioner Tobias Andengeny (C) launches emergency plan to fight against maternal mortality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Pendo Thomas

NGO donates 52m/- worth food items to 600 poor families in Mkuranga and Bagamoyo districts

By Correspondent Amri Lugungulo, Bagamoyo

A UK-based non-governmental organisation with a branch in Dar es Salaam has donated assorted food items worth 52m/- to 600 poor households in Mkuranga and Bagamoyo districts, Coast Region.

Chairperson of the spiritual organisation, Fatima Somji said the donated items include sugar, rice, spaghetti, cooking oil, tea leaves and maize flour.

Speaking over the weekend, Fatma said a total of 300 poor households in both districts will benefit with the assistance.

"The donation is part of celebrations to remember our spiritual leader-'Hussain' who had the spirit of helping poor people," she said adding the organisation will continue to assist those in need as well as providing medical treatment to those suffering from various diseases.

Event Coordinator Fatema Kermalli said they are intending to introduce more projects such as water well construction, but they are delaying due to financial constraints.

Vigwaza ward councillor, Mussa Gama thanked the organisation for its support to the residents whom most of them struggle to have daily food.

"Some families were starving due to insufficient food stock caused by poor harvests in the

past season," said the councillor linking the poor harvests with drought caused by climate change.

One of the residents, Mohamed Tengeza from Mnindi village in Vigwaza ward thanked the organisation saying most of the households at the area experienced fewer rainy days in the previous agricultural season.

"Our harvests were poor due to limited rains, we are thankful to the organisation because most of us struggle for daily meals," he said.



The donation is part of celebrations to remember our spiritual leader-'Hussain' who had the spirit of helping poor people

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

COMMUNITY-Based Water Supply Organisations (CBWSOs) in Kilimanjaro Region have been tasked to register all water bodies by June 30, this year.

Manager of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in the region Eng Weransari Munisi made the directives here yesterday when speaking at the meeting that involved water experts. The meeting brought on board all district managers of the agency and officials of water users bodies from across the region.

Water supply bodies in Kilimanjaro directed to register all water bodies

Eng Munisi said that according to the Water Supply and Sanitation Act No.5 of 2019 that established RUWASA provided two years for water users associations at the village level to be registered.

"Basically after registration, they are required to update their reports within two years from 2019 to June 30, this year, and they must have completed the registration," he said.

Munisi added: "CBWSOs will be responsible for managing, operating and rehabilitating water projects including ensuring that rural water services are sustainable."

He also called on water user communities to ensure that all areas where water infrastructure has passed through have been licensed so that they do not continue to be invaded by the

people or the infrastructure is damaged.

He urged people to provide cooperation to water experts in ensuring that water infrastructure such as tanks and water pipes are properly maintained.

RUWASA is established by the Water Supply and Sanitation Act, No. 5 of 2019 responsible for implementation of rural water supply and sanitation projects.

2 million African women empowered by Coca-Cola's financing in skills, resources

By Guardian Reporter

COLA-COLA Beverages Africa (CCBA) has this year celebrated the International Women's month in style with the release of audited results of the Coca-Cola system's 5by20 women empowerment programme showing that 2 million African women have been equipped to succeed as entrepreneurs.

Under the programme, the women have also been assisted to create sustainable communities.

The company has handsomely succeeded to attain its global goal to economically enable 5 million women by 2020 - hence the 5by20 with 6 million women around the world gaining access to business skills, financial services, assets and support networks of peers and mentors, giving them the confidence, skills and resources to thrive.

Commenting on the success of the programme in Africa, CCBA's Head of Public Affairs Communications and Sustainability, Tshidi Ramogase said the company is committed to creating greater shared opportunity for the business and communities it serves across the value-chain.

"Opportunity is more than just money, it's about a better future for people and their communities everywhere on the African continent," said Ramogase.

She added: "Women are the pillars of their communities, investing much of their income in the health and education of their children and local economies. By helping women to grow their businesses we are helping Africa to reach its full economic potential. We are passionate about ensuring that our continent thrives, as our business thrives, and we are not going to stop here."

According to her, women entrepreneurs continue to face major hurdles particularly given the significant socio-economic

disruption created by the COVID-19 pandemic in so many communities around the world.

"By investing in women's economic empowerment over the past decade, we have created shared value in hopes of a better shared future - enabling improved livelihoods for women, their families and their communities, while inclusively expanding our business," said Ramogase.

She said: "We are proud about the ripple effects that these programmes have had on the millions of lives we have touched and will continue to have over the years to come."

The programme aimed to assist women entrepreneurs across the Coca-Cola value chain - agricultural producers, suppliers, distributors, retailers, recyclers, and artisans - to overcome challenges when establishing and growing their businesses.

The Coca-Cola Company worked with bottling partners, civil society organisations, government stakeholders and other private sector actors across 33 countries in Africa to roll out locally relevant initiatives.

CCBA, Africa's largest Coca-Cola bottling partner, made a significant contribution to the Coca-Cola system's accomplishments.

In total, in the markets where we operate, almost 1.3 million women were empowered since the inception of 5by20.

In Tanzania, the company partnered with VICOBA Sustainable Development Agency and enabled over 41,000 women to gain access to business and entrepreneurship skills, financial services, assets and support networks of peers and mentors.

Numerous studies from the United Nations and academic institutions have repeatedly proven that investment in women spurs economic growth and promotes sustainable development.



Some Dar es Salaam food vendors display liquefied petroleum gas cylinders supplied to them by Coca-Cola Kwanza through the 5by20 programme. The Coca-Cola system's 5by20 women empowerment programme has so far benefited over 2 million women in Africa and equipped to succeed as entrepreneurs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Devota Mwachanga

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices (TMDA) have seized a consignment of substandard veterinary drugs which were smuggled and distributed in local markets.

TMDA Director General, Adam Fimbo said that an operation conducted by the agency in various markets found out that there are some substandard veterinary drugs imported from neighbouring countries.

According to Fimbo, the seized consignment was loaded with drugs produced by Nerix Pharma

TMDA seizes consignment of substandard veterinary drugs

for Vetagro and Pulper Co. Ltd of Nairobi, Kenya.

"We will continue to conduct regular market inspections to detect substandard and illegally imported products," said Fimbo.

According to the DG, the suspected batch was subjected to laboratory analysis and the results revealed that the batch does not contain the claimed active pharmaceutical ingredients.

He also cited discrepancies of information on the container

label between genuine and substandard products including colour of the label.

Fimbo noted that the label of the genuine product is green, but the seized drugs had a blue label. He said that the manufacturing date for the genuine product was November 2018 while the fake drugs showed that November 2019 was the date of production.

"Farmers as well as the general public should be careful when purchasing veterinary and other

products, they should properly check the labels to detect the falsified products," said the TMDA boss calling upon people coming across fake goods in the market to report to the agency's offices.

Fimbo urged the public to report any suspected substandard or falsified medical products and unscrupulous traders engaged in the illegal and unlawful manufacturing, smuggling and selling of such kinds of products.

WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Samia is right, MPs should focus on real agenda, skip personalities

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan cautioned in a speech at the weekend on unsavory trends in parliamentary debate of late, where the legislature was sort of reduced to an intra-CCM fight for those avid at the fifth phase legacy, and those putting strictures on it. While it was to be expected that any phase has its potential downsides, getting the legislature to grapple with the matter as if it was the principal issue before the House was a let-down. Worse, the matter has no rational outcome but getting tired, silent.

Were it a debate between the majority and the opposition it would make sense but not as an intra-majority contention, as by definition neither side can be wrong. So the president did the right thing by calling off the debate after it became apparent that Speaker Job Ndogai was getting swallowed into the debate instead of directing MPs' energies on a better direction. The issues may have been somewhat engaging but there ought to be a Chief Whip who informs the MPs what is in the ruling party interest, not schisms.

While MPs were screaming at one another whether there is anything anyone wishes to correct about the fifth phase presidency, foreign radios were telling the public of other threats. There is intense lobbying behind the scenes for banks to refuse to lend cash to investors in the East African Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. The usual reason given was that it would harm the environment, wishing

that money be directed at clean energy, meaning hydropower or solar - but it will be remembered that more or less the same voices vehemently opposed the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project for the same reason: environment.

This is what the late president John Magufuli kept reminding the public that there is an economic war at hand, for those wishing to keep Africa (and Tanzania for that matter) perpetually begging. While it is true that renewable energies like solar are vital, there is plenty of room for such sources to be used along with traditional sources, as all these resources can't just be let to lie idle, and the country is yet to reach industrial development. Even developed countries still use coal, let alone petroleum, refining crude oil.

Instead of debating on the legacy of specific individuals, MPs must focus on how we can improve things, the way President Samia tasked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation to rectify things in that field, or the Tanzania Revenue Agency to stop using excessive muscle in collecting taxes (they prefer to use tax enforcement as it raises dignity somewhat). The president did not say 'this is what was happening when I was VP and I want this stopped' but took it as a professional reorientation. That was an excellent example of how to focus on real agenda; what the country needs isn't finger pointing.

Indeed the president made that point clear when she had just taken the oath of office, and in the wake of major appointments like that of the Vice President and several key cabinet ministers.

Issue not renegotiating port project conditions but a revamped format

INTERMINABLE discussions are likely to take place if fresh talks which are on the cards with investors for the proposed Bagamoyo Port project actually get underway, it can safely be suggested. This is what can be said to emerge on the basis of what transpired from remarks by the responsible minister during the winding up of debate on the I14.8trn/- Third Five Year Development Plan (FYDP-III). The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Geoffrey Mwambe said the government is willing to proceed with the project if contentious terms are altered. They concluded in 2013, and restart talks now!

Anyone familiar with how the government works, or rather its top officials - and this is part of what riled the late President John Magufuli continually - knows how they convert weaknesses in policy making into opportunities for travel, meetings and the like. Raining down on such habits was a key aspect of the JPM work method, and as Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has promised that checks on the misuse of public finance will be kept, interminable negotiations are what should first be avoided. The ministry must come up with a workable plan which doesn't stifle the development of our other ports, and give it to investors.

It is therefore not the Chinese company which should think up what should be the new terms or having to agree to such terms basically, but an acceptable format where the company has an opportunity to pick up significant shareholding, even a majority share. But the idea is that it should be an open format for a commercial opportunity that isn't designed as a deep seaport monopoly, even against other

seaports in the country. It should be an additional investment that has good chances of growth on the basis of cutting its charges in comparison with Mombasa port - or even the port of Dar es Salaam - not exercise a monopoly.

That is why there is need for the minister to get back to the drawing board and get his experts to come up with a plan that is aligned with current priorities of improving the business climate. That means anyone who wishes to invest in ports or knows the field, or has a stake either as a maritime transporter or large importing firm, and even an exporter wishing for solid deep seaport facilities, can chip in. When there are sufficient stakeholders for the capital needed to build the facility, the project takes off and is posted on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. The port managers will be under a board of shareholders not the ministry.

This is the manner in which stock exchanges are built and gradually most major firms are listed there and attract capital, regulate themselves via board of directors and not relying on ministerial checks, as this builds negative solidarity between managements, boards, ministry officials and regulators. It is well worth remembering that the project was initially agreed upon in 2013, the year that Chinese President Xi Jinping took office and visited Tanzania as his first itinerary in Africa. Some will see the terms agreed as a typical Chinese way of doing things, yet it isn't the case; the Chinese are savvy business practitioners who cut their coat according to the client they have. The original error is that the ministry, or the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) wanted a state project and so it was given mercantile terms.

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By Mesfin Hagos

DURING a session in parliament on March 23, 2021 Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia publicly acknowledged Eritrean involvement in his country's ongoing civil war in Tigray but indicated that it would take some time for Eritrea's forces to withdraw. Three days later, the Prime Minister issued a statement announcing that the government of Eritrea had "agreed to withdraw its forces out of the Ethiopian border" and that the Ethiopian army "will take over guarding the border area effective immediately". This begrudging admission - after four months of unconvincing denial - that Eritrea was in fact waging war inside Ethiopia was, in large measure, a result of sustained pressure from the European Union and the Biden Administration in the United States. However, the announcement raises several important questions, one of which has been at the heart of the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict all along and could determine its conclusion or continuation.

Selling reorganising and rotating units as withdrawal

In responding to questions from members of the Ethiopian House of Representatives, Abiy Ahmed explained away Eritrea's crossing of the border into Ethiopia as a response to TPLF provocations and because the suddenly weakened Ethiopian military could not give security guarantees to Eritrea. He assured the parliamentarians that once Ethiopia rebuilds its pre-war military capacity to guard its own borders, the issue of Eritrean troop presence in Tigray would cease to exist. One is then compelled to ask how it is that in three days Ethiopia regained its pre-war military strength to guard its borders, give Eritrea the needed security guarantees, and execute Eritrean military withdrawal. Ethiopia is in no position to demand withdrawal of Eritrean military; without whose support it could not contain - much less defeat - the TPLF. Nor would President Isaias give in to such demands as he seeks total demise of the TPLF.

The Prime Minister's announcement of Eritrean withdrawal from Tigray is nothing more than public relations theatrics. Troop movements on the ground show that Isaias' regime, with the connivance of the Ethiopian government, is merely reorganizing and reinforcing its units and repositioning them for plausible deniability while it continues with its scorched earth campaign against the TPLF/TDF, and indeed the people of Tigray. Before the Prime Minister's announcement, six brigades had

The tale of Eritrean withdrawal from Tigray: But where is the border?

returned from Tigray to Eritrea. These brigades belonged to three infantry divisions that carried out the bulk of fighting and bore the brunt of casualties. Their return to Eritrea had more to do with their need to recuperate and replenish their personnel than an intent to withdraw from Ethiopia.

Since Prime Minister Abiy's announcement, confidential sources on and near the ground report that there has indeed been large-scale movement of Eritrean troops within Tigray and between Eritrea and Tigray. Accordingly, as of late March 2021, an entire division composed of popular militia has returned to central Eritrea. A unit of the 23rd Division has also reported back and has been sighted in western Eritrea. The fast-changing developments make it hard to conclusively establish final position or deployment destination. But while a few units have returned to Eritrea and a few others have been rotated to the border area, credible reports from the ground indicate that the Eritrean government has in fact reinforced its forces in Tigray rather than drawn them down. On balance, confidential sources from the area are reporting that Isaias Afwerki has as of late March/early April committed some 40 percent of Eritrean military personnel in a last-ditch effort to finish off what remains of the TPLF.

Partially because of that troop build-up, fighting has intensified across many parts of Tigray. The other reason for the intensification of fighting is because Tigrayan forces are ambushing Eritrean government forces on the move and attacking their rear as they are rotated to new positions. Two such rotated brigades of the 16th Division, for example, travelled in a large convoy from areas of active fighting in Tigray's lowlands and arrived in Biyara and Badme at the end of March 2021. These two villages were once contested between the two countries and Ethiopia held them until the outbreak of the current war because the TPLF refused to relinquish them to Eritrea. Even if one were to assume the remaining Eritrean troops were to be similarly rotated to the border between the two countries, the exact location and legality of that border remains unresolved.

The unresolved border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia

Following the 1998-2000 border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, an international arbitral court ruled on the delineation of the border between the two countries. The TPLF-led government in Ethiopia first rejected the ruling

and later demanded to negotiate its implementation, i.e. physical demarcation of the border. President Isaias Afwerki rejected all attempts at negotiations and insisted, instead, that the border ruling is first upheld to the letter and the border demarcated. Eritrea bore hefty consequences of the ensuing sixteen years of no-war no-peace.

The rise of Abiy Ahmed to power in 2018, and his offer of peace with Eritrea that included full acceptance of the International Court of Arbitration's ruling on the border, presented an opportunity to settle the issue for good. Instead of demanding the demarcation of the border as he had done during the TPLF era, President Isaias dropped his steadfastly held position and altogether bypassed the neighboring Tigray region to make common cause with the young, inexperienced but hugely ambitious new Prime Minister in Addis Ababa. The two leaders travelled regularly to each other's capitals, scheming the eradication of their common enemy, the TPLF, which took precedence over the permanent settlement of the border issue. The Eritrean leader especially betrayed his country's best interests in pursuit of vengeance against his enemies now confined in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.

One wonders about the usefulness of the conflict even if it is aimed at the existential necessity of eliminating the TPLF. Are we better off today, even if we assume for a moment that the TPLF is gone, which has not yet happened? How much more useful would it have been to find some form of a compromise, some give-and-take, an accommodation with a little loss of face and pride in the interest of avoiding war, than the disaster and generational calamity we find ourselves in today? The tenor of these questions also applies to the TPLF, which is an equal party to the ongoing war.

Conclusion

The border issue between the two countries remains unresolved, and an interstate or irredentist confrontation could keep flaring up unless the boundary is demarcated on the ground and the issue is settled once and for all. It would, therefore, be critically important for the United States, the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations to bring the border issue back to the table and help resolve it permanently. Resolving the contention between the current or future governments and other actors in the two countries is paramount as such a resolution

would deny President Isaias (or future leaders in either country) any pretext to cross a mutually accepted and clearly defined international border. In the context of the current conflict, without a mutually agreed upon clear delineation and demarcation of the border, the Ethiopian Prime Minister's declaration rings hollow. So do the grand ideas about cooperation between the two countries on a wish-list of mutually beneficial initiatives.

Recommendations:

First, the current conflict in Tigray must end immediately. Not only is it an unwinnable war but also the issues that led to it can only be resolved through political means. Therefore, the following four things need to happen expeditiously:

The immediate, complete, unconditional and internationally verified withdrawal of Eritrean forces from Tigray and any other parts of Ethiopia.

An internationally monitored ceasefire in Tigray, unfettered humanitarian access and protection of civilians and refugees.

The urgent demarcation of the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

A political dialogue on all aspects of the conflict, including matters related to the Tigray's relations with Eritrea.

An independent investigation of all the alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Tigray.

I have no illusions about the difficult work this will involve. The nature of the conflict, the current alignment of interests, the level of political and military investments by all (including the scale and size of their deployments), and above all, the obdurate nature of President Isaias, offer little hope, if any, of an Eritrean withdrawal anytime soon. But the alternative is the continuation of this horrendous war with even ghastlier consequences for civilians and for regional stability. The regional impact of the Tigray war is already being felt, and far greater risks loom on the horizon. The international community simply cannot allow this conflict to continue. As an immediate measure, it must put concerted, constant pressure on both Addis Ababa and Asmara to effect an Eritrean withdrawal that is subject to independent verification through the United Nations or another multilateral mechanism. This is positive pressure for peace, not interference. And we know that the two governments are not impervious to such pressure when the message is firm and unambiguous.

Climate crisis and the Congo Basin: The planet's future may ride on Tshisekedi's grip on the DRC

By Phillip Van Niekerk

FEW people, if asked to name the most strategic countries in the world, would place the Democratic Republic of Congo at the top of the list. But the natural resources of the DRC will be critical to the existential battle to save the planet.

The Congo Basin is the location of the world's second-largest rain-forest and holds its most extensive tropical peatlands, which sequester billions of tons of carbon. It is also a key supplier of vital minerals needed to build a low carbon global economy, including most of the world's cobalt production (an essential element in batteries for electric vehicles), copper, tungsten, tantalite and lithium.

Confidence in the DRC has been strengthened by signs that President Felix Tshisekedi has succeeded against the odds in marginalising his predecessor Joseph Kabila. Furthermore, Tshisekedi is emerging as an unlikely, but critical voice as the world moves towards a greener global economy.

Tshisekedi (pictured), who is this year's chair of the African Union, was at the forefront at last week's African Development Bank discussion on how Africa adapts to climate change. He is one of five African leaders – including President Cyril Ramaphosa and the presidents of Nigeria, Kenya and Gabon – invited to President Joe Biden's climate assembly this week, which marks the US's post-Trump reintegration into global climate politics.

As Africa emerges economically battered from the pandemic, there is a strong sentiment that the continent's people can no longer pick up the tab for the rest of the world's excesses. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the UN Commission for Africa, recently back from the Congo Basin, said:

"For a very long time the conversation around climate change has been Africa didn't cause it, so someone should pay us. But we are saying Africa is protecting the world and there is a price for that protection, and we deserve it."

"If Africa is to save the planet, we need to be compensated for that."

But if these fine sentiments are to be converted into reality there has to be faith in the political leadership of a country that has long been regarded as dysfunctional and unstable.

The details of DRC politics would seldom rise to global importance, but a lot is now riding on the success of Tshisekedi.

After he became president in 2019, Tshisekedi was dogged by questions around the dubious nature of his election "victory" and whether he had the temperament or smarts to stand up to the Kabila machine which, while ceding formal control, maintained the levers of power in alliance with Tshisekedi.

But Tshisekedi has surprised many by reconfiguring Congolese politics. Since January, he has gained control of the two chambers of Parliament and ousted Kabila's prime minister Sylvestre Ilunga Ilukamba. New Prime Minister Sama Lukonde Kyenge, a Tshisekedi loyalist from Katanga, is a technocrat and former head of the state-owned mining company, Gecamines.

A "Sacred Union" cabinet comprising a new generation of leadership was announced on Monday with an average age of 47, a statistic that is revolutionary in itself, though most of the ministers remain largely unknown and untested.

The new minister of mines, an extremely important post in a mining country, is Antoinette N'Samba Kalambayi who is only 38. Another key position, that of finance minister, has gone to Tshisekedi adviser Nicolas Kazadi.

The new cabinet brings in appointees of Congo's key regional leaders, Jean-Pierre Bemba and Moïse Katumbi, entrenching an anti-Kabila alliance that looks national in character.



Two names that stand out – and who could be critical in the climate change negotiations – are Eve Bazaiba, a member of Bemba's Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC), who is minister of the environment; and Christophe Lutundula, minister of foreign affairs, who is regionally known and appreciated as a man of integrity.

Given the DRC's long track record of diverting rents into the pockets of leaders and the well-worn pathways of a patronage system, the real political challenge is to ensure that the benefits of the country's unique resource endowment reach ordinary Congolese who rank among the poorest people in the world.

The task is to prevent everything from getting eaten from within by corruption. It is not just industrial-scale bribery that has robbed the DRC, but a global financial system that permits tax evasion and transfer pricing, and payments that move through offshore havens via white-collar traffickers such as accountants, lawyers and bankers.

The prime example of this is Dan Gertler, the Israeli businessman who, according to the US Treasury, used his close friendship with Kabila to act as a middleman for a number of corrupt mining deals. Gertler has failed in his attempts to wriggle out from under US sanctions and is now said to be persona non grata in the DRC.

A big question mark still hangs over the mining companies that benefited from the deals with Gertler and Kabila. These include the gigantic Swiss resources company Glencore, which operates Mutanda, the world's largest producing cobalt mine. The company has been under investigation in the US for three years for allegations of corruption in the DRC and multiple other jurisdictions. Glencore partnered with Gertler in the acquisition of Mutanda and Katanga Mining.

Investigative journalists and groups such as Global Witness have publicised this corruption for more than a decade, but there has been very little accountability.

Tshisekedi has strong political backing from the US to tackle corruption, though there are few American companies left in a mining sector that is increasingly dominated by Chinese firms.

Though Africa is cutting down its forests at a much slower rate than the runaway destruction of the Amazon in Brazil, there is pressure from logging, palm oil farming and agriculture to exploit untouched forests and disturb the peatlands.

The Cuvette Centrale peatlands are estimated to contain 30 billion

tons of carbon. According to some studies, if a third of it were to burn, it would double atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide and raise global temperatures by 50C.

There is much to be gained from preserving the forests and their incredible biodiversity, including saving the endangered lowland gorilla and the African forest elephant. And, in the wake of the pandemic, there is new focus on the fact that leaving the forests undisturbed decreases the risk of the emergence of zoonotic diseases – the future Ebolas and novel coronaviruses that could be transmitted from animals to people.

The Congo's importance becomes even more pronounced given devastating reports from both the Arctic and the Antarctic which led environmental activist Bill McKibben to declare last week that "We're reaching the endgame on the climate crisis." Significantly, the big fear is that the warming of Alaska and Siberia, leading to summer lightning, will ignite fires in the tundra peatlands. "Translated from the scientific," he said, "these warnings mean that we've got no time left for half-measures. We're in a desperate race against the destruction of the planet's life-support systems."

Back to the Congo: if its forests and peatlands, which are a major component of Earth's life-support systems, are to be preserved to save the planet, the moral case for the people of the Congo to benefit from not exploiting these resources is irrefutable.

However, the global system is not yet able to deliver a realistic price for carbon or a carbon trade for countries like the DRC, Gabon and the Republic of Congo that would enable them to substantially benefit from leaving the forests intact. The movement to a global protocol for carbon trading is one of the hoped-for outcomes of the climate conference, known as COP26, in Glasgow in November. Once in operation, emitters will be able to buy credits from nations that remove CO2 or prevent the destruction of habitats that release CO2.

Kristalina Georgieva, MD of the International Monetary Fund, acknowledging Africa's centrality, this month urged collective multilateral action for the world to meet its objective for net zero carbon by 2050. She said that 2021 has "the potential to be the year of climate action. We have the stars aligning".

One of those stars is the DRC where, for the first time, it seems at least possible for the political leadership, the economics, the science and the global system to come into alignment.



NOTICE OF THE 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chairman and Shareholders,

Notice is hereby given that the twenty sixth Annual General Meeting of CRDB Bank Plc will be held on Saturday, 22nd May, 2021 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Simba Hall, commencing at 9.00 a.m. and the following Agenda will be transacted:

1. **Opening of the Meeting.**
2. **Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.**
3. **Adoption of the agenda.**
4. **Confirmation of the minutes of the Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting.**
5. **To discuss the Matters Arising.**
6. **Adoption of the Directors' Report and Audited Financial Statements for year 2020.**
 - 6.1. Directors' Report.
 - 6.2. Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020.
 - 6.3. Declaration of Year 2020 Dividend.
7. **To approve the Amendments of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Bank - Special Resolution.**
8. **Directors Remuneration.**
9. **Appointment of the External Auditors.**
10. **Election of Board Members**
 - 10.1 One (1) Board Member to represent shareholders owning shares above 1% and below 10%
 - 10.2 One (1) Board Member to represent shareholders owning shares below 1%
11. **To deliberate on Proposals received from Shareholders.**
12. **Any other business with leave of the Chair.**
13. **To set the place, date and venue of the next meeting.**
14. **Closing of the meeting.**

NOTE:

1. *The Shareholders Register will be closed from 14/05/2021 and will be opened on 15/05/2021.*
2. *All proposals to be discussed under Agenda no.10 must be received by the Secretary not later than 4.00 p.m. on Thursday, 07/05/2021.*
3. *Papers for the meeting may be collected from CRDB Bank Branches from 10/05/2021 and will also be available in Arusha from 21st to 22nd May, 2021 and Bank's website on 10/05/2021*
4. *Costs for transportation and accommodation will be borne by shareholders themselves.*

NOTICE OF SHAREHOLDERS SEMINAR

Notice is hereby given that there will be a shareholders seminar on "Online Purchase of Shares at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE)", "Awareness on Uncollected Dividends", "Significance and procedures of preparing Will and Administration" and "Investment through services and products offered by the Bank" on 21st May 2021, starting at 9.00 a.m. at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Simba Hall.

The contact for communication is:

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BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

J. B. Rugambo
COMPANY SECRETARY

19th April, 2021

Xi's answer to 'questions of our time' reverberates beyond Boao

BEIJING

In an increasingly complex world where economic globalization faces headwinds with a threat looming over multilateralism and free trade, where is humanity headed and what is the future of Asia?

Chinese President Xi Jinping answered these "fundamental questions of our time" at the annual conference of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) in 2018, vowing to open China further and calling for building a community with a shared future for humanity.

The past three years have seen China's persistent efforts in translating the opening-up initiatives Xi put forward into reality, sharing the opportunities of China's development with the rest of the world. **A NEW PHASE OF OPENING-UP**

Xi announced a batch of opening-up measures at the annual conference of BFA in 2018, with the expectation that the country's opening-up efforts will benefit all enterprises and people in China and around the world as soon as possible.

The measures included significantly broadening market access, creating a more attractive investment environment, strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights and taking the initiative to expand imports, among others.

"Opening-up is a strategic decision made by China based on its need for development as well as a concrete action taken by China to move economic globalization forward in a way that benefits people across the world," Xi said.

Accordingly, China put into effect the landmark foreign investment law on Jan. 1, 2020. The law grants foreign-invested enterprises access to government procurement markets through fair competition and bans using administrative licensing and penalties to force foreign investors to transfer technology.

The negative list for overseas investors was shortened time and again to further ease market access.

More specifically, the country scrapped foreign ownership restrictions on the automotive industry in 2018, with overseas car-making giants such as BMW and Tesla responding quickly by expanding their presence in the Chinese market. While accelerating the development of 21 pilot free trade zones nationwide, China released a master plan of building Hainan, the southernmost province where the BFA is held, into a globally influential and high-level free trade port by the middle of the century.

This month, the country unveiled more policies to further liberalize and facilitate trade in the Hainan free trade port, allowing certain regions to relax their control of import and export qualifications for and quantities of commodities such as crude oil, refined oil and sugar,



People work at the construction site of the West-coast Internet Headquarters Base in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province, Oct. 21, 2020. (Xinhua)

and cancel their licensing systems for imports such as mechanical and electrical products.

Figures speak for themselves. As global capital flows remain volatile due to uncertainties triggered by COVID-19, foreign direct investment into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, expanded 6.2 percent year on year to a record high of 999.98 billion yuan (about 153.16 billion U.S. dollars) last year.

The latest data also showed that the country's total imports and exports of goods surged 29.2 percent year on year to 8.47 trillion yuan in the first quarter of this year. **A SHARED FUTURE**

BFA was founded in 2001 when Asian countries sought economic integration in the aftermath of the 1998

financial crisis. Two decades after its inception, the world again stands at a critical moment in history. Facing a world with growing anti-globalization sentiment, populism, unilateralism and protectionism, China has come up with its own vision of global governance.

Xi called on BFA participants in 2015 and 2018 to build "a community with a shared future for humanity," pursuing an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

China, together with many countries, is working to put this concept into practice. A total of 138 countries and 31 international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with China on the Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to achieve policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes.

"The initiative, meeting the development needs of China, countries along the routes and the region at large, will serve the common interests of relevant parties and answer the call of our time for regional and global cooperation," Xi said when addressing the annual conference of BFA in 2015.

Meanwhile, the China-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which has grown to 103 approved members worldwide, has been dedicated to promoting infrastructure construction, regional connectivity and mutual development in Asia.

By January, the bank had provided over 22 billion U.S. dollars in infrastructure investment for its members and approved 108 projects.

Between April 2020 and Oct. 16, 2021, the bank's crisis recovery facility will offer up to 13 billion U.S. dollars worth of financing to both public and private sector entities in AIIB members facing or at risk of adverse pan-

demically-induced impacts.

Xi said the BRI and the AIIB are both open initiatives. China welcomes all countries along the routes and in Asia, as well as friends and partners around the world, to actively participate in these endeavors. In the meantime, China has also played an active role in global environmental governance and is willing to work with others to build a green home. Xi has on many occasions called for joint efforts from the international community to tackle climate change and other environmental challenges and protect the blue planet.

He announced at the general debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly that China aims to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

"To scale up efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable development bears on the future of humanity," Xi said in his special address at the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda this January.

Over the years, the BFA has witnessed how China, as the host country, firmly supported the development of the forum and committed to advocating dialogue and cooperation among Asian countries.

The forum, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, has not only played a unique role in pooling consensus and putting forward valuable "Boao proposals," but also engaged countries outside of Asia in addressing global issues and promoting world development and prosperity.

This year's annual conference, welcoming more than 2,600 attendees from more than 60 countries and regions offline, is themed "A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation." **Xinhua**

COVID-19 locks down therapy support for Zimbabwe's trafficking survivors

BULAWAYO

BEFORE Zimbabwe imposed lockdown measures last March as part of global efforts to curb the coronavirus pandemic, Grace Mashingaidze* would attend workshops in Harare arranged by a nongovernmental organisation assisting trafficked women who had safely made it back home.

A survivor of trafficking, the 27-year-old Mashingaidze told IPS she joined a group of other young female survivors and had received assistance that ranged from counselling, psychosocial support and self-sufficiency skills. The latter was important as many of the young women struggled to earn an income in a country already suffocated by high levels of unemployment.

"It has been tough ever since we were told we could not attend the workshops and trainings because of the coronavirus. But you come to understand that safety first is a priority for everyone," Mashingaidze told IPS.

The coronavirus lockdown has meant her life is at a standstill when ideally she and other young women who are part of support group ought to be accessing much-needed help to deal with the trauma of human trafficking and also fend for themselves.

Mashingaidze, who said her ordeal took her as far as Mozambique, has ambitions to educate herself and "do a course" that will help her provide for her three-year-old son.

"Up to now, I do not know how I have managed," she said.

Her story is a microcosm of disruptions brought by the coronavirus in virtually all sectors of human existence in this southern African nation. Non-governmental organisations working with trafficked women have conceded that while there remains a huge need to assist survivors, they cannot risk violate government-imposed public health restrictions for a greater good.

"The immediate impact (of the coronavirus) that raised an immediate outcry from victims of human trafficking was the lack of personalised face-to-face counselling and also loss of livelihoods," said Dadirai Chikwekwete, who served as coordinator African Forum for Catholic Teaching (AFCAST) at Arrupe Jesuit University where she worked with trafficking survivors until September.

"The therapeutic weekly sessions enabled them to have a "me time" away from their homes and families. They were also engaged in various economic activities ranging from buying and selling groceries, small business entrepreneurship, cake making among other things," she told IPS.

The experiences of the trafficked women are part of broader interruptions that hit other sectors of the economy such as informal traders who have been forced to stay home as government enforced measures to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Previously thriving home-based businesses which trafficked women started have suffered because of restrictions.

"Some of the women lost their incomes during the lockdown. Those who had spent their incomes sew-



The ability of trafficked persons to access services has greatly reduced. In many countries, resources that had been set aside for legal, physiological and police support for trafficked persons have been diverted to deal with the effects of the pandemic.

ing school uniforms ended up with piles of them since schools were closed," Chikwekwete told IPS.

"Tailors had spent sleepless nights making garments for which they were unable to receive payment for since clients want to first fit the garment before making payment," Chikwekwete explained.

Schools only reopened in Zimbabwe last month.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) says the COVID-19 pandemic has had "a major impact on the support provided to victims of human trafficking as services are reduced, postponed and in some cases halted".

In February, UNODC's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons noted that while COVID-19 had exposed more people to trafficking, there was a need for governments to "support victims as part of integrated efforts to build forward from the pandemic".

It's a sentiment shared by Tsitsi Matekaire, the global lead for Equality Now's End Sex Trafficking campaign.

"The ability of trafficked persons to access services has greatly reduced. In many countries, resources that had been set aside for legal, physiological and police support for trafficked persons have been diverted to deal with the effects of the pandemic," Matekaire told IPS.

"It is imperative that governments recognise the gen-

dered impact of the pandemic and also build in to their COVID response measures to increase identification of victims of human trafficking," she said.

In the absence of such interventions, the most visible COVID-19 response for low-income countries like Zimbabwe has been to enforce lockdown restrictions that have, in many instances, been routinely violated as people seek ways and means to survive.

According to the Zimbabwe Republic Police, by July 2020 over 100,000 people had been arrested for violating the restrictions in the four months since the March 2020 lockdown. Of these, the bulk were informal traders - most of whom are women who survive by street vending.

But it was a risk Mashingaidze said she had not been willing to take.

"I have already been through a lot already with my experience being trafficked I do not want any brushes with the law," Mashingaidze told IPS, expressing a desperation that has only been heightened by the government's failure to provide coronavirus stipends for informal traders.

A UN Zimbabwe report on the effects of COVID-19 noted that the country still needs to do more for victims of human trafficking and "support for women-owned enterprises and social innovations that can lead to self-employment," something that has been lacking in young women such as Mashingaidze in their efforts to pick up the pieces and lead productive lives.

The southern African country remains a favourite target for human traffickers as desperate young women attempt to escape the economic hardships that have stalked the country for more than two decades.

However, as Mashingaidze explained, being back home has not been without its headaches as COVID-19 added more difficulties to her already desperate situation.

"My prayer is that the pandemic ends soon so that we can get on with our lives," she said, echoing what has become a global sentiment.

IPS

Updating execution of NDCs to help communities build climate resilience

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

EFFORTS to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and take adaptation measures have always centred building the capacity of communities to cope with the impacts of climate change and become resilient economically and socially. Even before the Paris Agreement parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had established National Action Plans of Adaptation (NAPAS) with the specific aim of undertaking adaptation projects aimed at building climate resilience among communities.

The focus has always been on most vulnerable communities. In order to address emerging challenges and due to the need to garner more commitment from countries, parties to the UNFCCC came with the requirement that they declare what they will do to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and what adaptation measures they are going to take in order to help build the capacity of their communities to cope with the effects of climate change.

"At the initial stage, countries were required to declare intentions; what actions they intend to take in terms of mitigation and adaptation. These were known as Intended Nationally Declared Contributions," says Dr. Patrick Ndaki, a Lecturer and Researcher at the Institute of Resource Assessment, Centre for Climate Change Studies of the University of Dar es Salaam. Tanzania submitted her INDCs in October 2015.

Following the submission, the next step was to verify and confirm actual Nationally Declared Contributions (NDCs) and submit the same within five years so that implementation of the NDCs could begin, providing room for monitoring and evaluation. Implementation would also attract funding from climate change funds, bilateral funding and other sources.

So far only Kenya and Rwanda have submitted their NDCs among countries in the East African Community. Tanzania could not meet the 2020 target but efforts are now being made to ensure that the document is submitted this year.

Recently, representatives from various groups including civil society organisations, government departments, academia, UN agencies, local government officials and independent experts met in Morogoro in a technical working session that aimed to review and update Draft Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) that reflect the country's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and undertake adaptation measures to deal with climate change impacts.

With funding from the Government of Tanzania, UNDP/CAN Tz and Forum CC, the team reviewed and updated existing sector priorities and issues that cut across sectors in relation to adaptation and mitigation targets. It also reviewed policies and measures that will be incorporated into the Draft NDC and Draft NDC Implementation Plan and aligned NDC with the draft National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021-2026 and Zanzibar Climate Change Strategy 2014.

"Overall, implementation of NDC is important because it sets a path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and charts adaptation measures, but for developing countries like Tanzania, adaptation should be the priority since many people are affected by the impacts of climate change," says Nyashili Issa Musa, Senior Environment Management Officer in the Vice President's Office who also chaired the working session. "The ultimate aim is to see that Tanzania makes a significant contribution to global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions while building climate change resilient communities. To meet this target requires participation of all sectors of the economy and the public in general and such efforts must be unified and coordinated in order to produce results," he adds.

Implementation of NDCs requires substantial funding and the major source has always been from donor countries but Dr. Ndaki sees problems with foreign funding. "One problem could be inadequate and unpredictable funding. Developed countries have the obligation to finance adaptation and mitigation projects in developing countries but funds are not forthcoming. These countries have domestic problems that they must attend to including severe floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, heat waves and wildfires as a result of which they have abandoned this obligation," he says.

Finance is not the only resource that is vital for implementation of NDC,



Participants at the technical working session in a panel discussion

competent and capable personnel are another requirement. Experience shows that in many developing countries Tanzania included, there is also low capacity among local experts to write project proposals that can attract funding from the UNFCCC. Projects entail a host of terms of reference some of which are quite complicated as a result of which only a few developing countries manage to secure these funds. Sometimes the poor countries are forced by circumstances to engage experts from donor countries to write the projects for them.

"But there is also lack of knowledge about climate change among government officials. This is particularly the case with District Council staff who bear the burden of helping communities adopt to climate change. With such lack of knowledge, implementation of NDC might not be effective as government are unable to help vulnerable communities," he says.

Effective implementation of NDC requires coordination and harmonization of mitigation and adaptation projects. This calls for the private sector, business community and other groups to play their role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through various production processes. "But they must also help vulnerable communities to adapt so that they become resilient and life may go on in the face of climate change," says Dr. Ndaki.

As foreign funding for implementation of NDC seems to be both inadequate and unpredictable, it is imperative that Tanzania turns to local sources of funds in order to meet her mitigation and adaptation targets. Non-state actors could fill in that funding gap.

While discussions are going on to establish a National Climate Fund, there are projects being implemented with local and bilateral funding in specific areas that address NDC. Kilimo Kwanza

and SAGCOT programmes were meant to address climate change mitigation and adaptation among farmer and pastoralist communities. Religion organisations fund climate change projects in rural communities such as water supply, improved livestock keeping and nutrition, among others, and in so doing help them to become more resilient to climate change impacts.

Local universities and research institutions also offer scholarships to students to study and research climate change issues the findings of which help communities to deal with the impacts of climate change.

"However the role of NGOs and other non-state actors in financing climate change projects remains obscure in most cases. The organizations get huge funds from donors but very often government doesn't know where and how the money is spent. The role of non-state actors in complementing government efforts to fund climate change adaptation is not conspicuous," says Dr Ndaki

Commenting on the progress made in preparing and submitting the NDC document The Executive Director of CAN Tz Dr. Sixbert Mwanga explained that it was important to make the review in order to incorporate changes that might have happened over time and to make the document relevant and responsive to current needs.

Further delay in submitting the NDC puts Tanzania in a difficult position among other parties to the UNFCCC because the latter are not aware of what is happening regarding reducing emissions and taking adaptation measures in line with agreed NDC process.

This also affects other country plans and strategies related to climate change such as the Climate Change Strategy and the Third Five Year Development Plan. "Under the circumstances, civil society organizations appeal to the govern-

ment to speed up the remaining steps and make the submission of NDC a priority that needs to be acted upon as soon as possible. This is a requirement under the Paris Agreement to which Tanzania is a signatory," said Dr. Mwanga

The process to formulate the NDCs requires participation of various groups in the country with the view to capture voices of all sections of the public. The aim is to leave no one behind when it comes to implementation.

"The process we have taken in Tanzania has to a great extent been participatory as most of the groups have had their concerns taken on board. In particular, CSOs were fully engaged in the process and provided substantial inputs into the draft document that has been discussed here," he says, adding that it is possible to submit the document to UNFCCC this year, but government must act fast.

"The target should be to register our NDC well before COP26 so that implementation begins and communities are capacitated to build resilience to climate change impacts," says Msololo Onditi, Programme Officer for FORUM CC.

The need to review NDCs arises from the fact that many changes take place fast and if they (NDCs) are to be effective in making communities resilient through implementation then there is need to update the documents from time to time. Currently NDCs are updated every five years.

"There are changes in the daily lives of communities, including sources of livelihoods. In Zanzibar, for example, Blue Economy is focus of economic development activities. There was little attention given to this sector in previous years.

This change should thus be reflected the Draft NDCs," says Makame Kitwana Makame from the Ministry of Livestock in Zanzibar.

When school clubs become the tool to curb early marriages, FGM in Arusha



The centre for women and children development (CWCD) Hindu Mbwego with beneficiaries of their school club interventions

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ELKIDING'A is one of the secondary schools in Arusha Region that has established students clubs that helped to address female genital mutilation (FGM), early pregnancies and child marriages. These harmful traditional practices have been hindering Maasai girls from achieving their dreams of acquiring education.

John Mduma is one of the patrons of the club at the Elkiding'a Second-

ary School says through the clubs, the girls are enabled to become self-aware, value themselves, and protect themselves and others.

"Girls who are members of such clubs have inspired other girls. If they learn that one of their peers is being harassed, abused or hurt they normally report such incidences to teachers, local government leaders or village leaders or in places of worship," he says.

Mduma says that the school was fortunate to get the Center for Women and

Children Development (CWCD) project with funding from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS). The project is implementing a girl protection intervention in Arusha Region.

According to Mduma, school clubs build courage and confidence for the girl child, whereby some of the girls who belong to the 30 member-club say that they have benefitted a lot from the club.

"I would advise that such clubs are established in every school, especial-

ly among the Maasai communities, so that girls can be taught how to defend, protect themselves and others from practices that cause girls to drop out of school," says Happy Loishiye, a Form III student at Elkiding'a Secondary School.

Mwalimu Emmy Matee, who is also the club's patron, says the club has greatly helped girls at the school become courageous and confident. The clubs have increased confidence among students in reporting gender-

based violence to their teachers and parents for immediate help.

CWCD work with school clubs to create a conducive environment that enables students to foster relationships with their teachers for mentorship and coaching. The approach has made students more open to their teachers on issues affecting their wellbeing at home, allowing immediate intervention in case of mistreatment which in return improves performance at school.

He observes that it is more encouraging to see that the girls at the school perform very well in their studies and that it shows that the girl child if her safety is assured, has a greater potential for performing well.

The clubs also teach the girls vegetable gardening, liquid soap processing to prepare them for self-employment after completing school. This will enable them to be self-reliant.

On challenges that the club faces, Mwalimu Emmy says sometimes parents or guardians insist on FGM or child marriages while teachers want to help and save the girls. These parents think that the teachers are interfering with their cultural beliefs and their affairs.

Hindu Mbwego, the CWCD Director, is of the opinion that the project is a success as it has greatly reduced GBV cases, formed student clubs that help girls and is working closely with LGAs to ensure girls safety. The Local government has joined hands with the Non-Government Organizations collaborating with CWCD to abolish oppressive cultural practices against girl children.

Trust in Chinese vaccines gives European countries head start in global inoculation race

BELGRADE

“I think that the Chinese vaccines are good for all people, and so we trust this vaccine. We support our country's cooperation with China in fighting COVID-19,” said Jovanka Adamovic, a Serbian, after receiving her first dose of a Chinese vaccine in the village of Rudna Glava recently.

Back in mid-January, while most European countries were still waiting for the European Union's procurement process to commence and for European Medicines Agency (EMA) approvals, Serbia's regulatory body already authorized the use of China's Sinopharm vaccine.

Like Serbia, several European countries have embraced Chinese-developed vaccines to boost inoculation campaigns that have been impeded by a vaccine shortage, taking cautious steps to ease COVID-19 restrictions for a faster recovery.

TIMELY RAIN

As European countries struggle to procure enough doses to fulfill vaccination plans, Serbia, Hungary and a few others have opted to import vaccines from China.

Ukraine has completed laboratory studies of the CoronaVac vaccine (also known as the Sinovac vaccine) produced by Chinese company Sinovac Biotech and is starting to send the vaccine across the country, Ukrainian Health Minister Maksym Stepanov said on his official Facebook page on Monday.

Last week, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic received an injection of coronavirus vaccine produced by Sinopharm in front of the media in the Rudna Glava village. “I want to thank our wonderful medical workers for everything they are doing for our people in Serbia and to thank our Chinese brothers,” Vucic posted on Instagram along with a photo of his vaccination.

Hungary has also decided to turn to China for help amid a vaccine shortage resulted from delayed shipments and the limited production capacity of the manufacturers that have the EMA's approvals.

Hungary has a leading vaccination rate among EU countries thanks to Chinese and Russian vaccines, said Zoltan Kovacs, international spokesman for the Hungarian government.

“Without the Chinese and Russian vaccines, it would not have been possible,” said Kovacs.

The official said that like Hungarian President Janos Ader and Prime Minister Viktor Orban, he was also inoculated with a Chinese vaccine. “Vaccines are not a political question. All vaccines that are reliable should be used as soon as possible to be able to fight the coronavirus,” said Kovacs, adding that is why Hungary has decided to look to the East.



TRUST IN CHINESE VACCINES

The Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine became the first from China to receive a Good Manufacturing Practice certificate in an EU member country, after Hungary this week confirmed that it is of consistent high quality, appropriate for intended use and meets the requirements for authorization.

Hungary started using it for mass inoculation in late February. “We are the first country in the European Union that uses the Sinopharm vaccine,” Tamas Menczer, state secretary for Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, told Xinhua when the nation received the first shipment.

Miklos Rusvai, a professor and virologist at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, told Xinhua that the Sinopharm vaccine “is unique among the vaccines authorized in Hungary, as this is the only inactivated vaccine that uses the whole virus with all the proteins of the coronavirus itself.”

“It is a very good and very effective immunization method,” he said, adding that the vaccine “will play a significant role in the fight against the pandemic.”

In early April, more than 20 percent of Hungary's adult population received at least one vaccine dose,

and Hungary had twice as many people vaccinated as the rest of the EU, according to media reports.

In Serbia, Dragan Fudulovic, director of the Rudna Glava village's health center, said that he was “satisfied with the turnout of people for the vaccination, and the Chinese vaccine is applied in most cases.” “Out of the 4,500 vaccinated people, 3,600 received the Chinese vaccine,” Fudulovic said.

“I trust the Chinese vaccine,” Hungarian Gabor Magyari told Xinhua a few moments after receiving the Sinopharm jab in Budapest.

“I don't care if the vaccine is Chinese or Russian or American. As long as it is good for my health, I am happy to get it,” Magyari said.

BUILDING A GLOBAL ANTI-VIRUS WALL

According to official figures, China is providing vaccine aid to 80 countries and three international organizations, exporting vaccines to more than 40 countries, and cooperating with more than 10 nations in vaccine research, development and production.

On Monday, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China will stick to solidarity and mutual assistance and join hands with other countries to eventually defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

ic.

The world needs to function as one in order to defeat the pandemic, especially when it comes to vaccination, Jelena Begovic, director of the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering of the University of Belgrade, told Xinhua.

Begovic said “the initiative from China to gather these countries and make a wall, a battlefield to beat this pandemic, I think it is a great idea, and I think it's the only way if we want to win this war.”

Commenting on how the Chinese vaccines that are widely used in his country are unavailable in other parts of Europe, Serbian Member of Parliament Zarko Obradovic told Xinhua that “this depicts how the West is closed in its relations with China.”

“The West cannot produce enough vaccines to start inoculating people, and it would be logical if they also attempted to acquire some quantities of vaccines from China,” he said.

“I must say that, unfortunately, COVID transformed into a story about geopolitics and mutual relations. What once again separates China from many other countries is its intention to help everyone, without any other goals but to make a safe and healthy world for all the people,” Obradovic said. **Xinhua**

Another false start in Africa sold with Green Revolution myths

BOSTON AND KUALA LUMPUR,

SINCE the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) was launched in 2006, yields have barely risen, while rural poverty remains endemic, and would have increased more if not for out-migration.

AGRA was started, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, to double yields and incomes for 30 million smallholder farm households while halving food insecurity by 2020.

There are no signs of significant productivity and income boosts from promoted commercial seeds and agrochemicals in AGRA's 13 focus countries. Meanwhile, the number of undernourished in these nations increased by 30%.

When will we ever learn?

What went wrong? The continuing Indian farmer protests, despite the COVID-19 resurgence, highlight the problematic legacy of its Green Revolution (GR) in frustrating progress to sustainable food security.

Many studies have already punctured some myths of India's GR. Looking back, its flaws and their dire consequences should have warned policymakers of the likely disappointing results of the GR in Africa.

Hagiographic accounts of the GR cite ‘high yielding’ and ‘fast-growing’ dwarf wheat and rice spreading through Asia, particularly India, saving lives, modernising agriculture, and ‘freeing’ labour for better off-farm employment.

Many recent historical studies challenge key claims of this supposed success, including allegedly widespread yield improvements and even the number of lives actually saved by increased food production.

Environmental degradation and other public health threats due to the toxic chemicals used are now widely recognized. Meanwhile, water management has become increasingly challenging and unreliable due to global warming and other factors.

Ersatz GR2.0 for Africa

Half a century later, the technology fetishizing, even deifying AGRA initiative seemed oblivious of Asian lessons as if there is nothing to learn from actual experiences, research and analyses.

Worse, AGRA has ignored many crucial features of India's GR. Importantly, the post-colonial Indian government had quickly developed capacities to promote economic development.

Few African countries have such ‘developmental’ capacities, let alone comparable capabilities. Their already modest government capacities were decimated from the 1980s by structural adjustment programmes



demanding by international financial institutions and bilateral ‘donors’.

Ignoring lessons of history

India's ten-point Intensive Agricultural Development Programme was more than just about seed, fertilizer and pesticide inputs. Its GR also provided credit, assured prices, improved marketing, extension services, village-level planning, analysis and evaluation.

These and other crucial elements are missing or not developed appropriately in recent AGRA initiatives. Sponsors of the ersatz GR in Africa have largely ignored such requirements.

Instead, the technophile AGRA initiative has been enamoured with novel technical innovations while not sufficiently appreciating indigenous and other ‘old’ knowledge, science and technology, or even basic infrastructure.

The Asian GR relied crucially on improving cultivation conditions, including better water management. There has been little such investment by AGRA or others, even when the crop promoted requires such improvements.

From tragedy to farce

Unsurprisingly, Africa's GR has reproduced many of India's problems:

- As in India, overall staple crop productivity has not grown significantly faster despite costly investments in GR technologies. These poor productivity growth rates have remained well below population growth rates.

- Moderate success in one priority crop (e.g., wheat in Punjab, India, or maize in Africa) has typically been at the expense of sustained productivity growth for other crops.

- Crop and dietary diversity has been reduced, adversely affecting cultivation sustainability, nutrition, health and wellbeing.

- Subsidies and other incentives have meant more land devoted to priority crops, not just intensification, with adverse land use and nutrition impacts.

- Soil health and fertility have suffered from ‘nutrient-mining’ due to priority crop monocropping, requiring more inorganic fertilizer purchases.

- Higher input costs often exceed additional earnings from modest yield increases using new seeds and agrochemicals, increasing farmer debt.

Paths not taken

AGRA and other African GR proponents have had 14 years, plus billions of dollars, to show that input-intensive agriculture can raise productivity, net incomes and food security. They have clearly failed.

Africans – farmers, consumers and governments – have many good reasons to be wary, especially considering AGRA's track record after a decade and a half. India's experience and the ongoing farmer protests there should make them more so.

Selling Africa's GR as innovation requiring unavoidable ‘creative destruction’ is grossly misleading. Alternatively, many agroecology initiatives, which technophiles decry as backward, are bringing cutting-edge science and technology to farmers, with impressive results.

A 2006 University of Essex survey, of nearly 300 large ecological agriculture projects in more than fifty poor countries, documented an average 79% productivity increase, with declining costs and rising incomes.

Published when AGRA was launched, these results far surpass those of GRs thus far. Sadly, they remind us of the high opportunity costs of paths not taken due to well-financed technophile dogma. **IPS**

MOBILISATION

British Council director urges leaders in public, private sector back creative sector

By Francis Kajúbi

LEADERS in private and public sectors have been challenged support and empowering women engaged in the enterprising creative sector financially but also to access global markets with their innovative oriented products.

Speaking at a special women empowerment meeting held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, British Council Country Director, Catherine Sinclair-Jones said the enterprising creative sector plays a critical role in societies around the world because it showcases the diverse and vibrant talent of communities while delivering financial, social and artistic impact.

Sinclair-Jones whose institution

hosted the meeting, said women working in the sector face many obstacles and challenges when seeking finance and markets because most of them run their businesses informally.

"The British Council is committed to continue working with partners to support the creative economy in Tanzania to ensure that we are providing a platform to the variety of voices which form its heart especially women, young people and people with disabilities," Sinclair-Jones assured.

Speaking at the same gathering, UNESCO Representative in Tanzania, Nancy Mwaisaka backed Sinclair-Jones by saying that the creative sector is expansive with diverse team of actors. Mwaisaka said at the heart of the dynamic economy are cultural



A locally made wall décor home art painting made by creative industry women in Dar es Salaam.

and creative industries, which stand at crossroad of arts, culture, commerce and technology.

"UNESCO is committed to highlight the power of creativity for resilience and to share best practices and experiences, enhance human resource capacity, promote an enabling environment at all levels as well as tackle the challenges of creative economy," she said.

"UNESCO is committed to amplify culture's contribution to the global creative economy and sustainable development throughout 2021 and beyond," she added while noting that the UN's specialised agency advocates activities advancing the creative economy.

Rebecca Young, the founder of Make it Matter said that the creative industries in Tanzania, is an important source of both commercial and cultural value but has without doubt become integrated into every sector and is now a service provider in the digital era.

"It is time to change the narrative and realise that what was once considered a 'soft subject' is now in huge demand and is an indispensable service that the new era heavily relies on," Young said. The meeting was attended by over 300 private and public institution representatives, entertainers, artisans and small business owners.



The British Council is committed to continue working with partners to support the creative economy in Tanzania to ensure that we are providing a platform to the variety of voices which form its heart

IMPRESSIVE

Coca-Cola tops sales quarter expectations

NEW YORK

COCA-COLA Co.'s sales beat expectations in the first quarter as the soda maker said it saw early – though uneven – signs of recovery in demand, particularly in areas with stronger rates of vaccination against Covid-19.

The company also said it plans to sell a portion of the Coca-Cola Beverages Africa bottling business via an initial public offering. Coke's organic revenue, which excludes the impact of currency or acquisitions, climbed 6% in the quarter ended April 2, according to a statement Monday. That topped the estimated 0.5% growth analysts had been expecting, according to forecasts compiled by Bloomberg.

The results hint at a potential rebound as consumers worldwide emerge from more than a year of isolation, a process that is happening at different rates in different countries. The company is "encouraged by improvements in

our business, especially in markets where vaccine availability is increasing and economies are opening up," Chief Executive Officer James Quincey said in the statement.

The soda business is unlikely to see full recovery until people are back at restaurants and amusement parks worldwide, buying overpriced hot dogs and giant-sized soft drinks. The uneven reopening pace is showing up in the results: Recovery remains "asynchronous" around the world, the company said. Unit case volume was down 6% in North America, but up 9% in Asia Pacific. Globally, case unit volume was flat. Coke shares rose 1% to \$54.20 at 9:52 a.m. in New York. The stock declined 2.1% this year through Friday.

Bottling IPO

The company also announced plans to list Coca-Cola Beverages Africa as a publicly traded company within the next 18 months.



Coca Cola Company's CEO, James Quincey

"A standalone listing for CCBA will enable the bottler to build on its growth trajectory and access capital independently to meet the investment needs of the business, which is great for stakeholders across Africa," said Jacques Ver-

meulen, CEO of CCBA.

An IPO of Coke's stake could value the African business at about \$6 billion, Bloomberg News reported last month. The soft-drink giant, which owns 66.5% of the bottling company, didn't specify how much

of its stake it intends to sell.

Coke is grappling with the commodity inflation pressures that are affecting other manufacturers, Chief Financial Officer John Murphy said in an interview. While consumer prices may start to rise

this quarter, the company is "well-hedged" to withstand much of the cost pressure in the near term, he said. "We think it's manageable this year; it's really a 2022 challenge."

Aluminum costs

Most relevant to the soda maker will be higher costs in plastic and aluminum, including can-supply challenges in the US, he said. That should abate in 2022, though, with more supply becoming available. Coke is also seeing increases in high-fructose corn syrup and coffee. The company plans to manage those higher costs with supply-chain productivity and pricing, Murphy said.

"Pricing decisions and hedging decisions are actually local decisions," he said. "We will be working closely with our bottling partners all around the world to come up with the optimal solutions that could happen starting in the second quarter."

Coke reaffirmed its forecast for organic sales percentage growth of high single digits in 2021 and comparable earnings-per-share expansion of high single digits to low double digits. The company slightly trimmed its expectations for the impact of currency benefits on net revenue and comparable earnings.

REMUNERATION

Uber, Bolt drivers in Africa protests higher costs of operations

LAGOS

UBER Technologies Inc. drivers in some African countries including Nigeria and Kenya have gone on strike to demand a higher share of commissions due to increases in fuel prices and inflationary pressures amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The US ride-hailing service in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, already has limited trips available on the app, leading to a sharp rise in fares in Lagos, the country's commercial hub. "We are aware of a protest taking place today by a small group of e-hailing drivers, resulting in slightly longer waiting times for riders," Uber said in an emailed statement Monday.

Cab operators are unhappy about price adjustments, high commissions taken by ride-hailing companies and passengers not properly identifying themselves. Some drivers on competing app Bolt Technology OU, that has taken significant market share in Nigeria, are also on strike. "Drivers are asking the platforms to reduce their commission," said Innocent, an Uber driver in Lagos. "We are struggling to survive the current economic situation."

Food inflation soared 22.75% in March in



Femi Akin-Laguda (L), Bolt country manager in Nigeria with one of the drivers.

Africa's largest economy, the most in 15 years, according to the country's statistics agency. One in three people are unemployed in the West African nation and many have turned to the ride-hailing platforms to make a living. Uber had about 9 000 drivers on its app in Nigeria as of 2018, the company said.

"We constantly evaluate our operations to ensure we continue to provide the best earnings for drivers on the platform," said Femi Akin-Laguda, Bolt country manager in Nigeria. Bolt increased fares in November last year to mitigate a fuel price increase, Akin-Laguda said.

Uber started in South African cities in 2013 and has spread to other parts of the continent. E-hailing platforms often make up the drivers only employment, making them very sensitive to fare adjustments.

"We spend so much repairing our cars, and on fuel," said Seun Olaniyan, a Bolt driver in Oyo state, in the southern part of Nigeria. "If the company can increase their fare, there should be a meeting point for us where we both gain."

Last week, Kenyan drivers issued a 30-day notice to go on strike in mid-May if the ride-hailing services are unable to address their concerns. Uber's competition in Africa

includes Estonia's Bolt, while China's DiDi Chuxing Technology Co. is set to start operating in Cape Town. "We are committed to our partnership with drivers and we will continue working to improve the experience for and with drivers" Uber said.



We constantly evaluate our operations to ensure we continue to provide the best earnings for drivers on the platform," said Femi Akin-Laguda, Bolt country manager in Nigeria. Bolt increased fares in November last year to mitigate a fuel price increase

RESPONSIBILITY

Diageo, SBL's priority is investing in community services to improve lives

By Guardian Reporter

FROM supporting rural farmers produce beer brewing raw materials and earn better money to financing their children get agriculture expertise to support their parents, Serengeti Breweries Limited is becoming darling of the public.

The Dar es Salaam based brewer, which is a subsidiary of the global alcoholic beverages maker, Diageo Plc, is investing heavily in community projects to improve living standards of the people especially those in rural areas where poverty is at home.

The beer brewer has also invested heavily in water supply projects targeting rural communities through its flagship, 'Water of Life Project,' whereby thousands of bore holes have been drilled in several regions of the country.

"The idea is to give back to the community which supports our business activities without which we would not be in the market today," said SBL's Director of Corporate

Relations, John Wanyancha. He pointed out that as a responsible corporate citizen, SBL aligns itself with its holding company, Diageo Plc whose strategic plan targets a number of goals to protect the environment and humanity by 2030.

"Through our various initiatives such as Kilimo-Viwanda and Water of Life, millions of rural families are benefitting through increased incomes and access to better water services," Wanyancha underscored.

Research shows that clean water supply will fall by up to 40 per cent by 2030 due to a population increase with poor communities in developing countries being worst affected. Women and girls will be the victims of this tragedy if accessibility near their premises is not improved.

In agriculture, SBL which has also been working with hundreds of local farmers who produce its raw materials such as maize, sorghum and barley, is playing a crucial role in supporting government efforts to reduce income poverty



People drawing water from one of the SBL funded boreholes in Hanang district of Manyara region. File photo.

especially in rural areas where agriculture is the main occupation.

"So far, we get almost 80 percent of our raw materials from local farmers who we have empowered by assisting them get quality agro-inputs such as hybrid seeds and expert advice on better farming practices," the SBL Corporate Relations Director added. SBL's holding company, Diageo has

been a champion of investing in community projects such as water globally in partnership with WaterAid, a UK based company.

In Tanzania alone, Diageo, through SBL, has built 17 boreholes across eight regions since 2010. There are other borehole projects currently in progress in Mara and Manyara regions.

Diageo's CEO Ivan Menezes said apart from such investments in community projects, the London Stock Exchange listed conglomerate invests heavily in clean energy, gender equality and ethnic diversity in all of its markets globally.

"Diageo plans to go net-zero carbon by 2030 and other indirect carbon emissions by 50 per cent because carbon emissions continue to have devastating effects on climate change globally, which manifest in rising ocean levels and temperatures," Menezes said adding that Diageo is harnessing 100 percent renewable energy to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

He further noted that the beverages manufacturer is also implementing projects to ensure gender parity and ethnic diversity among its rank and file.

"By setting both gender and ethnicity goals for the business to achieve by 2030, I believe we can truly break down barriers and help shape a more diverse and successful long-term business and society," he added while stressing that Diageo is in the forefront of supporting projects that impact lives of local communities by adhering to its bold sustainability set goals outlined in Diageo's 'Society 2030:

Spirit of Progress' plan.

The 2030 plan is in tandem with the United Nations 2030 development goals designed - a ratified blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Diageo's notable global brands includes: Johnnie Walker, Guinness, and Smirnoff which also sell widely in the local market.

Its local subsidiary which has several brands including Serengeti Lager and the market popular Serengeti Lite, has undertaken campaigns to sensitise the public on responsible drinking to avoid negative impacts which include gender violence, accidents when driving motor vehicles.

"We as SBL have taken measures to protect both our customers, employees and the public by sensitizing them on excessive consumption of alcohol which may lead to traffic accidents involving both the driver and pedestrians," Wanyancha noted.

Through its DRINKiQ e-learning platform, a 'Drink positive' campaign has already involved millions of people in the country who include motorcycle taxi operators popularly known as 'Boda bodas,' who ferry millions of people and cargo both in urban and rural areas daily.

PROGRESSIVE

MTN Rwanda to list on RSE early May

KIGALI

MTN Rwanda will list on the Rwanda Stock Exchange on May 4th following approval by the Capital Market Authority (CMA), the Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE) and Crystal Telecom's (CTL) shareholders.

The listing will see 20 per cent of MTN Rwanda's shareholding held by CTL directly held by the public. During the listing, 1,350,886,600 ordinary shares will be registered with the RSE at an initial listing price of Rwf269 per ordinary share.

CTL shareholders will become direct shareholders in MTN Rwanda and be able to trade their MTN Rwanda shares on the RSE. MTN Rwanda Chief Executive Mitwa Ng'ambi said participation in the capital markets of Rwanda presents an opportunity for the investor community at large to directly own MTN Rwanda.

The development has been termed as a demonstration of confidence in the Rwandan Capital Market as well as its expected growth in coming days. CMA Executive Director Eric Bundugu said MTN Rwanda's listing by introduction on the RSE will also serve as an attraction



MTN Rwanda's CEO, Mitwa Ng'ambi.

to foreign investors into the Rwandan capital market as well as provide liquidity for existing and future shareholders.

Crystal Telecom's shareholders will become direct shareholders in MTN Rwanda and be able to trade their MTN Rwanda shares on the

RSE. Iza Irame, CTL's CEO, said that it will allow their shareholders to retain their economic interest in MTN Rwanda while gaining from the ef-

iciency and visibility that comes with direct ownership.

"MTN Rwanda joining the RSE list of companies is a great and welcome development for our market as it increases our market capitalization.

The company being of a good size adds on the number of leading brands to our Exchange and offers more visibility into the company's operations to shareholders and the general investing public, which in turn should trigger more interest from potential new investors going forward," Celestin Rwabukumba, The Chief Executive of Rwanda Stock Exchange.

MTN Group President and Chief Executive Ralph Mupita said that the listing is particularly significant given the increasing importance of broadband access in driving economic and industrial development across Africa.

The Annual General Meeting of Crystal Telecom Limited in March approved a proposal to dissolve the company and distribute the shares held in MTN Rwanda as excess assets to the shareholders after payments of all the company's liabilities.

REBUFF

Traders defy Ugandan poultry products import ban

NAIROBI

KENYAN traders are still importing poultry products from Uganda despite a ban imposed in January.

Through a memo issued to stakeholders, the Directorate of Veterinary Services stopped all chicken, meat and egg importation to cushion local producers amid low demand from restaurants and eateries following Covid-19 economic disruption.

Importers have, however, found ways to import the products into the country, defying the ban and leading to an outcry from local producers who were hoping to ride on the reduced competition to stay afloat during the Covid-19 restriction period. A spot check by the Business Daily at Ugandan Yokuku shops in Nairobi's Roysambu, Kawangware, Umoja and Kitengela revealed that the company is still selling dressed Yokuku chicken, which is processed in Uganda.

"Our farmers have been affected heavily by this second curfew and we need to protect them at all costs to ensure they are benefiting from this window and opportunity," Kiambu Poultry Farmers Cooperative Association Director Zack Munyambu said.

This comes at a time when the total dressed frozen chicken inventory in the country rose by over 60 per cent. Data from the Kenya Poultry and Breeders Association (KPBA) showed that inventory rose from 170, 860 in January to 450,000 last month.

"In order to preserve the remaining production potential for 2021, the importation of poultry meat and poultry products must cease as soon as possible so that the industry, especially those who play key roles in the value chain, can hold on until times are less volatile," Federation of Poultry Farmers, a lobby for poultry farmers, said.

Whereas Ugandan poultry products accessing Kenya are untaxed, Uganda imposes a cumulative 25 per cent duty on Kenyan poultry products, comprising 18 percent VAT, six percent withholding tax and one percent road levy.

RECONCILIATION

Pfizer backed down from demand that was 'risk' to SA

PRETORIA

DELIVERIES of Pfizer Inc.'s Covid-19 vaccine to South Africa were delayed by demands from the US drugmaker that it determine the guarantees needed to indemnify the company from any negative effects from the shots.

The condition was resisted by the government and Pfizer eventually backed down, agreeing to supply 30 million doses of the vaccine co-developed with Germany's BioNTech SE. "This condition posed a potential risk to our assets and fiscus," Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said in an April 14 briefing document submitted to parliament's health committee and reviewed by Bloomberg. "Pfizer finally conceded to removing this problematic term."

South Africa, which is yet to start a broad rollout of Covid-19 vaccines, has

complained about the terms and conditions imposed by both Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson in order to secure supplies. Both companies have carried out vaccine trials in the country.

"As government we have found ourselves in a precarious position of having to choose between saving our citizens lives and risking putting the country's assets into private companies' hands," he said. South Africa is setting up a no-fault compensation fund to indemnify the companies against any complaints about its vaccines.

"Pfizer seeks indemnity and liability protections in all of our agreements consistent with applicable local laws," the company said, adding that the terms of the agreement are confidential. "Indemnification clauses are often included in contracts with governments for the supply of vaccines during public health emergencies."



SA health minister, Zweli Mkhize

Mkhize also said that supply agreements for \$10 a dose with both companies are non-refundable. Pfizer's vaccine uses a two-dose regime while Johnson & Johnson's requires only a single dose. Earlier plans to use

AstraZeneca Plc's vaccine were abandoned after tests showed it was less effective against a virus variant first identified in South Africa. The demands were reported earlier by the Bureau for Investigative Journalism.

DAMAGE-CONTROL

Tencent dangles billions in aid as antitrust scrutiny grows

BEIJING

TENCENT founder Pony Ma pledged \$7.7 billion toward curing societal ills and lifting China's countryside out of poverty, echoing Xi Jinping's priorities at a time Beijing is tightening its grip on internet giants.

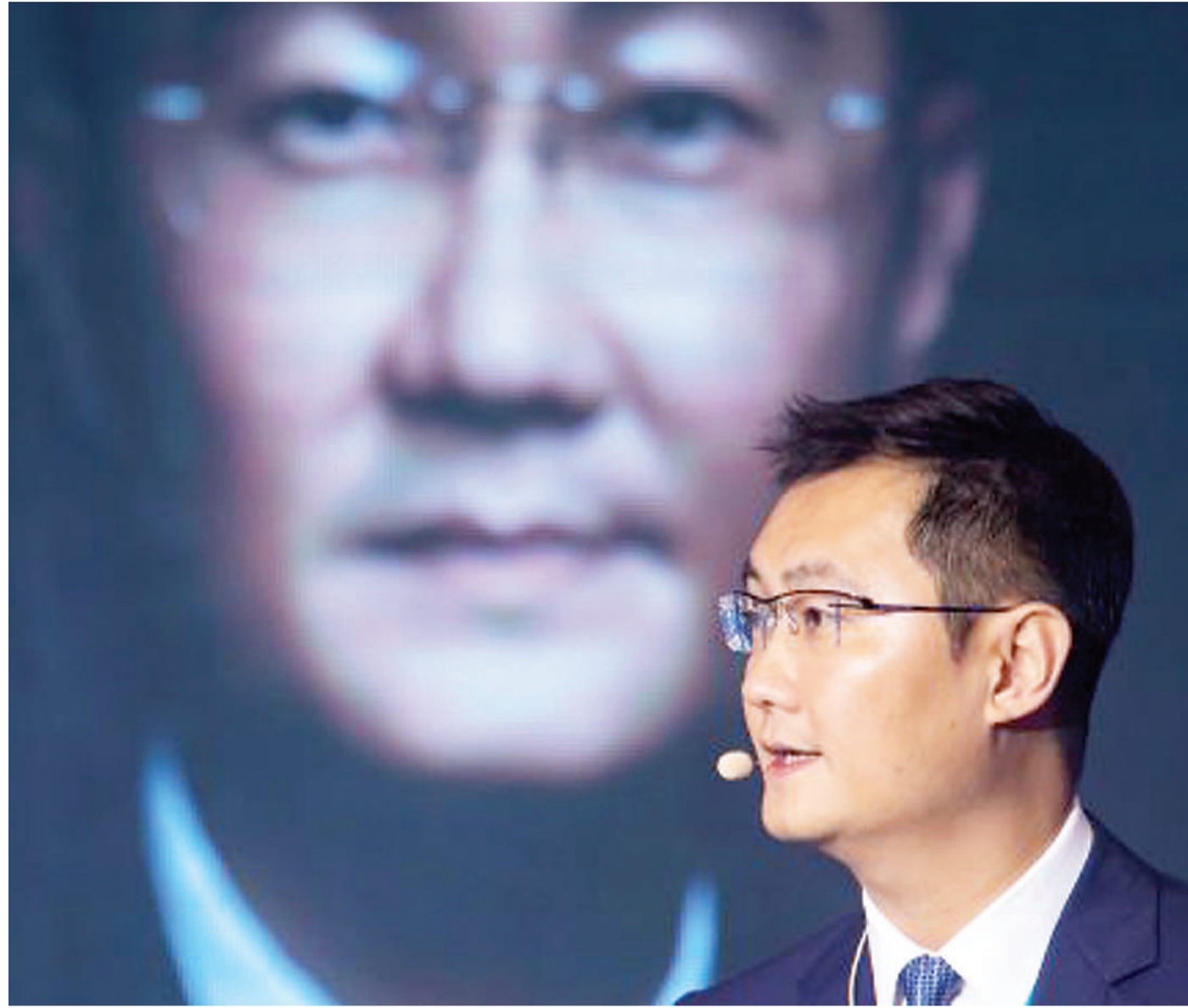
The billionaire chief executive officer on Monday pledged to set aside 50 billion yuan for a "sustainable social values" program, in what would be one of China's largest corporate philanthropic initiatives. Tencent promised to tackle a plethora of issues from renewable energy and scientific education to health care and rural revitalisation – a centerpiece of Xi's over-arching policy framework.

The gaming and social media giant intends to fold its existing foundation and philanthropic activity into a new unit to oversee the initiative, which also encompasses carbon neutrality, the provision of food, water and energy, and general public welfare.

The program coincides with a period of intensified scrutiny over the growing power and influence of China's largest corporations from Tencent to Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., which received a \$2.8 billion fine for allegedly abusing its market dominance. Regulators are now said to be eyeing Tencent, China's largest publisher of games and content for a billion-plus people on WeChat. Last week, the Shenzhen-based company pledged to comply with antitrust laws and eradicate monopolistic practices.

"Tencent should continue to respond to the ever-changing needs of the public and of the era, so as to develop and prosper together with society as a whole," Ma said in a memo to employees published online.

Tencent's ear-marked budget could rank among the world's largest corporate philanthropic endeavors – total US charitable giving from individuals, non-profits and corporations surpassed \$449 billion in 2019, according to the Giving USA foundation. The Chinese company has only just completed one of the year's biggest Asian dollar-bond deals and had about \$23 billion of cash and equivalents at the end of December.



Tencent founder and CEO, Pony Ma.

Corporations around the world have in recent years stepped up philanthropy and so-called ESG or environmental, social and governance efforts, in part because investors are paying more attention to this area. China itself has launched campaigns to clean up the environment, worried about the toll pollution could take on the economy as well as its people.

Ahead of an annual meeting of top officials this year, Ma led research into low-carbon industries and submitted a proposal to lawmakers regarding carbon neutrality for tech companies. Tencent also organises an annual online charity campaign and awards prizes to young scientists in China.



Tencent should continue to respond to the ever-changing needs of the public and of the era, so as to develop and prosper together with society as a whole

DIVERSIFICATION

Lego billionaires plan new investment hitting plastic waste

COPENHAGEN

THE billionaire owners of Lego are set to shift more of their wealth into ventures that figure out how to reduce surplus plastic in environmentally friendly ways.

Kirkbi, which oversees about \$20 billion in assets on behalf of the family behind toymaker Lego, is looking for at least one new plastic project to invest in this year. That's after first testing the market in 2020 with its purchase of a stake in Quantafuel AS, a Norwegian company that transforms old plastic into energy.

In an interview, Chief Investment Officer Thomas Lau Schleicher singled out plastic waste as a key focus area for the fund. But it's also looking at ideas such as "new technology for producing alternatives to plastic," he said.

Kirkbi is chaired by Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, the grandson of Lego's founder and one of Denmark's richest men with a fortune of \$7.3 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. In recent years, he has handed more control of Kirkbi to his three children, Agnete Kirk Thinggaard, Sofie Kirk Kristiansen and Thomas Kirk Kristiansen, who have a personal fortune of about \$7.1 billion each. The Lego family fund is underscoring its commitment to fighting plastic waste with the creation of a new portfolio for such investments, called Circular Plastic.

Schleicher says there's no connection between Kirkbi's investments in the area and Lego's own use of plastic in its production. The company, which makes almost 100 000 tons of plastic bricks each year, is trying to develop a product using renewable, plant-based materials, such as sugar cane.

Kirkbi's investment in Quantafuel has already paid off, with the value of its stake almost doubling since its June investment of roughly \$26 million. Schleicher said Kirkbi is open to supporting Quantafuel should it need to raise new capital.

Meanwhile, profit on overall investments at the fund dropped 62% last year. That's despite record results at Lego, which generates the bulk of Kirkbi's returns. But some of its other big investments lost money. Cleaning and office services provider ISS A/S, in which Kirkbi holds about 17%, sank 34% in 2020.

The fund is now keen to buy up a lot more clean assets, amid signs the sector also generates healthy returns. Schleicher says Kirkbi also wants to invest more in solar and wind power, adding to the \$1.3 billion it's already dedicated to the area. But prices have soared as more investors pile in.

Kirkbi is therefore looking into entering potential investments earlier on in the value chain, as it did with Adaption Renewables, which both develops, constructs and owns solar cell parks. "We have often found it hard to get in at the auctions where these farms are sold at very high prices," the CIO said. "A lot of capital is flowing into that world at the moment."



Kirkbi is chairman, Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
MONDAY 12 April			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:30	Isidingo
6:00	HABARI	9:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
7:30	HABARI	10:30	Isidingo
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	10:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55	Habari za saa
9:30	Isidingo	12:00	Aj Jazera
9:55	Habari za saa	12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
10:00	Watoto wetu	12:55	Habari za saa
10:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Jagna rpt
11:00	ITV Top 10 rpt	13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Aj Jazera News	14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
12:30	Mtego rpt	15:00	Meza huru
12:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Watoto Wetu
13:00	Mjuzi Zaidi	17:00	The Base
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt	17:30	Jijili Letu
13:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Majisiri
14:10	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	18:30	Ijuzi Sheria
14:55	Habari za saa	19:00	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
15:00	Meza huru	19:30	Isidingo
16:30	Watoto Wetu	20:00	Habari
17:00	The Base	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
18:00	Jiji Letu	21:30	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
18:10	Abu yako rpt	22:15	Habari za saa
18:15	Majisiri	23:00	Habari
18:45	Kesho leo	23:30	The Base
19:00	Alya ya Jamii	00:30	Aj Jazera
19:30	Isidingo	02:00	DWTW
20:00	Habari		
21:05	Dakika 45		
22:00	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		
23:00	Habari		
23:30	The Base		
00:30	Aj Jazera		
02:00	DWTW		
TUESDAY 13 April			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:30	Isidingo
6:00	HABARI	9:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	10:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
7:30	HABARI	10:30	Isidingo
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	10:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55	Habari za saa
9:30	Isidingo	12:00	Aj Jazera
9:55	Habari za saa	12:30	Ijuzi sheria rpt
10:00	Watoto wetu rpt	12:55	Habari za saa
10:30	Jungu kuu rpt	13:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA
10:55	Habari za saa	13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu
11:00	The Base rpt	13:55	Habari za saa
11:55	Habari za saa	14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
12:00	Aj Jazera	14:55	Habari za saa
12:30	Alya ya jamii	15:00	Meza huru
12:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Watoto Wetu
13:00	DWTW: Kesho leo rpt	17:00	The Base
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt	18:00	Jiji Letu
13:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Majisiri rpt
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	18:30	Jagna
14:55	Habari za saa	19:00	Usufiri waiko
15:00	Meza huru	19:30	Isidingo
16:30	Watoto wetu	20:00	Habari
17:00	The Base	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Biko
18:00	Jiji Letu	21:05	Mizengwe
18:10	Yu wapi	21:20	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	22:10	Bongo Movie: Laana
18:30	Uchumi na biashara	00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
19:00	Jarida la wanawake		
19:30	Isidingo		
20:00	Habari		
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology		
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu		
21:40	Chetu ni chetu		
22:30	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		
23:00	Habari		
23:30	Chetu ni chetu		
23:45	The Base		
00:45	Aj Jazera		
02:00	DWTW		
WEDNESDAY 14 April			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:30	Isidingo
6:00	HABARI	9:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
7:30	HABARI	10:30	Isidingo
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	10:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55	Habari za saa
9:30	Isidingo	12:00	Aj Jazera
9:55	Habari za saa	12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
10:00	Watoto Wetu rpt	12:55	Habari za saa
10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt	13:00	Jagna rpt
10:55	Habari za saa	13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:00	The Base rpt	13:55	Habari za saa
11:55	Habari za saa	14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
12:00	Aj Jazera	15:00	Meza Huru
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt	16:30	Watoto Wetu
12:55	Habari za saa	17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	17:30	Kiisim
13:30	Habari za saa	18:00	Jiji Letu
13:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	19:00	Shamba lulu
14:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Isidingo
15:00	Meza huru	20:00	Habari
16:30	Watoto Wetu	21:05	Kipima Joto
17:00	The Base	23:00	Habari
18:15	Jiji Letu	23:30	The Base
18:30	Ijuzi Sheria	00:30	Aj Jazera
19:00	Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	02:00	DWTW
19:30	Isidingo		
20:00	Habari		
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco		
21:30	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		
22:15	Habari za saa		
23:00	Habari		
23:30	The Base		
00:30	Aj Jazera		
02:00	DWTW		
THURSDAY 15 April			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:30	Isidingo
6:00	HABARI	9:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	10:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
7:30	HABARI	10:30	Isidingo
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	10:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55	Habari za saa
9:30	Isidingo	12:00	Aj Jazera
9:55	Habari za saa	12:30	Ijuzi sheria rpt
10:00	Watoto Wetu	12:55	Habari za saa
10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt	13:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA
10:55	Habari za saa	13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu
11:00	The Base rpt	13:55	Habari za saa
11:55	Habari za saa	14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
12:00	Aj Jazera	14:55	Habari za saa
12:30	Alya ya jamii	15:00	Meza huru
12:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Watoto Wetu
13:00	DWTW: Kesho leo rpt	17:00	The Base
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt	18:00	Jiji Letu
13:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Majisiri rpt
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	18:30	Jagna
14:55	Habari za saa	19:00	Usufiri waiko
15:00	Meza huru	19:30	Isidingo
16:30	Watoto wetu	20:00	Habari
17:00	The Base	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Biko
18:00	Jiji Letu	21:05	Mizengwe
18:10	Yu wapi	21:20	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	22:10	Bongo Movie: Laana
18:30	Uchumi na biashara	00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
19:00	Jarida la wanawake		
19:30	Isidingo		
20:00	Habari		
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology		
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu		
21:40	Chetu ni chetu		
22:30	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		
23:00	Habari		
23:30	Chetu ni chetu		
23:45	The Base		
00:45	Aj Jazera		
02:00	DWTW		
FRIDAY 16 April			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:30	Isidingo
6:00	HABARI	9:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	10:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
7:30	HABARI	10:30	Isidingo
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	10:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55	Habari za saa
9:30	Isidingo	12:00	Aj Jazera
9:55	Habari za saa	12:30	Ijuzi sheria rpt
10:00	Watoto Wetu	12:55	Habari za saa
10:30	Uchumi na biashara rpt	13:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA
10:55	Habari za saa	13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu
11:00	The Base rpt	13:55	Habari za saa
11:55	Habari za saa	14:15	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
12:00	Aj Jazera	14:55	Habari za saa
12:30	Alya ya jamii	15:00	Meza huru
12:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Watoto Wetu
13:00	DWTW: Kesho leo rpt	17:00	The Base
13:30	Shika Bamba rpt	18:00	Jiji Letu
13:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Majisiri rpt
14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	18:30	Jagna
14:55	Habari za saa	19:00	Usufiri waiko
15:00	Meza huru	19:30	Isidingo
16:30	Watoto wetu	20:00	Habari
17:00	The Base	21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Biko
18:00	Jiji Letu	21:05	Mizengwe
18:10	Yu wapi	21:20	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	22:10	Bongo Movie: Laana
18:30	Uchumi na biashara	00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
19:00	Jarida la wanawake		
19:30	Isidingo		
20:00	Habari		
21:00	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology		
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu		
21:40	Chetu ni chetu		
22:30	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		
23:00	Habari		
23:30	Chetu ni chetu		
23:45	The Base		
00:45	Aj Jazera		
02:00	DWTW		
SATURDAY 17 April			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:30	Isidingo
6:00	HABARI	9:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt
7:30	HABARI	10:30	Isidingo
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	10:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55	Habari za saa
9:30	Isidingo	12:00	Aj Jazera
9:55	Habari za saa	12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanes

WORLD

Rwanda report
blames France for its
role in 1994 genocide

KIGALI

FRANCE "bears significant responsibility" for enabling "foreseeable" genocide against ethnic Tutsis in Rwanda that happened in 1994, a report commissioned by the Rwandan government concluded Monday.

The 628-page report commissioned in 2017 was authored by the US law firm Levy Firestone Muse LLP with the involvement of three Rwandan local law firms in its preparation. It was released during its formal presentation to the Rwandan cabinet.

French officials "armed, advised, trained, equipped and protected" the then Rwandan government and was heedless of its commitment to dehumanization and, ultimately, the destruction and death of Tutsi in Rwanda, according to the report.

However, no evidence was found to show that French officials or personnel directly participated in the killing of Tutsis, it added.

France's role during the April-July 1994 genocide has for years been the subject of intense scrutiny and much controversy.



A picture taken on April 9, 2019, shows victims' bones recovered from pits which were used as mass grave during 1994 Rwandan genocide and hidden under houses in Kabuga, the outskirts of Kigali, Rwanda. (AFP)

Rwanda had been accusing France of backing the genocidal regime in 1994 and covering genocide suspects through "Operation Turquoise," but the claim was denied by France.

The central African country severed diplomatic relations with France in 2006 after a French judge issued nine arrest warrants against

Rwandan officials in the case of an attack on an aircraft of Habyarimana in April 1994, which triggered the genocide.

Although the two countries restored their diplomatic relations in 2009, France has no ambassador in Rwanda since the last one left in 2015.

Xinhua

Xi calls for strengthening global governance at BFA annual conference

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday called on all countries in Asia and beyond to answer the "call of our times," defeat the pandemic through solidarity, strengthen global governance, and keep pursuing a community with a shared future for mankind.

When delivering a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2021, Xi said that the world needs consultation on an equal footing to create a future of shared benefits.

Marking the 20th anniversary of the BFA, this year's annual conference is themed "A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation."

"Global governance should reflect the evolving political and economic landscape in the world, conform to the historical trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation, and meet the practical needs in addressing global challenges," Xi said.

All countries should follow the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, uphold true multilateralism, and make the global governance system more fair and



President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference yesterday. (Xinhua)

equitable, Xi said.

"What we need in today's world is justice, not hegemony," he said. "Big countries should behave in a manner befitting their status and with a greater sense of responsibility."

Calling for the building of an open world economy, Xi said that openness is essential for development and progress and holds the key to post-COVID economic recovery.

"We need to promote trade and investment liberalization and

facilitation, deepen regional economic integration, and enhance supply, industrial, data and human resources chains," he said.

Efforts should also be made to boost the digital economy, and step up exchanges and cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, biomedicine and modern energy, to turn the fruits of scientific and technological innovation into greater benefits for people in all countries, according to Xi.

On creating a future of health and security with solidarity and cooperation, Xi said the key role of the World Health Organization (WHO) must be given full play in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.

"We must put people and their lives above anything else, scale up information sharing and collective efforts, and enhance public health and medical cooperation," he said.

For this purpose, international cooperation should be bolstered

on the research and development, production and distribution of vaccines, so that everyone in the world can access and afford the vaccines they need, said the Chinese president.

On climate change, Xi stressed the importance of following the philosophy of green development, advancing international cooperation and doing more to implement the Paris Agreement.

He also said the world needs to be committed to justice to create a future of mutual respect and mutual learning.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made it all the more clear to people around the world that we must reject the cold-war and zero-sum mentality and oppose a new 'Cold War' and ideological confrontation in whatever forms," he said.

Xi also underscored the principles of equality, mutual respect and mutual trust in state-to-state relations, which "must be put front and center."

"We must advocate peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are common values of humanity, and encourage exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations to promote the progress of human civilization," Xi said.

Xinhua

Africa agencies get helping hand on jobs

NAIROBI

THE World Health Organization is helping African countries to improve their regulatory processes for approving vaccines and other drugs.

In countering the COVID-19 pandemic, representatives of regulatory agencies from Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa and Tanzania participated in an event on Friday in which experts from the WHO shared insights on the assessments for three of the vaccines that have been granted emergency use authorization.

Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's regional director for Africa, said doses of a vaccine from AstraZeneca have been delivered to 36 countries under the COVAX Facility, a vaccine-procurement platform co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and the WHO in partnership with UNICEF.

"To significantly slow down COVID-19 we must avert serious illness, hospitalization and death," Moeti said on Friday at an online news conference. "Every vaccine shot given moves us a step closer to ending this pandemic."

The WHO is working closely with countries to manage potential risks, she said.

Unequal distribution

"COVID-19 vaccine access remains starkly unequal across the world. In high-income countries, one in four people on average has received a COVID-19 vaccine compared with just one in 500 in lower-income countries," Moeti said.

The WHO Regional Office for Africa said that with limited supplies and delays in vaccine shipment, it is important for Africa to develop its own vaccine manufacturing capacity. The continent is home to 16 percent of the world's population but produces just 0.1 percent of vaccines. African countries that largely rely on imports are particularly vulnerable to delays in accessing essential supplies during the pandemic.

According to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the continent has logged more than 4.3 million COVID-19 infections. Over the past month, new cases have jumped by 50 percent or more in 13 countries, including Angola, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia.

On Friday, the Africa CDC on Friday launched the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing, which aims to draw on pan-African and global partnerships to scale-up vaccine manufacturing in Africa.

Under the initiative, Africa aims to manufacture 60 percent of its immunization needs by 2040. **Agencies**



Ethiopian Catholic high priest Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel receives the first dose of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as Ethiopia's Ministry of Health asked all religious leaders for mandatory vaccination at Ethiopian Catholic Headquarter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Apr 8, 2021. (AFP)

Pakistan parliament to vote on whether to expel French envoy

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's government will seek a vote in parliament yesterday on whether to expel the French ambassador after violent anti-France protests by Islamists demanding action over cartoons depicting Prophet Mohammad, the interior minister said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan warned his nation in a televised address late on Monday that Pakistan risked paying a price if it expelled the French envoy, as half the country's exports are sold to the European Union.

Relations between Paris and Islamabad became more strained after President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute late last year to a French teacher who was beheaded by a man of Chechen origin for showing cartoons depicting the Prophet in a class on freedom of speech.

Muslims consider such drawings of their Prophet to be blasphemous.

The expulsion of the ambassador is one of the main four demands of a radical Tehrik-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) group, which the government banned last week after its members blocked main highways, railways and access routes to major cities, assaulting police and burning public property.

Agencies

Putin does not plan to hold talks with Czech government

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin does not plan to hold talks with the Czech government over the aggravation of Russian-Czech relations, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

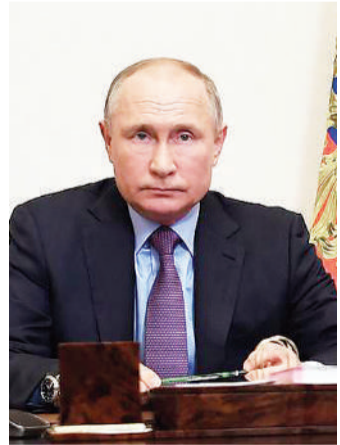
"There are no such plans," the spokesman said, answering a corresponding question.

Moscow views Prague's move to expel Russian diplomats as harmful to bilateral

relations.

"We definitely view Prague's actions as unreasonable and harmful to bilateral relations. We believe that this kind of policy lacks common sense. It seems to be an attempt to copy the big brother overseas by taking unpredictable and aggressive actions," he pointed out.

According to Peskov, Prague's "baseless accusations are absolutely outrageous." In response to a question if Moscow had considered Prague's allegations that Russian na-



tionals Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov could

be involved in the Vrbetice incident, Peskov said: "Such absurd allegations cannot be subject to consideration."

On April 17, the Czech government announced the expulsion of 18 employees of the Russian embassy in Prague, who were allegedly "officers of Russian intelligence services."

The move came over Prague's newly-leveled allegations about the 2014 Vrbetice blast.

According to reports, "officers of Russia's military intelligence" were allegedly in-

involved in the said incident.

The Russian Foreign Ministry expressed a strong protest to Prague over the steps taken "under unfounded and far-fetched pretexts," and also announced 20 employees of the Czech Embassy in Moscow personae non gratae.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova dismissed Prague's actions as "caricature," adding that they demonstrate "the lack of any independent policy in international affairs."

Agencies

Germany's Laschet gains upper hand in fight to succeed Merkel

By Bloomberg

ARMIN Laschet appeared to gain the upper hand in the battle to succeed Angela Merkel at the head of conservatives' ticket this September after winning a clear majority in a vote among his party's leadership.

Laschet, the head of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, won the backing of 31 out of 46 members of his party's top committee -- or 67% -- in a ballot early yesterday morning to determine who should lead the center-right bloc into the national election, according to a person familiar with the outcome.

His rival for the top job, Bavarian State Premier Markus Soeder, won

just nine votes, with six abstentions.

The result, following an evening debate that stretched on for hours, may give the 60-year-old Laschet the edge in their contest. All eyes now are on Soeder after he said earlier on Monday that he would accept a clear CDU vote in favor of Laschet.

Lawmakers in the Bundestag from Soeder's Bavarian sister party will meet in Berlin on Tuesday morning and the wider lower-house caucus of the two parties will gather later in the afternoon.

Laschet in recent days has refused to capitulate even as some in his own party threw their support behind Soeder.



Polls show the Bavarian would have a significant advantage among voters leading the CDU/CSU ticket. Still, many others in the CDU have remained loyal to Laschet, who just took over the party in January.

Earlier on Monday, Laschet insisted he wanted to resolve the stand-

off over the CDU/CSU candidacy "very swiftly."

Polls suggest that Germany's conservatives could be headed for their worst ever election result, losing support to the Greens, who nominated Annalena Baerbock as their candidate on Monday.

"The goal is to win this election and that will only be possible with a great deal of unity and a single candidate," Laschet told reporters in Berlin.

Even if Laschet holds on to nab the nomination, he's been significantly weakened by the split in his party, with many openly voicing their support for Soeder.

On Sunday, the CDU's youth wing

voted to back the CSU leader, and three CDU state premiers -- from Saxony-Anhalt, Saarland and Saxony -- have also broken ranks with the rest of the party leadership and put their weight behind the Bavarian.

During the session on Monday evening in Berlin, some CDU officials -- including Economy Minister Peter Altmaier, a close Merkel ally -- spoke out in favor of Soeder, damaging Laschet's authority over the party.

Yet Laschet has refused to fold and Soeder has failed to deliver a knock out blow that would decide the contest, despite appearing to seize the momentum over the

weekend.

The son of a coal mining foreman, Laschet graduated in law, once edited a Catholic newspaper and was a legislator in the Bundestag as well as the European Parliament before being elected leader of Germany's most populous state in 2017.

He would be likely to continue Merkel's centrist policies as well as her low-key style of leadership, if he can claim the nomination and defend his slim advantage going into September's national vote.

Yet he would inherit a raft of new challenges, ranging from overcoming the coronavirus pandemic to managing a transition to green technology. **Agencies**

China's endeavours to pursue high-quality development expected to create new opportunities for win-win cooperation

By He Yin

THE international community pays high attention to China's new journey of fully building a modern socialist country, and the country's route for high-quality development, which was mapped out in its Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

While praising China's determination and efforts to push forward high-quality development, the international community believes that the country's efforts to pursue high-quality development will effectively increase global confidence in economic recovery and infuse new impetus into global development.

Recent articles published by international media outlets have frequently mentioned China's new five-year plan and keywords related to the country's development targets, such as high-quality development, economic stability, people's well-being, green growth, and innovation-driven development.

China's ambition of following the path of high-quality development demonstrates the country's deepening understanding of the law of develop-



A worker is busy working at the plant of a company in Tongcheng, east China's Anhui province, March 10, 2021. (Photo by Jiang Sheng /People's Daily Online)

ment. For China, high-quality economic and social development is an inevitable choice after the country's rapid growth over the past several decades since its reform and opening-up.

In 2015, the fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee put forward the concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development, starting a profound reform concerning the overall situation of China's development.

Two years later, a report delivered at the 19th National Congress of the CPC pointed

out that China's economy had been transitioning from rapid growth to high-quality development.

Last year, the fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee made it clear that China would make high-quality development the theme of its economic and social progress from 2021 to 2025.

During China's "two sessions" held early in March—the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) and the fourth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country stressed that

high-quality development is the theme of China's economic and social development during the 14th Five-Year Plan and even a longer period of time.

High-quality development is truly sustainable development. In the context of complex and severe world economic situation and unstable and uneven recovery, China, a major country with a population of 1.4 billion, is making positive contributions to global development by adhering to the path of high-quality development.

Ideas are the foundation of actions. Whether a development concept suits a country or not will fundamentally de-



Workers polish a vehicle before adding the finishing coat at a manufacturing base of FAW Haima Automobile Co., Ltd. in Haikou, south China's Hainan province, March 1, 2021. (Photo by Yuan Chen/People's Daily Online)

termine the effectiveness and even the success or failure of its development. China's high-quality development, which is believed to be able to meet the people's ever-growing desire for a better life, reflects the new development philosophy: In high quality development innovation is the primary driving force; coordination is an endogenous feature; go-green is a prevailing mode; openness is the only path, and sharing is the fundamental goal.

The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 has

fully demonstrated the guiding role of the new development philosophy, displayed China's beautiful visions for high-quality development, and signaled more new opportunities for the win-win cooperation between China and other countries.

By clearly stating China's various plans, including implementing an international science and technology cooperation strategy that is more open, inclusive and mutually beneficial, further integrating into the global innovation network, promoting the coordinated development of imports and exports, improving the level of international two-way investment and

building a high-standard free trade zone network, the outline shows the world China's determination to advance open cooperation.

Gonzalo Tordini, an Argentine expert in international issues, said that China's Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 has reflected the country's great attention to such aspects as sustainable development and scientific and technological innovation, and sent a clear signal that the country is bent on promoting high-quality growth in its new stage of development.

China's newly issued outline of 14th Five-Year Plan maps out economic and social development for coming years

By Lu Yanan, Li Xinping

CHINA released the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 on March 13. The document comprising 19 parts, 65 chapters, and 192 sections is regarded as a blueprint for further advancing the high-quality development of the country.

The 14th Five-Year Plan period is of particular significance as China aims to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects in 2021 and then march toward a new journey of turning China into a modern socialist country.

Gross domestic product (GDP), as a core measure of the economic development level of a country, has always been a comprehensive and the most high-profile indicator in China's five-year plans.

Although GDP is maintained as a major economic indicator in the 14th Five-Year Plan, the outline doesn't show specific anticipatory indicators for annual growth in GDP. Instead, it says the country will keep GDP growth within an appropriate range and set annual targets in light of actual circumstances.

Such qualitative expression and only implicit quantitative expression of GDP growth target marks a first in the history of China's five-year plans.

As China has entered a new stage of high-quality eco-



Photo taken on March 11, 2021 shows a view of Yangquan village, Yangquan Township, Changning, central China's Hunan Province. (Photo by Zhou Xiuyuchun/People's Daily Online)

nomc development, it is not wise to assess its development simply according to the GDP growth rate or pursue economic growth without considering the quality and effectiveness of development, as well as the ecological and environmental impacts.

Since reasonable economic growth does matter when it comes to achieving the target of realizing modernization, the new outline has in fact given consid-

eration to both economic development and environmental protection by setting such a qualitative growth target.

The qualitative expression of GDP growth does not mean that China does not need a GDP growth rate any longer. It was pointed out at the fifth plenary session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee that China's per-capita GDP will reach the level of a moderately developed country by 2035, which

means that its GDP growth rate in the coming 15 years has to be kept within an appropriate range.

China is confident of maintaining GDP growth rate at a certain level in the next five years, and the decision to not set a specific and quantitative growth target will make China more proactive, active and calm in coping with all sorts of risks and challenges.

The decision also helps increase the coun-

try's flexibility in development, leave space for tackling uncertainties, and enable the country to focus on improving the quality and effectiveness of development.

The outline has set 20 major targets in five categories covering economy, innovation-driven development, public welfare, green ecology, and security.

Seven of the 20 major indicators in the outline concern people's livelihoods, accounting for more than a third of the total—the highest proportion compared that in the previous five-year plans, which fully embodies the people-centered development philosophy of China.

While the other main indicators are "slimming" as a whole, indicators related to people's livelihood have risen, demonstrating China's response to people's aspiration for a better life and its determination to advance high-quality development, said Liu Yuanchun, vice president of the Renmin University of China.



China endeavours to create more comfortable living environment for people by expediting urban renewal

By Zhao Zhanhui

URBAN development in China will shift from the old approach of expansion in scale and inefficient growth to a new one that leads to improvement in the quality of development, which conforms to the law of urban development as well as people's growing needs for a better life, said an official with China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD).

"After decades of rapid development, Chinese cities have already grown in size as possibly as they can and the old urban development and construction model featuring large-scale construction and massive consumption and emission can hardly be sustained," said Wang Ke, deputy head of the division of building energy efficiency and science and technology of MOHURD.

In its latest Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, China stated that it will accelerate the transformation of the

urban development model, make overall plans for urban planning, development, and management, implement an action plan for urban renewal, and optimize urban spatial structure and improve the quality of urban living space.

Implementing the action plan for urban renewal is believed to be an inevitable requirement for adapting to the new situation of urban development and boosting high-quality urban development.

China saw the percentage of permanent urban residents rise to 60.6 percent of the population in 2019, which indicates that the country has already entered the middle and later stage of rapid urbanization.

As urban development comes to the important stage of urban renewal, China decides to shift from the model of large-scale quantity-oriented development to one that attaches equal importance to quality improvement and transformation of existing projects for urban development and structural adjustment to new ones.

The country's action plan for urban renewal covers various aspects and is expected to exert



Photo taken on Dec. 4, 2020, shows workers renovating the roof of an old house in a residential complex in Daoxian county, Yongzhou, central China's Hunan province. Daoxian county promoted the renovation of old urban residential areas in 2020. (Photo by He Hongfu/People's Daily Online)

far-reaching influence on improving the quality of urban living environment and the lives of urban residents.

According to Fang Ming, head of Chinese Institute of Urban Scientific Planning and Design, urban renewal can speed up the development of new economy.

New business forms based on the Internet, including live-streaming, distance learning, telecommuting, and e-commerce, are

flourishing in China. These new business forms may no longer need very large plants or development zones, but require a working and living environment that can stimulate people's creativity.

By transforming and renewing idle or inefficient spatial resources, cities can provide new industries and business forms with more suitable space for development, Fang noted.

Fang believes that urban re-

newal helps restructure and develop new urban functions. For example, by upgrading and adding facilities and public services, China has guaranteed that cities can perform integrated functions; through updating and densifying urban traffic network, it has also improved transportation efficiency.

Such urban renewal measures can heighten urban vitality while better satisfying residents' living and leisure needs, Fang noted.

Urban renewal can create new conditions for preserving art treasures in urban space, according to Fang, who considers urban renewal a great opportunity for inheriting historical and cultural heritage in cities, as it not only means protecting excellent traditional buildings and blocks, but signifies preserving the historical and cultural heritage hidden behind them.

Fang pointed out that urban renewal can facilitate the development of new scientific and technological achievements in urban construction. By quickening construction and transformation of new urban infrastructure facilities featuring digitalization, net-

work, and intelligence, China can comprehensively improve the level of urban construction and operational efficiency in cities.

Urban renewal should benefit the overall interests of cities through overall planning, and advance step by step according to the urgency of people's needs, Wang said. He believes that urban renewal is not the transformation and renewal of a single project, but a systematic program that involves redistribution of urban space.

For example, the transformation of an old neighborhood should not be an independent task, but needs to be integrated to the renovation of the surrounding environment, Wang said.

China should give play to the roles of all sectors of society in promoting urban renewal, according to Xu Leiqing, professor of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning of Tongji University.

SPORT



Luis Miquissone

Simba SC midfielder, Gwambina FC head coach win VPL March prizes

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC midfielder Luis Miquissone has been voted as the March Player of the Month in Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

The former Mozambique's UD Songo forward has been consistent for Simba in both domestic and continental assignments. In the aforementioned month, the 25-year old scored two goals and helped Simba win one game and draw another one respectively.

The first match for the reigning Premier League champions took place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 1 whereby they claimed a 3-0 win.

Chris Mugalu opened the scoring in the eighth minute before Miquissone doubled the advantage 30 minutes later. John Bocco struck the third.

The Mozambican was on target again nine days later in a 1-1 draw against Tanzania Prisons at the same venue.

Mugalu had missed a penalty on the 29th minute and his team was punished on the 55th minute by Jeremiah Juma.

In the stoppages, Miquissone ensured spoils are shared after capitalising on Prisons' concentration lapses before finding the back of the net.

The winger takes the award from Dodoma Jiji FC's attacker Anuary Jabir who was crowned in February.

Prince Dube of Azam FC was the first one to be crowned in September, followed by Yanga midfielder Mukoko Tonombe.

Bocco was rewarded in November, with Saidi Ntibazonkiza of Yanga and Deogratius Mafie of Biashara United winning the award in December and January respectively.

Gwambina FC tactician Mohammed Badru received the Coach of the Month award after seeing his team finish the month unbeaten.

In March, the league debutants defeated Ihefu FC 2-1 away before also defeating Mtibwa Sugar 2-0 on the road.

They followed it up with a goalless draw at home against Polisi Tanzania.

Badru succeeds Ihefu FC's coach Zubeir Katwila who won it in February. Former Azam FC coach Romanian Aristica Cioaba was the first one to be crowned in September.

Cedric Kaze, Yanga's former head coach, followed it up in October before Charles Boniface Mkwasa of Ruvu Shooting won it a month later.

Kaze completed his double in December while with Yanga before Kagera Sugar head coach Francis Baraza won it with Biashara United at the time.

Tanzania's swimmers invited to feature in South Africa tourney

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's swimmers have been invited to feature in the African Swimming Confederation (CANA) camp in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from May 2-8 this year.

Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) secretary general Inviolata Itatiro said yesterday that they have received the CANA invitation, and have already informed the government through the National Sports Council (NSC) and the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC), asking for their support.

Inviolata said CANA's letter requires swimmers to arrive in South Africa on May 1 for the seven-day camp.

She disclosed the CANA has done so to provide an opportunity for African swimmers to prepare for the Olympic Games scheduled to take place in Tokyo, Japan from July 23 to August 8.

Inviolata elaborated that the camp is part of preparations for African swimmers to improve their skills.

She stated it further provides an opportunity to swimmers who are seeking qualifying marks for the Tokyo Games.

The CANA has requested national swimming

federations to work in conjunction with their respective Olympic Committees (NOC) that are intending to field athletes through the world swimming federation (FINA)'s requirement of universality should ensure that the swimmers meet the NOC requirement for selection.

She noted: "The camp will be hosted for seven days in Stellenbosch and Ghaham Hill, the chair of Fina's Coaches Commission will manage the camp."

"Swimmers will be provided with the opportunity for two pool sessions per day, gym sessions and a series of lectures on various issues to assist with the preparations for the Olympics," she noted.

Apart from that, CANA will also host FINA's Olympic Games qualifying event on May 7-8 to provide an opportunity for swimmers to achieve the Olympic Games qualifying standards.

She stated: "CANA will provide financial support for accommodation and meals for two swimmers per country to participate in the camp."

"We have been requested to assist swimmers with flight costs. Countries can also send additional swimmers and coaches at their own cost to participate in the camp," she said.

SPORTS

VPL relegation race: The fight for survival

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

WITH games coming in thick and fast, there is barely enough time to reflect upon the chaotic end to this Vodacom Premier League campaign.

It appears that with approximately eight games to go, everything is to play for and only a handful of teams fully know their fate.

The relegation battle is looking increasingly congested. There are outfits that sit just above the relegation zone.

Gwambina FC, Namungo FC and Coastal Union are safe for now, but still close enough to be demoted where they will not be feeling comfortable.

The half-dozen teams circling the Premier League plughole, in descending order are Kagera Sugar, JKT Tanzania, Mtibwa Sugar, Ihefu FC, Mbeya City FC and Mwadui FC.

Barring a miracle, Mwadui FC - 11 points from safety, 16 points on the board, four wins all season - will be relegated from the Premier League this season.

They are left with three home games, two of which are against Mtibwa Sugar and Kagera Sugar who are both struggling in the relegation zone.

Mwadui FC is doomed to the First Division League in what has been a turbulent season both on and off the pitch with three coaches in charge.

Mbeya City FC started the season dreadfully, gaining two points from their opening seven games, leading to the sacking of coach Amri Said.

Thus, since they occupy the second automatic relegation place now, they are likely to join Mwadui FC to be relegated at the end of the season.

They were hard done in a 1-0 loss in a six pointer battle against Ihefu FC last weekend. Goal scoring has been a problem for Mbeya City FC this season.

Their current top scorer Denis Kibu Prosper has four goals. They need a clinical edge and certainly more goals if they are to beat the drop.

Now, Mtibwa Sugar find themselves in 18th spot and their 1-1 draw against



Kagera Sugar players train in Bukoba recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR

Kagera Sugar extended the former's winless run to nine games stretching back to last year.

Worryingly for Mtibwa Sugar fans, their team faces many problems.

Mainly the defensive line is in crisis, they are struggling to find the back of the net, as they have only managed 10 goals so far. So, it is hard to expect much from the team.

The road ahead is not easy, with five away games against JKT Tanzania, Prisons, Namungo FC, Dodoma Jiji FC, and Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC still to come, following a demoralising 5-0 defeat to Simba in recent days.

The newly-promoted Ihefu FC took a place at Tanzania's top flight following the relegation of Mbao FC, Alliance FC, Ndanda FC and Lipuli FC.

Ihefu FC did it the hard way by overcoming Mbao FC in the relegation/promotion play offs.

It will be a big ask for Ihefu FC to stay up at this point but fans would be crazy to rule the club out.

At this point in time, all of Ihefu FC's remaining opponents have something to play for, which only makes the task of surviving much more difficult.

Kagera Sugar's transfer business in 2020/21 offered plenty of excitement that this could be a special season for the Bukoba club.

However, nobody expected a desperate season of struggle and a real possibility of relegation. They lie in

the relegation play off place after a miserable campaign, two points off safety. Kagera Sugar have home matches against Ihefu FC, Prisons, and Ruvu Shooting coming up, giving them the chance to gain points and rise to safety.

They have positive momentum since Francis Baraza took over as head coach with three away draws.

The sprint for safety is on in what is set to be a frantic finish at the bottom.

It will be very exciting to see how everything will fold at the end. Most likely the battle for survival will go down to the wire.

Mwadui FC's relegation is inevitable but who joins them is anyone's guess.

PM urges sports ministry to develop sound plans to improve sports

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

RECENTLY, the Prime Minister urged Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports to come up with effective strategies to improve sports and in his remarks, the much-esteemed leader laid particular emphasis on the need to bolster the technical aspect of domestic sports where he feels that a lot of leg-work still needs to be done.

Indeed, if, Dear Reader, you are a devoted aficionado of sports, you would have to have been crumpled up underneath a super-sized boulder not to have noticed for some time that as a country, we are infuriatingly lacking in admirable technical competency where quintessence in sports is concerned.

For instance, for quite some time now, we have witnessed African tacticians flock to our shores to ply their trade here from the DRC, Burundi, neighboring Kenya and even from further afield such as Zambia and South Africa.

However, this influx of African coaching talent gives rise to a pertinent question of great significance: why, then, aren't our own Tanzanian football stewards in such high demand on the continent like their fellow African brethren?

In light of this, one can then readily appreciate the sagacity of the Prime Minister's remarks and in the interests of the ascension of our country as a redoubtable sporting colossus, it is hoped that the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports will take these insightful remarks to heart and then, hopefully, act speedily upon them.

Let us now lay that matter to rest and continue to sally forth. A few weeks ago in this space, I opined at length about the importance of



Dar es Salaam cricket players take part in a recent Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Development League's encounter, which took place in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

reviving sports like domestic handball and hockey, which, sadly, have been disappointingly allowed to dangerously descend into stagnation in this country.

Well, it appears that the Mwanza Regional Handball Association (MWAHA) have been thinking along exactly those same lines, which is pleasing to note.

Indeed, born out of their acute concern that handball has almost totally dropped off the radar in their region during the last three decades, the MWAHA is planning to organize a unique event that is aimed at reviving the flagging fortunes of handball in not just Mwanza region but other Lake Zone areas as well.

This is unimpeachably commendable. In fact, one would hope that other regions country-wide can borrow a leaf or two out of Mwanza's book so as to quicken the ascent of domestic handball out of the doldrums.

Finally, this writer would like to encourage his fellow sports scribes and broadcasters to reach for the firmament

in their career aspirations.

Naturally, in this regard, it helps immensely to draw inspiration from the likes of premier African journalists who have been bold and valorous enough to not only grace the newsrooms of the globe's foremost news and sports media but also hold their own quite comfortably with their peers from the rest of the world too and do so with distinction.

These pre-eminent African sports and news journalists who are leaving a global imprint as journalists par excellence include the likes of Nigerian sports writer Colin Udoh, who writes for leading sports brand ESPN and who could forget our very own Salum Kikeke, who is a respected current affairs broadcaster at the internationally renowned BBC journalist.

Thus, despite the grim nature of our times, there is still the intoxicating hope ahead of greater things to come but only if we are earnestly prepared to dedicate without restraints to the weighty task at hand.

UEFA chief's quiet rage ahead of 'fight to the end'

MANCHESTER, England

THERE was an evident anger bristling inside UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin as he tried to deal with the aftermath of Sunday's shock breakaway Super League split by 12 of Europe's top clubs.

The always cold stare of the Slovenian had an added element of rage and his body language indicated a man ready to wage the war of attrition that awaits European football.

But despite all the signals to the contrary, the lawyer from Ljubljana insisted there was "nothing personal" for him about the bitter row. Then he paused for a moment, jaw slightly clenched.

"Except for maybe Agnelli."

Italian Andrea Agnelli, president of Juventus and until Sunday head of the European Club Association, has been at the centre of the intrigue which led up to Sunday's shock breakaway announcement.

Agnelli was not just an ally for Ceferin in the always murky world of football politics -- they were such close friends that the 45-year-old, a member of the dynastic Northern Italian family of industrialists, asked the Slovenian lawyer to be godfather to his daughter -- a request which was accepted.

The relationship between the two was so close that some in the European game wondered if it was entirely healthy that the head of the governing body was so pally with the head of the clubs who frequently push for greater influence with Ceferin's organisation.

The UEFA president had laughed off such opinions and indeed when he was re-elected to his position in 2019 he heralded

their connection as a guarantee against a club breakaway ever occurring.

At that congress, Ceferin boldly declared that there would be no Super League while the pair were in their respective positions. "It's not a promise, it's a fact," he said.

So it was not surprising that when rumours began to emerge at the weekend that Europe's big clubs may be about to jump ship from UEFA and start their own private league, Ceferin called up his old pal.

"He told me on Saturday, don't worry, these are just rumours. He said he would call me in one hour and then switched off his phone," Ceferin told reporters.

They haven't spoken since. "Agnelli is the biggest disappointment of all. I do not want to be too personal but have never seen a person who would lie so many times and so persistently as he did." Agnelli did not respond to a request for comment on Ceferin's words.

Betrayal was a theme Ceferin was to return to frequently and there appeared something cathartic in his denunciation of the 12 clubs that he called "the dirty dozen".

"We might be naive in not knowing we have snakes close to us," he added. "Now we do."

"Greediness is so strong. All the human values evaporate," he said, reflecting on the clubs who had supported his reforms of the Champions League only to walk away hours before they were due to be passed.

"I have seen many things in my life. I was a criminal lawyer. I have never seen people like that," he said, "It is hard to believe the level of immorality of some people."

REUTER

Perez: UCL won't kick out Super League teams

MADRID

FLORENTINO Perez has said he's "completely sure" Real Madrid and other Super League participants won't be thrown out of this season's Champions League over their role in the proposed breakaway group -- and blasted the current competition's format, saying it's "only attractive from the quarterfinals" and clubs "will all die" without major reform.

Madrid president Perez -- one of the driving forces behind the Super League project, who has been named as its chairman -- is the first senior executive involved in the plan to speak publicly since Sunday's announcement.

"The Champions League is attractive from the quarterfinals, that's all," he told late-night Spanish talk show *El Chiringuito*. "We play against small teams that aren't attractive. Young people prefer to entertain themselves with other things. But if we do it all season, five games on Tuesday, five on Wednesday, that would be unstoppable."

"What would bring in money is the 15 clubs playing each other every week. That's the greatest show in the world, there's nothing like it," he added. "A Real Madrid-Manchester [United] or a Barcelona-Milan is more attractive than Manchester [United] against a small club."

"What does the world demand? We have fans in Singapore, in China, all around the world, you see that on social media, the followers they have. That's what brings in money."

12 clubs -- AC Milan, Arsenal, Atletico Madrid, Chelsea, Barcelona, Internazionale, Juventus, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Real Madrid and Tottenham Hotspur -- have joined the ESL as founding members.

The breakaway competition, intended as a replacement for UEFA's Champions League -- which announced its own plans for reform on Monday -- has said that three more clubs are expected to join, while another five would qualify based on performance.

"Today, with the income from the Champions League as it is, we'll die," Perez said, stressing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. "Less audience, less money. We'll all die, the big clubs, the medium-size clubs, the small clubs. They say the new Champions League format will come in by 2024, we'll be dead by then."

Perez is the Super League's first chairman, while Andrea Agnelli of Juventus and Joel Glazer of Manchester United have been named as vice chairmen.

The project has met vociferous criticism from football's governing bodies, fans and other high-profile clubs who are not involved.

La Liga called the ESL a "selfish, egotistical proposal designed to further enrich the already super rich" in a statement on Monday.

Sevilla -- currently in fourth place in La Liga behind the three ESL backers Atletico, Real and Barca -- expressed their "complete rejection of a tournament based exclusively on economic parameters."

Perez, 74, who was reelected without opposition as Real Madrid president for another four-year term earlier this month, also rejected the suggestion that the club could be thrown out of this season's Champions League.

Madrid are due to face Chelsea in the first leg of their semifinal on Tuesday, April 27, before the return leg on Wednesday, May 5.

"They won't throw Madrid out of the Champions League, for sure," Perez said. "Not Madrid or [Manchester] City or anyone. I'm completely sure. Or La Liga either."

Jesper Moller, the Danish member of UEFA's executive committee, said on Monday that he expected Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester City to be removed from the competition.

Perez also insisted that players "can be completely calm" about being banned from participating in UEFA and FIFA international tournaments such as the World Cup, "because that won't happen."

(Agencies)

All or Nothing: Mourinho's Spurs tenure ends in disappointment

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

WHILE their relationship ended abruptly on Monday with news of his firing, the truth is that Tottenham's alliance with Jose Mourinho was a transactional relationship from day one.

Spurs are run on a day-to-day basis by chairman Daniel Levy, one of the shrewdest and sharpest administrators in football. Mourinho may have fooled some by reviving his Instagram account and generally employing softer rhetoric in press conferences, but he remains the same combative and confrontational figure he has always been.

These two men were consequently on a collision course from the moment they shook hands at Mourinho's unveiling in November 2019, though that's not to say it didn't make a degree of sense. Spurs needed a manager with the stature and personality to escape from Mauricio Pochettino's shadow, someone with a track record of doing the only thing Pochettino had failed to achieve during his five-and-a-half years in charge: win trophies. For his part, Mourinho needed a club already positioned within touching distance of major honours to rebuild his reputation, specifically to contest the charge that the game's elite had left him behind as the curmudgeonly champion of a bygone era.

Levy is parsimonious in his approach, a methodology reinforced by having a £1 billion stadium to pay for. He prefers to buy young players who either develop or possess a resale value. Mourinho's management requires ruthless big spending on finished products, his authority established through the clinical assembly of talented individuals whom he expects to possess the mental fortitude to focus solely on the relentless pursuit of glory.

Tottenham's stunning stadium is evidence Levy also wants the best, and sources claim he has admired Mourinho from afar for years, but he is -- and always will be -- Mourinho's philosophical opposite. The question was always whether this unlikely marriage could deliver short-term success before the inevitable, and expensive, divorce.

Caught in the middle was a squad moulded perhaps irreversibly in Pochettino's image, one that became more than the sum of its parts through a strong collective bond with its manager. Mourinho sought to stiffen their resolve, as evidenced in the Amazon documentary for which the 58-year-old became a bonafide star. He was



Mourinho wasn't universally accepted by Spurs fans or players, but he was brought in to win trophies and departs six days before his side faced Man City with the Carabao Cup up for grabs. (Agencies)

the literal box office material his fans always describe him as -- everywhere except on the pitch.

After Pochettino's more inclusive and empathic style, some "tough love" was perhaps what this group needed to take that final stride to silverware. Before Mourinho, Spurs had been Champions League runners-up and also-rans in the Premier League title race, yet supremely consistent throughout. They were generally accepted to be excelling beyond expectations, playing a brand of football envied by many in the game.

Mourinho claimed that his 11-month hiatus from management, after being sacked from Manchester United in December 2018, had changed him, gaining different perspectives while working in the media and recognising the game had evolved. Yet it wasn't long before Mourinho began to publicly criticise players making individual mistakes. Defensive errors undermined performances, and a lengthy injury list left the 2019-20 season looking likely to end in disappointment.

Mourinho summed up his mood perfectly after losing the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie to RB Leipzig in February of 2020.

"If I could move immediately to the first of July, I would," he said.

The pandemic offered an unexpected chance to reset. Spurs were at the forefront of football's spirited attempt to support the NHS and local institutions with, Mourinho, to his credit, personally engaging throughout. Arguably no club benefited more from the break in terms of recovering injured players and a strong finish followed -- only Manchester City and Manchester United collected more points (both 21) during Project Restart than Tottenham's 18 -- to end in sixth place and qualify for the Europa League.

Column: Only thing 'Super' about new league is the ca\$h

By JIM LITKE

AFTER decades of trying and throwing enough cash at the problem to fund a space program, Americans still stink at soccer. But nobody plays smash-and-grab better than we do.

So it's hardly coincidence that plans for a 20-team European Super League, a discussion that went nowhere for years, were finally made public now that a growing number of U.S. owners hold the reins to some of the most legendary clubs over there. Never mind that the proposal would hollow out Europe's domestic leagues, destroy fan loyalties generations in the making, or drive a stake through the heart of the game's enduring myth -- that any team can rise or fall based solely on merit.

The guys behind the Super League are betting only suckers still care about that stuff. "By bringing together the best clubs and best players in the world," the group said in a statement Sunday, "the Super League will deliver excitement and drama never before seen in football."

Please.

This scheme is not about staging grand competitions -- soccer already provides those in abundance -- it's a cash grab. It's about cost-certainty, sharing anticipated sky-high TV revenue, and essentially being guaranteed to turn a profit.

It would adopt the "closed-league" model that governs and enriches all the major pro sports in North America, including Major League Soccer; that is, once you're in the club, no matter how lousy your team might be in any given

the odd word of encouragement.

On the pitch, Tottenham's style of football became regressive. A team built on attacking principles seemed caught in an existential battle with itself, fighting instincts to go forward because of the conservative principles of their manager. They quickly became a side seemingly benefiting from the ongoing absence of supporters. There was nobody in the ground to provide the irate soundtrack while watching their team lack ambition at home. After all, Spurs' motto is "To Dare is to Do," not "To Dare is to Defend."

Kane's future also became the subject of mounting speculation. Sources have told ESPN that while the England captain would love nothing more than to win silverware with Spurs, there is a sense his ambition to win the game's biggest prizes may lead him to seek a move.

Spurs had won one of their past six matches prior to Monday's announcement, but the timing of Mourinho's departure is a surprise in the context that it comes six days before an EFL Cup Final against Manchester City. The man brought in to win trophies was sacked in the week he could deliver one. Why not give the man who has won 12 out of 15 major finals in his career across Europe the chance to mastermind another win over Pep Guardiola?

ESPN reported on February 19 that Levy wanted to wait until the end of the season before deciding Mourinho's fate, mindful of the issues within the squad, but chiefly so he knew which European competition Spurs were playing in. With the announcement of Tottenham's involvement in the European Super League, perhaps he has his answer. It would certainly make the pay-off, worth around £20m according to sources, much more palatable for a club that took out a Bank of England loan last year to cover its running costs during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mourinho was sacked less than 12 hours after the Super League's inception was confirmed in a statement by the 12 clubs involved. It's tempting to say he had served his purpose, maintaining the club's wider profile as they sought a seat at Europe's new top table. Spurs deny Mourinho's departure had anything to do with the Super League and that in fact it was purely a results-based decision, which brings us back to the starting point, that Mourinho's appointment was supposed to be about silverware. Amazon's documentary was aptly titled "All or Nothing."

In the end, it was nothing, and that is a big disappointment for all concerned.

hold major stakes in one-fifth of the 60 teams playing top-flight soccer in the United Kingdom, Italy and France, according to data from KPMG Football Benchmark.

The reason for the accelerating U.S. involvement is simple: NFL, NBA, MLB and even NHL and MLS teams are comparatively very expensive already and boast boom-time valuations.

The Super League is attractive precisely because owners of those teams will get in at the ground floor of what looks like a very lucrative skyscraper. According to the group's announcement, founding clubs will divide a \$4 billion-plus (about 3.5 billion euros) startup fund -- roughly \$400 million per team -- backed by debt-financing from JP Morgan Chase.

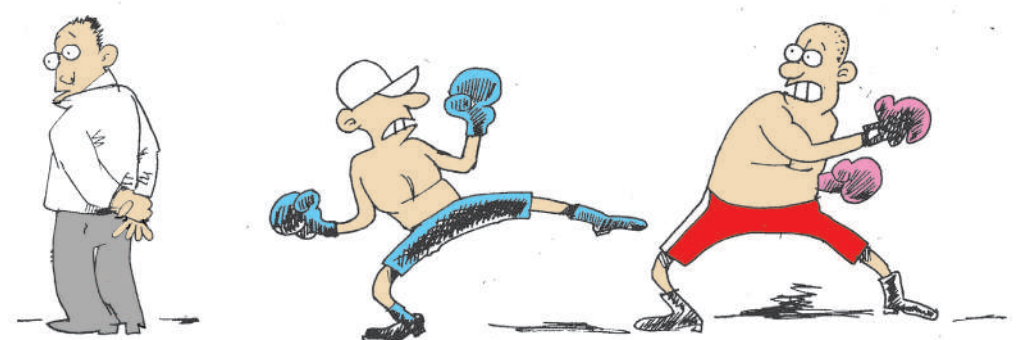
There's no need, however, for fans of the beautiful game to start hyperventilating yet. Right now, despite plans to start as early as this summer, the Super League is no more than a mission state-

ment.

It's still trying to lure three more permanent members into signing up, and their first-choice members -- Paris St. Germain of France's Ligue 1, as well Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund of Germany's Bundesliga -- have distanced themselves from the proposal. The Super League also hasn't provided any details on how it would select a rotating cast of five teams annually to fill out the 20-team enterprise.

Just as menacingly, fans across the continent and the game's European establishment have already begun pushing back. Both sides have lawyered up as threats are being volleyed back and forth. Aleksander Ceferin, the president of European soccer's governing body, UEFA, likened the proposal to "spitting in football fans' faces" and with backing from FIFA, soccer's international governing body, warned that players on Super League teams might be barred from the World Cup.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

All or Nothing: Mourinho's Spurs tenure ends in disappointment

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania's wheelchair tennis players showcase their skills at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts recently.

Wheelchair tennis players shift focus to drills

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

WHEELCHAIR Tanzania Tennis (WTT)'s leadership has said although this year's edition of Kenya Open championship has been postponed due to surging third wave of COVID-19, Tanzania's players will continue training.

Riziki Salum, WTT secretary general who also doubles as head coach of the national wheelchair tennis team, said they received information from the showpiece's organizers that the event which was slated for the end of next month has been postponed due to the third wave of coronavirus in Kenya.

The three-day tournament was slated for May 26-28 in Nairobi, Tanzania's contingent of six boys, four girls and two officials was to depart three days before the showdown's start.

He said the information did not indicate when the event will take place, therefore, in an effort to avoid inactivity which can affect players' form and fitness, the association has directed that all the players should continue with preparations at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts.

He noted: "We recently received information from the organizers of Kenya Open which was slated for the end of next month, it has been postponed to a date to be announced later, so we have agreed that all our players continue with their preparations."

"The preparations will keep our players fit and ready for the new dates of the event," he said.

Kenya Open is the biggest event on Kenya tennis calendar and Tanzania is geared to perform well at this year's edition.

"The players will continue attending non residential training at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) as it has been the case in the previous tournaments, our target is to perform better than the previous edition," he said.

He, however, appealed to well-wishers to help the association get 4.6m/- which will be used for meeting transport costs, accommodation and other expenses.

The Kenya Open always attracts many players from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and the hosts Kenya.

Tanzania's wheelchair tennis team have in the past competed at BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Turkey and Italy.

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup is the International Tennis Federation (ITF) flagship showpiece for wheelchair tennis.

Teams compete at the event through qualification at zonal level.



The players will continue attending non residential training at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) as it has been the case in the previous tournaments, our target is to perform better than the previous edition

Athletes enter camp for Olympic qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ALL local athletes selected for the camp to prepare for Tokyo Olympics' qualifying events are expected in camp this week, Athletics Tanzania (AT) disclosed yesterday.

John Bayo, AT vice-president, said currently 11 athletes are camping at Arusha College of Forestry, Wildlife and Tourism (Olmotonyi) under coach, Thomas John.

The AT official noted that three athletes and coach, Antony Mwingereza, have not joined camp.

He mentioned the athletes in camp as Alphonse Simbu, Failuna Matanga, Gabriel Geay, Agustino Sulle, Joseph Panga, Josephat Joshua, Faraja Damas, Michael Panga Kishiba, Angelina Tsere, Catherine Langa and Emmanuel Giniki.

"We expect the three athletes and coach to enter camp this week, those who have not joined the camp are committed to their work assignments as most of them are service men, but discussions are underway so that they can join the camp as soon as possible," he said.

The Tokyo Olympics are slated for July 23 to August 8 and so far Simbu and Failuna have qualified for the Olympics.

Bayo had on Monday disclosed that AT has secured events in Europe which will be used as qualifying events for Tokyo Olympics.

He said the events will be held in Denmark, Italy, and Australia and AT plans to send two athletes (male and female) to each of the events.

Bayo, however, could not issue dates for the four events, budget and other particulars, saying they are waiting for a government nod.

He noted: "We wrote the government for their financial and material support, so we are waiting for their response."

"Once the response is out we will let the public know all the particulars of the trips," he said.

The camp runs up to the mid of July when the athletes who will qualify will enter Tanzania Olympics Committee (TOC)-organized camp.

Initially, AT and coaches wanted to have more than 30 athletes in the camp, but Bayo said due to financial difficulties the association is facing they have settled for 14 athletes he said have potential to qualify for Tokyo Olympics.

"We wanted to have more athletes in camp but due to financial difficulties we are facing, we thought it wise to have only athletes who have potential to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics," he said.

Simba SC now eyes 2020/21 VPL top spot



Simba SC players participate in training in Kagera early this week to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC is expected to play Kagera Sugar in Vodacom Premier League clash today at the Kaitaba Stadium in Bukoba in the quest for the league title.

Heading to this match Simba SC head coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa has maintained his players are determined and motivated to unseat rivals Yanga from the top of the league table.

The Msimbazi Street giants are two points away from going level with Yanga after the former won 1-0 against Mwadui FC at CCM Kambarage Stadium in Shinyanga on Sunday.

Simba forward, John Bocco, scored the all-important goal on the 66th minute which pushed their tally of points to 52, two fewer than Yanga who have registered 54 points, but the former have three matches in hand.

The French tactician pointed out they will leave no stone unturned in their quest to reclaim the top spot and maintained his players are more than determined to do the job as quickly as they can.

"If we continue to win away matches, the first position will surely be on our hand," Da Rosa said.

He stated: "We are so far satisfied, we have a long way to go to Bukoba for the next match and make sure we secure three important points."

He pointed out: "The players are very determined and motivated and I am completely sure they can reach our target soon."

Simba's defender Paschal Wawa said nothing will stop them from winning a fourth successive league title because of the quality of players they have in their squad this campaign.

"I think we are still the best team in the league because we have quality players and we thank God because, despite the stiff competition and difficulties in winning matches, we have still managed to get better results for our side," Wawa said.

"I really believe the chance to defend our title is clear and no one can stop it at the moment due to fact that we have the best level in the competition," he disclosed.

He noted: "The main focus right now is to make sure that we do not drop points so that we can achieve our targets regardless of who is leading the league at the moment."

Yanga have a chance to move five points ahead of Simba as they were, on Tuesday, expected to take on relegation-threatened Gwambina FC.

Simba return to action today as they play away against Kagera Sugar.

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
 12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
 13:30 Kali Za Wana
 14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
 14:30 Bongo Hits
 15:00 Funguka
 15:30 Nirvana (r)
 16:00 Skonga (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)
 21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
 Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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

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