



National Pg 2 Supervision of warehouse receipt system



National Pg 3 PSSSF, Azania Bank seal pact



National Pg 4 Stability and progress in economy



Over 70,000 civil servants in new posts by yesterday

■300bn/- to cover new costs, 23.7bn/- for arrears

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government had promoted at least 70,439 public servants by yesterday morning and set aside 300bn/- more cash for their new salaries starting this month. Mohammed Mchengwa, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good

Governance), said yesterday that similarly, the Treasury has set aside 23.7bn/- for payment of arrears to 11,983 public servants up to the end of June.

Officiating at the opening of a two day training for heads of department and human resource officers from various public agencies that the government is



President Samia Suluhu Hassan in a telephone conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping from Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

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Minister: LNG project pact likely by October

By Guardian Reporter, Lindi

NEGOTIATIONS for the implementation of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project will be finalised in the next four months after which construction of the plant would immediately start.

Energy Minister Dr Medard Kalemani disclosed this here over the weekend at a stakeholders' mobilisation meeting on the LNG project, where he said the negotiation team gave the project investors six months for the completion of discussions and four months are on hand.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan said the plant should be constructed speedily and we have mobilised ourselves to implement her directive. The negotiations are geared to having the project implemented," he declared.

More than 56bn/- has been allocated for the project, he said, urging residents of Lindi and neighbouring regions to set up plans to grab opportunities likely to



These huge projects should be beneficial to the government, the people and investors, hence we were going through our investment procedures so as all these parts benefit from the project

be generated by the project.

He allayed fears on the project held by a cross section of members of the public, saying that factors for the project's delay had now been solved and no cause exists for further delay.

"These huge projects should be beneficial to the government, the people and investors, hence we were going through our investment procedures so as all these parts benefit from the project," he stated.

Meanwhile, the minister has instructed the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) management and stakeholders to immediately start marking the boundaries of the project site.

The project contractor must also use building materials produced in the country when the work starts, to enhance local industries' market outlets.

The government will continue distributing natural gas to factories and residential areas in order to increase customers, as so far over 50 factories had started using natural gas, the minister noted, urging motorists especially those with public institutions to shift to ordering vehicles that can use natural gas, to reduce their running costs.

TPDC managing director Dr James Mataragio said the project will have many benefits to Tanzanians as about 15,000 people will be employed during the construction stage and 5,000 find jobs when the project is operational.

HESLB, NSSF dues long missing: We're unaware - adverts agency

By Guardian Reporter

SEVERAL former and serving employees of advertising agency Aggrey & Clifford have expressed their grievances towards the company, complaining that they have been deprived of their rights upon deciding to quit.

They have told The Guardian exclusively that the employer has not submitted their contributions to the Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) for five years running, making them suffer serious inconveniences.

When contacted for comment on the complaints, chief executive officer Rashid Tenga said that he was not aware of the issue, vowing to "work on it more to find out if the claims are true or not."

The employees say the company has been deducting HESLB and NSSF contributions from their salaries since 2016 - when the government issued a directive on the deduction of 15 percent of salaries of all university graduates, owed to the board.

However, four years later the employees found out from HESLB balance statements that the funds were never sent although the deductions were made at every month-end.

Employees similarly complained that the company has not been sending their monthly contributions to NSSF. Those with NSSF membership said that when they were laid off last year and went to NSSF to collect their dues, their statements showed that the company had not submitted their contributions

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Govt mulls cross-border outposts for grain sales

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

THE government has embarked on the establishing of markets outside Tanzania's borders to sell stockpiles of surplus crops aimed at helping farmers get good prices for their produce.

Agriculture Minister, Prof Adolf Mkenda made this announcement when handing over to farmers farming equipment valued at 950m/-, purchased with a loan from the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).

The minister said President Samia Suluhu Hassan had directed the ministry to start opening crop markets outside the country's borders, as an aspect of proper

utilisation of the East African market integration protocols.

To start with, the president concluded agreements in Nairobi on opening up the country for Tanzania's food crops, in the trip where the president was accompanied by Tanzanian traders and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The ministry plans to meet with officials in South Sudan with intent to sell cereals like rice and maize in that country, he elaborated, noting that the plan also targets Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Congo DRC.

At present Tanzania has a surplus of more than two million tonnes of food crops in stores across the

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Over 70,000 civil servants in new posts by yesterday

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committed to improving workers' welfare in the future

After President Samia Suluhu Hassan authorized promotions of public servants, the ministry has set aside money to pay the new salaries and arrears effective this month, he said.

He termed the salary changes and promotions a historic move to be effected in all regions, urging the gathered officials to continue with the good work they are doing "as it is clearly seen in the current and past governments."

He said there are several challenges facing public servants as some fail to abide by the law, policies and regulations governing conduct in the public service. The relevant guidelines if not well not implemented cause a public uproar, he stated.

"When workers are not at peace and complain, their performance and work output dwindles and the government's decision to reduce Pay as You Earn (PAYE) is intended to be a relief," the minister asserted.

He appealed to higher officials in the public service against the mistreatment of retirees, noting that there are so many complaints that whenever they go in government offices to follow up on their benefits, they are met

with abusive languages and lack of cooperation.

All retirees' social security benefits must be remitted on time and public servants have to change their attitude on attending the elderly as they have greatly contributed in building the nation, the minister implored.

Dr Festo Dugange, the deputy minister in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG), said the president's leadership is result oriented, urging heads of public agencies and departments to do their best at work.

"I urge all of you to be role models in places of work and the people you lead in the public service," he emphasised, underlining that it is important to meet the set out government targets.

Human resources is a cross cutting issue and essential in national development, he stated, elaborating that the ministry figures out that around 70 percent of public servants are committed to deliver in day to day service rendering.

Public servants must solve challenges facing people and avoid generating conflicts of interest at work places after the president authorized their promotions, he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Batilda Sulha Buriari as Tabora regional commissioner at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

Expenditure on nutrition: Tanzania trails Rwanda

■ NGO highlights funding gap with World Bank recommendations

By Henry Mwangonde

A CIVIL society report has praised Tanzania a model in the region, a distant second behind Rwanda, spending 4.8 per cent of the total budget in expenditure related to child nutrition.

Still, the NGO, the Eastern and Southern Africa Nutrition Civil Society Network (ESA CSN), says in its report that the country was nowhere near \$8.5 expenditure per under-five child as recommended by the World Bank, which analysts say it can't be translated into actual expenditure.

These contentions are laid out in the new report, the East and Southern Africa Regional Nutritional Budget Analysis for 2020, released over the weekend by the NGO, showing that out of eight countries, Tanzania at 4.8percent comes well behind Rwanda at 11percent.

They are the only countries in the region that managed to spend above three percent of

their total budgets in that sphere, but translated into actual funds, Tanzania spends \$0.50 per child.

The snag comes from the fact that this expenditure is around 0.6percent of the World Bank's recommended expenditure levels of \$ 8.5 per child, a sum that unlikely to be the case anywhere in Africa, analysts noted.

The budgetary allocation for nutrition-related expenditure in the 2015/16 budget stood at 4.8percent of the total estimates, representing a 19percent increase from 2014/15 fiscal year allocation, the report said.

Actual expenditure for under-five nutrition grew by a more modest five percent overall for the period, mostly as a result of a 12-percent increase in central government spending on nutrition.

The report was presented before the parliamentary committee on social services, with recommendations like addressing the adequacy of budgets for nutrition as well as ensuring

better budget management and efficiency among implementing agencies. It further noted that there is a need to improve equity in nutrition allocations in the overall budget and in local government authorities.

Recommendations made include shifting incentives for nutrition expenditures to central government (Treasury and PO-RALG), strengthening the nutrition-enabling environment at local government level and improving nutrition sensitivity at the community level, where civil society organizations have a major role to play.

The report similarly suggested the need to establish a financing mechanism for nutrition given the low absolute expenditure on under-fives nutrition despite a relatively high budgetary allocation level.

One of its recommendations focused on improving overall financial management as to better monitor nutrition spending, along with routinely collect and collate

nutritional data from responsible entities," the report reads in part.

The report asks the government to put to effect recent PO-RALG guidelines on reporting on nutrition allocations and expenditures by local governments, linked with the development partners.

Dr Tumaini Mikindo, the managing director for Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) said the study was aimed at identifying gaps in financing nutrition, to set out feasible remedial measures. The study conducted a nutritional level survey of Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

National Assembly Speaker Job Ndujai said at the ceremony that of the report that was a welcome gesture since there is an improvement in nutrition funding compared to previous years.

"This is far better because in the past the situation was bad though we need to do more to push for more funding," he added.

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country, with possibility that with the new harvest season in the offing, the level of stockpiling shall compel the farmers to offload their grain at throw away prices in the markets.

This is part of efforts by the government, working with agriculture stakeholders, to create an enabling environment in crop production, he stated.

Mbarali District Commissioner Reuben Mfune, speaking on behalf of the residents, earlier said that unreliable markets for farmers' crops has cut earnings for farmers, unable to recover their costs, thus lack the capital for inputs in the coming season.

The DC said that availability of reliable markets is yearned

for by farmers to enable them to procure better farming equipment, farm inputs and meet costs of transporting harvests to the markets.

For his part, TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine said the bank was empowering farmers to conduct their activities profitably by providing loans for purchase of quality farm inputs.

During the last four years TADB provided loans valued at 32bn/- to farmers in the Southern Highlands regions, he stated.

Nguvu Moja Primary Cooperative Society chairman Hamza Tamimu thanked TADB for supporting the purchase of the tractors, underlining that the machinery would stimulate paddy farming in the district.



Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani launches a rural electrification project at Namtumbuka village in Mtwara Region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RC directs cooperative, council officials to supervise warehouse receipt system

RUVUMA regional commissioner Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge has instructed cooperatives officials and stakeholders to closely supervise local council's revenues from crops sold via the warehouse receipt system to safeguard government revenue.

RC Ibuge issued the instructions as he was addressing Songea District Councillors meeting that discussed queries raised by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Report for FY 2019/2020.

He said income for both

the government and farmers was being lost due to poor supervision and follow up in some officials as the crops are supposed to be sold via the warehouse receipt system.

He directed Councillors and officials to keenly supervise the purchase of crops via the warehouse receipt system for the benefit of both farmers and the government.

"The warehouse receipt system is contained I Section 34(i) of the 2020 CCM Election Manifesto which also cites the types to be sold via the system," he added.

He also registered his displeasure by some crops middlemen in rural areas who buy sim-sim at 500/- a kilo while through the warehouse system the

warehouse receipt system calls on soya, sim-sim and pigeon peas farmers to sell the crops to Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS).

However, some farmers have cited some challenges they face by the system as including travelling long distances at high transport cost to take their crops to the cooperative auctions being held once a week.

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from as long ago as 2016.

They were therefore not eligible for the payments they were looking for, they stated, similarly complaining that the company's management has been avoiding them.

The management was not responding to calls or emails regarding the matter despite the

fact that it is still doing business, they pointed out.

The former employees called on the relevant government authorities to intervene and hold their former employer accountable to ensure that their arrears are paid in full and as soon as possible.

Only in this manner will they avoid further undue suffering, they added.

Amana management urged to get set for war on third wave of Covid

By Correspondent James Kndoya

CHIEF Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Aifelo Sicalwe yesterday urged the Amana Regional Referral Hospital management and health workers to get prepared to fight against the third wave of the COVID-19.

Dr Sicalwe said that yesterday after a tour at the hospital premises to inspect the implementation of the government directives about preparation and readiness of health workers in fighting against the epidemic disease including the pandemic.

He said as health workers, they must ensure that they are well prepared especially at this time the neighbouring countries have been attacked with the third wave of the pandemic.

"As a country, we need to get prepared and be ready because we are bordered by a country already attacked by the third wave and we cannot avoid people

interaction at the country's borders associated with economic and business," he said.

Dr Sicalwe also inspected hospital infrastructure and implementation of the infection, prevention and control.

He also directed the regional medical officers across the country to ensure all intervention procedures are met such as infection, prevention and control because it prevents them not only from the pandemic but also other epidemic diseases.

Dr Sicalwe also inspected the medical oxygen production machine that has capacity of producing 200 cylinders per day while the hospital has capacity of serving 150 people in need of oxygen at a time.

Dar es Salaam Regional Medical Officer Dr Rashid Mfaume said concerted efforts are in place in all hospitals in the city to ensure they control the third wave of the pandemic.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (R) bids NMB Bank Plc employees farewell in Dodoma city at the weekend shortly after the bank presented to him dividends to the government. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PSSSF, Azania Bank seal agreement to sell their properties in 10 regions

By Beatrice Philemon

PUBLIC Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) and Azania Bank yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to sell 192 affordable houses and 886 surveyed residential plots in ten regions.

Speaking shortly after sealing the pact in Dar es Salaam, PSSSF Director-General, Hosea Kashimba said the plots are located in Chanika-Buyuni, Kimbiji in Dar es Salaam, Ruvuma, Kagera, Iringa, Katavi, Morogoro, Singida, Mtwara, Lindi, and Rukwa regions.

"This is a new project designed to help all Tanzanians in different regions across the country in terms of public and private sectors, PSSSF's members and businessmen to own affordable houses, have modern housing and durable houses," he said, adding:

"As PSSSF we are very happy to introduce semi-finished houses for sale to the public so that Tanzanians can purchase houses at an affordable price and have modern houses."

According to Kashimba, so far PSSSF has 106 houses at Chinika-Buyuni area in Dar es Salaam, 25 houses at Usule area in Tabora, six houses at Mang'amba area in Mtwara, 46 houses at Ibadakuli in Shinyanga, 8 houses at Mawelewele in Iringa and one house at Lukobe area in Morogoro.

"This property has title deed and were cleared for the required infrastructure services such water, electricity, road, there also church and mosque," he said.

He called on Tanzanians in all areas where they are from the private and public sector, businessmen, and other people to come and purchase the house at an affordable price, the price

ranged between 36m/- to 61m/- depending on the size of the house and the houses has VAT inclusive.

Kashimba said so far PSSSF has been allocated 886 surveyed residential plots to help people purchase plots and build modern houses.

"During the implementation, PSSSF will work in partnership with Azania Bank to sell residential plots on loan," he said

The PSSSF boss said that 128 plots are in Ruvuma, 192 plots in Kagera, one in Tabora, four in Iringa, 50 in Katavi, one in Morogoro, 211 in Singida, 87 in Dar es Salaam, 94 in Rukwa, 70 in Lindi, and 30 in Mtwara.

Azania Bank Managing Director, Charles Itembe called on people willing to access loans for house construction to visit the bank so that can benefit from the sealed pact.

He said that the bank introduced mortgage loans for Tanzanians to help people construct a house or purchase a house through mortgage loans, the bank provides loans in accordance with their needs.

"We invite PSSSF's members and other people in all areas where they are across the country to visit our office to access loans, PSSSF has a lot of houses in different areas and people will get the best areas for their residential houses," he said.

He expressed thanks to PSSSF to introduce this project that in turn will help people to obtain affordable houses and stay as residents.

"This property has title deed and were cleared for the required infrastructure services such water, electricity, road, there also church and mosque."

By Guardian Reporter

Work hard and serve people well, Samia urges sworn in appointees

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called upon those appointed to government leadership positions to work harder in order to bring development to the people.

The President made the remarks after swearing in Amb. Batilda Salha Burian as Tabora Regional Commissioner and Zuwenia Omary Jiri as Sinyanga Region Administrative Secretary (RAS) at a short ceremony at Chamwino state House in Dodoma.

For his part, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged the two leaders to supervise services given by officials under their jurisdiction in accordance to the expectations of the people in their

respective regions. He further said they should ensure the officials in their areas supervise the financial resources to be used as intended.

The Minister of state in the President's Office (regional administration and Local Government) Umyy Mwalimu called the Tabora Regional Commissioner Amb. Batilda Buriani to oversee revenue collection in the region because, she said, there are some districts therein which do not perform well in revenue collection.

She added that apart from

revenue collection, the two should ensure the collected revenue is spent in social services delivery.

In regard to Shinyanga Region, she called on the RAS to supervise government expenditure.

Meanwhile, China expressed its commitment to open its borders for Tanzanian goods to facilitate trade between the two countries.

In a telephone interview with his counterpart, President Samia, the Chinese president Xi Jinping said the country will also continue to strengthen the cordial relations through diplomacy, cultural and

industrial growth.

The Chinese head of state took the opportunity to congratulate president Samia for ascending to the position of heading the country following the death of President John Magufuli.

Through the conversation, the Chinese president said his government will work with Tanzania on various sectors.

In her remarks congratulated the Communist Party of China (CPC) for celebrating 100 years since it was established promising to strengthen the relationship that exist between the two countries.

By Guardian Reporter

Mwinyi agrees to construction of a mega drug factory in Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has commended and welcomed the Medical Stores Department (MSD)'s intention to construct a mega drug factory in the Isles.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday when he met and held talks with director general of MSD Major General Saali Mhizze at the Zanzibar State House.

Dr Mwinyi said that the move will improve supply of medical products and thus help reduce the burden of importation of drugs.

"My government will provide closer support to ensure that the factory is constructed because once completed the factory will improve supply of affordable and quality pharmaceutical products in the country," he said.

Dr Mwinyi noted that as the accessibility of drugs and medical products in various countries globally has been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, investing in local production of the products will facilitate smooth provision of health services.

"The factory will help us to reduce dependency from foreign pharmaceutical products. Zanzibar has already set aside a number of investment areas/special economic zones and put all the required infrastructures," Dr Mwinyi said.

He said that Zanzibar will continue promoting and facilitating construction of more

factories to produce various products so as to grab market opportunities available in the East Africa Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

President Mwinyi further urged MSD to train government officials and equip them well and increase expertise in the areas of procurement, storage, distribution of medicines and medical devices.

Earlier, major general Mhizze said MSD intends to construct a best drug factory in the Isles which will be the first in EAC and even the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries.

He said that demand for pharmaceutical products in the country has increased especially during the Covid-19 pandemic situation where production of drugs globally has gone down.

Tanzanians wait for answers from questionable levies, charges, taxes

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

Finance and Planning Minister Dr Mwingulu Nchemba is expected to be in a hot seat today as Tanzanians wait for answers from the most questionable levies, charges and taxes that rose during the budget debate since he tabled the 2021/22, 36.33trillion/- fiscal year budget proposal in the National Assembly recently.

As parliamentarians expect to vote to endorse the budget, Dr Nchemba will have to come up with reasonable and convincing answers in relation to his proposed levies that have caught taxpayers' attention especially those affecting their daily lifestyle alongside those determining the stability and progress of the country's economy.

Among issues that brought a heated debate in the House yesterday that the Finance minister is supposed to clarify is the contract signed in 2018 between the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and a Swiss company, Societe Industrielle et Commerciale de Produits Alimentaires (SICPA) for supply, installation as well as supporting software and hardware for an Electronic Tax Stamp (ETS) system.

Parliamentarians are in a view that the contract should either be suspended or placed under the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and if the bureau does not have required technology to handle the vice effectively, the private sector can be invited to bid for the tender of the job and attract competitiveness that will lead to cheaper operational costs.

ETS replaced the hitherto paper based tax stamps initially attached to cigarettes, wines and spirits. The signing of the contract saw the company extending the service to all products subjected to excise duty including beers, sodas and other soft drinks in order to check counterfeiting and promote tax compliance.

However, there have been resisting arguments from some circles of the public including manufacturers. During the 2021/2022 budget debate yesterday, MPs were opposed to the contract between SICPA and TRA.

In her contributions on the proposed budget, Special Seats lawmakers, Halima Mdee said the government was not receiving reasonable revenue from the contracted firm, calling for a fresh

tendering process to have the new contractor or alternatively, choosing any public firm to perform similar exercise.

"Until now, records from the taxman show that about 245 manufacturers have already been given ETS machines but there is no success so far if you look at the figures before and after sealing of the contract," she said.

Mdee said that before the contract in 2018, TRA was collecting 237bn/- per year but today, only 246bn/- was being collected electronically with the difference of a mere 8bn/- which was still meagre.

Keneth Nolo, Bahi MP CCM advised the government to find an alternative way of handling the issue but doubted the notion that the government was losing much from the contract it entered.

Kisesa MP, Luhaga Mpina had earlier asked the minister to tell the House how much the SICPA was earning per year as he insisted that the contract was even killing business for suppliers of the said products. "We should be told when this contract will reach its end because the company is not even providing a dividend to the government," he said.

On the other hand, Dr Nchemba will have to bring with him a well studied mechanism that will guarantee taxpayers of their money that they will pay in levies and charges that shall be allocated to intended projects without leakages or misuse.

Dr Nchemba had proposed for the amendment of the Electronic and Postal Communication Act, CAP 306 with a view to imposing a levy of between 10/- and 10,000/- from each mobile money transaction of a sending and withdrawing where the government intends to collect a sum of 1.254trillion/-.

According to the minister, if the money is taxed to its full capacity, it will be allocated to financing projects for the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) construction and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA).

He will also need to tell the public how exactly the proposed levy on SIM cards will work. The proposed levy ranges between 10/- and 200/- per day per SIM card depending on the ability of the user to recharge the balance in an effort to increase revenue collection by 396.306billion/- during the fiscal year 2021/22.

Zanzibar gives land for East African Kiswahili commission headquarters

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ZANZIBAR, where it is believed the 'Lingua Franca' was born, now wants to indefinitely host the East African Kiswahili Commission and so far the government in the Isles has promised to provide land where the permanent headquarters for the Commission should be erected.

Zanzibar's Minister of State in the Office of the President in charge of Labour, Economy and Investment, Mudrik Ramadhan Soroga has further assured the Commission of maximum support from the government of Zanzibar, saying East African region must treat the Kiswahili language with more seriousness.

"The EAC should be lobbying for Kiswahili adoption as an official language of both the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN)," he said, adding that this would be a source of pride and prestige for the region.

The Minister also urged the EAC to fast-track the recruitment of staff to get the Commission up and running in executing its mandate, which is to promote Kiswahili as the lingua franca of the region.

Soroga was speaking during his official visit at the Kiswahili Commission's temporary headquarters currently operating on the island. The Minister was received there by the EAC

Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki.

The East African Legislative Assembly Speaker, Hon. Ngoga Martin, the East African Court of Justice President, Justice Nestor Kayobera, EACJ Principal Judge and Dr. James Jowi, the acting Executive Secretary of the Commission.

Also in attendance were EALA Members Hon. Dr. Abdullah Makame and Hon. Mnyaa Habib Mohamed, and the PS in the Ministry of Labour, Economy and Investment, Mr. Mussa Ali.

Dr Mathuki thanked the government of Zanzibar for the noble gesture while observing that proposed EAKC permanent headquarters would enable other EAC Organs and Institutions to operate more easily on the island nation.

The Secretary General said that development partners would be more interested in assisting the Commission if it had land for establishing a permanent headquarters.

Dr. Mathuki informed the Minister that the EAC Heads of State at their 21st Ordinary Meeting held on 27th February, 2021 had adopted Kiswahili and French to be official languages of the Community in addition to English, adding that EAKC was already working out modalities to implement the directive of the Summit in as far as Kiswahili was concerned.



Students from various Lake Victoria zone secondary Schools in a group discussion in Mwanza at the weekend during ICT training dubbed 'Code like a girl'. Vodacom Tanzania hosted the event under D Lab programme, chiefly to sensitise girl students in the country on the importance of studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt conducts due diligence to identify and register all people with disabilities

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is conducting due diligence to identify and register people with disabilities from village levels and link them with health centers countrywide according to one's needs.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Godwin Mollel told the Parliament here yesterday that the move aimed at connecting them to the health centres according to their medical needs.

Dr Mollel responded following

a question by Stella Ikupa Special Seats-CCM on what plans are on board to have pleasant arrangements in which people with disabilities can access free medical services pending the universal health coverage.

The Deputy Minister said they are conducting due diligence to identify and register persons with disabilities who qualify for the free medical access and link them with the health facilities countrywide for medical services when in need.

The government is conducting the registration process in

collaboration with the Persons with disabilities committees from village levels through upward.

Moreover, he said, through the vibrant municipal and district councils health programme, the government will keep on allocating financial resources according to needs and demands.

He gave an example of facilitating people with albinism with sun cream which is currently manufactured by Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMC).

"Sun cream is now among the medical products which will be

distributed by the medical stores department (MSD)" said Dr Mollel.

He added that the government has also issued guidelines on how infrastructures of health centers should adhere to the standards and consider the needs of the people with disabilities for improved service delivery.

Dr Mollel said achieving universal health coverage is an instrumental agenda to industrialize the economy because the population covered by primary health care will increase and hence be productive.



Tanzania Forest Service Agency retirees on a study tour of Kisarawe District's Pugu Kazimzumbwi natural forest at the weekend in the spirit of benefiting from - and promoting - domestic tourism. It was part of a "package" meant to bid them farewell. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'Zanzibar government has been receiving 20 per cent of the revenues generated from deep-sea fishing activities'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

ZANZIBAR government has been receiving 20 per cent of revenue generated from the deep sea fishing activities it was revealed yesterday in the National Assembly.

Abdallah Ulega, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries told parliamentarians yesterday when he was responding to a question asked by Angelina Malembeki Special Seats CCM who sought to know what was the share of Zanzibar in revenues generated from deep sea fishing.

He said the distribution of revenue from deep sea fishing is conducted in accordance with the

Deep Sea Fisheries Management Act No.5 of 2020 Section No. 79 which directs the distribution of revenue collected by the Deep Sea Fisheries Regulatory Authority.

Zanzibar revolutionary government receives 20 per cent while the government of the United Republic of Tanzania receives 30 percent and Marine Fisheries Regulatory Authority receives the rest 50 percent;

In the last five years 2017 to March 2021, Marine Fisheries Regulatory Authority The central government collected a total of US\$1.352, equivalent to 3.091,837,178billion/-," said Uleyga.

As a result of these collections the deputy minister said that

the Revolutionary government of Zanzibar as of March 2021 has received a dividend of US\$270,421.50 equivalent to 618,367,435.62/- in bringing a win-win situation between the two parts, Ulega said that the ministry and its counterpart the ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural resources and Livestock in Zanzibar have agreed to strengthen their partnership in some key areas that would trigger prosperity of the sector of the two parts of the country. He mentioned one of the areas that the two parts will work together is on research for deadly livestock diseases, production of best dairy cattle breeds and veterinary

services among others. "We are going to collaborate in establishing sustainable cattle feed farms, controlling importation of cattle products into the country especially processed milk and chicken beef, controlling Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and in offering special training related to the livestock sector," he said adding.

"We will also collaborate in educating the business community, transporters and stakeholders of the dairy industry between the mainland and islands. Educating officials at the borders to equip them with knowledge about laws and regulations of the livestock sector," he affirmed.

Cupping: TCM Characteristic Therapy Without Medicine

In addition to Chinese herbs, there are many other ways of TCM treatment developed in daily life, like Tuina, cupping and moxibustion. These external Chinese medicine therapies were often developed based on the daily life experience. For example, when there is a certain discomfort in the body, the person will press or knead some area of the body instinctively to relieve the discomfort. Gradually, Tuina therapy forms.

As to cupping therapy, it is one of the unique therapies of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), as famous as moxibustion and sand scraping. Cupping is a therapy of stimulating the acupoints on the body surface or the affected area by burning, suction, or other methods to discharge the air in the cup, which causes negative pressure and makes the cup adsorb to the skin.

From the perspective of modern medicine, the negative pressure effect by cupping on the skin and muscles can make the treatment site in a state of congestion and edema, increasing blood flow, repeating blood perfusion, and accelerating local and systemic blood circulation, which plays a role in promoting metabolism and strengthening immunization systems. TCM believes that cupping can promote qi and blood, warm the meridians, with functions of expelling wind, dampness and cold, activating blood and dispelling stasis, alleviating edema and relieving pain, etc. Cupping can apply to more than 100 kinds of diseases in various fields, including internal medicine, external medicine, gynecology, pediatrics, orthopedics and traumatology, dermatology, otolaryngology, etc., and even referring to the application of physical fitness, cosmetology and so on, which has become a simple and practical clinical therapy.

In order to know more about cupping, let's begin from the cupping tools.

Various cupping tools, chosen as required

There are many kinds of materials for cupping tools. In ancient times, horns, bamboo cups and pottery cups were commonly used. Cupping was first seen in the pre-Qin period. At that time, there was a method of grinding livestock horns (such as cow horns, ram horns, etc.) into a cup, which can be used for piercing the welling-abscess or flat-abscesses and sucking pus and blood to cure the disease like hemorrhoids or abscesses, also called the "horning" therapy. In Tang Dynasty, processed bamboo cups were used for cupping by boiling the bamboo tubes in water or medicine, and then sucking them onto the surgical site. Bamboo cups are easy to obtain and resist high temperature, but likely to leak air,

absorb weakly, and crack after drying, and the boiling method tends to scald the skin, so it had gradually gone out of use. Pottery cups made from pottery clay appeared in the Qing Dynasty, and the term "fire cupping", which is still in use today, was formally proposed. Compared with bamboo cups, pottery cups have stronger adsorption, but the material is fragile and easily broken. With the development of modern technology, it has gradually become obsolete.

Nowadays, transparent glass cups or squeeze/suction cups are often used. In terms of the color, the transparent cup body is more convenient to observe the local skin condition when cupping, especially for pricking and cupping therapy, which is easy for the operators to observe the amount of bleeding and color, etc. to hold the body condition.

In terms of the materials, glass cups achieve negative pressure and suction through igniting and burning air. But for ordinary people, fire cupping required higher technique skills with higher risks as well. The squeeze/suction cups are mostly made of plastic, which is safer than glass tanks and more suitable for ordinary people to use at home. However, the plastic cups lack the warming effect of fire cupping, and the negative pressure only maintained for a short time. Besides, the cup body needs to be fixed locally, so the flash-fire cupping, sliding cupping and other therapies with movements cannot be operated.

Cupping manipulations differs according to different diseases

Considering many factors such as operation and effect, fire cupping is still the most commonly used cupping therapy in TCM clinic. The fire cupping has certain requirements for the ignition operation: hold the long-handled tweezers with the alcohol cotton ball in your common hand, and hold the glass jar with the other hand; after the cotton ball is ignited, entering and exiting the cup quickly, and covering the surgical site quickly as well. Please notice the cotton ball should not be dipped in too much alcohol, and the tweezers should clamp the cotton ball tightly to prevent the alcohol from dripping or the cotton ball falling off, in case of burning the skin or fire hazard. When the cotton ball enters and exits the cup, do not touch the mouth of the cup to avoid scalding the skin.

When the cup adsorbed onto the skin, the following operations can be done based on the diseases.

Retained cupping

Operations: After cupping, leave the cups on the surgical site for 5-15 minutes. The skin is flushed as the degree of mild disease, and purple and black skin with



Glass cup

static blood can be seen in severe diseases. When picking up the cups, hold the cup body with one hand, tilt it slightly, and press the skin on the cup mouth with the thumb or index finger of the other hand, so that air can enter the cup and the cup body will fall off naturally.

Indications: Deep tissue injury, neck, shoulder, waist and leg pain, arthropathy, etc.

Precautions: The cups for the elderly, children, and people with sensitive skin should not be maintained too long.

Flash Cupping

Operations: When cupping, pull out quickly without waiting for the strong suction of the cup body, and repeatedly suck out until the skin turned flush.

Indications: Rheumatic arthralgia, sequelae of wind stroke, skin numbness, muscle weakness, etc.

Precautions: The time between suction and pulling should be short. If the suction power of the cup body increases, take the cup correctly to avoid any damage to the skin.

Sliding Cupping

Operations: Before cupping, apply lubricant, such as Vaseline, emollient oil, etc. to the surgical site and the mouth of the cup. After cupping, hold the cup with one hand and apply force at a slightly inclined angle to push and pull the cup along the meridians and muscles until the skin became purplish red. For moving off the cup, please refer to the operations as mentioned for retained cupping.

Indications: Acute fever, paralysis, muscle numbness, rheumatic arthralgia, etc.

Precautions: Sliding cupping is suitable for the areas with rich and flat muscles, such as the muscles on both sides of the spine,

the lumbosacral area, the abdomen and the quadriceps femoris of the thigh, etc.; sliding should be taken immediately after cupping, so as not to be difficult to move after the suction increased; the sliding should be slow, gentle and stable to avoid damaging the skin.

In addition, cupping can also be combined with acupuncture and pricking therapy, acupuncture first and cupping later. The former is suitable for rheumatic arthralgia, but not for the chest and back, because negative pressure will make the needle deeper into the body, which has certain risks; the latter requires attention to the disinfection of local skin, needles, and cups, which will bleed more volume and function deeper than ordinary puncture therapy, suitable for excess syndrome, heat syndrome, blood stasis syndrome and some skin diseases. However, these two techniques both have higher requirements for the operators, and must be operated by professionals with authorization.

"Cupping marks" after cupping is normal

Cupping plays a role in health care through the absorption of negative pressure, so that the local skin congested and capillary ruptured. Spilled blood forms blood stasis, which can be seen on the body surface as "cupping marks" of different colors. Most of them, depending on the degree of blood stasis, may disappear on their own within a week.

Generally speaking, the skin of a healthy person is slightly red after having cupping, but the skin will return to normal very soon; people with heat syndrome, cold syndrome, or blood stasis may appear purple-black, blue-violet and other colored cupping marks on the skin after cupping; People with heavy dampness or cold dampness syndrome may

even have water droplets, moisture, blisters, etc. on their skin after cupping, and yellow moisture means damp heat; for those with deficiency, deficiency-cold syndrome, or thick fat, the skin color may not change. In addition, the change in the color of the cupping marks may be related to the duration and degree of negative pressure adsorption, like high negative pressure and long cupping stay, the color of the cupping marks will become darker. If the skin color turns red or purple instantly after cupping, you can appropriately reduce the cupping time. Otherwise, it is easy to pull out the blisters and cause skin infections.

If the water droplets described above appeared after cupping, wipe it off gently with a sterile cotton ball; if small blisters appear, they can be absorbed by the skin, and large blisters can be treated in a regular hospital or clinic. Damaged skin should be disinfected regularly.

The cupping therapies are recommended for several common diseases as follows.

Quitting Smoking

Acupoints: Mainly choose acupoints on kidney meridian and liver meridian, for example, Zhangmen (LR 13), Xingjian (LR 2), Taixi (KI 3), Shenshu (BL 23), Shuiquan (KI 5), Ganshu (BL 18).

Cupping methods: Apply the retained cupping on the above acupoints.

Asthma

Acupoints: Acupoints on the back, such as Dazhui (GV 14), Feishu (BL 13), Fengmen (BL 12), Gao Huang (BL 43).

Cupping methods: Apply retained cupping on the above acupoints, or sliding cupping along the bladder meridian on the back.

Periarthritis of shoulder

Acupoints: ashi points around shoulder joint combined with Jianjing (GB 21), Jianzhen (SI 9), Tianzong (SI 11), Quchi (LI 11), etc.

Cupping methods: Apply the retained cupping, moving off the cups when blue-violet cupping marks appeared.

Panasthenia

Acupoints: Xinshu (BL 15), Geshu (BL 17), Shenshu (BL 23) on the back and other acupoints of bladder meridian.

Cupping methods: Knead the above acupoints by fingers before cupping, and then apply the retained cupping.

Cupping Contraindications

It is recommended that people who want to use cupping for family health care at the first time should perform the operation under the guidance of a professional physician. Note that patients with skin allergies, infectious skin diseases, skin ulcers, etc. should not perform cupping on the affected area; the aortic and varicose veins on the body surface are the area unsuitable for cupping; patients with bleeding diseases, pregnant women are forbidden for cupping; people with abnormal physical conditions are not suitable for cupping, such as poor physical condition, over-fatigue, after drinking alcohol, over-stuffing, or over-hunger, etc.

It is recommended to use suction/squeeze cupping for family health care with basic manipulations of the retained cupping method. After cupping, avoid the wind, especially for the exposed parts on the neck and shoulders. Do not attack by wind or cold, and do not take a bath within 24 hours. Drink more water after having cupping for promoting circulation and increasing metabolism. Have next cupping treatment after the cupping marks all disappear.



Suction cup



Retained cupping

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Minister bans use of logs in mining

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Hamad Hassan Chande has urged small-scale gold miners not to use logs in their activities as it is a source of deforestation.

Chande made the remarks while addressing the miners of the Sekenke One mine in Iramba district, Singida Region during a working visit to inspect compliance with the Environment Act of 2004 in mining activities.

He said it had been discovered that many miners cut down trees for the construction of pits but warned that such actions would significantly contribute to environmental degradation.

He advised them to use various methods including building concrete holes as they are safer and also avoid deforestation and thus continue to preserve the environment.

"We have come here to visit your mine and we have seen the gold mining movement but I call on licensed mine owners to stop cutting down trees and use them in the pits and use concrete and in doing so we will reduce deforestation," said the deputy minister.

He called on the miners to participate in environmental conservation, including tree planting and conservation.

Also, the deputy minister advised that they are burying holes after finishing mining as it is a source of environmental damage and can also cause unnecessary accidents.

For his part, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) Central Zone, Dr Franklin Rwezumula said the government has come up with a project to educate small scale miners.

He said the project, which has

been implemented, will reach various mines in the country, including Sekenke One, and will be of great benefit as it will help them learn how to carry out their activities without damaging the environment.

Dr Rwezumula said through the model mines to be built in some parts of the country small-scale miners will learn the best techniques for extracting gold without affecting the environment.

He urged the miners to register their projects in the council in accordance with the procedures so that they can be identified and registered and inspected and given a certificate along with advice when required.

However, he also urged them to have a good system for storing chemical waste used in their activities, especially in the refining process instead of leaving it to be squandered, a situation that could endanger the health of the people around the mines.

Environment Officer from VPO, Joseph Kiwango said the government in collaboration with NEMC has come up with an Action Plan for reducing the use of Mercury for small scale miners.

He said among the activities to be implemented through the five-year work plan is to provide training to small-scale miners in approximately 40 different mines.

Kiwango also stressed that the government has not banned the use or importation of mercury but importers should apply to the Chief Government Chemist's Laboratory Authority for identification instead of smuggling.

Mining activities are among the main sources of national revenue where it is stated that up to May 2021 more than 4 billion/- was collected at the Sekenke small mine in Iramba district in Singida region.



Scouts from Pangani District in Tanga Region in a jovial mood at a camping site at Bushiri Secondary School at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Cataract is among leading causes of blindness - official

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TEMEKE District Medical Officer (DMO) Dr Gwamaka Mwambulambo has said that eye cataract is mentioned to be one of leading causes of blindness in Tanzania by 50 percent.

He said that over the weekend, at the official launching of the Khoja Shia Ithnashari Charitable Eye Centre at Temeke Municipal Council in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Mwambulambo said that 80 percent of eye blindness is preventable and treatable if patients attend health centres on time.

He mentioned other causes are cornea blindness (20), glaucoma (10), adding that others are uncorrected refractive errors,

retinal and optic nerve, diabetes retinopathy, maculopathies, genetic anomalies and albinism account for the remaining 20 percent

The eye centre opened was the second centre offering free eye cataract surgeries to the residents and non residents after the Temeke Regional Referral Hospital.

Dr Mwambulambo said that Temeke municipality has 196 health centres, where 16 health centres offer optometric services of which only five are public centres.

He said during eye free camp conducted between January-December last year, 1168 were found with eye cataract from the total number.

"I would like to assure you of the government support and collaboration from my office to ensure our people in the district are prevented from eye blindness," he said.

For his part, Ain Sharif, a board member at Khoja Shia Ithnashari said that the building and renovation of the centre was the support from the societies in the country and those living abroad.

He said that the donation was part of the Khoja Shia Ithnashari decision to support the community to complement the government efforts of assuring people quality healthcare.

Sharif said the reason to select Temeke District Council was a right choice due to the fact that it had a dense population compared

to other districts in Dar es Salaam.

He insisted that the centre will serve all people from all corners of Dar es Salaam. "I would like to thank the District Commissioner office and the DMO's office for the full collaboration that enabled us to achieve the goal," he said.

According to him, all those found with eye cataract were operated at free cost calling for more people to attend at the centre.

Shrarif said that the inauguration of the centre aimed at complementing government efforts to prevent blindness.

Apart from that, the society participates in all human activities including organising blood donation, organising free camps to diagnose cancer and diabetes.



UBA Bank Tanzania's Head of Digital Banking, Asupya Bussi (R), pictured at the weekend addressing children cared for at Dar es Salaam's Babu na Bibi Orphanage, where it donated textbooks. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UBA bank donates literature books to Dar orphanage centre

By Guardian Reporter

IN efforts to ensure provision of quality education in the country UBA Tanzania through UBA Foundation has donated literature textbooks to two orphanage centres in Dar es Salaam Region.

The donation has been made to UMRA orphanage centre in Magomeni, Babu and Bibi orphanage centres situated at Madale in Kinondoni municipality

Speaking after receiving the books, the founder of UMRA orphanage centre Rahma Juma said that it was important to recognise the efforts which are being made by private institutions like UBA Tanzania in supporting education sector in the country. "We all understand that our government agenda is on industrialization, but we cannot have industries without good performance and adequate

teaching materials in our schools. These books will increase the ability our students in performing good in literature and also in other subjects and in return will reach the government goal on industrialization", Ruheye said.

Rahma added "I call upon UBA Tanzania and other stakeholders to continue supporting us in other areas of our school so that we can create a good environment for our students".

UBA Bank Tanzania head of digital banking, Asupya Bussi said the bank believes in a society where learners get their education on conducive environment and schools with learning equipment like textbooks. On that case, it's good to invest in our children's education and that has been fulfilled by donating these books to UMRA, Babu and Bibi orphanage centres.

UBA Tanzania has for a long time

been supporting the education sector in our country. For that reason, the bank was recognised by Tanzania Education Authority in 2018 among others as an institution that supports learning, UBA Foundation through its Read Africa Initiative has invested on the African youth to promote learning and a reading culture by donating various literature books to schools in Africa. To achieve this, we have been working with various institutions and I must thank the government for their support as UBA Foundation has been successful, said Asupya.

Asupya added that English language has been one of the barriers for students to perform well in their final exams. By donating these literature textbooks, we are creating an environment for our students to develop a culture of reading for themselves. We trust that

these books will empower these students to perform well in their subjects and also increase the number of students taking who will be performing well in the final exams, said Asupya adding that UBA Tanzania will continue supporting schools in the country in various areas aiming at building students for a bright future.

Speaking after receiving the books, the founder of Babu and Bibi orphanage centre Pastor Apolinary Mutalemwa said the UBA donation has come at the right time as children at the orphanage centre has academic materials. "All these children attend schools. One of the big challenge that has been affecting us is academic materials. I take the opportunity to commend UBA Bank for the support to us and to take proper care of these books for the advantage of us and for future use", said Mutalemwa.

24 entrepreneurs selected for fourth Citi Micro-entrepreneurship Awards

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions (TAMFI) has nominated 24 entrepreneurs who will compete and come out with prizes in the 4th Citi Micro-entrepreneurship Awards (CMA) slated for next month.

Funded by Citi Foundation, the competition will see a total of 85m/- being awarded to 11 young innovative micro-entrepreneurs in the country.

TAMFI chief executive officer, Winnie Terry said in a statement yesterday that the awards aim at uplifting microfinance and enterprise development across the country.

She said that the shortlisted entrepreneurs have been narrowed down from 350 participants. "About 11 entrepreneurs who started very small, and some have grown substantially; a loan officer and a most innovative microfinance institution will collectively take home 85m/- awards. Out of the 24 shortlisted, a final analysis will net the top winners," she noted.

She said Citi Foundation, in partnership with TAMFI, is running the prestigious micro-entrepreneurship competition for the fourth time in Tanzania. This year awards are linked to United Nations Sustainable Goals (UN SDG).

According to her, the final winners of the micro-entrepreneurship competition will be announced via a virtual award ceremony slated for early July 2021.

Winnie said the awards also seek to promote financial inclusion and generate recognition for the extraordinary contributions that individual micro entrepreneurs have made to the economic sustainability of their families, communities and the country.

She congratulated the micro-entrepreneurs and microfinance institutions (MFIs) that participated

in the competition despite being affected by the emergence of the Corona pandemic.

"CMA is pivotal in highlighting and encouraging the contributions of micro-entrepreneurs and microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Tanzania," she said adding that; "this is particularly more important in the face of the corona pandemic, where the resilience of micro-entrepreneurs has been tested."

The director further said "Awards for women, youth, those with disability and social entrepreneurs are linked to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) No.5 - gender equity, 8 - decent work and economic growth, 10 - reduced inequalities and 13 - climate change. On the other hand, the prize for the most innovative MFI is linked to UN SDG Goal No 9 - industry, innovation and infrastructure.

The individual micro-entrepreneurs, while growing an enterprise, fight hard and long battles to make sure his or her family enjoys a level of economic stability," Winnie noted.

She added that CMA recognises those efforts as vital for individual and collective economic growth.

In the awards, the overall micro entrepreneur of the year award will come out with US\$7,500; Second Winner - (\$ 6,000); Third Winner - (US\$4,000); Two Youth Micro entrepreneurs linked to UN SDG Goal No 8 will take US\$4,000 and Two Women Micro entrepreneurs linked to UN SDG Goal No.5 will come out with \$4,000.

Others include two disabled micro entrepreneurs linked to UN SDG Goal No 10- who will come out with \$4,000; Two Social Micro entrepreneurs linked to UN SDG Goal No 13- \$ 4,000. Category (8) is the most innovative MFI linked to UNSDG Goal No9 - \$ 2,500 and category number nine-loan officer of overall micro-entrepreneur of the year - (\$1,500).

WLAC calls for collective efforts to protect children against violence

By **Getrude Mbagu**

THE Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) is calling for collective efforts from all stakeholders in the country to strengthen protection of children rights and fight against violence.

In her remarks during the commemoration of the African Child Day in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, WLAC executive director Theodosia Muhulo said without coordinated efforts, children will continue facing more challenges and thus thwart their progress.

She noted that despite strides by the government and stakeholders to eradicate violence, there are still a number of children in Tanzania who report experiencing violence and abuse with many of them failing to receive immediate support.

"Children are our national asset and the future of the nation, so it is our national duty to protect the best interests of children and provide them equal opportunities

without any discrimination," she said.

Kinondoni District Administrative Secretary (DAS), Stella Msofe said that the government recognizes children and that's why it has put several policies and laws to protect them and support them to achieve their dreams.

She however said that the government alone cannot achieve the goal of protecting children without support from stakeholders and communities.

Msofe said the district authority is working hard to eliminate any form of gender-based violence which faces the children especially the girl child who are experiencing a great risk of early pregnancy. She further urged the parents to stop hiding children who face violence in fear of the society; they need to understand that doing so is not the proper means of helping the children, instead they put them at risk.

"Parents and guardians should remember that they have a very

big role to ensure that children remain safe, but some of them are not fulfilling their obligations well thus leaving their children in the hands of strangers," she noted.

The head of gender and children desks at the Dar es Salaam special zone, SSP Leah Mbunda hinted on the note that majority of children's violence cases are implemented due to poor supervision of parents or the community.

Mbunda acknowledged that the number of violence cases especially child abuse were on the increase something which needs combined efforts to ensure that children are protected.

"Most of the cases which we receive at the desk are children physical violence such as rape and the implementers of the incidents are reported to be family members, neighbors. Parents should strengthen the security of their children while at home, this is a very big challenge, we need to be closer to our children to keep them safe," she said.



Letshago Leah Phili (L), branch manager of Letshago Bank at Temeke in Dar es Salaam, exchanges ideas with Juhudi Secondary School headmistress Delvin Koka shortly after presenting a donation to the city-based school yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Agency to install modern lab in Dodoma to curb aflatoxin

By **Correspondent Valentine Oforo,**
Dodoma

THE Tanzania Initiatives for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) is set to construct a special Central Agricultural Reference Laboratory, being in an effort to contain a spate of contamination of aflatoxin in agricultural produce within the country.

The 12bn/- worth state-of-the-art laboratory to be installed in Ihumwa area, at the fringe of the Dodoma Capital City will also be specifically designed to ensure for the quality and safety of the agricultural produce.

Giving an exclusive interview to The Guardian, National Coordinator for TANIPAC Project, Clepin Josephat, said the key envisaged facility will among others incorporate 12 different laboratories for analyzing different parameters in each step of the agricultural production chain.

He detailed that the laboratories will be majoring for professional conduction of soil testing, analysis of varied agricultural inputs, pesticides, crop's diseases, DNA profiling, seed quality, molecular, mycotoxin and many other agro-production processes and stages with an eye to curb any possibility of contamination of aflatoxin in the country's agricultural produce, he stated.

He detailed that the country's such maiden laboratory will be manned by the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA).

"We have decided to establish the laboratory in a bid to advance the country's ability to research and improve quality and safety of agricultural produce. Currently, there are numerous agro-research centers in different ecological zones but the facilities are crippled with some capacity limitations, and thus, the laboratory we're constructing will be used as the referral hub through receiving samples from the centers for further testing," he said.

And he added, the facility will be installed with high technological equipment to allow it to operate its services at international standards and that tender for the construction of the lab was set to be released soon.

In more efforts to attain general quality of agricultural produce, he informed that the five-year project, TANIPAC, has also constructed at least 14 warehouses in Tanzania mainland and isle in a robust move to advance storage infrastructural within the country.

"The vast warehouses, 12 of which have been installed in mainland and the remaining two in Zanzibar, each comprises a minor laboratory for conducting relevant vital testing," he expressed.

TAMWA in Z'bar urges parents to be more vigilant

By **Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar**

THE Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) in Zanzibar has reminded parents to always remain vigilant, take closer monitoring of their children so as to protect them from acts of abuse.

Speaking during the commemoration of the African Child Day in Unguja, Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA-Zanzibar executive director said parents have a very big role to ensure that their children remain safe.

According to her, these days some parents have been too busy with their daily activities and forget to take a close eye to their children, something which affects their progress.

"Some of us parents are too busy, we sometimes trust people who we do not know and leave our children with them and at the end those people end up abusing our children, this behavior should come to the end, we should be very careful to where and whom we send out children," she said.

Dr Mzuri said that child abuse cases are increasing and parents are not fulfilling their responsibilities well, a situation which affect security of children in the Isles.

"Recently, we received a case of a child who was abused by a bodaboda rider. Prior to the act, the rider called the child and took her to his motorbike. So these incidents happen because parents do not talk to their children to avoid various offers from unknown/ strange people," she noted.

Reading a statement on behalf of other children, Salma Abeid said apart from celebrating the African Child Day every year, the group still faces a number of challenges.

She said that children fall into several challenges of forced marriages, early pregnancies, and child labour thus affecting their progress.

She called on the general community to protect children and support them to fulfill their dreams.

Earlier, TAMWA programs manager Ally Mohamed said various bodies working to address child violence cases are not acting enough due to various challenges. According to him, the majority of police stations face shortage of transport and this affects the officers from providing on time service to victims of violence.

"The government should take this very seriously and think on equipping the stations with enough facilities so as to facilitate smooth service provision to victims of violence," he said.



Terms of Reference (ToR)

Title	Provision of Psychosocial Support to Children in SOS Alternative Care
Purpose	Provision of Psychosocial Support to Children in SOS Alternative Care
Location	Dar Es Salaam
Expected Contract Duration	3 months
Starting Date	01/07/2021
Ending Date	30/09/2021
Deadline for applications	25/06/2021
Tender Opened to	Local Individuals and firm Consultant(s)

1.0 Introduction and Background

Established in 2007, SOS Children's Village Dar es Salaam program responds to the needs of children without parental care and those at risk of losing it. The program started its interventions with a SOS Family Care program and later expanded to include the Family Strengthening and Youth Care programs in 2012.

Through the Alternative Care Program, the organization provides children who have lost or at risk of losing parental care with a home in SOS Family-Like Care model within our Children's Villages, and prepares them for an independent life. These children have come from various backgrounds, including some who were abandoned, those who were rescued from abusive caregivers, and some were transitioned from other children's homes. Among these children, are those who experienced various forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation; including but not limited to physical, emotional, and sexual violence before their placement into SOS Care.

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania recognizes the importance of mental health of our target group. Therefore, has prioritized the integration of mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) into priorities (2021 to 2024). To help these children recover, SOS has assigned consistently trained caregivers to provide basic needs, love, and build positive attachment. Additionally, the organization through its internal counsellor has been providing individual and group counselling to the children and established small-scale recreational and social activities. Some sessions included sexuality education such as "bad touch and good touch". Further, the organization engaged different religious leaders to provide spiritual support based on individual children's faith. However, SOS Children's Villages Tanzania views it critical to engage an external expert in psychosocial support for children and caregivers to support in provision of a comprehensive PSS intervention to children and caregivers at SOS Children's Villages in Dar es Salaam.

2.0 Objective and Scope of the Intervention

The key objective of the intervention is to have improved psychosocial well-being of children in SOS Children's Villages Family-Like-Care, at SOS CV Dar es Salaam program location.

Specific Objectives

- Specialized services for children and young people with specific mental health and psychosocial needs are provided in SOS Children's Villages Family-Like-Care at SOS Dar es Salaam program location.
 - Innovative psychosocial therapeutic methods applied through organized activities aimed at helping children and young people to recover from their abusive experiences.
- The consultant with support of the Program Manager for SOS Tanzania, Dar es Salaam location will lead the process of the task in the SOS Children's Villages. It is intended that the assignment will target the following:
- Children with experience of physical, sexual, emotional violence/abuse and neglect,
 - Children with signs and symptoms of psychosocial mental health difficulties
 - Children and young people affected by gender-based violence
 - SOS CV mothers and co-workers implementing the alternative care program at Dar es Salaam SOS Children Village
 - Children identified with inappropriate or problematic behaviors

3.0 Deliverables:

- A brief report detailing needs, strengths and resources of the target group used for planning the relevant interventions.
- A detailed psychosocial therapeutic plan for the children based on the needs, strengths and resources of the target group
- A final activity report with evidence of the provision of direct psychosocial therapeutic intervention to the target groups at SOS CV Dar es Salaam, including two integrated families in Dar es Salaam, by undertaking practical sessions and activities.
- Individual long-term safety plan for children found with critical psychosocial concerns comprising key areas in which a child failed to cope with, the severity of the challenge and appropriate suggested actions.

3.1 The expected output of this consultancy are as follows:

- Improved children self-awareness, self-image, self-efficacy, resilience, and self-esteem.
- Increased ability of children to recognize safe bodily boundaries, and healthy relationship with other children and adults.
- Increased knowledge and skills in self-protection from all forms of abuses among the children.
- Improved behaviors of children identified with inappropriate or problematic behaviors
- A developed clear safety plan for children identified with inappropriate or problematic behaviors.
- Increased skills in creating protective home environment to children among mothers.

4.0 Methodology

The consultant with the support of the Program Manager for SOS CV Tanzania, Dar es Salaam location will lead the process of the task in the SOS Children's Villages. It is intended that the assignment will provide:

- The service for three months consecutively in the first phase, thereafter, the session will continue taking place regularly once per week within the remainder of the year.
- Pre and post - assessment will be used to determine the results.
- Individual and group PSS interventions will be used.
- The consultant will provide regular updates to the Alternative Care Advisor and alternative care team at CV Dar es Salaam to ensure necessary coordination, quality intervention, and continuity.

5.0 Mode of Application

5.0.1: Successful bidder should submit the followings as application package: -

- Bidder (Consultant) profile
 - Complete bidder (consultant) profile summarizing the consultant's background, qualifications, experience and achievements.
- Technical Proposal (must be in TZS)
 - The technical proposal should include but not limited to the following: -
 - Summary of the objectives of the assignment from consultant perspective
 - Proposed detailed methodology/approach for each activity and deliverable to meet objectives
 - Project implementation and Work Plan showing milestones, activities, field operation plan, detailed sequence, time frame, quality assurance and required resources.
 - CVs of the consultant for individual or CVs of the proposed individuals by the firm to work on the assignments
- Past Performance
 - Include three reference projects (of which two of the must be familiar with your work or relate to consulting, conceptualization, designing and or managing projects in the area of child Counseling or PSS Counseling within the past five years containing the following information: -
 - Name of the Client / Employer
 - Title of the project and timeframe
 - Scope of the project, requirements of the assignment, proposed solutions and outcomes
 - Reference/Contact person details for each assignment and contact information
 - Attach evidence of performance for each of the three referenced projects listed in the profile including report samples, presentations, visuals, web-links etc
- Financial Proposal
 - The financial proposal shall indicate the total budget estimated in TZS as well as detailed breakdown of budget items such as program/consultancy fee and reimbursable costs. All payments will be done based on outputs such as upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR (payments based on deliverables). Note that, WHT of 5% will be charged from program/consultancy fee. (The financial proposal to be sealed in a closed envelope or a separate PDF file)
- Mandatory Requirements
 - For Firm
 - Copy of Certificate of Incorporations
 - Copy of TIN and VAT if applicable
 - Copy of Business Licence
 - Copy of recent Tax Clearance Certificate

5.0.2 Qualification of the consultant/ consultant team

The consultant or consultants must have:

- At least Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology, or Counseling, Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with extensive Psychosocial Counseling training or CBT training, and experience in counseling children with trauma.
- Experience in training basic MHPSS techniques to lay persons.
- At least 5 years' experience in the field of Psychosocial Support and Counselling with children.
- A good understanding of child rights and issues affecting vulnerable children and their families
- Excellent counseling, facilitation, interpersonal and networking skills.
- Need assessment, communication, problem solving, planning, presentation, reporting and analytical skills;
- Ability to communicate and function effectively in a multicultural environment.
- Ability to use different digital data collection techniques will be an added advantage
- Fluency in spoken and written Swahili and English language essential.

5.0.3 Applying Procedure

Interested candidates are requested to email their application to **National.Office@sos-tanzania.org** before 5 pm, 25 June, 2021.

Procurement & Logistics Officer
SOS Children's Village Tanzania

TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Accountability deficit: Focus should be on the public sector

WITH the shift in policy tonality to emphasize a bigger role for the private sector in financing strategic projects and other development plans, how to juggle the issue of accountability deficit in both sectors is likely to be a headache. One authoritative view is that a diligent and accountable private sector is vital for the development of the country to bring to fruition government intentions to improve the ease of doing business to attract investments. One gets an impression that the ball is squarely in the private sector court.

This is essentially what can be grasped from remarks by Chief Secretary Hussein Kattanga in an address to executive committee members of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC), asking private companies to adhere to rules of discipline, accountability and transparency so as to drive development, as the sector is a vital engine for economic growth. A close observer would wonder if the learned administrator wasn't taking coals to Newcastle, as precisely those values are anchored in the private sector in order to assure a healthy balance sheet. It is the public sector that lives with losses, right?

Once this realization is at least admitted, that it is with large public sector entities that losses are routine and commonplace as a way of doing business, that the remarks can be measured for what lessons they throw on the work of the TNBC and in implementing the public-private partnership model for faster growth. It is uncertain how far such realism can be expected to feature at the forthcoming 12th TNBC annual conference which President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to chair this week. The cabinet secretary

said the government's aim is to be closer to the private sector, but with what role expectations?

Who shall indeed put up roadblocks realizing current goals? It appeared that the CS was more worried about the private sector. Yet the weight of the evidence in the past few months is that negligence at public sector corporate level is the key management problem the government faces, and it is being advised to put all its eggs in that basket. It is being asked to hand over all database systems to public institutions, now.

Manning databases and information flows is what explains frequent outages and breakdowns. When one looks at what is happening - and we have evidence from a rebuke that the late fifth phase leader made to TANESCO senior management. Some middle level managers had apparently shut down both Mtera and Kidatu power stations, citing the need for repairs; but as the late president was a trained scientist he could tell them off that they didn't need to shut both plants. A less trained fellow would be more careful, visibly.

Top management often can't solve what appear to be routine problems until the minister, the prime minister or the president rushes to the scene. That is what we are now used to seeing at the port, and with outages tied to the prepaid meter system. No one will say what cash hole was experienced for that reason, if indeed power did not flow or other things were happening, etc. It would be hard to elicit two or three such tales from the private sector as they are more visible, via EFGs. So the government is much safer contracting expatriate firms for database management for predictability, checking pressures for shortcuts.

Smallholder farmers, agribusiness startups all deserve global support

AFRICAN smallholder farmers and agribusiness startups need global support to build resiliency and sustainability. A small improvement to their productivity via training, mentorship, access to better inputs and markets will have a huge impact on the industry and the African Continent development.

Africa represents some of the most dynamic markets in the world, and at a time of growth and positive changes on the continent, the potential for agri food investment in the region is high.

However, early stage, startup businesses and the full potential of small holders farmers on the continent are still largely untapped, while investment in global start-ups has increased drastically. African smallholder farmers and agribusiness startups need support to build resiliency and sustainability.

A small improvement to their productivity via training, mentorship, access to better inputs and markets will have a huge impact on the industry and continent development. We are seeing existing and new financial institutions and firms introducing new finance models to help smallholder farmers and agribusiness startups access loans as well as training to boost productivity. However, there is still so much that can be done.

It is time to build resilience and sustainability for the long term and that is why the African Agri Council (AAC) has launched the market support programme (MSP) to address this gap.

MSP is designed and developed

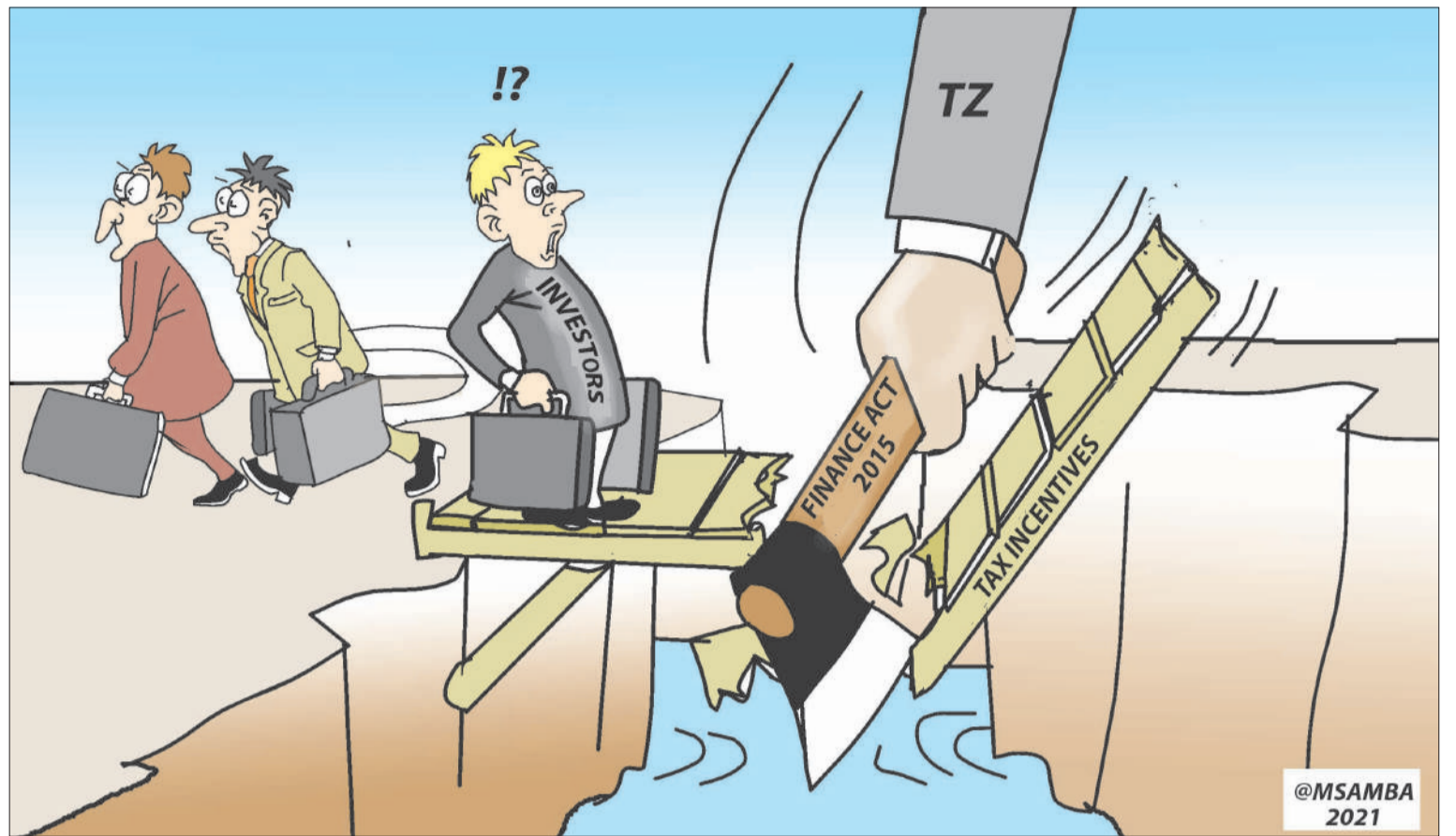
to assist entrepreneurs on their journey from soil to store. The programme will target 10 million smallholder farmers and agribusiness startups in the next 10 years. Small scale farmers and early stage agribusinesses have limited access to the assets that would facilitate a shift from low-productivity subsistence farming to modern, commercial agribusiness. The MSP is committed to provide an integrated programme that facilitates the long awaited shift.

MSP analyses gaps in farming production, product development, technical and operational capabilities to establish what the market and buyers' needs are so that interventions can be implemented to allow easier access to targeted markets.

We should address gaps such as branding, marketing and certifications which are buyers' requirements. And that is why MSP first identifies local markets closer to the farm or facility, then looks outward to national markets and exports into Africa and the rest of the world. Each market has needs which MSP experts have identified to facilitate easier access by its beneficiaries as a way to work on their sustainability.

With mentoring, coaching and a three years AAC premium membership, MSP experts work with its beneficiaries and take them on a journey to sustainability along the value chain. The value chain universe covers hundreds of sub sectors serving myriad crops, livestock, processing activities, agriculture technologies (agtech) and customer needs. MSP gives the tools while the entrepreneur or the farmer takes action.

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Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO	News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767 General line: 0745700710 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz	Mobile: 0782253676 E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz Website: www.ippmedia.com epaper.ippmedia.com



Fight for a better South Africa: Dismantling architecture of corruption - brick by brick

By Oscar van Heerden

THE political economy of corruption in our country is eating away at the very fibre of our society. And though many have thrown in the towel and taken a more pessimistic stance, others simply cannot afford to, or won't allow it to take centre stage.

I'm the first to say it's not an easy fight, but we are fighting more than just some corrupt individuals. Look at Eskom, for example.

It was in 2008, just before his unceremonious departure from high office, that former president Thabo Mbeki told the nation why we were experiencing load shedding.

In 1994, our foreign reserves were depleted and, on the whole, the country was bankrupt. The economy had not been growing for a number of years and the apartheid government left the new government with virtually nothing in the kitty. At the same time, many stakeholders were making presentations to the new ANC government about all manner of urgent matters that required attention, including the bulk infrastructure needed for electricity generation.

Money was also desperately needed to combat the HIV/Aids pandemic sweeping the country at the time, not to mention all the poverty reduction measures that were needed.

There simply was not enough money to go around at the time, and so, according to Mbeki, a decision was taken that the bulk infrastructure for Eskom would have to be sorted out at a later stage.

That later stage came when we started experiencing load shedding and had sufficient money (savings) to negotiate a much better loan deal with various international financial institutions, unlike in the mid-1990s.

The question then is, why has it taken 13 or more years to fix this particular problem?

Even if we accept - and it is rather evident now - that there was huge collusion among private sector players and corruption in the construction of Medupi and Kusile power plants - neither is operating optimally to this day - why are we still faced with this challenge all these years later?

We can either say it's gross incompetence on the part of "these blacks" running the country



and Eskom - a narrative touted by some white South Africans - or we can conclude that it's for two clear reasons: First, for far too long during apartheid, the capacity of Eskom was only made available to a small minority of white suburbs and businesses, while the largely black townships remained in the dark and made do with paraffin lamps and open fires for cooking. Obviously, now that all citizens are treated equally, the demand is far bigger.

Second, the very ones who are supposed to fix the problem are part of the problem. The contractors and engineering firms - and in no small measure the unionised workers of Eskom - are responsible for and are perpetuating this ongoing problem.

You see, the private sector types know how desperate we are as a country to have this problem solved, and that's a great position to be in - there's nothing like having to rely on others to solve a major problem. Costs escalate day by day to ensure profits. As for the workers, their petty and yet profitable corrupt practices have ensured additional income to augment their salaries, and so the status quo must remain.

It is no accident that the spokesperson of Numsa should tell us that the new Eskom CEO, Andre de Ruyter, is a racist. In fact, she goes as far as saying that Brian Molefe was a better boss than him. Has she not listened to the Zondo Commission and heard how Molefe and the Guptas sold our country down the river?

Let's put it differently: when

Mbeki left office in 2008, the debt of Eskom was a modest, manageable R30-billion, more or less. A decade later, after the Zuma administration and Molefe's leadership, the debt is R492-billion.

Now, for those maths aficionados out there - clearly not the Numsa people - this is an increase of about R462-billion over a nine-year period. This is just wrong in anyone's book.

In the 18 months since De Ruyter took office, he has managed to reduce that debt by R90-billion. This is simply incredible. Cut the fat, curb fruitless expenditure, manage procurement inefficiencies - these are among the interventions I'm sure are being implemented by the new CEO. Imagine if we give him another 18 months - this is looking very promising indeed.

Corruption thrives when there is chaos and systems failure. And apparently, when one comes to instil order, introduce systems and procedures, you are a racist. Because, as a white man, you have to deal effectively with a majority-black workforce, of which many can be corrupt. We must call it what it is, and not fall for lame dirty tricks.

Look at the PPE corruption during this pandemic. Because we are all in panic mode, in the confusion and chaos some thought they could take advantage of this and be corrupt. But we are on to them now.

As my good friend Robert McBride always says, it's not us who are prosecuting the corrupt

individuals, it's never personal, it is the evidence that is prosecuting you wrongdoers.

So, if Numsa members and others from the private sector don't want to end up in jail, best they cease their corrupt practices and become part of putting our country back on a path to renewal and growth.

Eskom, like SAA, will be dismantled and, yes, private partners will be sought. This is the logical and intelligent thing to do. It's not that Cyril Ramaphosa is pushing a neoliberal, imperialist agenda - to the contrary.

We have shown over the past two decades that the state-owned enterprises model does not work - and neither did it work in the apartheid era. We tried very hard to make it work, but the ultimate irony is that if we did not have corruption and we all were on the same page with regard to succeeding in Mzansi, it might have worked.

But the architecture of corruption is such that we always want more: crass accumulation is the order of the day and to hell with the rest - or should I say, to hell with the people.

Our South African Police Service is a corrupt criminal syndicate and as such we will ensure that as active citizens in the media and elsewhere, we continue to keep our eye on SAPS. Why the president and the police minister are not actively dealing with this reality is cause for concern.

In short, we will endeavour to dismantle any wall of corruption brick by brick.

Who's with me?

China conscientiously fulfils its duty as UN Security Council rotating president

By Li Xiaohong, Zhang Mengxu

CHINA held the UN Security Council's rotating presidency last month. With a responsible and constructive attitude, China worked closely with the members of the UN Security Council, held in-depth discussion of the issues on the agenda, took swift responses to the tensions in the Middle East in order to practice true multilateralism with real actions and push the Security Council to give play to the important role of maintaining international peace and security.

The council had held 31 meetings during the month, one for each day on average, three of which were at the high level of foreign ministers. The council also adopted the annual Security Council report and four resolutions, as well as two presidential statements, six presidential press statements, and two press elements.

Safeguarding and practicing true multilateralism have been the "keynote" of China's presidency of the Security Council, which is a concrete manifestation of the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind and the major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, said China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun.

Uniting countries to tide over difficulties with concrete actions

With the joint efforts of all member states, the Security Council reiterated its strong commitment to multilateralism, reaffirmed the correct direction of upholding true multilateralism; sent out a unified message on supporting international solidarity and cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular on advancing post-pandemic recovery and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa.

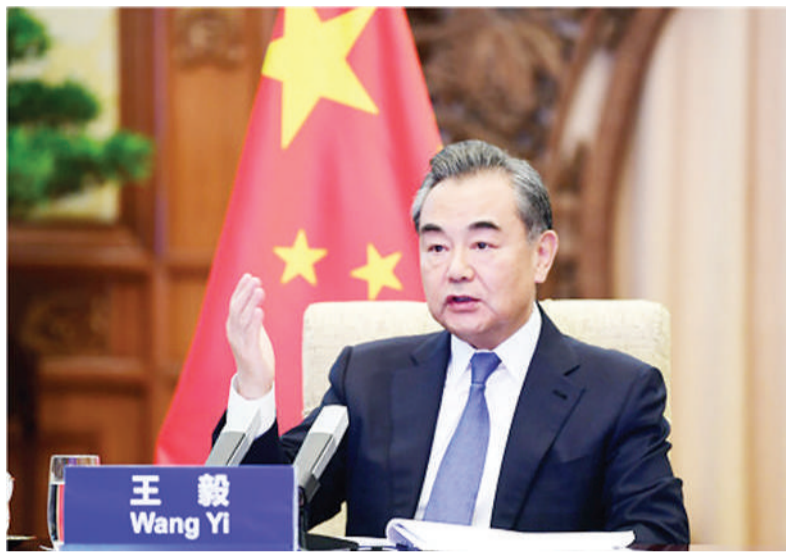
Under the initiative of China, the UN Security Council held a high-level meeting on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Upholding Multilateralism and the UN-centered International System" on May 7. It was attended by foreign ministers or vice foreign ministers from 15 member states, which mirrored the high importance placed by the member states on safeguarding multilateralism.

"Pursue win-win cooperation, not zero-sum game. Seek equity and justice, not bullying. Focus on actions, instead of only talking the talk. Respect diversity, and refrain from pursuing supremacy." The four proposals raised by China at the meeting to promote true multilateralism have won broad recognition.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov remarked that maintaining multilateralism and the UN-centered international system is as topical as ever and demands the UN Security Council's constant attention. Mexico's Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said multilateralism is not only an option, but a need.

Combating the COVID-19 pandemic still remains the most important task of the international society today. Under the initiative of China, the Security Council held an Open Debate on "Peace and Security in Africa: Addressing Root Causes of Conflict in Post-Pandemic Recovery in Africa." It adopted an outcome document on post-pandemic reconstruction that both addressed the urgent demand of pandemic alleviation and aimed to enhance the sustainability of development for the continent.

In a speech delivered at the Open Debate, Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat called on certain countries to end vaccine protectionism and vaccine nationalism to fill the divide in pandemic control. Tunisian Foreign Minister Othman Jerandi said human beings must maintain solidarity when facing the virus. Permanent Representa-



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi chairs the UN Security Council open debate on "Peace and Security in Africa: Addressing Root Causes of Conflict in Post-Pandemic Recovery in Africa" via video link on May 19, 2021. (File photo)

tive of Ethiopia to the UN Teye Atske Selassie Amde praised the unique role played by China in helping Africa cope with complicated challenges. Cavince Adhere, a Kenyan researcher of international relations, noted that China is helping Africa with concrete actions to make the continent better cope with political, economic and social governance challenges.

Advocating to solve regional conflicts and disputes with political resolutions

Facing new challenges such as stoked up regional hotspot issues, in particular the continuous escalation of the Palestine-Israel conflict, China and other Security Council members, including Norway and Tunisia co-ordinated closely and convened four open debates in ten days to deliberate over the situation, forming a strong voice calling for immediate ceasefire.

The open debates chaired by China, which stressed to immediately cease fire, carry out humanitarian aid, enhance international support and advance the two-state solution, triggered active response from the international community.

After the two sides stopped military and hostile actions, under the promotion of China and joint efforts of all parties, the Security Council issued press statement that called for the full adherence to the ceasefire, which was the first Security Council press statement about the Palestine-Israel conflict since 2014.

China's stand and proposals to solve the Palestine-Israel conflict with political resolutions are praised by parties concerned.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the open debates initiated by China came just in time as the tension between Palestine and Israel reached a peak in recent years. Nicolas de Rivière, Permanent Representative of France called to firmly follow the two-state solution and fundamentally realize peaceful coexistence between the two parties, or there would only be more pain and violence. A Representative from the League of Arab States pointed out that the two-state solution will help realize comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

On May, the Security Council also discussed issues on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Syria and Yemen, and also adopted a resolution to renew the South Sudan sanctions regime, so as to consolidate the trend to solve relevant problems with political means.

Recently, the Security Council took timely actions in response to the coup in Mali and issued a press statement to alleviate the tension. China has made a lot of contribution to pushing the Security Council to cope with hotspot issues and emergencies, which showcases a strong leadership, said Selassie.

Making the work of the UN Security Council more effective and practical

In recent years, the world has been facing more diverse security threats. Under China's initiative, the Security Council held an Open

Debate on "United Nations peacekeeping operations: Improving safety and security of peacekeepers," and an Arria-formula Meeting on The Impact of Emerging Technologies on International Peace and Security in May, so as to better protect the safety of peacekeepers, regulate the development and application of emerging technologies, and safeguard international peace and security.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General of the UN for Peacekeeping Operations noted that China has made significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions.

He said China is an important troop contributor and financial contributor of UN peacekeeping operations, and also a staunch supporter and important participant in UN peacekeeping operations. China chaired an open debate and pushed for the adoption of a presidential statement, which proved the country's consistent and firm support for UN peacekeeping operations, he said, adding that he also appreciates the professionalism and selflessness of the Chinese peacekeepers.

Pascale Baeriswyl, the Swiss Permanent Representative to the UN remarked that emerging technologies are a double-edged sword, saying China has showcased its foresight by promoting the Security Council to focus on the impact of emerging technologies on international peace and security.

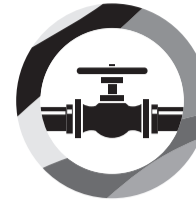
When China held the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council, the country advanced UN Secretary-General election-related matters, and arranged for informal dialogues between Security Council members and Secretary-General candidates. China took active measures to improve the Council's working methods to enhance efficiency, transparency and inclusiveness while eliciting views from various sides and attaching importance to the legitimate concerns of the member states concerned. China also took steps to reinstate face-to-face meetings at the Council on the precondition of respecting science and ensuring safety.

Norway's UN ambassador Mona Juul said China's exploration and practice during the special period has brought a new atmosphere to the Security Council, adding that the country has successfully held the rotating presidency with a more progressive attitude.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of China's lawful seat in the UN. Participating in UN affairs, the country has always adhered to true multilateralism, and never put itself first, followed double standard, or practiced hegemonism despite the changing international landscape.

China will, as it has always done, firmly safeguard and practice true multilateralism, protect the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, support the UN to play a bigger role in coping with global challenges, and support the Security Council to practically fulfill its responsibilities, in a bid to make more contributions to safeguarding international peace and security.

People's Daily



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE POLICIES REFERENCE 0010006856

TOTAL East Africa Midstream B.V. an oil and gas company, invites experienced and reputable insurers to express their interest in being one of the insurers in Tanzania for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project either as leader of the co-insurance or as co-insurer.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a buried insulated oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania with an electrical heat tracing system, associated above ground facilities and Marine storage Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania. EACOP is a financed project with anticipated requests from the lenders on the reinsurance and insurance programme.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE:

EACOP needs a solvent reinsurance and insurance programme covering the Project phase with insurance policies covering the risks in Tanzania issued by a Tanzanian insurer or consortium of Tanzanian insurers (whereas Ugandan insurer(s) will issue the insurance policies covering the risks in Uganda). The expected scope of works is:

- Issuance of the policies in a timely manner, dealing with all regulatory issues, including taxes,
- Willingness and demonstrated ability to work with renowned insurance brokers and reinsurance brokers for large and complex projects,
- Agreement to work closely with the Ugandan insurer(s) to ensure a seamless coverage across both countries as far as necessary,
- Complying in all respects with the lender's requirements,
- High quality servicing of the insurance policies including claim processing during all the project phase, whilst ensuring full consistency with the dedicated re-insurance program, and
- Ensuring full consistency with the policies issued for insuring the items of the Project located in Uganda through a close collaboration with the Ugandan insurers/brokers .

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or consortium of companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Evidence of registration in the in-home country for the above services.
- Experience in insuring major industrial projects and in any oil and gas projects.
- Experience of international environment and dedicated international reinsurance.
- Demonstrated ability to interface with Ugandan insurer(s) to ensure a seamless cover.
- Ability to work closely with the reinsurance broker in charge of the reinsurance placement.
- Experience in administering the policies and dealing with any regulatory issue, including taxes, mainly but not limited to policy issuances in a timely manner, answer all the insured's request during all the Project phase, claim management, policy amendments.
- Evidence of Suitable resource availability – qualified and experienced personnel (large and sophisticated risks, reinsurance) and a dedicated team to EACOP for all aspects of such an insurance and reinsurance programme, with the identification of a team leader (please provide diagram and curriculum vitae).
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.

Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capability to provide the above insurance services, should express their interest by sending evidence that they meet the above listed minimum requirements with their contact details in an email to **EACOP.EOI-BROKERS@total.com** on or before **17:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on **08th July 2021**.

Note: The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to the signature of a Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

Africa can be self-sufficient in rice production

NAIROBI
EVERY year, people in Sub-Saharan Africa consume 34 million tons of milled rice, of which 43 percent is imported. But the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly hampered supply chains, making it difficult for imported rice to reach the continent. Indeed, if immediate action is not taken, the supply shortfall will further strain the region's food systems which are already impacted by the pandemic.

the resources for adequate rice production, and with increased investment, tremendous change can be achieved. Ghana, for example, has increased its rice production by an average of 10 percent every year since 2008, with a sharp 25 percent rise being reported in 2019 following the rehabilitation and modernization of the country's irrigation schemes. These investments led to a 17 percent rise in the country's rice self-sufficiency between 2016 and 2019.



Rice fields in Northern Ghana. Credit: Isaiiah Esipisu/IPS

Rice imports from Thailand, one of Africa's largest suppliers, have declined 30 percent due to lockdowns, border closures and general limitations on supply chains in just over one year since the pandemic started.

Consequently, many poor urban dwellers, who traditionally struggle to afford staple foods, now have to contend with more expensive food as the price of the popular Indica White rice has increased by 22%.

On the flip side, however, these challenges can be viewed as a wake-up call for Africa to strengthen its domestic rice production and achieve self-sustainability. Undoubtedly, the continent has

And while the West African nation has yet to produce enough rice to meet its local demand, the impressive increase in output makes it a model example of what can be achieved through supportive policies and investment. On this point, the country's National Rice Development Strategy of 2009 and the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) campaign - launched in 2017 - not only prioritized rice but set ambitious expansion targets for domestic production.

Among the objectives of the two policies were the substitute on of rice imports and the production of higher-quality rice that is acceptable to Ghanaian consumers and can compete with imported

products. These policy frameworks played a pivotal role in de-

risking market failures while speeding up the implementation of innovations in local rice

production, including those that relate to genomics and e-commerce. At the Alliance for

a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), we are first-hand witnesses to the transformation, and saw the positive impact of the government's leadership in the development of favorable policies.

AGRA supported these developments; we helped the government in publicizing its 'Eat Ghana Rice' campaign, which sensitized local consumers on the economic and nutritional importance of consuming local products.

The clarion call inspired rice farmers, millers and other private sector players to increase domestic sourcing and marketing. The result, the country's national production increased from just 138,000 metric tonnes in 2016 to 665,000 in 2019.

AGRA also played a major role in supporting the adoption of innovative technologies in rice production, particularly through the development and distribution of locally adaptable varieties. We remain a key player in availing suitable rice varieties and seed to farmers in the country, a goal we continually pursue by helping train scientists and researchers in the field.

Of the 680 crop breeders that we have trained at post graduate level in Africa

since 2006, more than 50, or around 8 percent, have been rice breeders. These professionals have been instrumental in sustaining the production of varieties that are suited to local conditions and yield more per acreage than older types.

We are now delivering such technologies across Africa, and especially in countries with the potential for large scale rice production, most of which are spread across West and East Africa. In countries like Tanzania and Kenya, we soon hope to report a major rise in rice output attributable to our advocacy for the implementation of supportive policies related to the uptake of the best production and marketing practices.

But we cannot do it alone; we believe that investments of a genuinely great extent, like the ones we are pursuing, can only be achieved by the participation of all stakeholders. For this reason, we continue to appeal to all players in the rice value chain to support all efforts aimed at increasing the production of local rice, a crop that holds a leading role in the achievement of food security and economic stability for the continent.

IPS

Kuciak case retrial is opportunity to break global cycle of impunity in journalists' killings

BRATISLAVA
A ruling last week ordering a retrial in the murders of a Slovak journalist and his fiancée has led to a "unique" opportunity to break a global cycle of impunity in journalist killings, press freedom groups have said.

On Jun. 15, Slovakia's Supreme Court upheld an appeal against a previous acquittal of local businessman Marian Kocner of masterminding the 2018 murder of Jan Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kusnirova.

The original acquittal had left press freedom campaigners and politicians shocked.

But they now say the decision by the Supreme Court, which said key evidence had not been examined in the previous trial and ordered the case to be retried, has given them hope that the people behind the killings will be convicted, sending a powerful signal beyond Slovakia about getting justice for murdered journalists.

Scott Griffen, Deputy Director at global press freedom campaign group International Press Institute (IPI), told IPS: "We think there is a unique chance to break the cycle of impunity [for killing journalists] not just in Slovakia but in other countries."

"Hardly anyone, anywhere, is ever convicted of killing a jour-

nalist. There is often someone arrested, accused, brought to trial, and then they get off. It's more to show that some action is being taken than actually something really being done. A conviction now could become a model for other countries."

Kuciak and Kusnirova, both 27, were shot dead at Kuciak's home in Velka Maca, 40 miles east of the capital Bratislava in February 2018. Self-confessed hired killer Miroslav Marcek, 37, last year pleaded guilty to murdering the couple and was sentenced to 23 years in jail.

The murders shocked Slovakia and led to the largest mass protests in the country since the fall of communism and forced then Prime Minister Robert Fico to resign.

The subsequent investigation uncovered alleged links between politicians, prosecutors, judges, and police officers and the people allegedly involved in the killings.

At the heart of these was Kocner, a controversial figure frequently linked to alleged serious criminals and who in a separate case was last year sentenced to 19 years in jail for forging promissory notes.

Prosecutors had argued in court that Kocner had ordered the murder of Kuciak in revenge for articles the reporter had written about the multimillionaire's



Last week the Supreme Court in Slovakia ordered the retrial in the murders of Slovak journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kusnirova. In this dated photo, a protester in the Slovak capital, Bratislava holds a picture of murdered couple. Hundreds of thousands of people took part in protests across the country in the weeks after the killing, eventually forcing the resignation of the Prime Minister and Interior Minister.

business dealings.

His acquittal in September last year had been greeted with dismay by many ordinary Slovaks who saw Kocner as a symbol of deep-rooted corruption at the highest levels of state, and by press freedom campaigners who said it would undermine efforts

in other countries to bring the killers of journalists to justice.

But those same campaigners believe the Supreme Court ruling will have given hope to the colleagues and relatives of slain journalists in other countries.

There were 50 journalists killed in connection with their

work around the world in 2020, according to data from Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Of these, 84 percent were knowingly targeted and deliberately murdered.

In many regions, the risks for journalists are growing, according to the group. Europe espe-

cially is a concern with RSF recently warning that while it remains the safest place in the world to be a journalist, it is becoming more dangerous for reporters.

The murder of Greek journalist Giorgos Karaivaz earlier this year in Athens was just the latest in a string of high-profile journalist killings in Europe in recent years. In 2017, investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed by a car bomb in Malta, and in April 2019, journalist Lyra McKee was shot dead while covering rioting in Derry, Northern Ireland. In the latter, 53-year-old Paul McIntyre has denied killing her. Although seven men have admitted to or been charged with the murder of Caruana Galizia, it is still not known who was behind her killing. Greek police continue to investigate Karaivaz's death.

Pavol Szalai, Head of European Union and Balkans Desk at RSF, told IPS: "Ninety percent of murders of journalists are not solved. There are Marian Kocners in lots of other places."

"You have politicians, and you have the mafia - in between those two there are Kocners who are linked to the mafia and to the politicians. Other countries can identify with what is happening [in this case] in Slovakia."

"People in other countries have been following this closely. This case is bigger than just Slovakia. If and when a conviction comes it will help in similar cases in other countries."

IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Ecosystem restoration: Reflection of the World Environmental Day

ECOSYSTEM restoration is one of slogans developed by the United Nations so as to restore nature and save the planet. Our Correspondent GERALD KITABU caught up with BARAKA THOMAS, a legal officer at Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) who sheds light on the matter:

QUESTION: Briefly explain the essence and aim of the UN's ecosystem restoration agenda.

ANSWER: On March 1, 2019, the United Nations General Assembly through the Resolution 73/284, proclaimed 2021-2030 to be the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration with the primary aim being to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of the ecosystem worldwide. Thus ecosystem restoration shall be the agenda for ten years and key message during world environmental day that is to say , 5th June of each year.

Q: What does it inspire and support?

A: United Nations Decade for ecosystem restoration inspire and support governments, United Nations Agencies such UNEP, Non-governmental organization like LEAT, children and youth , Private companies, indigenous people, famers, women's group, local communities, and individual globally to collaborate and develop the appropriate various skills and mechanisms for restoration of ecosystem worldwide. The United Nation call upon all countries all over the world to enact legislation and policies as which incentivize restoration

Q: What is the main objective of ecosystems restoration?

A: The objective of ecosystem restoration is to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as create social, economic and environmental benefits, whereby healthy and connected ecosystems should contribute to improve food and water security, peoples' livelihoods and to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Considering ecosystems as socio-ecological areas which deliver multiple functions that benefit a diversity of stakeholders can help to identify the drivers of ecosystem degradation and loss, the existing interests to manage the landscape, economic issues and long-term goals for the ecosystem.

Q: what are the Challenges towards ecosystem restoration?

A: Some of the more important and real challenges that interfere with the success of restorations are that ,natural systems are constantly changing; humans have an imperfect understanding of natural systems; -the lack of available information about earlier successes and failures; the fear that natural remnants will be destroyed and also the fact that people assume restoration projects can replace them.

Q: Tell us more about the global trend towards ecosystem restoration.

A: Some organizations have stepped up to address this destruction and reverse the loss of natural habitats. The Bonn Challenge has called on countries throughout the world to restore 350 million hectares of forests by 2030, and environmental groups – including the World Resources Institute, the Natural Resources Defense Fund, and 350.org – are calling on countries to change their approaches to the environment, prioritizing the sustainable management of ecosystems.

Here are eight examples of ecological projects that are beginning to heal the planet:

The Great Green Wall; Pakistan's Tree Tsunami; Peruvian Amazon; Be-



Baraka Thomas, a legal officer at Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) (centre walking) and other environmental conservators during a visit at Pugu Kinyamwezi waste dumping site. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

lize Barrier Reef System; Maiden Island Reef; Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge; Mexico's National Forestry Commission; and Abrades Rehabilitation.

Q: What about ecosystem Restoration in Tanzania?

A: Tanzania as a member state of the United Nations committed in the United Nations Resolution 73/284 to support United Nations Decade to restore ecosystem a, scaling up the existing ecosystem restoration efforts and raising awareness of the importance of the conservation and ecosystem restoration. When we celebrated the world environmental day in June 2021, Tanzania slogan was "Use alternative Energy for ecosystem restoration". The government of Tanzania is insisting and encouraging different stakeholders to invest in alternative energy so as to avoid deforestation and use charcoal as the major source of energy in both rural and urban areas. This is the major move towards supporting the United Nations Decade for ecosystem restoration.

Tanzania also has a legal framework which discourages ecosystem degradation and deal with those who destroy the ecosystem to restore it and encourage environmental conservation. For instance Environmental Management Act no 20 of 2004 Act (the Act), under section 102 it provides that upon the expiry of the projects such as mining , Urban development, Transportation, dams, river and Water resources, waste disposal, and nuclear reaction to mention few, proponent or operator of these projects shall at his own costs undertake safe , among others ecosystem restoration. Also Section 153 of the same law gives power to the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) to issue Environmental Restoration orders where it reasonably suspects that harm has been or is

likely to be caused to the environment by any person's activity. This law also provides a mechanism to ensure that operator of the projects which in other ways affect or destroy ecosystem as mentioned above, restore the ecosystem. One of these mechanisms which operator must have in place is environmental performance bond under section 227 of the Act. Therefore, this is a commendable effort to the Tanzania government in ecosystem restoration. However a lot is much required for environmental conservation and restoration of the ecosystem.

Q: Does ecosystem restoration only government obligation?

A: No, Other stakeholders such as Non Governmental organization(NGOs) have the role to play. Forexample, Lawyers' Environmental Action Team(LEAT), as one of environmental protection

and natural resources management NGO in Tanzania has done and is continuing to implement different activities which among other thing aim at restoring ecosystem. For instance, currently LEAT is implementing five year project in Rukwa Region called "Usimamizi Endelevu wa Maliasili"(Resilient Natural Resources Governance). This project intends to conserve land, wildlife, forest and water resources and build resilience of local communities and ecosystems in around Lyamba Lya Mfipa hills through improved natural resources governance on the other.

Q: So, what is your call?

A: LEAT call upon all stakeholders such as development partners, NGOs, private companies etc to take part in restoring ecosystem and environmental conservation so as to join the efforts of United Nations Decade of ecosystem restoration.

Investors in NARCO ranch blocks urge govt to chase away invaders

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

THE government has been called to take immediate steps to control people invading national ranch blocks saying it is among challenges hindering the development of the country's livestock sector.

The call was made here by recently local investors of the blocks to the Livestock and Fisheries Minister Mashimba Ndaki during a meeting convened by the National Ranching Company (NARCO).

The chairman of the investors, Jackson Mwasonga said the invaders were hindering their activities and there are

times they are forced to give money to them to graze their livestock in other areas legally allocated for them.

He added that the issue gives them very hard time and that is why they were asking the government to intervene.

The ranch chairman of the 16 Kagoma RFanch blocks, Faustine Lutahoile said "the

invasion was threatening their lives and property as well, hence government should quickly intervene.

The Kitengule Ranch investor in Kagera Region, Projestus Gamasho said as for now the ranch has been invaded by more than 600 elephants who have destroyed infrastructures.

For his part, the Uvinza

Ranch investor in Kigoma Region, Bernard Katamba said the invaders have taken up their area, they steal their livestock that greatly discourages them to continue with livestock business.

"So far more than 25 head of cattle and 150 goats have been stolen from me and hopes of recovering them are nil, we ask the government for immediate intervention," he said.

However, the NARCO Board Chairman, Paul Kimiti urged

the government to look into the possibility to have wardens, just like those with TAN-APA to control the situation.

Following this request, the Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Mashimba Ndaki assures the investors that the government will take stern measures against the invaders of the ranch areas in violation of the law.

Following this request, the Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Mashimba Ndaki assures the investors that the government will take stern measures against the invaders of the ranch areas in violation of the law.

SOS Children's Village Z'bar unveils achievements recorded in 30 years

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

SOS Children's Village Zanzibar tomorrow clocks 30 years since started enrolling children on June 23, 1991.

The 30th anniversary goes in line with the memories of its founder Hermann Gmeiner, who in 1984 was being approached by former Zanzibar president Ali Hassan Mwinyi to build SOS Children's Village in the Indian Ocean Archipelago.

Gmeiner is being remembered for his charisma and compassion that made him establish the first SOS Children's Village in Tyrol, Austria, in 1949. As a child welfare worker, Gmeiner saw how children orphaned as a result of World War II suffered. He was committed to helping them by building loving families and supportive communities. Currently, there are 559 Children's Villages in 132 countries around the world. A number of institutions and organizations across the globe have shown interest to support such villages.

National Director of SOS Children's villages Tanzania, David Mulongo said: "The objectives of establishing these villages continue to be fully implemented and managed in the country, including providing children with care for the upbringing of children who have lost their parents and ensuring that they are brought up in those villages and access to opportunities and basic rights including education."

He said the villages also receive children who are in a difficult situation that their parents are unable to provide them with basic necessities including food, to education. "The main goal of establishing these vil-

lages has been achieved with great success, where currently children raised in these centers have been above 18. And they live outside the villages in preparation for independent living," he said.

According to Mulongo, those villages enable them to live independently and stand on their own two feet and return to their original families.

SOS, he said continues to provide education by implementing alternative education programs for different families to understand that children being sent to such centers should be the ultimate solution where the child's will is found in the family of the father and mother or siblings.

"That is the focus of our goals. We encourage families to take responsibility for the upbringing of children and bring the child to the center as a last resort and that is why we have enabled more than 300 families in alternative care on the Mainland and Zanzibar," he said.

In Tanzania, there are four SOS villages--Zanzibar, Arusha, Mwanza, and Dar es Salaam.

The SOS village in Zanzibar continues to provide care and education services as well as 84 children living there including 48 men and 32 women.

SOS Zanzibar village director Asha Salim Ali said: "We're proud of the great success that goes with the goal of providing shelter and care for children who have lost their parents or were living in difficult circumstances."

Among the major goals of the village is to strengthen the protection of children and ensure that they live safely and combat acts of sexual violence.



Asha noted that children raised in such facilities receive the same care and attention that they would receive from their natural parents, calling on the Zanzibari community to return to a traditional upbringing where a child whose parents died whether father or mother is then raised by a close family including uncles, aunts and sisters or brothers.

"The time has come now for us to return to our culture of child-rearing after the death of two parents you know in the past when parents die, the family sits down and discusses who will take care of the children, but now things have changed," she said. Enabling children to get higher education and join various colleges in the country and abroad is one of the villages'

success stories. Citing examples, Asha said that for the past 30 years, 93 young people completed their courses in different fields within and outside Tanzania.

"Through those studies, they had opportunities of getting employment in the public and private sector. To us this is a success story," she said.

"We're very happy to see SOS villages goals have been fully achieved, which is to provide shelter for children as well as education from primary to secondary and universities as well as building their capacities for self-reliance in the future," she stressed.

A 25-year-old Khamis Ame Baraka is one of the beneficiaries of SOS village of Zanzibar as he has been there more than 10 years and is now out there start-

ing a life of self-sufficiency. At the age of 18, Baraka began living a life outside the village where he experienced firsthand the state of independent living from the village life of choosing the diet you want.

"I thank my SOS leaders who enabled me by giving me a start-up capital of 2.5m/- and he managed to raise the money to 6m/- through his vegetable and poultry farming.

I can now stand on my own feet," said Baraka.

He is expecting to harvest pineapple on his two-and-a-half acre farm. And he's expecting to get more than 10m/- from by November this year.

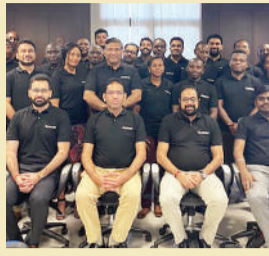
Omar Ramadhan Mkanga (27) also benefited from the village and he's on his own.



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Unique Financial Services chief urges accountants, auditors to heed NBAA directives

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Financial services firm giving away a year's profits to charity to mark 25 years of operations

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Azania Bank, PSSSF ink deal to extend mortgage for low-cost housing, plots

By Smart Money Reporter

LOW and middle-income families seeking to own houses through mortgage can do so with immediate effect, thanks to a deal signed between Azania Bank Limited and PSSSF Fund.

The low-cost houses whose prices range between 36m/- and 61m/- without value added tax are however only available in some regions.

Speaking after the agreement's signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam, Azania Bank Managing Director Charles Itembe said that, to begin with, buyers can get PSSSF's houses constructed at Buyuni in Dar es Salaam.

Itembe said interested parties will have to deposit 10 percent of the value of the houses or surveyed plots whose prices range between 2.5m/- and 15m/-. "I would like to commend PSSSF which is also one of the majority shareholders of the bank for coming up with such an innovative and inclusive idea targeting the majority of Tanzanians," he said adding that beneficiaries should also be PSSSF members.

Itembe revealed that Azania Bank which is a pioneer in mortgage financing is proud to be associated with the project which targets to provide decent houses to the majority low and middle income Tanzanians.

"We at Azania have a long history of mortgage financing hence we urge the public to come and get the loans which charge the lowest interest rate in the market at 10 percent with up to 15 years repayment period," the Azania Bank chief executive stated.

He pointed out that as one of the market's largest and profitable banks in the market, has a track record of do-



Azania Bank Limited managing director Charles Itembe (L) and PSSSF Fund director general Hosea Kashimba display copies of their agreement signed in Dar es Salaam, chiefly to enable members of the fund to get low-cost housing mortgage loans. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ing well in mortgage financing hence the deal with PSSSF. "As a vibrant financial institution we have an obligation

to support government efforts to rapidly develop the country and grow the economy," he stated.

In remarks after the deal was sealed, PSSSF's Director General, Hosea Kashimba said as a fund which

is entrusted with public workers pension contributions, the PSSSF has a responsibility to support the state in building decent houses for low income families.

"We have a responsibility to implement the government's Vision 2025 and ruling party manifesto which among other things names priority areas as provision of water supply, electricity and better housing," Kashimba said.

He pointed out that the fund which is legally entitled to invest profitably has been constructing houses in several regions of the country targeting its members most of who cannot afford expensive commercial apartments being built by other developers.

"The main objective of our projects is to provide our members and Tanzanians in general with affordable but decent houses in line with the government's development blue-print and the ruling party manifesto," he added while commending Azania Bank for lowering interest rates to 10 percent, the first of its kind in the market.

Apart from Dar es Salaam, other low cost houses are surveyed plots are in Iringa, Kagera, Katavi, Lindi, Morogoro, Mtwara, Rukwa and Ruvuma regions.

Tirdo director lauds Plasco for introducing Weholite technology into Tanzania market

By Smart Money Reporter

INTRODUCTION of Weholite technology products in the country by Plasco Limited has been applauded by Director General of Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (Tirdo), Prof Mkumbukwa Mtambo who launched the products in Dar es Salaam last week.

Prof Mtambo said the Plasco investment has made Tanzania one of the first countries in Africa to start manufacturing Weholite technology products. "It is encouraging to see Tanzania becoming the first country on the African continent and 11th in the world to introduce the Weholite technology," Prof Mtambo said.

He pointed out that the technology is the long-standing solution

for water, sanitation and hygiene challenges in the country. "The private sector is the engine of the country's industrial drive agenda and Plasco has proved it. To become an industrial country, we need such kind of creative industries which are competitive and sustainable," he added.

He advised the Plasco Ltd's management to look for new markets outside for Weholite technology products to broaden its reach and earn more profit. The Tirdo chief executive also applauded the company for installing a quality-control laboratory within the factory, an aspect which many companies ignore.

Plasco's Chief Operating Officer, Alimiya Osman told the Tirdo chief that the company is manufacturing Weholite products under license using state of the art produc-

tion technology from Uponor Infra Oy of Finland.

Osman said Weholite pipes are of large diameter, structured that have proven to be a sustainable solution with a lifespan of over 100 years and are suitable for municipal and industrial applications. "We thrive on providing high quality, sustainable infrastructure solutions that will last for generations. This is why we have invested in Weholite technology, which is a world-renowned, best value piping solution for numerous applications including road and railway culverts, storm water management, water storage and irrigation systems, just to mention a few," Osman said.

He added that Plasco's products and services are of impeccable quality hence the Weholite brand will simply add more value to its



Tanzania Industrial Research Development Organisation's director general, Prof Mkumbukwa Mtambo (2nd-R), listening to Plasco Limited's chief operating officer, Alimiya Osman, during a visit to the company's factory in Dar es Salaam last week. Right is the company's board chairman, Aunali Rajabali. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

existing brands in the market. "Our brand image now reflects with what

we are striving to achieve within the industry, and since we export our

products, Plasco is proof that Tanzanian manufacturing companies have the facilities and capability to provide world-class products and solutions across the East African region and beyond," he explained.

Under its slogan of 'We stand for Quality,' which epitomizes the company's strong reputation for providing best value infrastructure products and services right across the East African region. Established nearly three decades ago, Plasco Limited is now the country's leading thermoplastic pipe producer and has evolved into manufacturing un-plasticised polyvinyl-chloride (uPVC), High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and most recently, Weholite HDPE structured wall pipes and products sold locally and in the East African region.

CEO vacuum at AngloGold turns it into world's worst mining stock

JOHANNESBURG

ANGLOGOLD Ashanti has had a bad year, with the company's lack of a permanent chief executive officer and a suspension of its Ghana mine operations weighing on the stock. But with shares now cheap compared with peers, analysts see potential for upside.

Shares of the world's third-largest gold producer have dropped 30% in the past year, making it the worst-performing stock in the I13-company Bloomberg World Mining Index. It also trails peers on South Africa's FTSE/JSE Precious Metals and Mining Index, which has gained 20% in the same period.

Investor sentiment began to sour three days after the company's shares rose to a record on July 27. That's when AngloGold's CEO Kelvin Dushnisky shocked stakeholders by announcing his resignation. The stock on Tuesday fell to the lowest since March 2020, and trades at a forward price-to-earnings ratio of 8.5 times compared with 10.8 for the Bloomberg mining index.

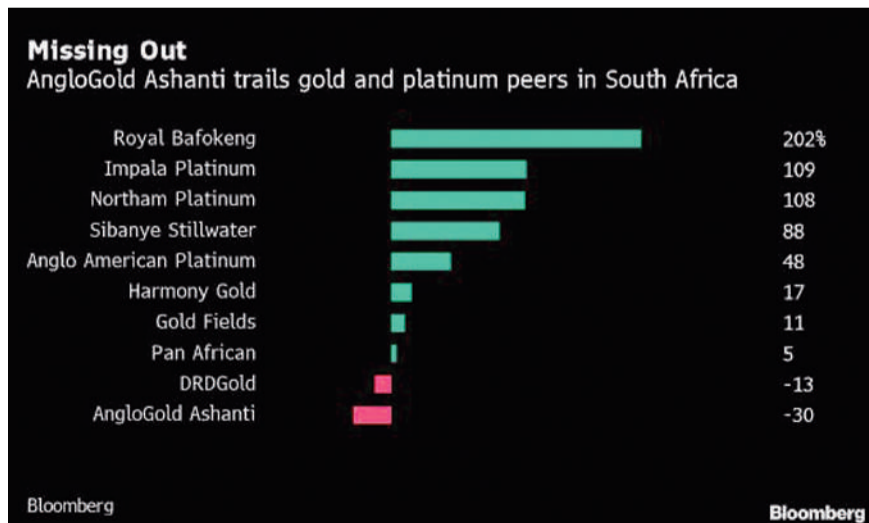
"AngloGold is a good turnaround stock at this point, being one of the cheapest large cap gold stocks globally," said Bloomberg Intelligence mining analyst Grant Sporre. Appointing a CEO and resuming mining operations in Ghana, "would all be positive cata-

lysts and may be enough for the stock to play catch up to peers, even if gold prices were to flatline."

Five months after the CEO announced his decision to resign, the company's chairperson quit and in May it had to suspend operations at its Ghana mine following an accident. The company's move to boost its dividend fivefold earlier this year hasn't helped the shares. The key trigger for investors will be the appointment of a permanent head, according to Raj Ray, director of metals & mining research at BMO Capital Markets. Interim CEO Christine Ramon has been running the company since Dushnisky quit last year.

The search for a permanent CEO is a "top priority for the board, which is fully-focused on securing the best candidate for the role," Chris Nthite, an AngloGold spokesman, said in an email on Tuesday. While AngloGold is yet to decide on its CEO, rival Gold Fields, has had a smooth transition. It named former Anglo American Platinum Ltd. boss Chris Griffith as head, to succeed Nick Holland. Gold Field's shares have gained 13% in the past year.

Many analysts remain sanguine. AngloGold's recommendation consensus – a gauge of analyst confidence in a stock on a scale of 1 to 5 – stands at 3.7, up from 3 in August last year. Nine ana-



A bar chart showing AngloGold performance compared to peers.

lysts forecast the company's shares will rise an average 27% in the next 12 months, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

AngloGold's share price is poised to rise even if gold prices fall, said Rene Hochreiter, an analyst at Johannesburg-based Noah Capital Markets. That's because "the company is making quite a nice profit," so the target price should be about 30% higher, he said.

Still, investors will be assessing the company's ability to get its key Obuasi mine in Ghana back on track, after the operations were suspended last month following the death of a miner in a fall-of-ground incident.

While the suspension will curb AngloGold's 2021 output, the company is doing an "assessment of the mine design, mine schedule and ground management plans," before resuming production in a phased manner, Nthite said, without giving a timeline. AngloGold has spent about \$545 million redeveloping the Ghanaian operation.

The company also has other challenges. It's battling to repatriate more than \$461 million of its profit from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and resolve challenges with value added tax with the government in Tanzania. Meanwhile, bullion's retreat from the highest level since January will mean that AngloGold may continue to underperform rivals, said Anchor Capital Investment's analyst Seleho Tsatsi.

Vodacom executives in share options bonanza

JOHANNESBURG

VODACOM Group has awarded its CEO, Shameel Joosub, more than R44-million worth of share options, which will vest in three years provided they are not forfeited and performance conditions are met.

In a regulatory filing through the JSE on Monday, Vodacom disclosed that it has awarded 339 099 forfeitable shares to Joosub. The shares were issued at an average price of R130.84, giving them a value of R44.4-million.

At the same time, Vodacom awarded share options to a number of its senior executives: Group chief financial officer Raisibe Morathi received 68 786 shares, of which 50% are subject to performance conditions.

The shares are currently valued at R9-million; Group company secretary Sandi Linford received 9 783 shares worth R1.3-million; and Vodacom South Africa MD Balesh Sharma received 55 220 shares, 50% of which is subject to performance conditions. The shares are worth R7.2-million.

Other awarded top executives include: Chief officer of Vodacom Business William Mzimba received 43 526 shares, of which 50% is subject to performance conditions. The shares are valued at R5.7-million; Technology director Beverly Ngwenya received 21 858 Vodacom shares, of which 50% is subject to performance conditions.

They're valued at R2.9-million; Vodacom South Africa financial director Sitho Mdlalose received 21 859 shares, with 50% subject to performance. The shares are valued at R2.9-million; and Chief officer of the South African consumer business unit Jorge Mendes was awarded 42 098 shares, also with 50% subject to performance. The shares have a current value of R5.5-million.

Investment in digital channels enables NMB to enhance government revenue



NMB Bank CEO Ruth Zaipuna

By Smart Money Reporter

NMB Bank Plc's operational excellence in recent years and its extraordinary financial outturn last year are a direct outcome of its digital innovations and investment in virtual service delivery platforms, Chief Executive Officer Ruth Zaipuna has said.

Briefing Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango in Dodoma last weekend on the bank's recent success story, Zaipuna said the digital platforms facilitated collection of government revenues totalling nearly 6trn/- between 2018/20.

"Such investments have ended up increasing efficiency and cutting operational costs in revenue collection. In the past two years (2018/20), a total of 5.9trn/- was collected through NMB's systems connected to various public institutions across the country," Zaipuna told Dr Mpango when presenting him with a dividend pay cheque worth 21.8bn/- to Dr Mpango, property of Treasury. Apart from being a major shareholder at NMB, the government is also a big customer and a strategic partner of the market's most profitable bank.

"Besides these projects, the investments NMB is making in new technologies have enabled us to integrate our digital plat-

forms with those of the government and other public entities leading to eased revenue collection," she noted.

The NMB CEO further noted that as a result of having the state as a key partner, the bank has continuously invested in innovative technologies that offer banking solutions to the state and other clients in the market.

"Together with connecting the government's electronic payment gateway with NMB's digital channels, we are investing more to ensure that most of the customers' transactions are done electronically," she added.

Speaking after receiving the pay cheque, Dr Mpango said the government appreciates the bank's investments in digital platforms because it's efficient and profitable. He said the sustained dividend payouts are a manifestation of NMB's huge contribution to national building. The VP said for the past decade, NMB has paid 155.8bn/- dividend to the state.

The Vice President also said the government was proud of NMB's

achievements and being a 31.8 per cent shareholder in the business that has accorded it a lot of value. He called on Tanzanians to support the lender saying its fiscal success means a lot to them and the whole country at large.

"We are satisfied with our investment in NMB because it is paying off handsomely. The government on behalf of Tanzanians, commends the bank for the good work it is doing to serve the country," Dr Mpango added.

One of NMB's recent financial achievements has been to increase shareholders capital that went up by 463bn/- in the past five taking the bank's total capital base to 1.1trn/- compared to 666bn/- in 2015.

In a vote of thanks, NMB's Board Chairman, Dr Edwin Mhede said apart from innovation prowess, another reasons for the banks' success was its foot soldiers who are staff members.

"Equally important, are our customers whose support as well as a conducive business environment put in place by the government, played key roles," Dr Mhede noted while adding that the market's most profitable bank, has over four million account holders and more than 8,400 agents.

Unique Financial Services Limited's chief urges accountants, auditors to heed NBAA directives



Founder and executive director of Unique Financial Services Limited, Dr Sree Kumar (seated C), in a souvenir photo with the firm's staff members in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Smart Money Reporter

ACCOUNTANTS and auditors in the country have been advised to heed directives and regulatory requirements being issued by National Board of Accountants and Auditors to ensure professionalism in the trade.

Founder and Executive Director of Unique Financial Services Limited, Dr Sree Kumar said in Dar es Salaam this week that clients deserve quality audit and accountancy services which meet NBAA benchmarks hence it is vital to strictly follow the regulator's directives.

"There is still a vast requirement of qualified accountants and finance managers in the country. While NBAA has been doing a commendable job churning out professionals, due to the increasing demand every year the gap still exists," Dr Kumar said.

He pointed out that during his company's 25 year history, there is need to encourage children have an interest in accountancy and auditing professions so that the country can have enough Certified Public Accountants.

"As you would appreciate, a sound financial and accounting team is the life blood of any business hence its impor-

ance cannot be exaggerated. It is heartening that there is a change in the trend now and hopefully better days are round the corner," he added while noting that as a financial services expert, he encourages his staff to regularly undertake brush up courses.

"We strongly encouraging all our staff to register for Certified Public Accountancy or other courses depending on their qualification. In fact it is a policy in the company that every staff should continue to pursue their education with their subscription and examination fees paid for by the company.

The UFSL founder and chief executive said to commemorate the 25th anniversary, his management has decided to give all profit made last year to charitable institutions to finance community projects such as assisting orphans and public schools.

"It is a matter of pride that we, as a company has always believed in giving back to the society which has given us so much. As a part of our CSR initiative, we do provide education to a number of orphans, we have built a modern kitchen and dining area for the students at Upanga Primary School. We have been supporting a number of orphanages in the city over the years," Dr Kumar stated. (a full interview with Dr Sree Kumar is on page 15).

MTN Group execs meet in Nigeria amid security fears linked to a shaky market

LAGOS

A DELEGATION of C-level MTN Group executives has arrived in Nigeria on a three-day working visit, as the market continues to be impacted by security concerns, including kidnapping, robbery and insurgency.

According to a statement from the company, MTN Group CEO, Ralph Mupita, and Group CFO Tsholo Molefe are scheduled to meet with MTN Nigeria Chairman, Dr Ernest Ndukwe (OFR) and MTN Nigeria CEO, Karl Toriola, along with select partners and key stakeholders in the country.

This is Mupita's first working visit to Nigeria since assuming office in 2020. Nigeria is a key market for MTN. According to recent figures released by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) the operator has over 82 million subscribers.

Mupita said: "Nigeria is one of our most important markets. We have a proud history of partnering with Nigeria and Nigerians to drive faster and more inclusive growth through digital transformation, and I look forward to this opportunity for in-person engagements with our key stakeholders to discuss the future and deepen the relationships we have built over time."

Ndukwe added: "This visit demonstrates MTN's continued commitment to supporting the socio-economic development of Africa's largest economy. We look forward to hosting the Group leadership and working with them and our other partners across the ecosystem towards delivering world class services."

While the operator is keen to

emphasise MTN Nigeria's pending 20th anniversary of operation, and that, according to Ndukwe, the visit will result in activities that will have far-reaching positive impact, the company was recently reported to be the first to acknowledge possible disruption to its services as a result of insecurity.

ITWeb Africa reported this week that persistent reports of kidnapping, robbery, farmer-herders clashes and insurgency in parts of the country has exacerbated the impact of COVID-19 on the economy.

According to the World Bank's latest Nigeria Development Update report released on 15 June, the Nigerian economy shrank by 1.8% by 2020 due to the global pandemic to see its deepest decline since 1983.

In early May MTN Nigeria presented its unaudited results for the quarter ended 31 March 2021 and said despite a reduction in its overall subscriber base in Q1 and marginal decline in active data subscribers by 71,000 to 32.5-million, data traffic is up with a 48.5% increase in usage (MB per user) and the company is confident it is gaining momentum within the NIN/SIM registration process.

Toriola said at the time: "Operationally, service revenue in Q1 grew by 17.2% YoY, in line with our medium-term target, supported by growth of 42.6% and 8.0% in data and voice revenue respectively. This was achieved despite the impact of the pandemic and a decline in our subscriber base due to the effects of customer churn and the restrictions on new SIM sales and activations arising from changes in SIM registration regulations."



MTN Group president and CEO Ralph Mupita.

Reprieve for used car importers in Mombasa permit fee wrangle

NAIROBI

THE High Court has ordered maintenance of the status quo regarding payment of trade licence fees in a dispute pitting importers of used vehicles and Mombasa County. Under the umbrella of Car Importers Association of Kenya (Ciak), dealers had sued the county government of Mombasa, challenging a demand for payment of Sh110,250 per showroom for them to be issued with trading licences for this year.

Justice Eric Ogola gave the orders, saying he had factored the county government's position that importers are not being harassed. The status quo is to remain until the case is heard on July 27, he directed.

Through lawyer Elizabeth Kisingo, Mombasa had told the court that there was no evidence to show harassment of the traders. Importers also accuse the county government of demanding payment of Sh90,250 per year for 2019 and 2020 arguing that the devolved unit has no power to seek the same retrospectively.

Electronic licencing

In its petition, Ciak wants an order directing the county government to configure its electronic licencing system to allow its [Ciak] members to access it, apply and obtain the annual trade licence for 2021.

Ciak also seeks a permanent injunction restraining the county government from interfering with its members' business until the online platform is configured and rates for Sh45,000 per year are lawfully reviewed.

Through lawyer Gikandi Ngibuini, Ciak says its members were willing to pay for trade licences from 2019, but without explanation, the devolved unit blocked them from accessing its electronic platform, thus preventing them to pay.

Ciak says it had filed a petition challenging the disbarment. A judgment was entered in its favour. The county government, Ciak says, persistently locked out its members until it was served with a court order.

The association claims members were surprised that the system was programmed to demand payment of Sh90,250 per showroom per year for 2019 and 2020, and Sh110,250 for 2021, before they could be issued with trade licences. "Members found the demand to be unreasonable and untenable," argues Ciak in its suit papers.

Ciak says its members have not renewed their trade licences and are afraid the county government may charge them for conducting business without permits. According to the petitioner, in a public participation exercise conducted in September 2019, its members made a strong case that licences should attract a charge of Sh45,000 per showroom per year.

Financial services company giving away year's profit to charity to mark 25 years

By Petrus Mare

In a rare feat, Unique Financial Services Limited which is marking 25 years of operations is donating all its profits worth millions of shillings accrued this year, to charity. In this interview with Smart Money Reporter, UFS's executive director and founder, DR B S SREE KUMAR, explains how the journey of sustained growth has achieved, excerpts:

When exactly did you start Unique Financial Services?

Unique Financial Services Limited was born on 7th March 1996, essentially to provide quality financial and management consultancy services to the various business houses and to the government.

What inspired you to start this business?

In the mid-1990s, I was working in a transport company in Dar es Salaam which had specialized into transit cargo transportation. The company had hundreds of sub contractor transporters and these sub-contractors always struggled as they didn't have a sound system of accounting. They had no clue as to their debtors, creditors, let alone a sound cash flow system nor the profits they were earning. Seeing this every day, it occurred that it will be viable to provide consultancy to these companies. Hence the idea of Unique was conceived. I discussed it with my then employers under a staircase! They were magnanimous enough to give me partnership in the new company and Unique was born. That was the time when Tanzania was opening up and a lot of investors were flocking into the country which was blessed with political stability and a secure ambience.

Why did you choose Tanzania of all the places??

It was merely a matter of chance and luck that I landed in Tanzania in 1992 with an offer from a then reputed business house. However as soon as I landed, I could feel something uniqueness in the air, friendly people, safe and secure surroundings, relatively clean city, political stability, all of these attracted me. Now having completed 29 years here, looking back, the best decision I took was to be here.

How do you describe the journey over the past 25 years in terms of challenges?

Looking back it gives me immense satisfaction to have lead Unique and the team of energetic consultants who in one way or the other has contributed substantially to the growth of the company. However the journey has been a mixed bag. There were times when the urge to give up was strong. I remember walking into the run down single room shop- our first office - along Samora Avenue with merely 1,000 shillings in my pocket. Unable to employ paid staff, I had to rope in my wife as the first employee. She magnanimously agreed bidding good bye to a flourishing IT career. It took us over a year to get-in the bare minimum staff and the challenge was the concept of Unique was then unheard of in Tanzania



and the prospective clients was unsure of what we marketed to them. Many, though wanted our services, was reluctant to part with confidential information of their companies.

When did you start seeing hope?

The major breakthrough came in 1998, i.e. after two years when we were appointed as the preferred consultants for few government departments and as the saying goes 'when god gives he gives in plenty.' Soon we were the consultants for DFID which had embarked on an ambitious executive agencies project through Utumishi and three multinational companies also became our clients. By the year 2,000, the company had stabilized and soon we introduced the 'outsourcing' concept which was grabbed by the market with open arms. Since then the growth has been consistent and we have a policy to grow only by a certain percentage annually, to ensure that quality is not compromised in the process.

Who were your main partners during this journey?

There are many and they include government agencies, departments, multi-national companies, locally registered companies. But the real partner on my journey has been the team of dedicated staff, who have gone all out of their way to make Unique what it is today. Any service industry company is as good as its employees. The space given and the confidence bestowed on me by my partners to run the company in my way has greatly contributed to the growth as decision making has been prompt.

Which years do you remember as being very bad for your business?

Difficult to answer this as I cannot pick up a particular year, though the policies of the different governments we had thus far had an impact on the economy, I firmly believe that every situation/ crisis is an opportunity. Hence no complaints on that front. Having said that we had challenges when crucial expatriate consultants had to leave us due to work permits issues. All in all, all the 25 years of our journey has been exciting and was always a learning curve.

Any personalities that you credit for supporting you to come this far?

As I indicated above, number of people has contributed to the growth. Unfortunate some of them are not with us anymore. However their contribution is fondly remembered. It would be unfair, if I do not mention my late father, Balakrishna Pillai who has been the guiding light in my entire life. It is he who always instilled the habit of stretching beyond my capacity, he taught me to think big, and most importantly he gave me the guts to take challenges in life. He gave me the freedom to choose what I wanted in my life and he used to remind me - be a thief, but be the best thief.

I have been fortunate to have a secure family, wherein, when my wife saw the growth of the company, she slipped behind the curtains to take care of our small-then-kids. This gave me an open ended office hours and a cozy home front when I would retire on late evenings.

Any plans to extend your business empire to other EAC or SADC countries?

This has always been a regular topic of discussion in the office. Not a single weekly meeting passes without this being mentioned. However, we feel there is enough and more business opportunity in Tanzania and we have till date probably captured only five percent of the untapped market. There is plenty and more that can be explored. One should also note that, our business' real value is

when you accord personalized services. Spreading it wide and thin may deplete the degree of personalized services.

As experts in the field of accountancy and financial consultancy you work in partnership with National Board of Accountants and Auditors, how are you assisting the country get qualified certified public accountants?

This is a million dollar question. There is still a vast requirement of qualified accountants and finance managers in the country. While NBAA has been doing a commendable job churning out professionals, due to the increasing demand every year the gap still exists. One thing that can be done is to generate an interest for the profession amongst kids at an early age, so that the cream joins the profession. As you would appreciate, a sound financial and accounting team is the life blood of any business hence its importance cannot be exaggerated. It is heartening that there is a change in the trend now and hopefully better days are round the corner.

We are happy to be partnering with NBAA, in their goals and some of the things we do are: encouraging all our staff to register for Certified Public Accountancy or other courses depending on their qualification. In fact it is a policy in the company that every staff should continue to pursue their education; and the company pays the subscription and examination fees for all our staff who have enrolled for various courses.

Have you done any corporate social investments in community projects?

It is a matter of pride that we, as a company has always believed in giving back to the society which has given us so much. As a part of our CSR initiative, we do provide education to a number of orphans, we have built a modern kitchen and dining area for the students at Upanga Primary School. We have been supporting a number of orphanages in the city over the years. We have also taken an initiative to feed the elderly in town who have been orphaned by their kids. This year, we also constructed and donated a state of the art learning center at National Board of Accountants and Auditors in Dar es Salaam.

I am proud to state that as a part of our CSR initiative, Unique to commemorate our 25 years has decided that the entire profit for 2021 will be utilized for a worthy cause in the country. We are currently seeking applications from worthy causes.

What is your advise to the new generation of CPAs?

Without an iota of doubt, I can say that ours is one of the most noble profession, thanks to our seniors who have given that image to this field.

Every new entrant into the profession has the responsibility to uphold the dignity of the profession and take it to greater heights. Instead of going purely commercially, focus on giving the right service to the clients and reward will come automatically. Be ethical in your approach and always plan long term. Co-operate with the governing body, NBAA. While doing all these, do not forget the human aspect, give back to the society and do things which you know your god will be pleased.

SA's fishermen, oyster farmers fear power ship will kill business

CAPE TOWN

A FLOATING gas-turbine generator meant to alleviate South Africa's crippling power cuts has run into objections by oyster farmers and small-scale fishermen, who fear the environmental damage will destroy their livelihoods.

The seafood sellers fear the 415 megawatt (MW) ship - to be moored for two decades at Saldanha Bay, 140 km north of Cape Town - will pump hot water into the bay and make endless noise, spoiling farmed oysters and scaring off fish as Africa's most industrialised country scrambles to fix electricity problems.

Responding to complaints by the Green Connection environmental justice group, the South African government on June 11 suspended an environmental authorisation application for operator Karpowership in Saldanha Bay. It cited the Green Connection's allegation that Karpowership failed to conduct specialist studies on underwater engine noise.

Saldanha Bay is SA's first sea-based aquaculture zone, with 16 new entrants welcomed last year to an industry worth around R1 billion (\$72 million) annually, Fisheries Department officials said.

A few minutes from the slipway, multi-coloured buoys and floating black rafts help pinpoint different farm locations, as workers pull up long lines of clinging mussels or exotic oysters fattened in the nutrient-rich waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

"We don't believe it can just be benign, sitting there, because it is generating hot water and it is generating a noise factor which can affect the organisms we cultivate," said Kevin Ruck, owner of Blue Sapphire Pearls oyster farm and a trained marine biologist.

Ruck is worried that hot water discharge from the Karpowership vessel may stimulate harmful algae blooms that could render his succulent oysters inedible. Started in 2008, his company harvests up to a million Pacific oysters a year, mainly for the domestic market, but also exported live to China.

In February, scientists warned that industrial noise beneath the ocean surface was disrupting marine animals' ability to mate, feed and even evade predators. But prolonged delays to Karpowership's bid, which includes more ships at two east coast ports, could disrupt South Africa's plan to plug its energy shortfall with 2 000 MW of emergency power.

Karpowership SA said its environmental impact assessments for all three sites "demonstrate little impact to the surrounding air and water environments."

But, for Saldanha Bay skipper Christie Links, the risks are too great. "Who says the many fish species we depend on will still come into the bay if Karpowership is here?"



Karpowership with capacity to generate 415 megawatts is moored at Saldanha Bay in Cape Town.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Continental Free Trade agreement will unlock auto opportunities in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, which was launched on January 1, is regarded as a catalyst to help Africa unlock the opportunities on its own continent, particularly in the automotive sector.

Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the AfCFTA secretariat, says the launch of the agreement is probably the biggest single achievement by the continent since colonialism and stressed that it would take much longer to industrialise Africa without the AfCFTA.

"We have a very unique opportunity in Africa to, for the first time since the end of colonialism, accelerate industrial development, leveraging on the legal framework that the AfCFTA has provided," he said during a webinar on the agreement and the auto sector.

Alec Erwin, former South African deputy minister of finance and minister of trade and industry and public enterprises, who is now a policy expert to the African

Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM), said the free trade agreement is a fundamental breakthrough and a unique opportunity for the automotive sector in Africa.

'A real opportunity'

"It's a real opportunity to industrialise in a key sector. In an economy like South Africa, an integrated auto sector contributes more than 7% to our GDP, so it's a very significant industrial sector. In Morocco, you see the same. It is contributing 5%, 6% or 7% of Morocco's GDP.

"We have proposed to the [AfCFTA] negotiators that it would be wise, if we want to fast-track the auto sector, to have a sub-agreement specifically dealing with the rules around auto, which have to be strict and detailed.

"This is an opportunity which we all think we should seize, also working closely with Afreximbank [African Export-Import Bank] and others, to introduce the support for financing strategies, both for asset finance and for infrastructure," he said.



Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the AfCFTA.

Mike Whitfield, the president of AAAM and MD of Nissan Africa, said the AAAM was formed to expand and deepen the auto sector on the continent by working with various governments in Africa to help shape and implement policies and ecosystems that will attract investors and ultimately unlock the economic potential of the continent.

Whitfield said there is a lot of opportunity for the automotive sector in the vision and intention of the AfCFTA, considering that significant production volumes

only really exist currently in two countries, South Africa and Morocco, with some production in Egypt.

"The finalisation of the AfCFTA agreement and the rules of origin with respect to automotive are vital to the realisation of the AAAM's vision of building a successful automotive ecosystem that will lead to a sustainable industry of scale that creates significant jobs, while assisting in the industrialisation of the automotive sector in Africa.

"The opportunities for all of us are really significant, considering that 1.3% of global automotive production happens in Africa and yet Africa has 17% of the global population and 42 vehicles per 1 000 people in the African continent where the world average is 182 and Africa has a young, growing population that, with the rapid rise of urbanisation, needs mobility as well," he said. Erwin stressed that

Africa cannot continue doing what it has been until now, which is to import all its vehicles.

It's creating real pressure on our balance of payments in Africa and squeezing out other capital goods that we need for our industrialisation." He added that the proposals the AAAM is making in this trade and production system for Africa are also designed to take the pressure off Africa's balance of payments.

Erwin said the rules of origin form the basic administration of the whole concept of developing African industrial capacity, meaning a free trade system that allows preferential access for member states provided they have attained a certain level of local production. "That is very critical. If you don't do that, you are just opening your African economy to the rest of the world, which will be destructive to industrialisation."

WORLD

Ethiopians to vote in what govt bills as first free election

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIANS voted yesterday in national and regional elections that the prime minister has billed as proof of his commitment to democracy after decades of repressive rule in Africa's second-most populous nation.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, 45, oversaw sweeping political and economic reforms after his appointment in 2018 by the ruling coalition. But some rights activists say those gains are being reversed and complain of abuses in a war in Ethiopia's Tigray region, charges the government denies.

Abiy said last week the vote would be the "first attempt at free and fair elections" in Ethiopia, whose once rapidly growing economy has been hit by conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Results of the vote could reverberate beyond Ethiopia. The Horn of Africa nation is a diplomatic heavyweight in a volatile region, providing peacekeepers to Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan. It also is one of the world's biggest frontier markets.

In the capital, voters began to arrive shortly before polls opened at 6 am.

"Our hope is those we voted for will bring development," said security guard

Sisay Kebede, 50, after he cast the first ballot at his polling station. Eight others waited in the cool morning air.

Abiy's newly-formed Prosperity Party is the frontrunner in a crowded field of candidates mostly from smaller, ethnically-based parties. Billboards with his party's lightbulb symbol adorn the capital.

Former political prisoner Berhanu Nega is the only other prominent candidate not running on an ethnic ticket. But his Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice party has struggled to attract support outside cities.

During the last election, the ruling coalition and its allies won all 547 seats. This time, more than 37 million of Ethiopia's 109 million people are registered to vote, choosing from 46 parties for parliament. The electoral board says more candidates are running this time than in any previous vote.

Not all parties are taking part. In Oromiya, Ethiopia's most populous province, the largest opposition parties are boycotting over alleged intimidation by regional security forces. Officials did not return calls seeking comment.

Problems with voting registration and simmering ethnic violence have delayed voting in a fifth of constituencies. A second round of voting will take place in Sep-



A woman casts her ballot at a polling station in the city of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia yesterday. (AFP)

tember.

No date has been set for voting in Tigray, where the government has been fighting the region's former governing party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, since November. The United Nations says some 350,000 people face famine there.

'Almost a democracy'

Drinking a beer in the capital Addis Ababa, retired civil servant Yohannes Asrat said he had seen both force and rigging during elections in his lifetime but hoped Monday's vote would be different. "We're almost a democracy," he said.

Abiy's reforms include lifting a ban on dozens of political parties and media outlets, releasing tens of thousands of political prisoners and easing restrictions on political gatherings.

But Fisseha Tekle from rights group Amnesty International said the government was still quashing dissent using a revised anti-terrorism law and new hate speech legislation that can lead to prison terms for online content.

"The government is using these laws to arrest people and keep them in prison for a long time," Fisseha said.

In the capital, many construction projects have paused as growth has slowed in what until recently was one of Africa's fastest expanding economies, leaving tattered sheeting covering skeletons of unfinished buildings.

Many voters are more concerned about reviving the economy than democratic reforms.

Abiy has promised to bring in foreign investment and speed up electrification by filling a giant US\$4 billion hydropower dam on the Blue Nile, stoking tension with Egypt and Sudan, which fear the Nile water supplies they rely on might be interrupted.

But annual inflation is now about 20 percent and growth is forecast at just 2 percent this year after topping 10 percent before the pandemic.

"The cost of living is increasing," said shopkeeper Murad Merga, whose window was adorned with ruling party posters. But he remained upbeat: "Everything will be fixed step by step."

Agencies

Israeli foreign minister to pay first visit to UAE next week

TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S top diplomat will travel to the United Arab Emirates next week in the first official visit by an Israeli minister to the Gulf state since the two countries established diplomatic relations last year.

Yair Lapid, who was sworn in last week under a new government, will be hosted by UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan from June 29-30, the Israeli foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Minister Lapid will inaugurate the Israeli Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate

General of Israel in Dubai."

The UAE, along with Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco, began normalizing relations with Israel last year under accords brokered by then-US President Donald Trump.

The deals angered the Palestinians, who have long relied on Gulf and Arab support in their quest for statehood in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and in Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Lapid's visit will be his first abroad as foreign minister. He and new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett forged a patchwork coalition that ended the record-long tenure of veteran



Then Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid delivers a statement to the press at the Knesset (Israeli parliament) in Jerusalem on May 31, 2021. (AFP)

prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who spearheaded Israel's deals with the four Arab countries.

Netanyahu had planned to

visit the UAE ahead of a March 23 election but cancelled the trip amid a dispute with Jordan.

In a side deal to opening

relations with Israel, the UAE secured Washington's approval to purchase US-made F-35 fighter jets. President Joe Biden has since proceeded with that deal following a review.

Business relations between Israel and the UAE have flourished, and the two countries signed a major tax treaty on May 31.

"Relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates are important, the fruits of which benefit not only the citizens of the two countries, but the entire Middle East," the foreign ministry said in its statement. **Agencies**

Election to Duma should be held honestly and openly, Putin says

MOSCOW

THE election to the State Duma (the lower house of Russia's parliament) should be held fairly and openly to enjoy the trust of the people, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the congress of the United Russia ruling party on Saturday.

"Our common task is to do our utmost to ensure that the election is held openly and honestly in accordance with law, so that its results can reflect the true will of the nation, while enjoying the unconditional trust of the country's citizens," he said.

Putin emphasized that the election campaign is always a challenge for the political system, which is tested for resilience and efficiency.

"United Russia has a special role in this. The leading party should be an example of creating an atmosphere of the open and competitive political contest," the president said.

"You will have to be particularly responsible, and rightly so. You are an influential political force, an influential party, the party of the majority and therefore, are responsible for everything. That is why you should be prepared not only for conversations about convenient and advantageous issues, but also for unsparing assessments," Putin said adding that people are right in most of those claims.

"You need to talk to them, listen to them, draw conclusions, but should not be scared of criticism or evade hot topics. Moreover, United Russia has what to report to the voters," he added.

He noted that the party has done a lot and should defend its position confidently and reasonably.

"Talk to people openly and honestly, and it will work," Putin concluded.

Agencies

Don't count on needing a virus booster shot, WHO scientist says

By Bloomberg

AS some governments and pharmaceutical officials prepare for COVID-19 booster shots targeting more-infectious virus variants, health authorities say it's too early to tell if they will be required.

"We do not have the information that's necessary to make the recommendation on whether or not a booster will be needed," Soumya Swaminathan, the World Health Organization's chief scientist, said in a Zoom interview Friday. The "science is still evolving."

Such a call is "premature" while high-risk individuals in most of the world haven't yet completed a first course of vaccination, Swaminathan said. Data from countries introducing precautionary extra inocula-

tions later this year -- particularly for vulnerable people whose immunity to SARS-CoV-2 may wane faster -- will inform WHO's guidance, she said.

COVID-19 booster shots are likely to be rolled out in UK in the fall to avoid another winter surge. Seven different vaccines are being tested in volunteers in England in the world's first booster study, Health Secretary Matt Hancock said last month.

The UK, which has inoculated a larger proportion of people than any other major economy, has been forced to delay a planned lifting of coronavirus restrictions amid a resurgence of cases driven by the delta variant. The strain, first reported in India, is the most infectious reported to date.

Tweaking shots

More-transmissible variants,

including the beta strain that emerged in South Africa, require higher antibody levels to prevent infection, prompting vaccine makers including Pfizer Inc and Moderna Inc to test whether tweaked versions of their existing shots will provide broader immunity.

One dose of Novavax Inc's variant-directed vaccine may provide sufficient protection against the beta strain in individuals previously immunized against COVID-19, according to pre-clinical research released this month by scientists at the Gaithersburg, Maryland-based company and the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The modified shot also has the potential to provide broad protection against various strains if used as a primary vaccine regimen, said Gregory M.

Glenn, Novavax's president of research and development, in a June 11 statement.

So far, the existing US-approved vaccines work well enough to protect against beta, delta and two other strains that the WHO has designated as variants of concern, said Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health.

'Our future'

"Nobody is saying you need a booster today," Collins said in an interview with biologist Lee Hood at the Precision Medicine World Conference Thursday. "But boosters might very well be in our future at some point, and they might be here sooner if other variants pop up" that aren't covered as well by existing vaccines.

As a minimum, vaccines will

need to protect against hospitalization, ICU admission and death, according to Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "With that bar, we probably would need a vaccine maybe every three to five years," he said in a STAT biotech podcast on Thursday. Immunization with a combination of vaccinations may offer longer immunity or fewer side effects for certain individuals, Offit said. Early data from the UK, Spain and Germany suggest a "mix-and-match" regimen using two different types of vaccines generates more pain, fever and other minor side effects compared with two doses of the same inoculation, the WHO's Swaminathan said.

Agencies

Smart retail solutions bring tailored services to Chinese consumers

WITH the rapid development of big data, AI, and cloud computing, China's retail sector is witnessing a growing trend toward digitalization and intelligentization, or a smart retail revolution, in every link of the industrial chain, from manufacturing, storage and purchase, to sale and service.

Smart retail usually refers to a retail pattern that uses Internet and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to perceive consumption habits and predict consumption trends for the purpose of guiding production and manufactur-

ing and providing diversified and personalized products and services for consumers.

Unmanned supermarkets, placing orders via mini program, "trying on" clothes with the help of virtual reality (VR) devices, and smart supply chain management all fall into smart retail application scenarios.

Meanwhile, everyone involved in the front end, mid end, and back end of the retail trade, including producer, purchaser, manager of shopping mall, store manager, and consumer, is a part of smart retail.

It's generally believed by practitioners in the industry that the ultimate goal of smart retail is realizing the integration of online and offline business.

The development of smart retail can help offline business realize digitalization and online transaction and make offline retail business be searched and recommended online, said Lin Yuanqing, founder of Aibee, a Beijing-based AI company focusing on applying digitalized and intelligent AI solutions to the physical world.

Smart retail will enable consumers to search for brick-and-mortar

stores and discount coupons as convenient as with online shops, according to Lin, who believes that in the future, consumers will enjoy convenience and pleasure in shopping to the greatest extent in different scenarios, whether online or offline.

On the one hand, smart retail practitioners aim to formulate diversified and personalized marketing strategies and provide targeted services for consumers based on accurate judgment on their consumption behavior with the help of big data analysis.

On the other hand, by feeding

data to the purchase and delivery chains, smart retail solutions help realize production and supply of goods with lower costs, higher efficiency, and more flexible means, said experts.

In Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province, a citizen surnamed Wang quickly found a parking spot at an underground parking lot of a shopping mall via an app of the mall. After entering the mall, Wang scanned an interactive screen with his mobile phone, selected the store he wanted to go, and immediately saw a VR guide on his phone.

He then followed the guide to the store without having to waste time walking around in circles to look for it.

The scenes described above are happening in more and more retail locations across China. Thanks to the application of AI technologies related to computer vision, big data analysis, robot, and speech recognition, many traditional department stores and supermarket chains have undergone digital and intelligent transformations and are now able to ensure all-round smart services for consumers. **People's Daily**

Biden, Afghan president to meet at White House amid US pullout

By Bloomberg

AFGHAN President Ashraf Ghani and President Joe Biden will meet at the White House on Friday as the US moves ahead with its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Biden (pictured) said in April that all US troops will leave by Sept 11, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington that brought the US into its longest war.

While the administration says the pullout is justified as a strategic shift, a United Nations report this month raised the prospect of a takeover by Taliban militants.

Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, said Sunday there are no plans to change Biden's "basic proposition." US troops will be out "well before the deadline," Sullivan said on ABC's This Week.

Abdullah Abdullah, chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, also will take part in the meeting, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement.

"The United States is committed to supporting the Afghan people by providing diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian assistance to support the Afghan people, including Afghan women, girls and minorities," Psaki said.

"The United States will remain deeply engaged with the Government of Afghanistan to ensure the country never again becomes a safe haven for terrorist groups who pose a threat to the US homeland."

Biden has taken some criticism for the move from Republicans in Washington. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has called the withdrawal "a grave mistake" and Jim Inhofe, the senior Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, called it "reckless" and "dangerous."

The New York Times reported that the Taliban entered the provincial capitals of Kunduz and Maimana on Sunday, part of an insurgent operation in recent weeks that has affected dozens of rural regions and led to the capture of surrender of hundreds of government forces and their equipment. **Agencies**

Russian ambassador to the US has a lot of difficult work to do, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov has a lot of difficult work to do after his return to Washington, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"We are in a working mood. The ambassadors are going back to work in the capitals after the agreement of both presidents. The Russian ambassador to Washington has more than enough work to do. The work will be very difficult," Peskov said.

Russian-US relations significantly worsened after Biden's high-profile interview, in which he claimed that the Russian leadership would have to "pay the price" for Moscow's alleged interference in the US elections and also approved of disparaging remarks about the Russian president.

After these statements, the Russian Ambassador to US Anatoly Antonov (pictured) was summoned to Moscow for consultations on March 21. On April 22, US Ambassador to Moscow John Sullivan left for Washington as well.

The Russia-US summit, initiated by Washington, took place in the Swiss city of Geneva on June 16. Putin and Biden discussed the state and the prospects of further development of bilateral relations, the issues of strategic stability, as well as international matters, including cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 and regulation of regional conflicts.

After the Geneva summit, the sides agreed to return the Russian and US ambassadors to Washington and Moscow, respectively. **Agencies**

New compensation offer made over Suez Canal blockage

ISMAILIA

THE owners of a container ship that blocked the Suez Canal in March have made a new offer in a compensation dispute with the canal authority, and a court ruling on the case was postponed for two weeks on Sunday to allow more time for negotiations.

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) demanded US\$916 million in compensation to cover salvage efforts, reputational damage and lost revenue, before publicly lowering the request to US\$550 million.

The Ever Given's Japanese owners Shoen Kisen and its insurers have disputed the claim and the ship's detention under an Egyptian court order.

Negotiations had been ongoing until Saturday and the ship's owners had made a new offer, SCA lawyer Khaled Abu Bakr told a court hearing over the ship's detention in Ismailia.

Stann Marine, which represents the owners and insurers of the Ever Given, said: "Over the course of more than 15 days and in extended, long and arduous, but positive working sessions, negotiations are taking place."

"During the negotiations we submitted a proposal that we believe satisfies all the requirements of the SCA," it said in a statement, adding that the details would remain confidential. The SCA's chairman previously said Shoen Kisen had offered to pay US\$150 million.

A court ruling was due on Sunday after several delays, but Stann Marine said it had asked for an adjournment. Judicial sources said the case was postponed until July 4 to allow for an "amicable settlement".

Agencies

CPC leads China's rejuvenation through a century-long tale of two cities

BEIJING/SHANGHAI

EXHIBITIONS and celebrations are well underway in Beijing and Shanghai as the Communist Party of China (CPC) is set to embrace its centenary on July 1.

An exhibition on the history of the CPC opened on Friday in Beijing, showing how the CPC has united and led the Chinese people in blazing great paths and making massive achievements over the past 100 years, as well as the fine spirit and precious experience drawn from within.

A number of early revolutionary CPC sites, including the former residence of Li Dazhao, a pioneer of the CPC, and the first chamber collecting Marxist works, opened to the public in Beijing on June 1.

An exhibition on the role of Peking University in the early history of the CPC is also ongoing at Peking University Library.

Prof. Huang Daoxuan of Peking University (PKU) said that universities, limited in number over 100 years ago and mainly located in Beijing, made the city the center of the New Culture Movement and the May Fourth Movement, both of which greatly contributed to the early spread of Marxism in China and the founding of the CPC.

Xiong Yuezhi, a scholar studying Shanghai's history, said that in the 1920s, Shanghai had many favorable conditions such as an expanding working class, a major publishing center, and convenient transportation and communication systems. Through the unremitting efforts of the Chinese Marxists, the CPC came to the stage in Shanghai.

A century has passed. A party that began with some 50 members now has over 91 million.

Through concentrated renovations and decoration, the presence of "red marks" is increasing in both Beijing and Shanghai, reminding people of the past sacrifices and glory of a party that is leading the Chinese people on the great path of national revival.

"Only under the CPC's leadership can our country have such great development. We must unwaveringly follow the Party," said Zhou Liru, a tourist from east China's Shandong Province, while visiting an exhibition on the 100-year journey of the CPC at the National Museum of China.

CITIES OF THE FUTURE

The development of air routes, high-speed railways and expressways between Beijing and Shanghai has also stood witness to China's fast development. A four-and-a-half-hour journey from Beijing to Shanghai, about 1,300 km apart, by high-speed train was unimaginable a century ago.

The Shougang (meaning "capital steel") industrial sites park, once a large factory founded in 1919 and producing



Photo taken on Nov. 11, 2020 shows a view of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone at Pudong New Area in Shanghai, east China. (Xinhua)

steel in Beijing, has now become an urban landmark filled with modern elements such as automatic vehicles.

Steel mills have been transformed into the office buildings of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and factory workshops have been converted into science and technology museums.

"Shougang, where we spent a lifetime working, is getting more and more beautiful," said retiree Zhang Yudong.

The whole of Shanghai has become a ground for expositions. Liang Qichao, a pioneering reformer, in 1902 dreamed that Shanghai could hold a grand world expo.

That dream became a reality. In 2010, Shanghai presented a remarkable expo to the world.

The original site of Jiangnan Shipyard was transformed into the site for the World Expo. The original industrial belt along the city's Huangpu River is now becoming a "leisure belt" for residents.

Looking back, the two cities have suf-

fered tremendously since the Opium War in 1840. Over 100 years ago, Li Dazhao and Chen Duxiu, pioneers of the CPC, firmly believed that socialism could strengthen the country and lead the Chinese people to prosperity.

Under the leadership of the CPC, Beijing and Shanghai were liberated in 1949. Through the efforts of generations, China has become the second-largest economy in the world with improved national strength and international competitiveness.

Beijing and Shanghai's GDPs respectively exceeded 3.6 trillion yuan (about 558 billion U.S. dollars) and 3.8 trillion yuan in 2020, and per capita disposable incomes hit 69,434 yuan and 72,232 yuan.

The two municipalities have been playing vital roles in national development, said Cheng Meidong, executive deputy director of the PKU research institute for the CPC's history.

And the robust development momentum continues. According to government plans, Beijing will take the lead in

basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035 and become an inclusive capital with sound governance and a favorable environment for international exchanges.

By 2035, Shanghai will be basically built into a city of innovation, humanity and ecology, a socialist modern international metropolis with global influence, and a people's city with Chinese characteristics.

"One hundred years ago, Li Dazhao and many revolutionaries dedicated their lives to China for a bright future. Today, this strong and prosperous country is just as they wished it to be," said Li Xiaoli, Li's great-granddaughter. **Xinhua**

Asian elephants' Sweet home in Yunnan

THANKS to the scientific, meticulous, and fruitful efforts made by the Asian Elephant Breeding and Rescue Center in Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan province, among other parties, the population of wild Asian elephants in Yunnan has risen to about 300 from 150 during the past nearly 30 years, signaling steady recovery and increase.

The largest land mammal on the Asian continent as they are, Asian elephants could still sustain injuries and catch diseases in the wild.

In August 2015, a baby elephant that was less than one month old strayed from the herd and accidentally barged into the house of a villager in Yunnan. After examination, the Asian Elephant Breeding and Rescue Center found the animal suffered from intra-abdominal infections and heart failure and was at risk of developing sepsis.

Luckily, the baby elephant finally recovered after proper treatment by workers at the center.

Later, a warm-hearted villager sent four black goats at the lactation period to the center to produce milk as food for the baby elephant.

"As we saved the animal in the Year of the Goat and fed it goat milk, we decided to name it 'Yang Niu' (Yang means goat in Chinese)," said Chen Jiming, a worker at the center, who has been taking care of Yang Niu.

According to Chen, Yang Niu will celebrate its 6th birthday in two months. The female elephant is now 1.8 meters tall, weighs 1.3 tons, eats 10 kilograms of carrots every day.

A total of 11 Asian elephants now live at the center located in dense and lush tropical forests. Each one of them, whether it's a baby elephant that fell behind or an adult elephant that got injured from a fight or attack, has embraced a new life under the help of workers at the center.

The 11 Asian elephants have been taken good care of by 27 workers, who clean their feces, feed them, keep records of their medical examinations, as well as bathe and observe them. These workers spend more than 10 hours a day with the elephants.

Since it was established in 2008, the Asian Elephant Breeding and Rescue Center has actively carried out field rescue of Asian elephants and research into assisted reproduction of elephants. It has so far helped and saved 24 wild Asian elephants.

Besides taking care of Asian el-



A worker of the Wild Elephant Valley scenic spot in Dai autonomous prefecture of Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan province, throws a birthday party for a one-year-old Asian elephant, in a bid to raise public awareness of protecting the animal and help more people learn the achievements in breeding and protecting Asian elephants, Feb. 22, 2021. (File photo)

phants in their daily life and providing medical treatment for them, workers at the center also train them so that they can have a better chance of surviving in the wild.

Zhou Fangyi, a 26-year-old worker at the center, takes wild Asian elephants in good health to forests every day for at least 6 hours of field training, which aims to help elephants rebuild their capabilities of identifying and seeking food in the wild, adapt to the wild environment, so that bulls can better survive in the forests on their own and cows better team players in the herd.

The Asian Elephant Breeding and Rescue Center has also put efforts into the breeding of Asian elephants. It has significantly improved relevant breeding technologies in recent years, and assisted female elephants in giving birth to 9 babies, with a survival rate of 100 percent.

Local committees of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and governments have tried many ways to keep wild elephants from hurting people. They have built food source bases for Asian elephants to lessen their depen-

dence on crops and reduce their intrusion into human habitats.

Besides, they have advanced the construction of a system for monitoring, warning, and emergency responses, which monitors Asian elephants in real time through manual tracking and the use of fixed devices and drones, and releases real-time information on Asian elephant activities to the public in the distribution area of the animal to warn them to avoid encountering elephants.

At the same time, a compensation system and public liability insurance for wild elephant accidents have been adopted to reduce the property loss of local residents.

According to observations, basically each herd shows sign of activities of baby elephants, said Guo Xianming, a senior engineer at a research institute under the management bureau of the Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve in Yunnan, who stressed that the population of wild Asian elephants in China is steadily recovering and gradually increasing.

People's Daily

Iran talks show positive signal, say officials

VIENNA

TALKS on restoring the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), showed positive signal of finalizing the agreement and finding solutions to the Iranian nuclear issue, officials said on Sunday.

During a meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission wrapped up on Sunday, representatives from China, France, Germany, Russia, Britain and Iran agreed on many important issues concerning the revival of the JCPOA.

Talks to revive the JCPOA are "closer to a deal," said Enrique Mora, deputy secretary-general and political director of the European External Action Service.

He said that they have made progress on a number of technical issues, and have more clarity on technical documents.

The documents for an agreement on the revival of the JCPOA are almost ready, senior Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying on Sunday.

"We are closer to an agreement ever than before, but bridging the gaps ... requires decisions by the parties," he said, adding that some issues still need to be resolved.

The U.S. government withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018 and unilaterally re-imposed sanctions on Iran. In response, Iran gradually stopped implementing parts of its JCPOA commitments from May 2019.

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Sunday that Washington and Tehran remain divided over how to achieve a mutual return to compliance with the nuclear deal.

"What I would say is that there is still a fair distance to travel on some of the key issues, including on sanctions and on the nuclear commitments that Iran has to make," Sullivan said.

"But the arrow has been pointed in the right direction in terms of the work that's getting done in Vienna," he continued. "We will see if the Iranian negotiators come to the next round of talks, prepared to make the hard choices."

"We are closer to a deal, but we are not still there," Mora told reporters after the meeting.

Mora voiced hope that in the next round, delegations will come back from capitals "with clearer instructions, clearer ideas on how to finally close the deal."

For the next few days, negotiations will be stopped and the parties will return to their capitals, not for further consultations but for decision making, Araqchi noted, expressing the hope for finalizing the agreement in the next session of the meeting.

"Welcomed progress made over last weeks, but difficult decisions remain. It is important to seize the political opportunity, and for all to be flexible," EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell tweeted on Friday.

China acknowledges the EU's efforts to pursue a return to compliance with the Iran nuclear deal, and hopes that the EU will continue to play its coordinating role, and work with all parties concerned to help bring about an expeditious political solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said earlier this month. **Xinhua**

SPORT



Lifesaving expert, Moses Ntilema.

Moses Ntilema all out to promote lifesaving skills

By Correspondent Theresa Victor

TANZANIA lately does not have enough lifesaving experts and people with talent should therefore see it as an opportunity and engage in it.

Moses Ntilema, a lifesaving expert, disclosed people should learn the skills to save lives instead of recovering dead bodies.

Tanzania has been blessed with plenty of talents in a variety of sports who only need a platform to showcase their potential, he disclosed.

Ntilema an international senior surf lifesaving expert, was born on July 30, 1979, in Kigoma, Tanzania.

Ntilema started his lifesaving career in 2008 and he first qualified as an international beach lifeguard in 2013 by Royal National Lifeboat Institute of UK in 2013 during the RNLI drowning prevention project in Bangladesh.

He also attended different swimming coaching clinics in 2011 including the Level One American Swimming Coaching Clinic.

Due to his passion for swimming and lifesaving, Ntilema left his teaching profession.

Ntilema, who was a very popular Arts and Design teacher at Feza International School, resigned from the profession in 2016 and used all of his savings to travel out of the country to develop his lifesaving and water rescue career through training and experience, thanks to his dedication to lifesaving.

Apart from teaching Arts and Design, he was also able to assist as a swimming coach and spent his time with scouts from Kwanza International School, Al Muntazir Schools, Dar es Salaam Independent School, Sunrise N and P School, St. Joseph School, and St. Annie Maria School.

Ntilema assisted the scouts in regards to Water Safety Awareness and basic swimming skills.

Out of Tanzania Ntilema was qualified as the International Surf Lifeguard Award, IRB Crewman Award, Squad Leader, Surf Lifesaving Technical official, and Surf Lifesaving Instructor.

He has been one of National and International Drowning Prevention's key stakeholders.

During his short contract out of the country, where he worked as Senior Surf Lifeguard, he focused on preventing drowning and minimizing injuries and water-related emergencies rather than performing rescue and managed to have zero drowning seasons during his assigned beach areas.

Representing Tanzania Scout, he assisted in rescue operations when the Mv. Spice Islander in 2011 and Mv. Skagit in 2012 capsized at Nungwi deep-sea channel in Zanzibar.

When rescuing Ntilema could not forget the painful situation he had seen when hundreds of young innocent children were dying in water, although he tried to save six young children, who were trapped in the ferry's passenger pieces of luggage such as a fridge and mattress.

In 2018/2019 Moses demonstrated the first Torpedo buoy and his safe beach setup in Dar es Salaam.

As a lifesaving athlete, he excelled in the Crystal Stoltz Trophy Surf Masters Championship.

Ntilema made a record as the first black person in his club (BWBSLSC) and the first Tanzanian to receive the Lifesaving President Award (Brian Harvey Award) in 2019 and 2020.

The Lifesaving President Award is awarded to a person who travelled extra

miles in and out of his country by getting and developing Water Safety and Lifesaving Skills that are recognized by his native country and other countries as well.

As a surf lifesaving athlete, he competed for the GT South Africa National Surf Lifesaving Championship in 2018 and 2019, Hanties Tapplin and 12men Challenges in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and won gold and bronze medals.

During his lifesaving training period in South Africa, Ntilema was also awarded different lifesaving and lifeguarding awards from club level, district, and national level.

The honours include the Lifeguard of the Season in 2017, Most Duties Hours for the Season in 2017.

By utilizing his knowledge and skills as Surf Lifesaving Instructor during his vacations, Ntilema voluntarily taught 506 young local people, who live near or around water areas, basic swimming skills, water safety awareness, and survival skills.

He also spent his time visiting some public primary and secondary schools and voluntarily teaching pupils and students about water safety awareness as part of his water-smart program.

He as well talked to pupils about the challenges they face while visiting the beaches and other recreational water areas as part of his research.

The award-winning expert also managed to train 20 local boat drivers, who do coastal tourism by transporting tourists and local people to the Mbudya and Bongoyo Islands in Dar es Salaam.

He taught them about basic lifesaving skills which they can use to deal with water disaster emergencies.

Through his experience as a senior surf lifeguard on many different beaches in several countries, he was promoted and served as squad leader and club captain at Bluewater Bay Surf Lifesaving Club (2019-2021).

He further operated as Development Officer at Lifesaving Nelson Mandela Bay.

Due to his contribution his club was voted as Drowning Prevention Club of the year 2018/2019 at the district, province, and international level.

He also assisted as a water safety officer in many international water sports events such as River Mile, Ocean Race, and Ironman World Championship.

In April this year, Ntilema managed to conduct a 17-day lifesaving course for 14 participants from Fire And Rescue Force representing different regions in Tanzania.

Lifesaving South Africa's Grant Breetzke was the course's chief examiner.

The course focused on lifesaving skills which aimed at imparting skills needed from search and body recovery to saving people's life by fulfilling the essential keys of lifesaving and water rescue.

"It takes only one to three minutes for someone to drown, so, as a good lifesaver, one must be able to perform quick reach, rescue, secure a patient and be able to provide first aid including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to a patient, that is real lifesaving," he said.

According to him, the course was overall successful though some challenges include the instructor spending early time teaching the candidates swimming techniques instead of focusing on the course modules.

Ntilema noted this came about as most of the candidates were not competent swimmers, as per international lifesaving or water rescue standards.

He insisted that to become a lifesaver or water rescuer, one must be a competent swimmer and highly trained with a lot of experience.

"According to the 2020 World Drowning Report which was issued on February 12 this year by Royal Lifesaving Society, the Fatal Drowning report in the Commonwealth countries in Africa, Tanzania reported 1, 819 people by the rate of 3.37 in 100,000 people and Tanzania was the second country in Africa whereas Nigeria is leading with 7,819 people drowning," he said.

Continues tomorrow

SPORTS

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipoke

A few days ago, an encouraging piece of news surfaced on the back-pages of this very paper which revealed that Tanzania has been deemed eligible to compete in next year's international Davis Cup on a wild card, which was indisputably a development of immense gravity.

Firstly, cards on the table as one feels that an illuminating explanation is required here.

The Davis Cup is a renowned global tennis competition that is widely regarded as the sport's own 'World Cup'.

It follows then that if Tanzania joins this high table of the best-playing tennis countries in the world next year, it would at a stroke, heighten our prominence as a tennis-playing nation on the world stage.

However, there is a pesky catch. The Davis Cup, by its very nature, is exclusively reserved for senior tennis players, which presents a gigantic conundrum for our domestic tennis scene.

As stated earlier in this same space, our stewards of tennis have haplessly failed to zero in on the concerns of senior tennis for some time now, and consequently, this has now prompted cries of frustrated disapproval from some of our senior tennis stars like Justine Joseph and others.

Hopefully, then, urgent remedial measures will be rapidly taken to right the listing ship of domestic senior tennis to prevent us from embarrassingly ending up with eggs splashed all over our faces.

Let us train our sights now on another crucial matter, that of our Olympic preparations as a country, which, for some unfathomable reason, is rarely ever a straightforward affair.

Let us leave aside a familiar lament of this column, which is that our preparations haven't been meticulous and thorough enough.

Woefully, a new and potentially even more devastating problem has now reared its distinctly ugly head: that of a lack of funding to ferry our athletes to the Games in Japan's hi-tech capital Tokyo.

Indeed, it appears that there are no official means to provide funding for our athletes to get to the Games.

Davis Cup quandary



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) junior tennis player, Wazaino Mutale, battles it out in a past BQ Open tournament that took place in the city. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Unquestionably, to describe this saddening state of affairs as something closely approaching lamentation upon lamentation would be entirely appropriate.

But, as if that were not enough, it unbelievably gets worse. Incredibly, should official funding fail to come through, our athletes will have no other recourse but to desperately seek out private financial arrangements to get to the Games, which would rank as one of our most shameful letdowns as a country positively chock-full of sports aficionados.

Moving on, an urgent call recently emerged from within the clout-wielding corridors of power for our athletes to not merely show up at prestigious sporting spectacles just to make up the numbers.

Indeed, the call, I feel, reflects the deepening sense of unease and discontentment over our country's abject failure to make a significant mark on sporting events time and time again.

Well, on a cheerier note, one sport that has gone against the grain and doubtlessly uplifted us all with their classy and sublime displays has been domestic women's football.

And, I have got the facts to bolster my case. During the last three years, for example, our national women's youth football sides have been claiming coveted trophies with dizzying and immeasurably

pleasing regularity.

These esteemed titles include the COSAFA U-17 and U-20 Women's Youth Tournaments among a few others.

Now, according to a recent draw, the Twiga Stars will soon commence their quest to qualify for the 2022 Women's AWCON Finals.

Seeing this, it is thus hoped that the call for Tanzanians to brightly shine at sports events, which emerged from within the hallowed and inner sanctums of power, will now be backed up by concrete and supportive action.

After all, that would only be right and fair, wouldn't it?

Taswa SC demolishes Bunge SC in friendly in Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Sports Writers Association (Taswa) SC has recorded a 5-1 victory over Members of Parliament (Bunge) SC in a friendly match played at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Saturday.

This is the first humiliation that Bunge SC has experienced since they started playing friendly matches at the Jamhuri Stadium.

The Bunge SC normally records victory at the venue to see to it they enjoy an unbeaten run for a long time.

Taswa SC, who had been sponsored by Stanbic Bank Tanzania, netted the opening goal in the seventh minute of the game through Julius Kihampa with a powerful shot just outside the danger zone.

The goal made Bunge SC players increase the pace and managed to equalize seven minutes later through penalty they got following the opponents' player Edward Mbaga handling ball in the penalty area.

Taswa SC's Zicco Reptos scored the second and third before Saidi Seif and Salum Jaba notched the fourth and fifth goals in the thrilling encounter.

Speaking after the match, Bunge SC captain, Cosato Chumi, accepted the challenge and they have learned through mistakes in the encounter.

"We played well in the first half and manage to stop Taswa SC to score. However, we failed to maintain our standard and make many mistakes that benefited Taswa SC to win with a big margin."

"This is the first humiliation in the

team, we call our players to take it as a challenge and turn up in the training session at the Jamhuri Stadium daily before revenge against the team," the skipper disclosed.

Taswa SC chairman, Majuto Omary commended the team players for performing well in the encounter and manages to post the best results.

Stanbic Bank Tanzania's Dodoma Branch Manager, Oppi Igolola, also commended all teams for the best show in the encounter.

"We have witnessed good football and Stanbic Bank Tanzania is proud to sponsor Taswa SC who managed to win the encounter. It was a very thrilling match," Igolola disclosed.

In netball friendly, Bunge Queens won 32-12 against Taswa in another tough match.



Junior basketball players, who took part in a recent basketball training program under the project, known as 'Unmatched Basketball, in a group picture with Zanzibar basketball association's officials and the course's instructors after the course's completion in Zanzibar. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Qatar says only vaccinated fans allowed at World Cup 2022

DUBAI

QATAR will only allow people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend next year's World Cup and is in talks to secure one million doses in case global immunisation efforts lag, the prime minister said.

The Gulf Arab state hosts the four-week tournament in November 2022 and the president of global soccer body FIFA has said the matches would be held in full stadiums.

Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani told newspapers that while most countries were expected to have vaccinated their citizens by then, Qatar was still taking measures to ensure a successful event.

"We are currently negotiating with a company to provide one million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in order to immunize and vaccinate some of those coming to Qatar," he said in remarks also carried by state news agency QNA late on Sunday, without identifying the firm.

It was not immediately clear how those vaccines would be offered. Most coronavirus vaccines require two doses administered weeks apart.

Qatari officials had earlier said they hoped to hold a coronavirus-free tournament and planned to make vaccinations available to attendees not already immunized.

Qatar is inoculating its citizens and residents with the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. It has administered at least 2.8 million doses, enough to vaccinate about 50.8% of its population, according to a Reuters COVID-19 tracker.

Sheikh Khalid said the 2021 Arab Cup, which Doha is hosting in December, would reflect Qatar's preparedness to host major tournaments.

He said a large number of stadiums had been completed and work continued on three stadiums including Lusail Stadium, which will host the final match of World Cup 2022 and was now 90% complete.

REUTERS

Barca president won't say sorry to UEFA for ESL fiasco

BARCELONA

BARCELONA president Joan Laporta has issued a defiant defence of the failed European Super League project and said the Catalan club will not apologise to UEFA for wanting to control their own destiny.

Barca members were due to vote on participation in the competition at the club's general assembly on Sunday but Laporta, who insists the plans are still alive, said that would not be necessary as the proposed format no longer exists.

Nine of the 12 founding clubs have dropped out of the project to break away from UEFA's Champions League, leaving just Barca, Real Madrid and Juventus fighting for change to the status quo in the European game.

"We spoke with the clubs [involved] and said we liked [the proposals], but that we needed them to accept that our members would have to approve entry at the next assembly," Laporta said as he explained the reasoning for signing up.

"It was logical to have that vote before June 30. But now, as the format doesn't exist, I won't ask you to vote. But the project is alive, I insist."

"We're still trying to enter into dialogue with UEFA. We won't apologise for trying to organise a competition. We won't say sorry to UEFA for wanting to be the owners of our own destiny. At least not while I am president."

The six English clubs involved in the Super League, in addition to Atletico Madrid, Internazionale and AC Milan, all agreed to pay fines to UEFA for trying to break away from the Champions League last month.

Sources told ESPN that European football's governing body was also planning to fine Barca, Madrid and Juve, in addition to considering the possibility of throwing them out of the Champions League for up to two years. However, UEFA have been forced to suspend disciplinary actions "until further notice" due to a court ruling currently prohibiting them from taking action.

"UEFA threatened us with fines and with kicking us out of the Champions League," Laporta continued. "Time has proven us right. Now they

have cancelled [suspended] the disciplinary process and registered us for next season's Champions League.

"We're doing this because we love football and because right now the game is in a complicated situation. The state-owned clubs can make much more attractive offers than us and they keep on investing."

"Young people prefer attractive games and audiences are dropping, so there's less money. We want it to be the most attractive competition in the world. We invite UEFA and the leagues to talk about it."

"It's a much supportive project than UEFA's, too. UEFA pay €180 million in solidarity payments, but the Super League would have made that €400m. We believe FIFA are closer to our way of thinking. UEFA's reaction was strange and now they're backtracking."

"The English clubs were the competition's driving force and they got scared under pressure from UEFA. I think they regret leaving the Super League now, seeing how UEFA have backtracked on their threats."

Laporta explained that the Super League would have provided Barca with revenue of "€700m in addition to variables." The failure of the project to get off the ground forced the club to seek other forms of income to tackle debt of €1.2 billion gross.

To fill the hole, members approved an agreement with Goldman Sachs for a loan worth up to €525m on Sunday. The money will be used to restructure the club's debts and is repayable over 15 years with an interest rate of three percent.

"We're talking about the viability of the club," Laporta said before members voted on the loan. "No one should think that this money will be for signings or other projects. We have to stop the bleeding."

As first revealed by ESPN, Barca have already taken an advance on the loan to make backdated payments to players and to clear other outstanding debts.

"There was €75m pending in instalments from transfer fees, €24m to the tax office and €57m in salaries to be paid [before June 30] and we didn't have the liquid assets," vice president Eduard Romeu explained.

(Agencies)

UEFA probes discrimination at Hungary matches

BUDAPEST

UEFA is investigating "potential discriminatory incidents" during Hungary's European Championship matches against Portugal and France at the Puskas Arena in Budapest, European football's governing body said on Sunday.

During Hungary's opening match against Portugal on Tuesday, images on social media showed banners with "Anti-LMBTQ" on them – the Hungarian abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer.

Hungary's parliament passed legislation last week that bans the dissemination in schools of content

deemed to promote homosexuality and gender change, amid strong criticism from human rights groups and opposition parties.

The anti-discrimination group Fare, which monitors matches for incidents of racism and other forms of discrimination, sent a report to UEFA and discussed the matter with officials.

On Saturday ahead of Hungary's match against France, Hungarian fans marched to the Puskas Arena displaying a banner calling on players to stop taking a knee to protest racism. In a statement, UEFA said it has appointed an ethics and disciplinary inspector to investigate the incidents.

Southgate expects England to survive growing pains

LONDON

GARETH Southgate insists England can overcome their growing pains as his young side aim to get their Euro 2020 campaign back on track by winning Group D against the Czech Republic today.

England are level on four points with the Czechs and will be guaranteed a first-place finish if they win their last group match.

A victory at Wembley feels essential for England to lift the gloom that descended after they were booted off following Friday's lacklustre 0-0 draw with old rivals Scotland.

With an average age of 25 years and 31 days, England's starting lineup against Scotland was the youngest they had ever fielded in a major tournament.

Chelsea duo Mason Mount and Reece James and Manchester City's Phil Foden have already won trophies with their clubs, while Declan Rice and Calvin Phillips have earned rave reviews on the Premier League stage.

But there is nothing quite like the intensity of an international competition and just a handful of England's current crop have tasted it before.

That lack of experience showed up in England's failure to deal with Scotland's astute game-plan and well-drilled defence.

Southgate's side were only marginally better in a 1-0 win against Croatia in their first game and there are mounting concerns that a potential last-16 meeting with France, Germany or Portugal could prove too much for England to handle.

Southgate acknowledged it is a learning process for England as they come to terms with the unique pressures of tournament action.

"This is a relatively inexperienced group, I think the third least caps in the tournament," Southgate said. "Against Scotland it was a young team so that's a different experience for a lot of them than they've every faced before."

"They've just about survived it."



Gareth Southgate

We want to be better and that's what we're going to work through in the next few days before we play the Czech Republic."

"Explosive options" - Southgate has hinted at changes for the Czech game as he looks to revitalise a team yet to hit their stride.

His biggest selection issue concerned captain Harry Kane, who has yet to score or even manage a shot on target in the tournament.

The subdued Tottenham striker was substituted in both games, sparking calls from some critics to leave him out.

But dropping the Premier League's top scorer this season would have been a huge gamble for Southgate, who on Sunday confirmed Kane will start.

"You can assume that, yes, absolutely," Southgate said. "He is fundamental not only to the goals he scores but the build-up play and everything else he brings. He is our most important player, there is no doubt about that."

Foden and Mount have struggled to link up with Kane, while Raheem Sterling's winner against Croatia was one of his few influential moments so far.

Aston Villa playmaker Jack Grealish, Borussia Dortmund winger Jadon Sancho and Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford could come in if Southgate tries to improve the supply lines to Kane.

nal pressure.

"I do feel there's a bit of an over-reaction... I just feel there's more of a panic on the outside than inside the building," he said. "At the same time the players who have been at a few tournaments, who have huge experience, try to help the other ones."

"I don't see anyone in the camp that feels any pressure or feels hard done by. As much as we can inside the building the best thing we can do is focus on the training field, focus on what's being done inside."

"The more you listen to outside noise, the more it can affect you," he added.

Despite the disappointing result against Scotland, England can top Group D if they beat the Czech Republic at Wembley on Tuesday.

That would guarantee a last-16 tie at Wembley, though it would be against world champions France, Germany or defending champions Portugal.

Finishing second would offer an easier game on paper, though in Copenhagen. Sterling said home advantage could be crucial.

"There is always an advantage being on home soil, that's for sure," he said. "With the fans raring and making it a hostile place to come, I do think it can be a good advantage and, like I say, we've got four points, I keep stressing we've got four points and we've got one game to go and we're going to need our fans on Tuesday to get us across the line."

Sterling has been linked with a move away from Premier League champions City after finding himself on the bench a number of times towards end of the 2020/21 campaign, including for crunch Champions League games.

He said he was enjoying playing under Southgate.

"It is just happiness, just being happy, enjoying my football and that is what I am doing being here with the national team," he said. "If you're not playing, you're not happy. That's me, that's been me since I was a kid. If I'm playing football I am really happy, if I'm not, I'm not happy."

'Magical Nights': Mancini rekindles Italy's love for Azzurri

ROME

ROBERTO Mancini has turned the clock back for Italy, recapturing the atmosphere of the 1990 World Cup the country hosted, with a 1-0 win over Wales capping a perfect Euro 2020 group-stage run.

Three years after taking over following Italy's failure to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 60 years, Mancini has led the Azzurri back to centre stage in emphatic fashion.

All Italy's group matches have been played in Rome's Stadio Olimpico.

And the song "Notti magiche" (Magical Nights) popularised during their home World Cup 31 years ago when Italy reached the semi-finals rang out among the thousands of fans who were both delighted to rediscover their all-conquering national side and return to the stands after over a year away because of the pandemic.

After a perfect European qualifying run, Italy have continued that form in the group stage, beating Turkey and Switzerland, both with a 3-0 scoreline, before the victory over the Welsh sealed top spot in Group A. It was an 11th consecutive victory without conceding a goal.

"It was nice to hear the Stadio Olimpico singing 'Notti magiche' (Magical Nights)," said 56-year-old Mancini.

"It brought us back a few years when we were all younger and we felt an extraordinary love for the national team."

"This is why I want to dedicate this victory to them."

He added: "We say Ciao Roma and thank them for what they have done."

Matteo Pessina's goal before half-time means Italy will play the runner-up from Group C, either Austria or Ukraine, at Wembley, where the semi-finals and final will also be hosted.

Italy extended their unbeaten run to 30 games – 25 wins and five draws – a feat last achieved under two-time World Cup winning coach Vittorio Pozzo between 1935 and 1939.

"I'd like to resemble one of the coaches who won the World Cup," said Mancini, who has been in charge of four-time world champions Italy for 35 games.



Italy are unbeaten in 30 consecutive games. (Agencies)

"Pozzo won many other important things. We are still behind."

Another record beckons – a 12th consecutive victory. That was achieved by Ferruccio Valcareggi, who led Italy to their only European title in 1968, and a runners-up spot in the World Cup two years later.

"Dream big" -

Mancini brought in fresh legs against the Welsh, with eight changes from the Swiss game, but the outcome was the same as a side with an average age of 27 again dominated their rivals.

Marco Verratti returned to midfield from injury and proved decisive, setting up 24-year-old Pessina for his first competitive international goal in his seventh appearance for Italy, having

scored two others in friendlies.

Midfielder Federico Chiesa also got his first start in this Euro 2020 and earned the man of the match award.

"We are ready to dream big. We've all the options in hand," said the 23-year-old Juventus player.

"The best is yet to come. It's great to play at Wembley. But our goal is to return to London after the last 16."

"We've given the coach a lot of headaches about who to field. We have 26 players on the team who can start."

Mancini conceded the run had been perfect as Italy matched their unbeaten group runs in three previous world and European tournaments in 2000, 1990 and 1978.

"We couldn't have done better," said

the former Manchester City manager.

"Changing even one or two players doesn't change anything because everyone knows what they have to do and the product does not change."

Italy's home advantage also helped with rivals Wales, who also reached the next round after playing their first two group games in Baku.

The Welsh are now preparing for a last 16 game in Amsterdam on Saturday, although coach Robert Page questioned the wisdom of having venues spread across the continent.

"On paper it sounds a great idea," Page said, "but logistically it's a nightmare and with Covid on top of that, it just makes the job harder."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Southgate expects England to survive growing pains

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam's junior basketball players feature in drills at Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

TP Mazembe outbid Yanga in roping in midfielder

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's dream of signing Congolese midfielder, Mercey Ngimbi of Union Maniema, has not materialized after TP Mazembe's president, Moise Katumbi, outbid them.

Yanga had already engaged Union Maniema over Ngimbi who was seen as a natural replacement for Rwandan midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima, but Katumbi's bid threw a spanner into the works of the Jangwani Street giants.

They had made a \$40,000 bid for the midfielder for a two-year contract, but TP Mazembe's bankroller is said to have made a bid that is more than double - around \$100,000 - of what the Tanzanian giants had put on the table.

"Yanga came and we talked but I can say they were slow to make the payments," Guy Kapya, Union Maniema's treasurer, noted.

He stated: "The player wanted to finish the move so he could play with his friends in Tanzania, but the club was delayed, and Katumbi arrived with a better offer, and that is how he won the race."

He noted: "After the Katumbi offer, we reached out to Yanga and told them not to deposit any money in our accounts. Yanga had hoped to sign him to play alongside Tuisila Kisinda and Mukoko Tomombe, but they will now have to look elsewhere."

Meanwhile, Yanga head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, has revealed his objectives in the upcoming transfer period.

He disclosed: "Among the priorities tabled before the management, I have linked them to outstanding scouts on the continent who would easily pick players who performed impressively."

"They are going to work hand in hand with the identified scouts and I believe they are going to do a great job in the transfer market," Nabi noted.

The coach is understood to have prioritized the signing of a center-back who will come and link up with Bakari Mwamnyeto and Abdallah Shaibu who were signed before the season began.

Dickson Job, who was signed from Mtibwa Sugar on a three-year deal, was brought on board during the January mini-transfer window.

Already, Yanga has agreed on a two-year deal with AS Vita's Djuma Shabani, who is expected to come in and reinforce the backline.

Former Gor Mahia winger, Dickon Ambundo, currently featuring for Dodoma Jiji FC, and fullback David Brayson of KMC FC are in talks with Yanga.

Aga Khan cricketers hammer Pak Stars in DC Kazim Nasser 50-over tournament opener

By Guardian Reporter

AGA Khan SC cricketers have opened their campaign in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) T50 Division A in grand fashion, cruising to a 32-run win over Pak Stars in a clash, which took place in the city last weekend.

Aga Khan SC that was playing the match without the squad's talented batsman Abhik Patwa, had won the toss and elected to bat, notching 299 runs, dropping six wickets in 50 overs.

Patwa's absence had forced Aga Khan SC to switch back to their opening pair of Dhrumit Mehta and Arshaan Jassani to start the proceedings.

Pak Stars' opening bowlers, Zamoyoni Ramadhan and Abdulrahman Akida, were very disciplined, given the duo was swinging balls very well.

And they almost had Jassani dismissed in the very first ball of the second over of the game, which was Ramadhan's first ball of the game.

The skilful quick made Jassani play a ball, which took the snick, only to see Pak Stars' fielder, Nisar Ahmed, drop a straightforward catch in the slips.

That was certainly not the only missed chance by Pak Stars, given wicket-keeper, Sadick Iddi, and Vishal Pate, also had their luck throughout their innings.

After that Jassani went on to notch 49 runs, blasting four fours and a sixer, ending a run short of a half-century.

Mehta had a short stint on the pitch, followed by Iddi, who was also given a couple of chances before he was finally dismissed by Muhammad Mudasser.

The Aga Khan SC moreover Patel scoring 96 runs not out, cracking 12 fours and two sixes.

He did have a bad injury during the game, as he was hit by Ramadhan's ball and he had to leave the field but he came back and put spirited displays and had an unbeaten spell.

Patel's last ball went for four but it was adjudged as leg bye, leading him to notch 96 runs.

Aahil Jassani had a good day at the wicket, given the cricketer posted 43 runs. Riziki Kiseto also batted well for 33 runs off 33 balls.

In the end, Aga Khan SC ended with 299 runs in their quota of 50 overs. They were helped by some



Aga Khan SC's Aahil Jassani (R) is presented with the best player of the match's award by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)'s official, Issa Kikasi, after the Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) T50 Division A clash pitting Aga Khan SC against Pak Stars, which took place in the city last weekend. PHOTO: DAR ES SALAAM CRICKET

extras as Pak Stars' bowlers were not able to control the swing in the morning.

Pak Stars' bowling unit had a bad day on the field, as they leaked 54 extras off which 41 were wides and one no-ball which also affected their over rate badly.

Mudasser recorded two wickets, giving away 54 runs in eight overs.

Pak Stars, in reply, had to chase the score set by Aga Khan SC in 47 overs as they had three overs reduced due to slow over-rate.

In return, Pak Stars gave a real scare to the set target of 300 runs and they gave Aga Khan SC a run for their money.

After experiencing a shaky start, which had opener Akida being dismissed by Aga Khan SC's Harshdeep Chouhan cheaply, followed by Ivan Ismail (22 runs), who did show some promise, the cricketer went out as he tried a shot too many too early and was dismissed by Vipin Abraham.

There was a brief period of the rebuild, as one of the key players, Zafar Khan, scored 56 runs, cracking six fours, along with Mohamed Omary that notched 53 runs.

The two batsmen were dismissed off the spin wizard, Aahil, in the

process of seeking to see their team mount a successful chase.

Khan and Omary put up a partnership of 93 runs at a decent run rate, post that, Abdallah Jabiri was the batsman who applied and gave his best shot with the available partners, who however did not give him much support.

He, in the process, did score decent 49 runs and, in the end, there were a lot of positives, looking at the way both teams played a competitive game of cricket.

In the end, regular wickets were falling, leading to Aga Khan SC winning by 32 runs.

Ramadhan was Pak Stars' last batsman out for 23 runs which consisted of a four and a six off a flick of the wrist.

Mudasser was the outfit's other batsman who managed to hit an effortless six and he was the batsman with a not-out stint.

Pak Stars did show a lot of promise in the clash and it is hoped the team will showcase a better, composed game in the coming fixtures.

Aahil was deservedly voted as the best player of the match, mainly for his bowling exploits, as the pitch had nothing to offer to the spinners.

Mchenga Bball Stars outplay Mabibo Baller in U-20 competition

By Guardian Reporter

MATHEW Shisot put stellar showing and steered Mchenga Bball Stars to 55-27 victory over Mabibo Baller in a tournament bringing together players below 20 years, which is taking place in Dar es Salaam.

He slotted in 15 points and played a crucial role in his team's success.

The showdown dubbed 'Asas U-20 basketball tournament 2021', had tipped off at Train 2 gain court at Muhimbili last weekend.

Shisot, a USA citizen, was an attraction in the clash because of his ball-handling skills and execution of assists.

The player was later voted as the best performer of the clash.

Shisot executed 10 assists, eight steals, and scored four three-pointers.

Said Habibu and Isaya William posted 13 points and 12 points respectively, seeing to it Mchenga Bball Stars emerge victoriously.

Mabibo Baller team's Iverson Daris posted nine points.

Mchenga Bball Stars had an upper hand in all four quarters, leading 21-7, 17-10, 7-3, and 10-7.

Idris Adnaan, the tournament's coordinator, stated the absence of a competition bringing together players below 20 years prompted the showdown's hosts to form the competition.

"We, in cooperation with the Train 2 institution, are out to promote this sport, targeting young players," he noted.

In another tie at the venue, Yellow Jacket cruised to a 45-32 victory over Segerea Junior in another exciting encounter.

The duel had Yellow Jacket taking control, notching 11-7, 17-12, 9-7, and 8-6.

Ronald Kelvin was the top scorer, given he ended with 14 points, Fotius Felisiana slotted in 13 points.

Segerea Junior's Paschal Benedict notched nine points.

The showdown's participating outfits have been placed in two groups.

Yellow Jacket, Mchenga Bball Stars, Mabibo Baller and Segerea Junior make Group A.

The showdown's Group B consists of Don Lua, Vijana Young Kids, Mchenga Young Stars, and Drim Chaser.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

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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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