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Procurement ethics best for businesses' success, says NMB

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

PROCUREMENT and supply management is a key aspect for operational success and business excellence, NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna (pictured) has declared.

Addressing procurement and supplies professionals here on Tuesday, the NMB chief said ethical purchasing practices and innovative supply chain solutions are indispensable for the profession to deliver the requisite value for money.

Members of the Association of Procurement and Supplies Professionals (APSP) must shun malpractices and strive for accountability and transparency at their places of work, she urged.

"Legal and regulatory changes have uplifted the organizational status of the profession to new hierarchical heights, highlighting the need to maintain high ethical standards," she remarked at an APSP inaugural annual general meeting at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC).

She said that the legal and regulatory changes provide a clear opportunity for procurement and supply management professionals to ascend the managerial ladder "provided that they work hard

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PM: Punish hospital staff demeaning AIDS patients



Mbeya city residents stage a World AIDS Day (December 1) commemorative march brandishing a placard bearing a message underlining the need for solidarity in the war against HIV infections and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome they can lead to. The Day's climax was held at national level in Mbeya Region. Photo courtesy of PMO

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed hospital administrators to take stern disciplinary measures against health staff found to discriminate people living with HIV/AIDS, saying such behaviour has to be eliminated in the society.

Commemorating World AIDS Day at national level in Mbeya, the premier said that reports show that employees in health centres habitually stigmatise those patients, divulging private information of HIV/AIDS patients when providing services at such facilities.

"Such acts should immediately be reported for action to be taken," he stated, representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the event, whose theme this year is "Adhere to equality, eradicate HIV/AIDS, and eradicate infectious diseases."

Addressing stigma is vital in the battle against HIV/AIDS as it affects patient attendance in health centres for obtaining antiretroviral drugs and regular medical consultations. Stigmatization compels a culture of secrecy and silence tied to the fear of victimization, including denial of access to many public services where a minimum of selection is conducted, experts affirm.

The premier said the country has laws on HIV/AIDS amended several times to make sure HIV/AIDS services reach all those targeted. "I understand that stigma and

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Six suspects arrested in cross-border car thefts

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

POLICE in Kilimanjaro Region have reported holding four Kenyans and two Tanzanians over suspected cross-border crime, including car theft.

In an operation late last month, law enforcers also recovered four posh vehicles of different makes and two motorcycles among other items stolen recently in both sides of the border.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, Regional Police Commander Simon Marwa said that the stolen vehicles were being used by the suspected criminals.

"Upon inspection of the four impounded vehicles, preliminary investigations showed that two were stolen in Kenya and the criminals used illegal routes along the porous border to smuggle them into our region," he stated.

The suspected vehicle thieves are linked to a series of vehicle theft incidents in the region and were on the wanted persons list, he affirmed, noting

that stolen vehicles in the region are transported illegally through routes in Same, Mwanza, Rombo and Siha districts to other regions.

Car theft incidents in the region have been rising in recent months, he stated, appealing to law abiding citizens to volunteer information to the police to curb these incidents as the criminals live in social milieu.

This is not the first time suspects have been nabbed in cross-border car thefts as in August 2019, police in the region recovered 20 high-end vehicles stolen from Kenya and sneaked in through notorious unofficial entry points.

The then RPC Hamisi Issah said that law enforcers intercepted the vehicles whose estimated value was close to 2bn/-, on diverse dates, elaborating that the Mercedes Benz, Toyota Land Cruiser, Toyota Prado and Nissan Patrol V8 cars in particular were being transported through routes in the four districts.

In June 2017 investigation by this newspaper in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga border regions showed that entering the country without documentation through those routes is not stressful, by the day or at night.

Police and immigration officers keep an eye on official border posts of Namanga (Arusha), Holili and Tarakea (Kilimanjaro), and Horohoro (Tanga), but there are scores of unmanned entry points and informal ports used by speed boats along the coastline in Tanga Region.

DC aghast as cattle herders, miners invade Nyerere Park

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

ULANGA District authorities have raised alarm over what they see as a rise in the

number and frequency of invasions of the Julius Nyerere National Park (JNPP) including large herds of cattle, mining and rampant fishing, threatening key water

sources. District commissioner Ngolo Malenya explained this situation at a press conference

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CRDB Bank Plc's Director of Retail Banking, Boma Raballa (C) shows the new-look 'TemboCard' during yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of 'Tisha na TemboCard/Visa'. He is with head of marketing Joseline Kamuhanda (R) and Card Business senior manager Erica Mwaipopo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (C), Tanzania's Ambassador accredited to France, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia, Samwel Shelukindo (R), and Tourism deputy director (in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry) Richie Wandwi head for the venue of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly in Madrid yesterday. The World Tourism Organisation is the United Nations specialised agency entrusted with the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. Photo: Correspondent Lusungu Helela

Stigma, discrimination still major issues for workers with HIV/AIDS

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 40 years after the AIDS epidemic began, significant HIV-related, stigma and discrimination persist, according to a new global survey.

Nearly four out of ten respondents said that people living with HIV should not be allowed to work directly with those who do not have HIV. As many as six in ten people, also supported mandatory HIV testing before people are allowed to work.

The study revealed how stigmatising and discriminatory attitudes are fuelled by a lack of knowledge on HIV transmission. Only one in two people knew HIV cannot be transmitted by sharing a bathroom and only one in four people correctly answered questions about how HIV is transmitted. Myths and misconceptions persist and contribute to stigma and discrimination.

The report, The ILO Global HIV Discrimination in the World of Work Survey, is the product of a groundbreaking collaboration between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the opinion poll company, Gallup International. It sheds light on the causes of the persistence of HIV-related stigma and discrimination in the world of work. Information was collected from more than 55,000 people in 50 countries, worldwide.

Views varied considerably between regions. The lowest tolerance for working directly with people with HIV was found in Asia and the Pacific (only 40 per cent said people living with HIV should be allowed to work with people who do not have HIV) and in the Middle East and North Africa (where only 42 per cent said people living with HIV should be allowed to work with people who do not have HIV).

"The world of work has a key role to play. Stigma and discrimination in the workplace marginalize people, push people living with HIV into poverty, and undermine the goal of decent work."

Chidi King, Chief of the ILO's Gender, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Branch

The regions with the most positive attitudes were Eastern and Southern Africa, where almost 90 per cent of respondents said that working directly with people with HIV should be allowed. Higher educational levels were also associated with positive attitudes towards working with those living with HIV. Globally 68 per cent of those with tertiary education agreed that working directly with people living with HIV

should be allowed, compared to 39.9 per cent of those with only primary education.

"It is shocking that, 40 years into the HIV and AIDS epidemic, myths and misconceptions are still so widespread. A lack of basic facts about how HIV is transmitted is fuelling stigma and discrimination," said Chidi King, Chief of the ILO's Gender, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Branch (GEDD). "This survey is a wake-up

call to reinvigorate HIV prevention and education programmes. The world of work has a key role to play. Stigma and discrimination in the workplace marginalize people, push people living with HIV into poverty, and undermine the goal of decent work."

The report offers a number of recommendations, including implementation of HIV programmes that increase workers' knowledge of HIV transmission and dispel myths

and misconceptions, improving the legal and policy environment around HIV to protect rights of workers, abolishing mandatory HIV testing in line with the ILO Recommendation on HIV and AIDS (No.200), enhancing access to social protection and addressing violence and harassment that can arise from stigma and discrimination, by ratifying and implementing the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).



Mussa Juma, a representative of the national coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) and a member of the Media Aids for Indigenous and Pastoralists Community, garlands Alima Nkwong, a Cameroonian media studies graduand of Arusha's Habari Maalum College, at last week's graduation ceremony. Alima, who also won the college's Best Leader prize for the year, spent five months on practical attachment with The Guardian newspaper from mid this year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Procurement ethics best for businesses' success, says NMB

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and deliver accordingly."

The Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply has it that as the profession's status within organizations grow, ethical procurement and integrity in supply chain management practices equally become inevitable.

APSP leaders concurred with her because procurement of goods and services accounts for a big chunk of government budgets and spending of private sector entities. "I am confident that this forum will be used to address and strategize on how to improve the performance of the profession in both the public and private sector entities with the ultimate goal of enhancing integrity, honesty and efficiency at your places of work," Zaipuna noted.

She called on the procurement and supplies managers to strike a fair balance between business success and what professional ethics and guidelines of the procurement law requires them to adhere to.

She applauded APSP members for embracing the bank's Bancassurance group funeral package en masse, noting that there are other innovative solutions such

as the "spend to save" product and the popular NMB 'droplet' health insurance scheme.

In a welcoming address, APSP chairman Emmanuel Urembo commended the lender for its market leadership, saying nothing illustrates better this quality than international awards the bank has frequently scooped for customer service excellence, among other aspects.

Urembo put the relevance and importance of the profession in development into proper perspective by asserting that the procurement of goods and services accounts for about 70 per cent of government expenditure and capital spending among private sector firms and other public entities.

"Therefore, the formation of APSP as a procurement and supply management professionals body in general makes a lot of business and economic development sense," he told the gathering.

The AGM was also attended by the new director general of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, (PPRA) Dr Irene Isaka. She said her 'open door' leadership style means working closely with all professionals and other stakeholders.

PM: Punish hospital staff demeaning AIDS patients

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discrimination on people living with HIV are still a big challenge in our society," he told the gathering.

"This hinders our efforts in the war against HIV/AIDS in the country. The result is that some sufferers see it as a shame to use HIV/AIDS services due to stigma and discrimination, especially in rural areas," he elaborated.

Speaking on this year's slogan, Majaliwa said it is the right one because it provides a better direction on how to remove existing challenges to obtain better results.

"Equality is needed for basic needs of various vulnerable groups because HIV/AIDS does not select age or gender. Hence the slogan reminds us of our responsibilities in providing services to all groups, including children, youth, women, girls, male adults, elders, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups," he stated.

He assured stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS that the government will continue working with non-governmental organizations for sustainability of HIV/AIDS treatment and access to drugs everywhere.

"The government will continue to allocate budgetary resources and

seek Sponsorship Funds on HIV/AIDS Control," he said, asking the commission, TACAIDS to consult with the Treasury and Health sector authorities to work on procedures to boost the fund.

For her part, Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of state in the PM Office (Policy, Parliament, Coordination, Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) said antiretroviral services to people living with HIV will continue. Those found to be infected should immediately start using ARVs, she appealed.

In preventing new HIV/AIDS infections, the government, in collaboration with development stakeholders is implementing the fourth national strategy on AIDS control, she stated, elaborating that the 2018/2019 to 2022/2023 strategy aims to reduce new HIV infections.

Leticia Maurice, chairperson for the National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA), expressed gratitude to President Samia for her vision and efforts in looking for financial resources for implementing the country's various development projects, including those relating to the health sector and infectious disease in particular.

DC aghast as cattle herders, miners invade Nyerere Park

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following an impromptu aerial patrol in the national park, the biggest in the country and across the world, where he affirmed that disruptions in water catchment areas adds to threats of water shortages in urban areas and power generation.

After the patrol, the DC who is also the chairman of the district's defence and security committee spoke to workers of the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) at Matambwe in the park area.

He pointed at considerable destruction going on in the park, asking those engaged in economic activities in the park to immediately dislodge from the zone before law enforcement is brought to bear upon them fully.

During the aerial patrol officers noticed other activities like wildlife poaching, wanton tree cutting, charcoal making and trapping of wild animals, he stated, noting that the district authorities will not accept this situation to continue.

People are destroying natural resources in the Julius Nyerere National Park, he said, issuing what

he said was the last warning to stop those activities inside the park, "and in this regard Ulunga district authorities will have no mercy to any person found to disregard this directive."

Ulunga District is a big stakeholder in the hydropower project in the area, from the many rivers passing the district emptying their waters to Rufiji River, thereby contributing 62 to 60 per cent of all the water that goes to generate electricity. The district authorities will make sure they protect these water sources from wanton destruction, he declared.

The park covers nearly all of Ulunga District, having an abundance of wildlife including large herds of elephants, crocodiles and hippos apart from wild dogs which experts say they are in danger of extinction, the DC indicated, affirming that they have to be protected for future generations.

For his part, JNNP senior conservationist Seth Mihayo said that poaching was a major challenge in the park but TANAPA protects the natural resources with constant patrols.



NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna (2nd-R) pictured in Arusha city yesterday launching Group Funeral insurance cover, introduced as a special package for members of the Association of Procurement and Supplies Professionals (APSP). Looking on (from-r): Godfrey Mbanyi, Chief Executive Director of the Procurement and Supplies Professionals and Technicians Board; APSP chairman Emmanuel Chairemba; and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) CEO Irene Isaka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

New book by former CAG is a 'weapon' against embezzlement of public funds

By Guardian Reporter

THE government says a new book authored by the retired Controller and Auditor General, Ludovick Utouh, is a weapon in the fight against embezzlement of public funds.

The book, titled 'Principles of Public Sector Auditing - The Case of SAI Tanzania' was officially launched on Monday in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking at the launching event, Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba his speech read on his behalf by the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Emmanuel Tutuba said the book is an important 'weapon' against public funds embezzlement.

"We are taking the book as an important lever that shows us auditing gaps and other weaknesses to be worked upon, hence it will assist us to rescue public funds," he said.

The PS said it was essential for all

internal auditors and accounting officers countrywide to buy the book as it contains many basic issues on auditing of public funds and finance auditing in general.

Instructing all responsible accounting officers to have the book, he said by reading it they will enhance their experience in on how to manage public funds in order to ward off financial conflicts between them and the government.

He said the book has come up at the right time as as currently the government was dishing a lot of money to local councils for implementation of various development projects and service delivery.

"So, through the book we believe accounting officers will enhance their knowledge in implementing their duties," he said.

However, Tutuba called on Utouh and the WAJIBU Institution he leads to translate the book into Kiswahili to make easy for all Tanzanians to read and understand.

The book sells at 40,000 and its author,

Utouh says he was compelled to write it after seeing very little understanding on auditing issues in the public sector.

"The book talks on the subject that is taught in colleges but the truth is the subject has no written content in book form.

"hence you will find that the subject was being taught by adhering to what the Constitutions and other relevant laws say, even at the time when I was teaching at Mzumbe University, I saw the problem. But after I became CAG I still saw the problem going on - people not fully understanding auditing in the public sector," said Utouh.

Reading the speech on behalf of the Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere, Deputy CAG, Sakina Mkumba said the book has adhered to all criteria in the issue of auditing.

"The book is not only beneficial to Tanzania, but also to other countries, taking into consideration that 26 African countries use English," Mkumba added.

Minister Dr Ndumbaro leads state delegation at UNWTO conference

By Special Correspondent, Madrid

TANZANIA's delegation on tourism led by the Head of the Tanzanian delegation Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro is in Madrid, Spain for the 24th United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) conference.

The four-day conference that begun on Tuesday was expected to be opened yesterday and Dr Ndumbaro is expected to outline issues that Tanzania would benefit from the gathering.

He mentioned among the issues as including "to make sure we increase the number of tourists visiting Tanzania as well income from tourism and advertising the country's tourist attractions to the world."

He mentioned among other matters to advertising the country's tourism attractions.

In the first day of the conference, Tanzania had several opportunities, including using the conference itself to advertise the country's tourist attractions, telling the entire world that Tanzania is safe and urged tourists to come to visit the country's attractions.

"They should come to Tanzania to see Mt Kilimanjaro, Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Zanzibar's beautiful white beaches and many other attractions we have," Dr Ndumbaro said.

He added that the second issue at the conference, Tanzania will sign the UNWTO Protocol to enable it convene the 65th Tourism Conference in Africa to be held 6 - 8 October 2022 in Arusha.

"We are bringing in this conference as another opportunity for Tanzania, we had already been named to host the Africa Zone Conference on Tourism in Cape Verde, but now we have come to sign the agreement to host the meeting, after which we shall be 100 per cent sure we print "post cards" to be given to each participant at the Madrid conference, the cards that will assist to advertise our tourist attractions," he added.

He further said the third issue at the meeting is that Tanzania has been at the fore front fighting for the rights of tourists and will participate in having in place international law on tourism.

"We have learned from the Covid-19 pandemic that nations closed their borders causing tourists in various countries unable to return to their home countries.

"Their right could not be defended by international law, and now we will initiate international laws to defend tourists in foreign countries during such emergency situations, the law that will instill more respect and provide a sense of security to them," said Dr Ndumbaro.

He added that the conference has many benefits for Tanzania in ensuring that it attains a total of 5 million and over 6bn/- in revenues.

The four-day (30 November to 3 December) conference incorporates various delegations including tourism ministers, heads of states, international organisations, private individuals and other tourism stakeholders.

Jubilee LIFE INSURANCE
 Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited
 HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 20524 DAR ES SALAAM

LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO. T1202100095853
PETER FRANK MWAKOSYA

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policies, the originals having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policies will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contact.

Dated at Dar es salaam, 24th November, 2021.

Jubilee LIFE INSURANCE
 Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited
 HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 20524 DAR ES SALAAM

LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO. T1201600022315
MASHAKA GILBERT FANDEY

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policies, the originals having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policies will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contact.

Dated at Dar es salaam, 24th November, 2021.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
 IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT DELEGATE OF NYAMAGANA DISTRICT AT MWANZA

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO. 28 OF 2021.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JOSEPH DANIEL KATUGA AND

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION BY LILIAN GERAZI BUYUYA

GENERAL CITATION

Notice is hereby given that the above named petitioner has petition for grant of letter of Administration of the Estate of the above named deceased. Any person with interest against the said Estate is called upon to file caveat if any, on or before 22nd December 2021 before granting the letter of Administration. Dated at Mwanza this 30th November 2021

SENIOR RESIDENT MAGISTRATE COURT OF DISTRICT DELEGATE, NYAMAGANA DISTRICT, MWANZA



PharmAccess Foundation: - 20 years of working with like-minded stakeholders to bring about major health reforms in Africa

By Maliki Muunguja

"If we can get cold Coca-Cola and beer to every remote corner of Africa, it should not be impossible to do the same with drugs," a wise remark by Prof Joep Lange, who salvaged African communities that were on the sidelines during the HIV/AIDS scourge.

Academically, a virologist and researcher of international acclaim from Amsterdam Medical University, but a philanthropist of a kind the way he sympathised with HIV/AIDS African vulnerable communities.

His move began during the late 1990s and early 2000s when HIV/AIDS emerged and challenged global health systems.

Against that backdrop, he conducted research on the back of HIV advent in Amsterdam communities and managed to provide treatment in early 2000s.

The research was also involved in the prevention of mother - to - child HIV infection and furthered study in African countries of South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

He noted that while medicines for HIV were available in western countries nothing was being done for countries in Sub Saharan Africa where the epidemic was even worse.

Several reasons were paraded to justify this anomaly, but Prof Lange said it was unacceptable that those who are in need do not get medicines.

However, Prof Lange was against the world, his Afrocentrism pushed him to finally set up PharmAccess as a facility to steer ahead a movement to make HIV medications available in Africa on the back of his deep-seated impatience for any further policy reforms.

The objective, by then, of this firm, was to turn a ground-breaking research into action by bringing HIV/AIDS treatment to the people in Africa who were being excluded and were facing a health emergency on an unprecedented scale.

Under his influence, Heineken was the first company to commit, and many other multinationals followed.

With a huge impact, it proved that it

was possible to deliver lifesaving treatment to people in Africa and that the delay in doing so was a question of political will.

While focusing on HIV, more problems unfolded. Health systems were proven weak as a result of inadequate investments.

Prof Lange remains a reason why PharmAccess exists today and it marks 20 years of its exalted healthcare system reforms in Tanzania landscape and beyond.

Paradigm shift for healthcare in Africa
 To address the disparity in investment in healthcare in developing countries' health system weakness, PharmAccess started to advocate for "business unusual approaches" to strengthen health systems in Africa.

In an award winning essay titled; "A New Paradigm for Increased Access to Healthcare in Africa", PharmAccess contended that African public systems have been unable to efficiently deliver health care.

As a result, almost 60 percent of health care, often obtained in the private sector, is paid by patients out of pocket, causing many to fall into a poverty trap.

Private equity investments in the health care supply chain do not take place because the risk is considered too high.

This has resulted in doctors being unable to invest in their clinics, extremely inefficient distribution systems, lack of equipment to perform laboratory tests and a lack of capital for insurance companies to invest in administrative capacity.

To address these challenges, PharmAccess argues that it is time to rethink the way health care is delivered in developing countries.

This essay won accolades from the International Financing Corporation (IFC), Financial Times (2008) and G20 Financial challenge award (2010) and has become the blueprint for PharmAccess's approach to improve access to quality healthcare for low income groups.

With such a shift in the way investments in health in Africa need to be

ushered in, need to improve trust in the systems and improve transparency in quality, zero risk pools were highlighted as challenges that face its financing.

Towards a paradigm shift for healthcare in Africa, in 2006, the Health Insurance Fund was established by PharmAccess, with support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and several multinationals to tap into private sector potential to introduce public-private health financing schemes for people with low incomes.

Not as a matter of ideology, but based on the pragmatic notion that 50 percent of healthcare in Sub-Saharan countries is delivered through the private sector.

The approach was innovative in its focus on increasing trust in the health system, thereby, aiming to reduce investment risks and costs, create the conditions to mobilize resources from other sources, like local donors, and public and private investors.

In Tanzania, the Health Insurance Fund has focused on working with the government to mobilize and support the informal sector to establish or strengthen health insurance schemes.

PharmAccess worked with the Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union (KNCU) to successfully establish the first KNCU health-plan for its members enrolling about 40 percent of their members into the KNCU Health plan.

In 2014, working with local governments in Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions, applying the learnings from the KNCU health plan to strengthen the Community Health Fund (CHF) in the two regions, PharmAccess designed and implemented an improved CHF model, which was able to double enrollment into the scheme (from 10 to 22 per cent) of total population in the region.

The success of this model is further evidenced by the fact that the Government of Tanzania adopted this model for national roll out of National Improved CHF.

In 2008, the Investment Fund for Health in Africa, the first health-focused private equity fund in Africa was launched. Next, in 2009, the Medical

Credit Fund launched to provide loans to SMEs in the health sector.

MCF's strategic approach has been to encourage local financial organizations to work with the private health sector by improving transparency and improving trust.

MCF work with local banks by taking the first risk, and also supporting health facilities that adhere to good business practices.

Through this initiative, about Sh14 billion (6 million USD) private capital has been invested to improve quality of care in health facilities in Tanzania.

The year 2010 saw the launch of SafeCare quality improvement methodology that is based on supporting facilities to incrementally comply with internationally recognized quality standards for clinics and hospitals, plugging a gap that international accreditation standards were not fulfilling.

SafeCare builds transparency in quality care to attract investments and builds trust to the patients /clients on care provided.

More than 500 health facilities in Tanzania have enrolled into the SafeCare and are in different stages of their quality improvement journey.

The implementation of SafeCare has not been done in isolation but in

collaboration with the Ministry of Health and private sector stakeholders, for example the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) and the Association of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania (APHFTA).

This collaboration has enabled building of local capacity and created a favorable environment for policy adoption, sustainability and scaling up.

PharmAccess in the era of digital revolution

PharmAccess believes that mobile phones are one of the biggest social equalizers on and offer a huge opportunity to tackle Africa's poor health statistics through new forms of pre-payment and risk pooling.

PharmAccess has collaborated with like-minded partners to develop and apply mobile payment innovations in real-life settings since 2013. This technology has been adapted in Tanzania to develop a digitally enabled system for supporting pregnant mothers' access to quality Maternal and Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) Services during their pregnancy journey.

The MomCare project has enrolled more than 23,000 women that access MNCH services in more than 40 public health facilities in Manyara region.

In this Project, enrolled mothers

receive virtual money through their mobile phones and on visiting a health facility they are empowered to pay for the service and facilities recover their costs after the cost.

The transparency created enables health management teams to monitor compliance to best practices and also provide timely support for improvements. Since facilities can recover the costs of service, some have already invested in infrastructure improvements and capability to provide quality MNCH care.

In quest to improve efficiency and effectiveness of its quality improvement methodology, SafeCare has a digitalised assessment system and use for behaviour motivation to engage in quality and accelerate health sector improvements.

PharmAccess will continue to work to leverage mobile technology and data to its full potential to accelerate the journey towards making health markets work for the poor to achieve universal health coverage.

Commitment for future outlook

PharmAccess will continue to work with like-minded stakeholders to innovate, deepen and scale up successful initiatives to accelerate achievement of key milestones in their UHC roadmap.



20 YEARS PHARMACCESS
 MAKING QUALITY HEALTHCARE WORK

MAKING QUALITY HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBLE IN AFRICA

www.pharmaccess.org

UCSAF and Airtel launch a 4G site in Matuli village, Morogoro Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AIRTEL Tanzania has partnered with the Universal Communication Services Access Fund (UCSAF) to extend communication services to Matuli village in Morogoro south by launching 4G telecommunication tower which will make Matuli and its four neighbouring villages access for stable communication services.

The telecommunication tower, which has been built at a cost of 350m/- with UCSAF contributing 125m/- of the amount, was launched yesterday by the Minister for Communications and Information Technology Dr Ashatu Kijaji.

Speaking after the launch, Dr Kijaji commended Airtel Tanzania for partnering with UCSAF to construct the 4G communication tower and give access to communication services to the four villages which have been lacking communication services for a long time.

'As we celebrate 60 years of independence, lets also celebrate today as the villages of Matuli, Kwaba, Diguli and Lulongwe with over 9,000 residents will from today have access to communication services' said Dr Kijaji while commenting for its efforts on extending its infrastructure to rural areas'.

The Minister added, 'As you are aware, Airtel Tanzania is owned by the government 49 per cent shares while UCSAF is a fully owned government institute. So by partnering together to extend communication services to these villages shows government commitment on making sure that Tanzanians have access to 4G communication services noting that communication is longer a luxury but a primary need to Tanzanians'.

The UCSAF CEO Justina Mashiba said that one of the main duties of UCSAF is to make sure that rural areas which have no access with communication services must be extended to. We have been partnering with telecommunication providers in the country in making sure that those areas get communication services. So far we have managed on extending communication services to 1068 wards in the country and we will

continue doing the same in order to make sure that our country is fully covered with communication services.

Mashiba added, 'I must commend Airtel Tanzania as they have responded so quick to construct this communication tower. I call upon villagers surrounding the tower to make sure that it's not vandalised and always is protected'.

Airtel Tanzania public relations manager Jackson Mmbando said Airtel Tanzania is always committed in making sure customers have a freedom to communication services and that is one of the main reason why Airtel responded so quickly when the request for constructing the 4G communication tower was presented to them.

Airtel Tanzania has been investing on expanding its network infrastructure in order to increase customer base. After the launch of this communication tower our customer base will also increase. We will always keep on doing that for the purpose of making sure that our customers continue enjoying the best of services from the best telecommunication tower in the country.

Morogoro East Member of Parliament Hamis Talele congratulated Airtel Tanzania and UCSAF for coming together to provide communication services in the area. 'Villagers here have been using the tree you see here to make calls. Others have been travelling as far as 50 kilometres to have an access to communication services. But today, we all have an access to stable communications from Airtel Tanzania'.

He added: "Most of residents here depend on agriculture and business as their core economic activities. With now Airtel communication with us now will increase their economic activities as some will be agents for Airtel, business will grow and personal earnings will also increase."

I must commend Airtel Tanzania as they have responded so quick to construct this communication tower



Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology, cuts ribbon to launch the installation of a 4G telecommunication tower at Matuli village in Morogoro Region yesterday. The tower, mounted jointly by Airtel Tanzania and Universal Communication Services Access Fund, is meant to serve over 9,000 residents of Matuli, Kwaba, Diguli and Lulongwe villages. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Amos Makalla has advised inspectors from Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices (TMMDA) to conduct regular inspections to identify and prevent the sale of government medicines to private pharmacies.

Speaking during the opening of five-day training to 33 inspectors of medicines and medical devices from all municipalities in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Makalla said despite having regularly inspections, still there are theft of Government medicines and medical devices.

"Inspectors are required to adhere to their professional

TMDA inspectors urged to conduct inspections to prevent sale of drugs

ethics, you shouldn't compromise in issues which will affect the country, how the government medicines are stolen and sold in the streets pharmacies while the inspection conducted...do impromptu inspection to identify such medicines," he said.

However, Makalla detailed about the existence of unlicensed accredited drug dispensing outlets (ADDOS), wanted the inspectors to check if their establishment and operation follow the procedures and meet the requirements, by making sure the service providers

are qualified for the job or they just have valid certificates.

TMMDA Director General Adam Fimbo said almost 80 per cent of the medicines in the country are imported while only 20% are produced locally.

Identifying counterfeit medicines products is not an easy task and it is imperative that the inspector even go to the laboratory to test the product and give the correct answers.

"We have 705 inspectors present in various municipalities in the country; we identify them through the

special given IDs. These inspectors are trained in performance to fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with the guidelines and regulations of medicine," said Fimbo.

For his part, Assistant Pharmacist from Temeke Municipal Council, Benard Sabuni said the biggest challenge is lack of awareness amongst service providers and the presence of fake certificates.

He said many ADDOS use fake issuing certificates; currently the Pharmacy Council has special machine to screen out fake certificates.

Shinyanga DC instructs mayor to fully supervise development funds

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA district commissioner Jasinta Mboneko has instructed the new Shinyanga municipal Mayor Elias Masumbuko to fully supervise municipal's development funds toward off embezzlement.

Mboneko issued the directives early this week during the swearing in of the Mayor, after emerging winner in the vote, following the death of his predecessor,

David Nkulila.

The DC said the new mayor should fully manage development funds of the municipality, to be used on the intended purposes and that there should be no room for embezzlement. "I know your work performance, and since you are now the municipal Mayor, I instruct you to fully supervise all development funds under your jurisdiction," Mboneko said.

She also impressed upon the new Mayor not to accept reports on paper

about projects' implementation, but should build the habit to visit the projects site to observe the actual situation on the ground, including the value for money.

For his part, Mayor Elias Masumbuko promised the DC that he will not let her down, saying he will fully implement the directives given, by working together with the Councillors.

He also called on municipal workers to work together with Councillors by inventing new revenue sources to enable

the municipal earn more internal funds for development projects.

"Without revenue we cannot run the Council or even provide quality social services to the people, revenue is the engine of the Council, I ask you to invent other revenue sources," he added.

Meanwhile, the Mayor called on municipal workers to maintain discipline and work ethics and be ready to be accountable, respect each other and work as a team.

Nchemba to grace 14th ITA graduation ceremony Friday

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

FINANCE and Planning, minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba is tomorrow expected to grace the 14th Institute of Tax Authority (ITA) graduation ceremony.

Briefing journalists on the event, ITA rector Prof Isaya Jairo said that the minister is expected to confer certificates, diplomas and degrees to 387 graduates.

He said ITA plans to increase students' enrollment from the current 600 to 1,000 annually to curb conduct the shortage of experts in tax administration.

ITA provides training in the field of scientific, technological and economic changes that address the needs of the professional market in the customs and tax fields in the country, Africa and the world.

"The college has obtained an international certificate of excellence in tax training provided by the International Standards Organization (ISO), after conducting a quality management audit in the activities of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)," Prof Jairo said.

Also, he said ITA, it provides capacity building training to TRA staff, the Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) and other revenue authorities in Africa.

"The college is currently in a capacity building agreement with South Sudan, Revenue Authority staff and among the graduates for the 2020/2021 academic year, the postgraduate level is four students from South Sudan," he noted.

Among the 387 graduates, about 140 will be awarded the East African Customs Management Certificate, 32 will award Customs and Tax Administration Certificate, 71 the Diploma in Customs and Tax Management, 110 the Diploma in Customs and Tax Management and 34 the Diploma Postgraduate in Taxes.

According to him, the institute enjoys national and international recognition, noting that it enrolls students from countries such as Botswana, Uganda, Malawi, South Africa and Benin in West Africa.

East African Community (EAC) secretariat had identified the institute as a leading training institution in customs and tax administration fields and consequently earmarked it for recognition as a center of excellence in customs and tax studies in the region.

"The college is currently in a capacity building agreement with South Sudan, Revenue Authority staff and among the graduates for the 2020/2021 academic year, the postgraduate level is four students from South Sudan"

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL
AT DAR ES SALAAM

APPEAL NO. 13 OF 2021

BETWEEN

REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF AL-MARKAZ
SHAMSIYAH AL - ISLAMIYA DAR ES SALAAM APPELLANT

AND

DAR ES SALAAM WATER AND
SEWERAGE AUTHORITY 1ST RESPONDENT

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY 2ND RESPONDENT

(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) given on the 25th October, 2021 in which EWURA dismissed the appellants claim on specific performance and compensation for damages caused by the 1st respondent while conducting inspection exercise of water supply infrastructure in the premises of the appellant. EWURA decided that the appellant failed to prove his claim thus, not entitled to any relief.

The appeal is based on the ground that the decision was made in error of the law; was not based on the evidence tendered by the appellant; and that non compliance to the procedure affected the decision. Thus, the Appellant prays for orders to quash the decision and specific performance with costs.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 1st December, 2021.

REGISTRAR

216596701

SHELL TANZANIA LIMITED

Incorporation number 16839

the Companies Act, 2002

(SECTION 334 (i))

MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the General Public that at a duly convened meeting of Shell Tanzania Limited (the Company), company number 16839 which took place on 1 November 2021 the following special resolutions were passed:

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

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public and the parties concerned to submit their claims for admission within 30 days. All claims must be enclosed envelope and addressed to JOSEPH LYIMO of PricewaterhouseCoopers of Pemba House, 369 Toure Drive, Oyster bay, P O Box 45, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, who is the liquidator of the Company. Claims lodged after 30 days will not be considered for admission.

JOSEPH LYIMO

Liquidator

For SHELL TANZANIA LIMITED

Please note that this is the old Shell entity that was in a business of distribution (downstream) and not Shell Exploration and Production Tanzania Limited-TZ Branch which is in the exploration business (upstream).

216596501



Contractors Registration Board (CRB), chairperson Consolatha Ngimbwa (2nd-L) has a quick word with CRB officials in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after opening a three-day seminar for contract management for Tanzanian contractors. The officials are CRB training coordinator Neema Fuime (L), trainer Emmanuel Kachuchuru (R) and assistant registrar David Jere. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CRB urges local contractors to fight for the rights in contracts

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CONTRACTORS Registration Board (CRB) has urged local contractors to fight for their rights when violated in their contract with their clients.

CRB chairperson, Eng. Consolatha Ngimbwa made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening three-day training on contract management to local contractors.

She urged them to take the training seriously and use the material they acquire to practice and don't dump them in their shelves because the tendency show that there are some local contractors who fear to demand their rights for the fear that they would be denied tenders by their clients in the future.

"Don't be like that pleased because it is you rights, fight for it, in every contract clients has his rights and contractor has his rights. Ask yourself when your violet the contract does your employer tolerate you? So if he cannot tolerate you take action for your rights without fear," she said.

She also urged local contractors to ensure that they read the contract between the lines before they start to implement any construction project to avoid consequences they may suffer at the end of the day where some of them abandon their sites.

She said good contract management is very important and necessary for any contractor because they always deal with contracts.

"Your daily job is contract, you participate in tenders and if you succeed to get contract to implement the project, and you will implement the project as required in your contract. There is no way you can work as a contractor without contract so you cannot succeed in this business without having skills in contract management," she said

Eng. Ngimbwa said in the training local contractors will learn different important issues in construction contract adding that in the contract is where rights of both sides are articulated

"I'm very sure that you practice all of this in your daily activities especially when you implement different project. This training will help you to improve how to manage your contract in a professional way," she said.

Eng. Ngimbwa said she is optimistic that the training will help local contractors to improve their knowledge on contract management.

She also urged local contractors to be conversant with Tanzania National e Procurement System (TANePS), because currently it is the only way that is used by the government to receive tenders.

She said because government and its institutions and agencies is number one employer of all construction project there is no way a contractor can survive without having the TANePS Knowledge.

She added that there is information that some local contractors who are not conversant with TANePS to submit their tenders and they find some people to do on their behalf something which she said is not proper.

"By doing so your tender cannot be a secret because it becomes very easy for your competitor to know what you have submitted. Please don't risk your profession take time to learn the system and submit your tender on your own," she said

CRB assistant registrar, Eng. David Jere urged all contractors to pay their annual fees as required by law.

"Please pay your fees on time because we tolerate you so much. Laws give us power to cancel your registration, but we don't want to reach at that point. It is your obligation don't wait for us to push you," he said

Community called on to stop hiding GBV suspects

By Guardian Reporter

THE community has been advised to stop the habit of hiding suspects of Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases; instead they should effectively participate in giving evidence at the court, the practice that will assist in eliminating the vice in the society.

It has also been found that some the families of GBV victims have been receiving money, goats or cattle from the suspects' families as inducement for them to refuse giving evidence or even naming real suspects.

This was revealed yesterday in Manyara Region by Inspector of Police, Nuru Lucas during the National Forum to end GBV in line with commemoration of 16 days of activism against GBV in the region.

The Forum was organized by Norwegian

Church Aid (NCA), faith actors who have pooled resources with national stakeholders and government through the MKUKI initiative.

Inspector Lucas told the forum: "Evidence has been a major challenge in GBV cases; this is because on the first day the victim gives credible evidence, but later refuses to appear before the court to give evidence saying that they have already settled the matter at family level.

Speaking at the Forum, Thomas Joseph, a participant from Dongobesh in Mbulu district said that tradition and customs are the causes of all GBV cases in the region.

For her part, Lucy Maanda, a Special Seat Councilor from Dareda Ward in rural Babati had fingers pointed to the traditional elders who receive cash or goats from the suspects in order to persuade the victim's family to not continue with the case and settle the case privately.

She recommended that, for the GBV to end in Manyara Region all tribes in the region should unite and fight against bad customs.

However, Rev. Samuel Sure from ELCT Mbulu Diocese requested the government to set specific times for opening and closure of bars because alcoholism also contributes to GBV.

The Regional Sheikh for Manyara and the Chairman for Interfaith Committee Sheikh Khalid Mohamed said in order to eradicate GBV in the region they came up with the strategy to provide awareness education to various society levels.

However, NCA like many other organizations in the World has been participating in the campaign every year by engaging in various activities in regard to ending violence against women and child abuse.

BARRICK
BULYANHULU

Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

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

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-11-01-DS	Maintenance/service crew for Diesel Generators	i. At least 15 years' experience in >10MW generator installations. ii. At least 8 years' experience in management of critical & consumable spares. iii. 10 years' experience on Caterpillar generators. iv. 10 years' experience on Intelligen and Deep Sea generator controllers. v. Internationally recognized technical & trade certification. vi. Local ownership percentage (Local Content)
2	BUL-21-11-02-EA	Electrical reticulation audit & testing	i. At least 15 years' experience in >10MW surface and underground electrical reticulation. ii. At least 15 years' experience in HV transformers and switchgear. iii. 10 years' experience on secondary injection testing. iv. 10 years' experience on Statcom surge protection. v. 10 years' experience on earth resistance testing. vi. Internationally recognized technical & trade certification vii. Local ownership percentage (Local Content)

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead if your company qualifies as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation where applicable:

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

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the 9 December 2021. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

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

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

116595901

TWIGA
Minerals Corporation Limited
Incorporated in Tanzania
and the Government of Tanzania

BARRICK
BULYANHULU

Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

- BUL-RFQ-21-11-07-EF – Supply of Complete Substation and MCC - Upgrade of East Fan MCC – 1 set
- BUL-RFQ-21-11-09-PM - Supply of new Paste Continuous Mixer – 1 set

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

- BUL-RFQ-21-11-07-EF – Purchase of Complete Substation and MCC - Upgrade of East Fan MCC – 1 sets

- The current East Fan Substation & MCC poses a significant danger when HV switching has to be done, as the containerized Substation & MCC does not provide enough space/clearance when HV switching takes place.
- The HV and motor protection relays are outdated and replacement parts are difficult to find. The Substation & MCC container is also uninsulated resulting in high indoor temperatures. The motor temperature and vibration monitoring circuit also requires an upgrade
- Required to purchase one complete Substation & MCC that are required in order to provide safe HV switching, motor protection, fire detection, SCADA control and future HV expansion.
- Make-RME Engineering
- Motor - 1000KW, 6.6KV, 110Amp & protection –IP21

- BUL-RFQ-21-11-09-PM - Purchase of new Paste Continuous Mixer – 1 set

- Make – Simem
- Model - MIXER MDC 500 PASTE
- Mixing capacity between 120 and up to 250 cu.mts/hr.
- Mixing motors power 2 x 30 Kw. 400 V, 50 Hz. IP55 protected
- Extended version mixing tank, including two overflow outlet for material discharge
- Two lower discharge valves 6" diameter, for water and washing drainage, driven by hydraulic
- Two planetary type gearboxes with two reduction stages, driven t by two electric motors
- Two mixing shafts made of forged steel, supported by double rollers bearings
- Centralised lubrication circuit

Key documents

- Clear and detailed Quotation
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required;
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

Submission of Quotes

Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com. The reference "BUL-RFQ-21-11-07-EF or BUL-RFQ-21-11-09-PM" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement

Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes 10 Dec, 2021

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

116595901

For Tanzanians in diaspora: Stanbic Bank comes up with 'Nyumbani Banking' service

By Guardian Reporter

STANBIC Bank has launched a Diaspora Banking offering dubbed 'Nyumbani Banking' targeting Tanzanians living, working, and studying abroad. Nyumbani Banking was launched via a virtual event themed 'Investing back home: a ticket to build wealth', by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, ambassador Liberata Mulamula as a guest of honour, and witnessed by the bank's Chief Executive, Kevin Wingfield.

Speaking during the webinar through video, Mulamula said that Tanzanians living in the diaspora have always been the catalysts of national development, and it's crucial to recognise the role they play in driving socio-economic development. In that regard, the launch of Nyumbani Banking has come at the right time when the government is seeking to ensure that the contribution made by the country's Diaspora is recognized and meaningfully utilized to improve the lives of fellow citizens in the country.

The Bank's Chief Executive, Wingfield commented that the diaspora plays a key role in the development of the country through remittance flows and entrepreneurship which has witnessed dramatic and exciting developments in recent years.

The Bank's head of retail banking Omari Mtiga emphasized that Nyumbani banking is a good opportunity for the diaspora to explore and build wealth back home. He added that the country has tremendous investment opportunities given its rich natural resources, political and macroeconomic stability, and positive investment climate.

The launch of the Nyumbani Banking proposition follows over 10 months of engagements with potential and existing diaspora customers to establish their

banking needs with a bank back home. This new proposition will provide a wide range of banking services including but not limited to; transactional, access to investments, money transfers and payments, Bancassurance solutions for diaspora's family members in Tanzania, and advisory services geared towards wealth creation.

While unpacking the product, Stanbic Bank senior manager customer propositions, Thereza Mazinge reiterated the Bank's commitment to creating solutions that meet customers' needs. She noted that Tanzanians in the diaspora can open a Nyumbani Banking account easily from wherever they are and can transact remotely.

Stanbic Bank offers a wide portfolio of banking solutions and services in retail, commercial and enterprise and corporate banking.



This new proposition will provide a wide range of banking services including but not limited to; transactional, access to investments, money transfers and payments, Bancassurance solutions for diaspora's family members in Tanzania, and advisory services geared towards wealth creation



Stanbic Bank CEO Kevin Wingfield (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend presenting a gift to Tagie Daisy Mwakawago, acting Director of the Diaspora Department in the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry, during the launch of the bank's Nyumbani Banking proposition. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR activists have called on media to provide enough space for women in political leadership as often as men.

They made the call recently when speaking at the meeting held at Tamwa-Zanzibar offices in Tunguu area Central District Unguja that involved journalists, editors, lecturers, directors from different media organisations.

During the meeting Muslim University of Morogoro (MUM) lecturer Dr Abubakar Rajab, presented his study findings about media coverage of women in leadership in few selected media outlets.

Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar), Director Dr Mzuri Issa said the

Media urged to do more on female representation

political environment in Tanzania now provides an opportunity for many women to become leaders in government and private sector.

Dr Mzuri said in the current context it is clear that the country is open and more opportunities for more women to become leaders and all they need is to be determined and ready to run for office.

She said the participation of women in these positions is not a matter of being seen as an obstacle but of the aspirations of a world with a mission to bring equality to all people so there is no reason to see a

woman left behind.

She also urged the community particularly those who are in marriage to abandon the misconception that they cannot be leaders.

Dr Mzuri tasked leaders in the media industry to come up with special policy that will help increase women visibility in the media.

Presenting the report, Dr Rajab said a study carried between January and August, this year show that women are given less attention than their counterparts.

"This is an area that needs to be

worked on by media managers, so that women are given more space in their media," he said.

Chairman of male change agents Mohamed Jabir said the media have a huge responsibility to report stories about women as they are the people who face the biggest challenges in the political process.

Zanzibar Leo editor Ramadhan Makame said they have taken the study as a challenge and promised to work on it in the near future and he believes if such research is done again next year then it will have more positive results.



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (L, in glasses) has a word with primary school pupils on arrival at Mlunduzi in his Kibakwe constituency in Dodoma Region yesterday for a visit. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

By Guardian Reporter

THE candidate for ACT-Wazalendo national chairman, Hamad Masoud Hamad has said he is good enough to succeed the late Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad.

Masoud said he has worked with Maalim Seif since 1992, being the only young man in politics at the time, so his vast experience was adequate to hold the position he is vying for.

Masoud, who served as Zanzibar's Minister for Infrastructure, before resigning after the MV Islanders accident, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday, speaking to reporters about ACT-Wazalendo's intention to convene an emergency

Zanzibar VP Masoud on role in ACT: I can ably succeed Seif Sharif Hamad

national conference on January 23, next year.

He said the meeting is meant to fulfill the vacancy left by Maalim Seif as well as the vacancy following the resignation of the Vice-Chairman, Juma Duni Haji.

"The difference between Maalim and I is just the name, age, but I have the ability to lead, as I resemble him in terms of belief in reconciliation," said Masoud.

"I have worked with Maalim for about 30 years, I have been close to him since the inception of CUF,

and he is the only young man I have volunteered to work with these elders who were all older than I."

"Politics is not a force for competition, if I get the go-ahead, I will focus on resolving the grievances of the people, building a party network and a responsible one, setting up a special desk to listen to people's grievances, and remove oppressive laws."

He said he would oversee and maintain the government of national unity (GNU) and that he

would ensure Zanzibar became a full-fledged government.

He also pledged to ensure that his party remains strong at all levels from the grassroots to the national levels.

"We will work with other parties, institutions, and individuals to bring pressure to ensure the adoption of a new constitution, and an independent electoral commission. The party will be committed to ensuring that its victory in the next general election is not delayed," said Masoud.

Journos undergo training in wildlife conservation, natural resource oversight and promotion of tourism

By Guardian Reporter

TWENTY-five journalists from different media outlets have benefited from the master class training on wildlife conservation, natural resource management and tourism.

Organised by the Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET), the three-day training is part of implementation of Tuhifadhi Maliasili project worth US\$30.5million, which is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The training is aimed at increasing journalists understanding on wildlife movement corridors, biodiversity and natural resource management, wildlife and forest related crimes, conservation and practices.

The five-year conservation project is also meant to address the dynamics that threaten wildlife movement and the long-term preservation of biodiversity in Tanzania.

Over the next five years, USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili will work with the government of Tanzania, local communities, and the private sector to address the challenges.

Tuhifadhi Maliasili intends to create an environment wherein movement corridors will improve quality of life for not only wildlife but also the surrounding communities.

To achieve its objectives, the activity will strengthen the institutional capacity of both public and private sector stakeholders.

Through increasing private sector engagement, USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili will strengthen regulatory policy and the enabling environment for natural resource management.

However, during the three day

training journalists have learned about conservation, habitat management and wildlife crimes.

Also the trainees have gained a unique understanding of the most up to date wildlife conservation techniques and practices deployed on the wildlife Corridors.

One of the beneficiaries, Felix Mwakymbe described the training as an eye-opener that helped him to improve understanding on wildlife conservation, trafficking and poaching issues.

"The training helped me to understand in detail about various laws related to wildlife, as well as the laws concerning wildlife corridors and their importance," another training beneficiary, Abdi Suleiman said.



The training helped me to understand in detail about various laws related to wildlife, as well as the laws concerning wildlife corridors and their importance



Clara Makenya (L), the coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme in Tanzania, pictured in Dar es Salaam earlier this week receiving a fruit tree seedling from Doris Mollel Foundation Director Doris Mollel. It was shortly after a seminar on the link between climate change and the incidence of premature births and maternal deaths. Right is Vodacom Tanzania Foundation manager Sandra Oswald, rated as a key player in environmental conservation and in the health sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Summit to stimulate investment into Africa

By Guardian reporter

DAR ES SALAAM (Tanzania) Chapter of ICAI in association with Nairobi (Kenya) Chapter of ICAI has this year in October organised its 6th Annual International Conference with the theme "Emerging Africa" to open discussion on the investment opportunities in East Africa.

The theme "emerging Africa" was chosen considering the fact that Africa is currently emerging as a different world in itself and about 7 eminent speakers from different countries had their opportunity to share their knowledge through virtual platform on current emerging topics such as artificial intelligence, block chain technology, digitalization, transfer pricing, capital markets and investment opportunities in East Africa.

The inaugural session which was attended by the President of ICAI, CA Nihar N Jambusaria along with the Deputy High Commissioner of Kenya to Tanzania Shri Ashish Sinha and local regulator such as the National Board of Accountants and Auditors with whom ICAI is having its MoU was also invited and their executive director CPA, Pius A Maneno had word to addressed the participants during inaugural session.

During the inaugural session, the chairman of Tanzania Chapter CA Kapil Garg, welcomed all the distinguish guests and participants and briefed about the conference and chairman of Kenya Chapter CA Deepak Kanthaliya presented the vote of thanks to the dignitaries as CA Pinal Brahmabhatt moderated the inaugural session.

The Chapter also launched a Souvenir at this event which was released by the founder chairman of the Chapter CA Aman Vohra together with current chairman

whereby they also promoted the World Congress of Accountants 2020, which is going to take place in the City of Mumbai in the month of November 2022.

More than 434 delegates registered from 27 countries of the world attended this event which is the highest for any such ICAI conference in Africa and amongst the delegates there were members from ICAI, NBAA, ACCA and other business forums of Tanzania and Kenya.

The platform for the event was designed and provided by a Times Group company namely V Confex from India and had amazing features such as lobby, auditorium, exhibition halls, resource center, helpdesk, selfie booth and also the leaderboard.

On this historical event the vote of thanks was presented by Vice Chairs of two chapters, CA Binu Paul and CA Praveen Mahajanfor both Tanzania and Kenya Chapters which was very well appreciated not only by the delegates but also other bodies and business associations.

Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) Chapter of ICAI is working under the regulations and guidelines of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body established under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (Act No. XXXVIII of 1949) for the regulation of the profession of Chartered Accountants in India. During its 72 years of existence, ICAI has achieved recognition as a premier accounting body not only in India but also globally, for its contribution in the fields of education, professional development, maintenance of high accounting, auditing, and ethical standards.

Relief: Mweka builds students' hostel

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka (CAWM-Mweka) has built student's hostel worth 2.4bn/-, in a move to improve education environment at the institution.

The move will also relieve students who were travelling 16 kilometers to Moshi municipality for accommodation.

Inaugurating the students' accommodation facility, chief engineer of the project, Cyprian Mosha said that the newly constructed hostel has the capacity

of accommodating 294 students at once.

"This facility has 85 bedrooms whereby 15 of them are fully self contained rooms and we are going to complete them within the coming four months," Eng. Mosha said.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Dr Steven Kigaigai said that he was satisfied with the speed of the construction of the hostel that is vital for sustainable safety and performances of the CAWM-Mweka students. The RC lauded the college management for accomplishing the project.

Dr Kigaigai commended CAWM-Mweka leadership for introducing new programmes which he said would help solving various conservation and wildlife management challenges.

"I would like to applaud the college for this important step and I believe that employers and other tourism stakeholders will see these new programmes as an opportunity to enhance their professional capacity to increase operational efficiency," Dr Kigaigai said.

The CAWM-Mweka Rector, Prof Jafari Kideghesho explained that they have started taking their

students to the newly introduced national parks for sustainable conservation and tourism.

He added that his institution will continue taking their students for field trips to other newly introduced national parks.

The CAWM-Mweka boss further explained that they are planning to increase the number of local and foreign students at his college after the completion of the new hostel.

More than 9,000 students have graduated in various wildlife management and tourism courses at CAWM-Mweka since its inception.



Request for Quotation
RFQ No. 4923 and 4924
Purchase of Medical Laboratory Supplies for Public HTIs
Due Date and Time for Receipt of Offers: Wednesday, 15th December 2021 at 5:00 PM EAT

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University.

For more than 45 years and in over 40 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego's focus is on training and support for health care providers-including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego's program management strategy recognizes the technical complexity and geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political diversity among our programs. We develop global program initiatives and technical interventions that can be adapted for country-specific applications. In support of this field-driven philosophy, Jhpiego uses a decentralized organizational structure that consists of a global "delivery system" designed to implement the entire portfolio of Jhpiego awards with assistance from key technical, programmatic and administrative staff.


Jhpiego Tanzania office hereby invites submission of quotations from eligible suppliers for supply of medical laboratory supplies.

Interested eligible bidders may request for a complete set of bidding documents from the following email address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org

A prospective bidder having any question regarding this RFQ shall send an email 3 days prior to the due date and time for submission of offers to the email address provided in this advert. All proposals must be delivered to the email address provided above on or before **Wednesday, 15th December 2021 at 5:00 PM EAT**

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to bidders. Late proposals, proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Jhpiego Tanzania.
House No. 7, Serengeti Street, Mikocheni, Opposite to Garda World Office
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 756 888 388



EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION (INCLUDING END USER TRAINING), OF AN ONLINE LOCAL CONTENT REPORTING PLATFORM (LCRP). REFERENCE: 0010007310

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an Oil and Gas company, requires the services of a company or organisation with proven experience of successfully developing, installing, and training the end users with a subsequent helpdesk service of and for a cloud-based Local Content Reporting Platform (LCRP) for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kaabale in Hoima District, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 kilometres (km), of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SCOPE OF WORK:
EACOP requires the services of a suitably experienced and reputable company or organisation to develop, install and commission a fit-for-purpose, LCRP that satisfies the following key requirements:

- Operate in the cloud and be able to restrict access to selected functions only to suppliers and organisations holding EACOP issued and controlled passwords.
- Support the registration of local vendors in Uganda and Tanzania to enable the automatic notification of Expressions of Interest (EOI).
- Enable suppliers to report local / national content achievements and performance on discrete password protected input forms that enable EACOP to view each supplier's input status, against reporting deadlines.
- Ability to analyse vendor, supplier, local / national content data and create reports compliant with the requirements of the Tanzanian and Ugandan authorities and analyse trends against local/ national targets.
- Vendors are encouraged to outline any existing or potential additional functional abilities of the application that enhance its usefulness to EACOP, and its ability to build capacity in local / national vendors and suppliers.
- End user training programmes delivered either face-to-face or within the application to EACOP, vendors and suppliers supported by a multi-lingual helpdesk service.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Companies or organizations expressing their interest are required to submit documentation of their:

- Extensive performance record of, and capacity to develop and install/commission a fit-for-purpose, cloud-based computer application; train end users and maintain a multi-lingual (preferably Swahili and English) helpdesk accessible to Tanzania and Uganda, in compliance with all relevant national and international Standards.
- Key suitably qualified and experienced personnel able to understand EACOP's needs in relation to Tanzania and Uganda local/national content legislations and regulations and develop the computer application.
- Compliance with either Tanzania or Uganda minimum local content requirements including application for registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database in Tanzania at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended, or
- Proof of registration with the National Supplier Database (NSD) in Uganda at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is mandatory.
- Compliance with Local/National Content Regulations, in Tanzania/Uganda.
- Evidence of organization QHSE policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
- Appropriate licensing from relevant in-country authorities in Tanzania/Uganda for the provision of the services.
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania/Ugandan Revenue Authorities and Tax Clearance Certificates for the latest year.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to ecop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com (not exceeding 20Mbs) on or before **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 23rd, December 2021**. Email subject should be **0010007310**.

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 signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

Kiswahili elevation to World Day in UNESCO an uplift at 60 years

GOOD news was in the air in the past few days for the cultural establishment in the country after the governing council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) moved a resolution to make July 7 of each year as World Kiswahili Day. The festivity around the decision has been rather evenly shared between Kenya and Tanzania, partly due to the different positions they hold in relation to the language. In Kenya it is an ornament of national life, a trait of culture and a monumental point of identification as a country while Tanzania sees the language differently; simply a mother tongue.

East Africa as a whole was made proud with that decision, and for Tanzania it is especially salutary as the country approaches 60 years of independence, where each sector minister has been at pains to show to the public, via the media, what has been achieved during that period.

To arrive there, Kiswahili has attained other noticeable levels of recognition in the past few years, and made notable progress under the late fifth phase president, Dr John Magufuli. He broke with the tradition of speaking customarily in English when we have foreign visitors, such that sixth phase leader addresses gatherings in Kiswahili here at home, even if there are dignitaries from other countries. The traditional obligation to conform is now breached.

It was during the fifth phase that Kiswahili was elevated to one among official languages of the African

Union, implying that a breadth of documents will be made available in that language, and participants in its meetings being free to use the language.

It also implies that the African Union was now committed to lend a hand in efforts to propagate the use of Kiswahili abroad, and the UNESCO move would have been unthinkable without endorsement by African states at the council, in particular. They convinced doubters.

While East African countries are drawing closer in various areas, economically and culturally so to speak, there is still a dignified measure of competition in what occurs, and tourism is unavoidably one of those spheres. Data for a few past years showed that Kenya was receiving around four times the total number of visitors to Tanzania, partly because the tourism industry there is dominated by private sector players who have been in place since independence days, with minor alterations. So the venue is an extension of home.

That is why the use of Kiswahili as an exotic addition to what these countries offer has a more marketable outlook there than on this side of the border. We tend to focus the pressure on official use of the language, and not so much exposing foreign visitors to Swahili environments, despite that we have the Zanzibar film and music festivals to make a difference. Perhaps we should have more of that, and more visitors from nearby countries and abroad, make the language issue a social matter, not overthrowing English.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery demands profound reflection

AS the world was approaching this year's commemoration of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on December 2, militants in Africa and in the Diaspora had something to celebrate upon. It was the decision by Barbados to end its status as an independent country within the United Kingdom and attain republican status, severing ties with Queen Elizabeth II, until now the country's ceremonial Head of State. Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, was the guest of honour in that event and described slavery as a blot on the history of the UK. A portion of the citizens were all the same rather apprehensive.

While Tanzania celebrates 60 years of independence, and like other countries it has a lot of achievements to show, there are many who wonder if independence without republican status, merely internal self rule would have prevented unforeseeable excesses and negative political initiatives like munities, coups d'Etat and civil wars that have engulfed Africa since the early 1960s.

Looking at these events, for instance the outbreak of civil war in Ethiopia as a northern province that was hitherto dominating its political life rebelled, it is clear that tribal will to dominate others, or use the military to do so, is a crying political blot.

Grappling with that situation takes one to the issues concerning the slave trade and its abolition, a well as current issues of human trafficking which were at the core of the United Nations General

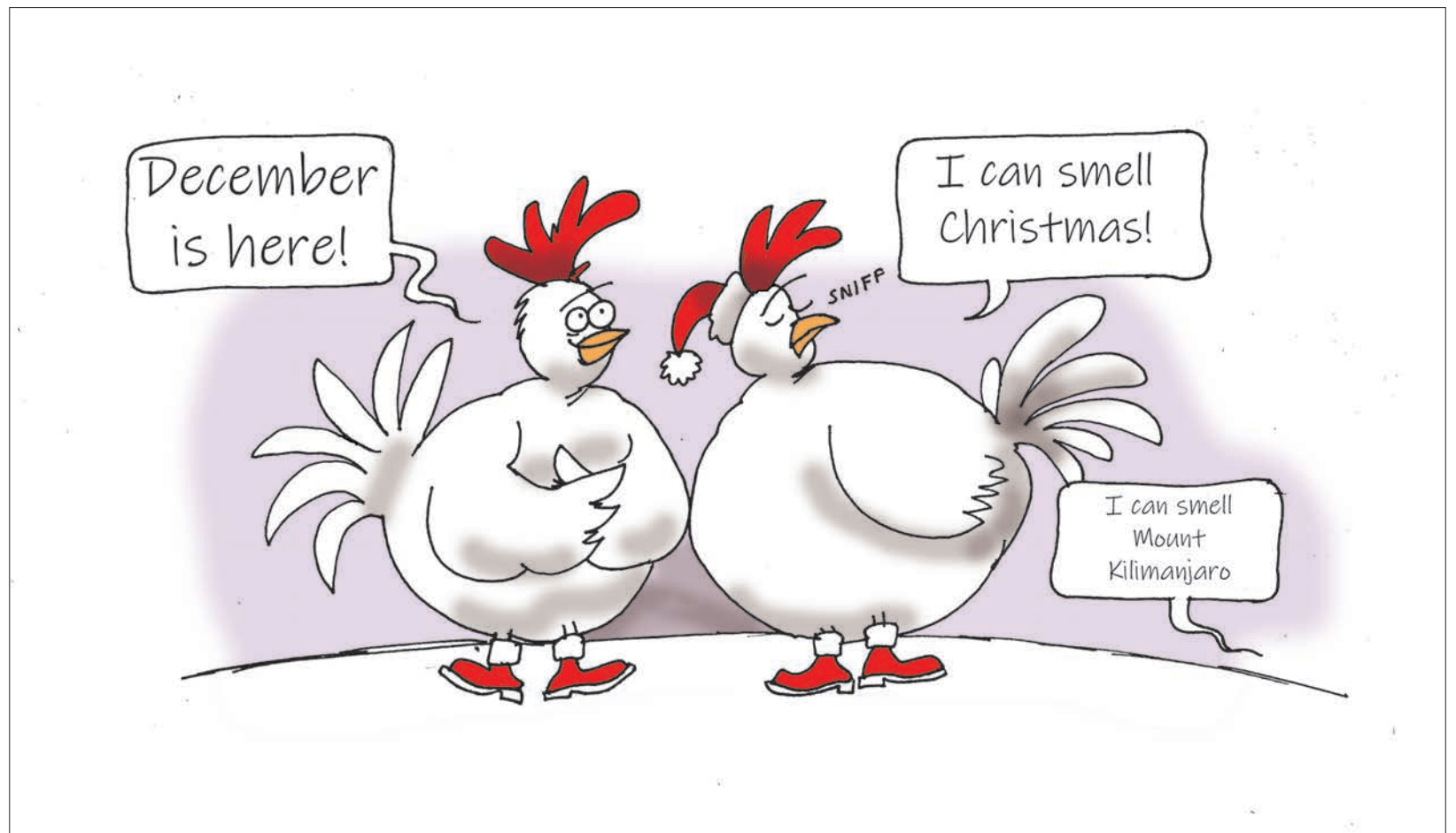
Assembly resolution in 1986 against traffic of persons and exploitation via prostitution, later improved to become a commemoration of the struggle against slavery, and how it was abolished.

Usually Pan-African historians blame Europeans for the slave trade as they purchased slaves, not spending much time on the violence underlying pre-colonial African societies, and how the trade enabled those captures to live, instead of being killed after cattle, farms, women are taken away. This is what plagues African up to the moment.

Whether one looks at the situation in the Sudan (Darfur), the eastern part of Congo, the Rwandan genocide or atrocious civil wars in West Africa in the earlier years of this century - or the jihads being perpetrated across the Sahel belt, the crucial issue is enslaving others for monetary gain for a warrior class. The whole point is to be able to organise, whether it is by warlords who have collected cash from mines and now want to abolish government authority, or political notables dissatisfied by a tribal alliance holding power, it is inability to exercise justice, equity that comes up. It is failure of citizenship as such.

So in marking the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery we should bear in mind that while the resolution talks about trafficking people, implying that they are cheated or coerced as in the old days, now there are thousands of volunteers wishing to be trafficked. They look for 'buyers' but expect humane treatment. It is absolutely a sad scenario.

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Institutional governance is the only hope to develop Liberia

By Ansu O. Dualo

THE formulation and expected evolution of anything that is intended to last far beyond its simple beginnings must be built upon footings that are supported by a solid base that is far larger and more embedded than that which it supports. No organization can survive the rigidity of time if it entirely relies upon an individual to guarantee its longevity. Man is here for a limited time; Liberia is here forever! How can we guarantee the continued wellbeing and development of Liberia if we entirely entrust national aspirations to the limitations of one flawed human being and not to institutions?

The issue of governance is a very simple and straightforward affair. It is only made complicated when people stray far away from time-tested principles that strengthen the governance process. For example, relying on self-indulgent men/women and not institutional guidelines. There must be a defined platform upon which any organization can build - that platform must be futuristic in nature; but most importantly, it must be rooted in the belief that it is bigger than any one person, the idea of continuity and robust enough to confront and overcome future challenges.

In this light, a government that will succeed must stand on the foundation of institutions. Liberia, on the other hand, did not begin with institutional intentions; it was begun as a temporary outpost with no solidifying, national ambition. Google "Restart Liberia and Build a New Foundation" (<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/opinion/commentary/restart-liberia-and-build-a-new-foundation/>) to learn how we can reorient Liberia and begin rebuilding that foundation that will propel us forward with an institutional approach that takes future generations into account, and guarantee country-wide, developmental results.

Furthermore, institutional processes and regulatory provisions that force a particular outcome must be calculated, planned, organized in a targeted fashion, and aggressively enforced. The governmental approach must be holistic in nature; it should be open, effective,

“There are others on the substitutes' bench ready to replace you at any time”

President George Weah



and move to make positive, life-changing differences for citizens, the economy, and society.

Effective public sector governance and developmental finance can promote economic transformation that strengthens the institutional process. For a society to grow and move in the direction of true development, its public sector governance must be institutionally grounded in strengthening core state functions such as accountability and transparency, justice, equity, and responsible public administration. There is no other way if controlled continuity and sustaining the process are the ultimate objectives!

A country's fiscal health can only be guaranteed if there exist strong public sector arrangements, adequate financial management, a developed procurement system, a judiciary that uncompromisingly administers justice, and an educated citizenry that understands and takes its role seriously. Your governing process must be designed to make sure all of this is systemically synced and aligned to the institutional processes - know that part of your institution formulation must incorporate positive aspects of local cultures and traditions to further solidify the base.

In so doing, appreciate that governance is a combination of processes and a broad reach to implement, manage and monitor the entire operation of government, be it infrastructure, national policy, or the desired citizen action. Understand that governance is a means through which national aspirations are determined and executed. The best way to actualize national vision is through organized means and a process that looks at issues with a broader lens that

scrutinizes public agenda through the institutional process.

Conversely, the all-powerful presidency is hurting Liberia in more ways than one cares to describe; couple this with an absent legislature and a dormant judiciary. Liberia is going nowhere. The only solution lies in aggressive political agitation and non-negotiable demands for strong government institutions from the people. We must revisit the Liberian Constitution with purposeful intent and push to set stringent guidelines for political office. Our new institutions must weed out harmful mediocrities that continue to hurt us in so many ways. Organizational and structural guidance must direct our public, governance processes and determine national outcomes, not vagrants with personal corrupt agendas.

On the other hand, governance is not a child's plaything. The actions of those who lead can make or break a society. It is a very serious matter that must be viewed with a heightened sense of responsibility, both by the voters and those positioned to check officials of government. There must be a concerted effort to provide the framework to govern our organizations, build our institutions on good governance principles such as inclusive participation, rule of law, consensus building, equity, responsiveness, transparency, and accountability. Anything outside these measures will continue to widen the developmental gap between us and the rest of the world.

Effective governance requires that implementation strategy goes through the full wringer of the institutional process, ensuring all compliance, laws, and regulations are met; making sure public sector

financial performance standards are in line with policy - cut no corners.

To fully benefit from the structures of institutions, the reporting standards, and organizational financial performance requirements must be strictly followed - apply penalties and punishments without hesitations. Audit without season and make public records public. Hide nothing from the people except justified national security issues. Arm and protect the press to check the system. Your goal should be to strengthen our institutions are all levels, both publicly and privately.

In this age of "all things on camera" social media, it is in the best interest of the government to get ahead of this and govern responsibly, respond to the people's needs, and quit being neglectful about governance. Shoulder the people's trust with the highest degree of care and reverence.

The reason is simple: You can no longer continue to cheat the people out of a quality standard of living when they can now see for themselves what good governance looks like around the globe. Soon, corrupt and financially irresponsible government officials like ours will have nowhere to hide; they will either have to turn the corner, build institutions to guide our governance process, or be forced to taste the wrath and power of the people.

About the Author: Mr. Dualo is the author of a series of articles that focus on finding solutions to some of Liberia's pressing national issues. Some of those papers include "The Liberian Dilemma", "A Guide to Increasing Liberia's \$500M National Budget to Over \$2B in Ten Years" and "Why Diaspora Liberians Matter". The author works as a financial professional out of Massachusetts.

What will it take to turn farmers towards more climate-resilient superfood millet?

Bulawayo, ZIMBABWE

Millet could be Africa's silver bullet for combating anaemia - and apart from health benefits, it is climate-resilient.

Research led by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) says millet, long resisted by some of Africa's smallholders, effectively combats anaemia.

Iron deficiency affects more than 1.7 billion people globally, according to the World Health Organization. Undernutrition among children has led to stunted growth and anaemia, says the WHO. The ICRISAT study authored in collaboration with other research organisations notes that governments need to bring "millets into the mainstream" if iron deficiency is adequately addressed globally.

"Although the amount of iron provided depends on the millet variety and its form of processing, the research clearly shows that millets can play a promising role in preventing and reducing high levels of iron deficiency anaemia," said Anitha Seetha, the study's lead author and ICRISAT senior nutritionist.

The grain has another significant benefit - and could assist developing countries bearing the brunt of climate uncertainty and devastating drought cycles. The grain is climate-resilient and could help communities saddled with health emergencies as a result of drought. The study's findings suggest interventions that could ease pressure on already burdened public health services.

"Now that there is strong evidence of the value of millets in reducing or preventing iron deficiency anaemia, it is recommended that one major research study be undertaken on anaemia covering all the different types of millet, common varieties and all



Supermarkets stock both millet and sorghum products, but these are often ignored. Now research has shown the crops have health benefits and are climate resilient. Credit: Ignatius Banda/IPS

major forms of processing and cooking," says Professor Ian Givens, a co-author of the study and Director at University of Reading's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Health (IFNH) in the UK.

"This will provide the detail needed for designing interventions needed to have a major impact on reducing anaemia globally," he said.

For countries like Zimbabwe, where small grains have long been touted as the answer to food insecurity and nutrition concerns, the ICRISAT study's findings could influence smallholders, such as Samukele Jamela. She farms in the arid region of Filabusi, about 120km south-east of Bulawayo.

Jamela is one of many farmers who have routinely faced empty silos because of poor rains but still insists on planting rain-fed maize (corn).

"We plant maize here. That's what we have always done. Very few people want to eat millet or sorghum. Even the children don't like it," she said, explaining why her community shuns growing small grains.

The country's agriculture ministry is aware of this sentiment.

In 2010, Zimbabwe partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organisation to promote the production, processing and marketing of small grains such as millet and sorghum, and a decade later, agriculture officials are still trying to convince smallholders to grow climate-resilient small grains.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted in a 2018 report titled "Barrier analysis of small grains value chain in Zimbabwe" that the country has experienced a decline in the production of small grains since the 1990s, with maize remaining the favoured crop despite successive crop failure due to poor rains.

As part of efforts to assist the country in turning the food insecurity curve, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) announced a USD67 million investment programme aimed at Zimbabwe's smallholder farmers this November.

"Depending on the geographical area,

crops such as millet in drier areas will be supported," Jaan Keitaanranta, IFAD Eswatini and Zimbabwe country director, told IPS.

The support came just as the UN agency warned last month that African countries would see a drop in the yields of staple crops such as maize owing to rising temperatures brought by climate change.

Titled What Can Smallholder Farmers Grow in a Warmer World? the report appeals to African countries to reduce their reliance on maize in favour of small grains, noting that by 2050, maize production could drop by 77 percent in some countries bearing the brunt of climate change.

"Millets are not only healthy but target some of our biggest needs, making them a powerful solution for our diets," said Joanna Kane-Potaka, a former ICRISAT Assistant Director-General. She is a co-author of the study and now serves as Executive Director of the Smart Food initiative.

However, local researchers say the labour-intensive nature of small grains is one of many reasons why smallholders continue shunning sorghum and millet.

"Small grains face a major challenge of low yield per hectare compared to maize; hence most farmers prefer to grow maize regardless of climate concerns," said Keith Phiri, a senior lecturer at Lupane State University's Department of Development Studies.

Phiri, who has led research on why smallholders in Zimbabwe's arid regions shun small grains, said reasons included lack of knowledge of millet which "during weeding time, weeds tend to look exactly like the plant," while consumer preferences have always favoured maize.

Among other recommendations, Phiri says the government has to shift its policy that has for years promoted maize as a cash crop, sidelining small grains.

"The need for a solution is critical, and therefore bringing millets into mainstream and government programs is highly recommended," said Jacqueline Hughes, ICRISAT Director-General.

Global solutions needed for pandemics for all to live in dignity

Johannesburg, South Africa

COVID-19 highlighted significant gaps in the world's ability to deal with pandemics, and it's crucial these are addressed to mitigate the impacts of future global health problems, Masato Kanda, Japan's Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, told a recent online meeting of parliamentarians.

The meeting with the theme 'Nairobi Commitments Follow-up under COVID-19' heard that the gaps were serious and significantly affected and in the future, would impact the world's ability to respond to pandemics.

"These gaps include insufficient coordination, information sharing amongst multilateral and bilateral agencies, limited the collaboration between financial and health policymakers, inadequate finance to both effectively prevent or prepare for future pandemics," Kanda said. He elaborated that governance, financing of the current global health system, including development, manufacturing, procurement and delivery of vaccines and medical equipment needed urgent attention.

Japan had energetically participated in recent discussions at the G20 meeting in Italy. Kanda noted that without proper and integrated governance reform, the world would again "end up with fragmented, inappropriate and uncoordinated responses."

Professor Keizo Takemi, MP and Chair of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), opened the session with a reminder that discussions at the forum and beyond would need to look at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had caused "prolonged and devastating changes to our daily lives".

He said a face-to-face meeting in Tokyo was planned for February 2022 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the AFPPD and APDA.

Counting the cost of the pandemic, he noted it had an "unprecedented impact on many areas, such as education, global workforce, food systems, public health and individual decision making on childbearing."



In the face of COVID-19 pandemic it was necessary to find global solutions to achieving sustainable development. Credit: APDA

In terms of health, it has impacted the delivery of sexual and reproductive health services, and these needed to form the agenda for discussions in the future.

Yoko Kamikawa, MP and Former Minister of Justice, Chair of Japan Parliamentarians Forum for Population (JFPF), said at the 40th anniversary next year she hoped parliamentarians could look at the "steps the Asian parliamentarians had taken in the past and discuss how to build a society where all people can live their lives with dignity."

Parliamentarians play a crucial role in the delivery of the SDGs, she said.

To achieve sustainable develop-

ment, we need to go beyond the nation-state and establish a new set of standards and rules that will allow us to live humanely on this planet and that will benefit human society as a whole. And this is precisely why it is critically important for parliamentarians who legislate on behalf of its citizens to further efforts in co-operation," Kamikawa said.

"Over the last 18 months, health systems have been stretched to the brink. And we have noted a decrease in investments in routine health services in favour of procurement and delivery of COVID-19 supplies," he said.

This has had a significant impact on communities. For example, over

the past 18 months, there have been changes in patterns of health-seeking behaviour of many people, including pregnant women, who were fearful of leaving their houses and coming into contact with COVID-19 in health facilities.

"This has had a negative impact on maternal mortality. It is clear that more public funding for health is needed alongside innovative strategies that leverage resources to work more effectively without further increasing out-of-pocket costs for individuals and households," Andersson said.

Parliamentarians had a critical role in achieving universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health

Rights as part of universal health coverage (UHC).

"In light of the COVID 19 pandemic and its impacts. It is more important than ever to increase public funding for health be strategic and targeted investments to achieve and sustain the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Well-functioning delivery of quality health care and essential services cannot be compromised even in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic."

Dr Takeshi Kasai, WHO Regional Director for Western Pacific, agreed that a global solution was critical to counter public health emergencies.

"COVID-19 made it clear that the health, the economy, the broader social well-being are inextricably linked," he said. "The second lesson was the global health (issues) needed a global solution, and for that, effective multilateral mechanisms and institutions are needed."

While nobody expected effective vaccines to be developed as quickly as they were, the challenges with COVAX meeting its mandate of ensuring equitable access to vaccines was concerning.

"Unless every country is protected, no country is safe," he said.

It was critically important for the world to prepare as it moved toward a 4th wave of the pandemic, and the key to this was effective multilateral mechanisms.

The online meeting was organised by: Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD); Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF) and Asian Population and Development Association (APDA). The event was supported by The Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

MADRID

Do call it 'Old', 'Contemporary', 'Modern' or whatever: It's slavery

No matter what it is called – it is the abhorrent daily life of a billion enslaved humans. The real number of “modern” slaves is understandably unknown. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery.

Although modern slavery is not defined in law, it is used as an umbrella term covering practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking, it says.

But this figure of 40 million sounds very far away from being accurate. Why? For instance, ILO cites forced marriage as one of the key components of modern slavery. However, there are 800 million child-girls forced to be married.

ILO also includes child forced labour as another key component of slavery. But the UN estimates that there are 160 million children victims of child forced labour.

In fact, the very same world organisation states that more than 150 million children are subject to child labour, accounting for almost one in ten children around the world.

Let alone the number of victims of smuggling and trafficking in human beings who are exploited and recruited as child-soldiers in armed conflicts hitting several developing countries.

One billion slaves

Consequently, only these two figures combined raise the number of ‘modern slaves’ to nearly one billion.

According to the UN, slavery essentially refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power.

Marking the 2021 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on 2 December, the world body says that slavery is not merely a histori-



Teenage girls harvest tomatoes on a farm in the state of Sinaloa, in northern Mexico. Credit: Courtesy of Sinaloa Institute for Adult Education

cal relic.

Coincidentally, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery marks the date of the adoption, by the UN General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others on 2 December 1949.

The focus of this Day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child

labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, the UN remarks.

Main Forms of Modern Slavery

Slavery has evolved and manifested itself in different ways throughout history. Today some traditional forms of slavery still persist in their earlier forms, while others have been transformed into new ones, according to the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

“The UN human rights bodies have documented the persistence of old forms of slavery that are embedded in traditional beliefs and customs. These forms of slavery are the result of longstanding discrimination against the most vulnerable groups in societies, such as those regarded as being of low caste, tribal minorities and indigenous peoples.”

Forced labour

Alongside traditional forms of

forced labour, such as bonded labour and debt bondage there now exist more contemporary forms of forced labour, such as migrant workers, who have been trafficked for economic exploitation of every kind in the world economy: work in domestic servitude, the construction industry, the food and garment industry, the agricultural sector and in forced prostitution.

Child labour

Globally, one in ten children works. The majority of the child labour that occurs today is for economic exploitation. That goes against the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognises “the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.”

All this in addition to children pushed into begging by criminal groups, just as an example.

Trafficking

According to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, trafficking in persons means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of exploitation.

Prostitution, servitude, removal of organs...

“Exploitation includes prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. The consent of the person trafficked for exploitation is irrelevant and if the trafficked person is a child, it is a crime even without the use of force.”

And there is an unquantified number of victims of debt-slavery, which is more widely spread in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In view of the above, there would be many more slavery victims than the official estimates.

High global fertiliser prices overshadow Malawi’s farm subsidy programme

BLANTYRE, Malawi

Ellena Joseph, a small-scale maize farmer in Chiradzulu District in Southern Malawi, finished preparing her field early in October.

As the first rains start falling in some parts of the country, her anxiety is growing because she is yet to purchase fertiliser because she does not have any money.

Joseph, 63, is one of the 3.7 million farmers the government targets to benefit under the 2021 Agricultural Input Programme (AIP).

In this programme, the government subsidises fertiliser and seeds for small-scale producers who make up more than 80 percent of farmers in Malawi.

The programme has been running since 2005, and every year, it is saddled with challenges – like corruption, non-availability of goods at sales points and delivery hitches.

This year, these challenges are compounded by a rise in prices of fertiliser which shot up by nearly 100 percent.

The impact of the increase has trickled down to the farmers. For every \$23 in government subsidies for a 50kg bag of fertiliser, the farmers are contributing about \$9. Last year they paid \$5.4.

And Joseph is feeling the weight of that rise on her shoulders. First, she needs money to redeem her two bags of fertiliser.

Then, because chaos is the norm at the agro-dealer shop in her area, she has to bribe the clerks or pay some youths to stand in the queue on her behalf. The more the days and nights they stand in the line for her, the more the money she needs to fork out.

Once she buys the fertiliser, she will have to hire a motorbike to transport the commodity to her home, some 17km away.

In total, she needs at least \$28 to meet these expenses.

“I don’t have that kind of money, and I don’t know where to get it from,” she tells IPS. “I hope by the time the fertiliser comes, I will have found the money.”

In the previous years, she relied on the government-funded public works programme to earn a small wage. For the past two years, there haven’t been any projects in her area.

Amid the perennial challenges rocking the food subsidy programme intended to ensure food security in Malawi, the rise in fertiliser prices has been the most dramatic.



A maize farmer in her fields last year. This year small-scale farmers are anxiously waiting for an impasse between government and private traders to be resolved so they can get their subsidised fertiliser. Credit: Charles Mpaka/IPS

It all began in June, soon after Parliament passed the national budget in which the government allocated \$172,000 towards the programme, targeting 3.7 million farmers – the same number as last year.

Following the hike in price on the global market, the cost of fertiliser increased in the country. Malawi was hit hard. It relies on imports because it does not have a fertiliser manufacturing plant.

In reaction, the Ministry of Agriculture, the implementing agency of the flagship food security programme, announced it would trim the number of beneficiaries.

“Due to financial constraints and the rising prices of fertiliser, the ministry, after looking into these two compound challenges, has decided to have AIP beneficiaries scaled down. It is therefore very necessary that the scaling down of the

beneficiaries be done up to village level,” said the ministry’s secretary Sandram Maweru in a circular dated July 21, 2021 and addressed to all 28 district commissioners.

The ministry recommended specific figures from every district, resulting in fewer beneficiaries totalling 2.7 million.

But a week after the district commissioner had submitted the revised data to the ministry, on August 21, President Lazarus Chakwera overturned the decision of his agriculture officials. He directed that no one who was on the list last year could be taken off.

“I will not allow anyone to remove any family or village from the list of beneficiaries,” he said.

And so began a tug of war between the government and private traders.

While the private traders insisted

they would need to sell the fertiliser at the new prices, which would have outstripped the budget allocated, the government accused the private traders of inflating the prices to sabotage the programme.

It told them it would buy their fertiliser for AIP at \$29 per 50kg bag instead of the \$43.6 per 50 kg which the private traders had set for it.

Efforts to resolve the standoff did not yield results. Last week, 13 of the 164 traders the government had engaged had not signed contracts to supply the fertiliser. This amounts to close to a million bags of fertiliser.

In a statement in Parliament on November 18, Minister of Agriculture Lobin Lowe insisted it was up to the traders to take it or leave it while admitting that only 10 percent of the targeted 371,000 metric tonnes had been procured.

The private traders account for 66

percent of the commodity, while two public agencies supply 34 percent for the programme.

However, the fact that 151 traders have signed the contract does not guarantee that the fertiliser will be supplied, indicates Mbawaka Phiri, Executive Administration Officer for the Fertiliser Association of Malawi, a grouping of the private traders.

“Caution must be taken to not assume that all 151 traders have stock and can supply. Many of those who have signed contracts are still having difficulty procuring stock,” she says.

According to Phiri, some private traders have decided not to participate in the programme this year because the AIP fertiliser price is too low to do business.

Traders are not obliged to sign the government’s contract offer – that is a business decision.

“However, it is also up to the government to decide whether the programme can be successful without the participation of suppliers from the private sector. Last year’s programme was successful mainly due to the participation of private suppliers who were able to deliver larger amounts of fertiliser in a very short period and to all areas of the country,” she says.

Agriculture policy expert, Tamani Nkhono-Mvula, says in general, the implementation of the programme this year has not been satisfactory.

“This is November, and we have less than 10 percent of the fertiliser supplied when we were supposed to have at least 50 percent of the farmers reached by mid-October. Once rains start in a matter of weeks, that will compound the logistical challenges we already have,” he says.

He says the programme is crucial because it targets low-income farmers who cannot afford the farm inputs, but its management is concerning.

“It seems the programme has become a way for some people to make money. They would love to see chaos in the programme because that is the way they are able to benefit,” says Nkhono-Mvula.

World Aids Day: Working together to fight triple threat of HIV, TB and COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

AS Africa works to get back on track to meet its UNAIDS HIV prevention and care targets, healthcare organisations like the BroadReach Group are partnering with governments and donors to find creative solutions for the colliding epidemics of HIV, TB and COVID-19 - a "triple threat" that has had a significant impact on HIV programmes reaching their targets in 2021.

BroadReach Group, a social impact health organisation which has been involved in nearly 10% of the global HIV+ populations' care over the past four years, is working within the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Global Fund and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded programmes, other healthcare organisations and local governments in Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia and South Africa to get these countries back on track to meet the UNAIDS 90-90-90 HIV targets in the next year, and reaching their revised 95-95-95 HIV treatment targets by 2025.

The 90-90-90 and 95-95-95 HIV treat-

ment targets refer to those with HIV knowing their status, receiving their antiretroviral (ARV) treatments and, if they are on ARVs, achieving viral suppression. In many parts of Africa, the gains of the past few years were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, as both HIV testing and new patients starting on ARVs. One of the greatest setbacks in the fight against both HIV/AIDS and TB in the COVID-era - and the reason why the 90-90-90 gains were lost in many places - is that the COVID pandemic caused the public to stay away from clinics and hospitals.

The recent National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (GRAM) study by a group of South African researchers found that there was a marked reduction in primary healthcare utilisation in the country during the pandemic, especially in HIV testing and health visits by children under 5 years of age, irrespective of COVID-19 levels, across almost all districts in the country.

The NIDS GRAM study also found that preventive services such as immunisation and contraception dipped across 75% of health districts countrywide and 23% of the uninsured segment of the population

reported that they did not seek acute care when they needed it and also missed out on medication, contraceptives or condoms that should have protected them.

Similar problems are being addressed in other parts of Africa. Dr. Andrew Kambugu, the Sande-McKinnell Executive Director at Uganda's Infectious Disease Institute says: "The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge for Uganda, as in many other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa - also in terms of other communicable and non-communicable diseases - and this is why it is so important to work smarter together to face the emerging challenges. We believe our collaboration with the PEPFAR, the CDC and implementing partners like BroadReach is vital to turn the situation around. Ending HIV, TB and COVID-19 requires smart strategic partnerships."

Dhirisha Naidoo, Chief of Party for BroadReach's PEPFAR funded USAID program, APACE (Accelerating Programme Achievements to Control the Epidemic) in South Africa, which serves a population of about 4.3 million in South Africa, agrees. She also believes in collaboration and advocates for creative ideas to get patients

back to clinics.

"Rather than rely on foot traffic, our programme initiated extensive, creative programmes to ramp up testing to find new cases as well as to ensure patients continued to have access to. For instance, our teams focused on increasing 'index testing' (testing the contacts of HIV+ people), offering extended hours services for clients to access treatment, and enrolling eligible patients onto specific medicine collection programmes."

Naidoo is also advocating for creative measures to tackle the "colliding triple threat of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and COVID-19 simultaneously".

One proposed measure is to turn vaccination sites into multipurpose "health events" where patients can be screened and educated on a variety of illnesses. Naidoo says vaccination sites could offer pop-up pharmacies and video content on HIV, TB and cancer prevention, free coffees and other rewards for Pap Smears, TB testing and HIV screening. "We need to think laterally about how we can combine efforts to achieve greater public health outcomes in a shorter time," says Naidoo.

Andy Karas, USAID Southern Africa Mission Director says, "Through our and other PEPFAR implementing agencies' support of HIV and TB care and treatment programmes, great strides had been made in reaching the 90-90-90 HIV treatment, however the COVID-19 pandemic hindered progress. We must now redouble our efforts to get back on track and tackle HIV, TB and COVID-19 together so that we can support people to build healthy and prosperous futures."

Dr. John Blandford, CDC Country Director for South Africa echoes the call to get back on track. "As we face the colliding epidemics of HIV, TB and COVID-19, we need to collaborate and partner to ensure that testing, treatment and suppression remain our priorities. We need to increase our efforts to drive COVID-19 vaccinations to ensure that our immune compromised populations are protected and safe from illness. Working with partners such as Broad Reach and others, is key to fighting disease on the African continent and we will continue to increase our efforts to ensure our citizens can lead healthy and fulfilling lives."

Omicron variant: AfDB postpones investment forum set for Ivory Coast

By Special Correspondent, Abidjan

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has postponed to an unspecified date its planned December 1-3 investment forum in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, due to health concerns and travel restrictions over the Omicron coronavirus variant, the bank's president has said.

"We were looking forward to attracting more foreign direct investments in Africa, but in life man proposes and God disposes," AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina said during a news conference in Abidjan.

Several heads of state including from South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Rwanda and Mozambique and a delegation from the United States that included investors representing more than \$1.6

trillion in assets under management, were expected to attend the forum.

The AfDB said the forum had 118 deals in its pipeline from all eight founding members, with an investment value of over \$110 billion.

Adesina said conversations around the funding of projects would continue behind the scene.

"The emergence of the Omicron variant has changed everything. Travel has been cancelled; travel restrictions have been placed here and there. The logistics of travel is very difficult. Delegations that wanted to travel, can't make it," Adesina said.

"It is very important that we put safety first, it is for that reason that with a lot of regrets... we have decided to postpone the Africa Investment Forum," he said.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (R) presents a certificate and shield to Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) Vice President Simon Shayo (L) in recognition of the company's contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS. Witnesses are Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Jenista Mhagama (C) and Director of TACAIDS, Dr. Leonard Maboko. GGML received the certificate yesterday in Mbeya at the World AIDS Day celebrations held nationally in the region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Africa calls for revival of fishing communities

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN leaders and policy-makers have called for strategies to harness the potential of the blue economy to achieve sustainable development.

The call came at a high-level conference hosted by the Government of Mozambique on November 18 and 19 in the City of Vilanculos. The theme was 'Investing in Ocean Health is Securing the Planet's Future.'

Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi hosted the event, attended by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Ministers from other countries and leading policymakers from Africa.

African Development Bank Group President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina delivered a virtual message during the opening ceremony, highlighting the potential of blue economy initiatives.

"The continent has maritime zones that stretch 13 million square kilometers, encompassing territorial seas and continental shelves that also stretch up to 6.5 million kilometers. And 38 African countries are coastal," he said.

Adesina said there was an urgent need to revive the livelihoods of fishing communities.

"This can be achieved by governments and the private sector prioritizing enabling policies, and providing access to modern fish-



Africa has maritime zones that stretch 13 million square kilometers, encompassing territorial seas and continental shelves that also stretch up to 6.5 million kilometers.

ing fleets, cold storage and processing facilities, and investing in infrastructure and climate advisory services to support climate-smart fishing practices."

Leïla Mokaddem, the Director General for the Bank's Southern Africa Region, represented President Adesina in person at the event. She said the Bank would continue to help Mozambique unlock its blue economy potential in the post-pandemic era by supporting regional approaches to coastal resilience and transboundary fisheries management in the Mozambique Channel and Indian Ocean region through the Southern African Development Community Secretariat.

Mozambique has the third-longest coastline in Africa, with enormous coastal resources that contribute significantly to the economy, including marine parks that provide social and economic

benefits for about half the population.

Mokaddem, who led the African Development Bank delegation at the conference, said the Bank was also co-financing one of the largest private sector investments, worth over \$5 billion, in regional infrastructure development, through the construction of a rail corridor and the deep water Nacala port to facilitate maritime trade and market access.

The Bank team, which included Cesar Augusto Mba Abogo, Country Manager for Mozambique, reinforced the Bank's commitment to building resilience against climate disasters in Mozambique, one of the 10 countries in the world most vulnerable to climate change. Within this scope, Mokaddem held bilateral meetings with the Minister of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, Augusta Maita, to discuss strategic

cooperation to develop the blue economy. Mozambique Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, acknowledged the Bank's role in Mozambique:

"The African Development Bank is one of the principal strategic partners of Mozambique in the development of infrastructure projects and in the context of the development of blue economy initiatives."

The Minister hosted a high-level dialogue with Mokaddem and Bank staff on development projects in northern Mozambique, the transformation of the agriculture sector, the revision process of the 20-year economic development strategy and macroeconomic stability issues. Mokaddem also met with businesswomen to discuss their challenges and opportunities, and how to generate an economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The EAC council of ministers unlocks recruitment process

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community council of ministers has unlocked the recruitment process for vacancies that was postponed in October this year.

Making the announcement here yesterday, the chairperson of the council of ministers who is also Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional Development, Adan Mohamed, said that shortlisted applicants from the EAC partner states would soon receive invitations from the Secretariat to participate in the interviews.

Mohamed further said that the Council during its deliberations found that the recruitment process had largely been above board, adding that the interviews were expected to begin in earnest to fill the slots that have been vacant for a long time.

To ensure equitability among partner states in the recruitment process, the CS disclosed that 11 of the vacant slots would be reserved for the Republic of South Sudan, the youngest member of the Community.

This is in accordance with the directive of the 41st Council held a day earlier to the Secretariat to ring-fence for the Republic of South Sudan eleven (11) vacant positions out of the fifteen (15) positions that are yet to be shortlisted as an affirmative action in the EAC recruitment process.

Adan was addressing media at the EAC headquarters shortly after he led Partner

States' delegations, EALA members and EAC members of staff in a tree planting ceremony to commemorate EAC Day, which is usually marked on 30th November every year.

Accompanying CS Mohamed to the tree planting ceremony were Burundi's Minister for EAC Affairs, Ezechiel Nibigira, EAC Secretary General (Dr.) Peter Mathuki, EAC deputy secretary General in charge of the Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, the Counsel to the Community, Dr. Anthony Kafumbe, and EALA MPs.

The CS emphasised the importance of tree planting in mitigating the effects of climate change including drought and flooding that have ravaged the region in the recent past.

At its meeting held on 29th November, 2021, the council of ministers directed the Secretariat to re-advertise three positions in the Republic of Uganda, namely: Hansard Editor; Hansard Reporter, and; Senior Clerk Assistant. The meeting observed that there were errors in the adverts for the three positions that excluded candidates from the Republic of Uganda and recommended that the Secretariat re-advertise the positions.

The Council that was chaired by Mohammed further directed the Secretariat to re-advertise positions where shortlisted candidates were all from one partner state.

The Council also directed the Secretariat to re-advertise positions where only one candidate had been shortlisted.

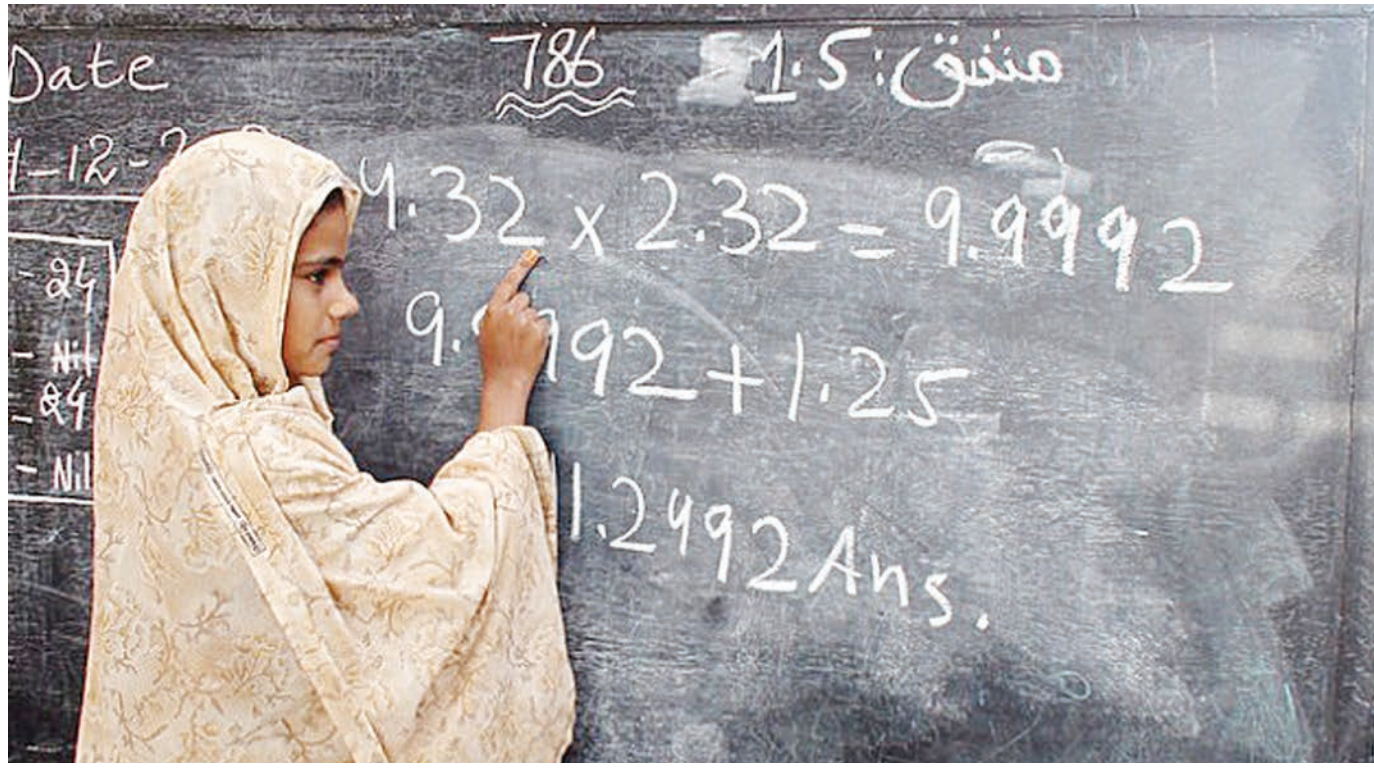
How inequality drives HIV in adolescent girls and young women

Despite the advances that have been made against HIV, the world has 37 million people living with HIV. And 680,000 people died from AIDS-related causes in 2020. While the prevention of mother to child transmission, and provision of treatment as prevention, are great successes, there are still gaps. Over 1.5 million new HIV infections were recorded in 2020.

In 2020, adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 accounted for 25% of new infections, while making up only 10% of the population. Six in seven new HIV infections among adolescents (aged 15 to 19) were among girls, even though boys live in similar contexts. Young women aged 15-24 years old were twice as likely to be living with HIV compared with men.

In addition to the difference in risk between the sexes, other risk and protective factors may have an influence. So, within the population of adolescent girls and young women, differences in their unique risk profiles mean that some may be at a higher risk of HIV infection than others.

Understanding risk profiles helps us realise that HIV is more than just a virus. These profiles highlight how HIV risk and HIV prevention uptake are influenced by biological, socio-behavioural and structural factors. So while new HIV prevention options may become available, adoles-



To fight economic inequality, female dependency on relationships and gender-based violence, female education is critical. Credit: Zofeen Ebrahim/IPS

cent girls and young women will weigh up the benefits of using them.

They consider factors such as partner trust, the social value of relationships, their perceived risk and the economic and social consequences that occur as a result of using them. All this happens in the context

of the structural inequalities that sustain risk - things that individuals can't always control.

Risk profiles - the unique combination of factors that work to mediate HIV risk - should inform responses to the evolving pandemic. More nuanced and locally respon-

sive approaches are required.

Risk factors

As the world aims for the 90-90-90 goals, it's useful to see who is falling behind. Global data suggests that in 2020, 84% of people living with HIV know their HIV status, 73% of those are accessing HIV treatment

and 66% of those on treatment are virally suppressed.

Hidden in these successes are those who have still not been reached by HIV prevention and treatment efforts, who are put at risk by inequality, exclusion and social and economic vulnerability. What is the profile of those who have

still not been reached? What factors within those profiles prevent us from reaching them? And how do we tailor interventions that respond to local contexts of risk? A large number of studies and programmes have already provided some of these answers.

Power in relationships: Adolescent girls and young women who are sexually active are at the highest risk of HIV infection. Delaying sexual debut is a key goal of HIV prevention. But sexual relationships often start in adolescence. The HIV transmission cycle highlights that adolescent girls and young women in age-disparate sexual relationships, (ie "sugar daddies") are at higher risk than those in peer relationships.

Age-disparate relationships often have social, emotional, economic and sexual value that may outweigh potential risks. But they are usually characterised by power dynamics that make discussions about sexual health difficult. In contexts of high female poverty and partner dependency, the power and gender inequalities of these relationships will increase the risk of HIV infection and may limit the ability of adolescent girls and young women to negotiate safe sex practices.

Gender-based violence: Adolescent girls and young women who are victims of gender-based violence will have risk profiles that make them more vulnerable to HIV infection. In contexts where female poverty is high and retaining relationships is critical for survival, agency to make sexual health decisions may be difficult.

In South Africa, home to the largest HIV pandemic, over 10,000 people were raped between April and June 2021. Many of these incidents took place at the home of the victim or the home of the rapist. In the same period, over 15,000 domestic violence assault cases were reported. These high rates of gender-based violence highlight that access to HIV prevention services are necessary but not sufficient to protect women from HIV infection.

To fight economic inequality, female dependency on relationships and gender-based violence, female education is critical. Additionally, changing gender norms in young boys and ensuring more equitable gender beliefs as men grow older will create an environment in which female agency is non-negotiable and respected.

Services and interventions

Use of HIV prevention services is influenced by inequalities in access and by social and gender norms. Access does not equate to uptake. A lack of knowledge about sexual health, inequitable gender norms around sex, and conservative social norms about adolescent sexual well-being contribute to poor uptake of sexual and reproductive health services among adolescent girls and young women.

Engaging their sexual partners, challenging social and gender norms, providing comprehensive sexual education, and creating sex-positive and egalitarian health services for adolescents are essential for fighting the HIV pandemic in young people.

Without understanding the social context in which adolescent girls and young women manage and negotiate sex, and tailoring interventions to break the transmission cycle, it will be a struggle to achieve epidemic control in adolescent girls and young women.

In sub-Saharan Africa, a more nuanced view of the risks faced by adolescent girls and young women will be essential for developing targeted and relevant interventions. These efforts will also help reduce inequalities and build societies more resilient to future pandemics. The Conversation

Hilton Humphries, Behavioural Scientist, Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)

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THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 172 00--

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

3 LETTERS: ADO, ROE, ANT
 4 LETTERS: YEAR, GAIN, ACID, AMID, DODO POND, DOOR (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: DILMA, NOTED, EMAIL, MOTET, DOORS (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: DEARIE, IMMUNE, COLOUR, ESTATE CLINGY (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: COLOMBO
 8 LETTERS: ABROGATE
 10 LETTERS: YUGOSLAVIA

CLUES: Across

- 1 citations
- 5 said at the end of a prayer
- 7 God in Kiswahili
- 8 consumed
- 10 no longer young
- 11 a strong request
- 13 a handle in the shape of a round lump
- 15 a thing that takes place
- 17 afflicted
- 19 a mountain or hill in South Africa
- 20 Opposition female Mp from Mara

Down:

- 1 absolute
- 2 Independent
- 3 identify class of people, places
- 4 to flow over and enclose
- 6 a fool
- 7 Interfere
- 9 adolescent
- 12 an inlet
- 14 Former president of Malawi
- 16 a North America woodland thrush with a brown back and speckled breast
- 17 Syrian cloth
- 18 a spherical object

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

C A L A M I T I E S
 O E R A N
 S T A R A S I D E
 T D O O R S U
 M M R A R T
 S E R E N E E
 X S A
 T I N G T S A R S
 H A R A N G U E
 U N I T L G
 B B E A G L E N

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

S T A N D A L O N E
 O N O S E
 M E N U E A S E L
 E A M M A N D
 S M S A L L
 S T R A I T E
 R E C
 B A N D R N A S E
 N O N I D A
 I A G O N I Z E D
 H E R O V E
 A E R B I U M D

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 11.30 HRS DJ SHOW 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 11.30 HRS DJ SHOW 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 11.30 HRS DJ SHOW 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 11.30 HRS DJ SHOW 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.30 AM MITA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHAKA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11.00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01.00-05.00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANVIKO)	



MARKET TRENDS

Nicol shareholders set to endorse 3.8bn/- dividend payment at AGM

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Thursday 2 December 2021

Bank director urges customers to adopt its TemboCard Visa use in transactions

By The Banker Reporter

CUSTOMERS of CRDB Bank Plc have been encouraged to use TemboCard Visa in their transaction including paying for end of year shopping both online and physical to avoid carrying bulky cash which is risky. The bank's Director of Retail Banking Boma Raballa said use of TemboCard Visa will also help customers avoid risks of losing their money while being assured of secure transaction which can easily be tracked in case of confusion.

"During this end of year shopping season, we urge Tanzanians to adopt use of TemboCard Visa when buying goods and services instead of carrying bulky cash because its secure and efficient," Raballa said in Dar es Salaam mid this week while launching a TemboCard Visa use campaign

which will see a lucky couple going to witness Africa Cup of Nations finals due to be held in Cameroun early next year.

He pointed out that the campaign which will last in March next year is also geared at supporting government efforts to adopt a cashless economy where transactions are done with use of physical cash which also spreads deadly viruses.

The CRDB Retail Banking Director further noted that TemboCard Visa can also be used to purchase goods online because the Visa brand operates almost in every part of the world. "Let's join forces and digitise our mode of paying for goods and services to avoid regrets during this festive season," he added.

Seconding her boss, the bank's acting Senior Manager for Card Business, Erica Mwaipopo said TemboCard Visa holders who transact while buying various

items at shops and supermarkets or online stand a chance to win a number of prizes including laptops, television sets and cash.

"This Tisha na TemboCard Visa campaign also allows our customers to make payments at restaurants, hotels and bars for services of products purchased," Mwaipopo said while stressing that both new and existing customers stand chances to win.

She urged those who have no CRDB TemboCard Visa to register one online or visit any of the lender's physical branches located countrywide. "The TemboCard Visa can also be used to make payments when people are transacting while on visits abroad," she noted.

Mwaipopo also noted that TemboCard Visa can also be used to draw money at thousands of CRDB Wakalas found in all regions of the country.



CRDB Bank Plc's director of retail banking, Boma Raballa, speaks at a past event.

CBK rules out setting mobile loan rate caps

NAIROBI

Mobile lenders will have the freedom to set their own lending rates even after they fall under the regulation of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge on Tuesday ruled out fixing a cap for the digital lenders, saying they would apply the loan pricing models used by the banks. "If you mean ourselves having sort of caps and things like that obviously the answer is no. We are not going into that part of the world again, we already explained why," Dr Njoroge said after the Monetary Policy Committee press briefing yesterday.

The parliamentary committee on Finance and National Planning approved the Central Bank Amendment Bill 2021 and added a clause that gives the CBK powers to price interest rates for digital loans.

This raised concerns among industry players they would be subject to caps in the bid to curb the steep digital lending rates that have plunged many borrowers into a debt trap and encouraged predatory lending. Digital lenders may, however, not have free reign given the indirect control the CBK will have in approving the charges.

When Kenya scrapped legal controls of credit charges on November 7, 2019, the CBK warned banks against reverting to punitive interest rates of more than 20 percent in the post-rate cap regime. The regulator has

managed to keep lending rates low by demanding every lender justify the margins they put in their formula.

It had asked banks to submit new loan pricing formula that would be the basis of setting interest rates on new credit in an environment most which have not been approved. The CBK Governor said he would use the same approach when it comes to digital borrowers, meaning they will have to justify the expensive loan pricing.

"What we do and I have been saying on the banking side is ensuring the pricing is appropriate in many ways and I think you have already seen what we have done with the banks. We have talked about the pricing principles that we have, things related to how they should treat customers," Dr Njoroge said.

"So I think that's really a good model to start with. It doesn't mean that it will be translated word for word but definitely, the direction is clear." The push to control the activities of digital lenders comes more than a year after Kenya removed the legal cap on commercial lending rates.

The cap, which was introduced in September 2016, slowed down private sector credit growth as commercial banks turned their backs on millions of low-income customers as well as small and medium-sized businesses deemed too risky to lend to. The subsequent credit crunch triggered an appetite for

digital loans, attracting unregulated microlenders in response to the growth in demand for quick loans.

Dozens of unregulated microlenders have invested in Kenya's credit market in response to the growth in demand for quick loans. Their proliferation has saddled borrowers with high-interest rates, which rise up to 520 percent when annualised, leading to mounting defaults and an ever-ballooning number of defaulters.

Market leader M-Shwari, Kenya's first mobile-based savings and loans product introduced by Safaricom and NCBA in 2012, charges

a 'facilitation fee' of 7.5 percent on credit regardless of its duration, pushing its annualised loan rate to 90 percent. Tala and Branch, the other top players in the mobile lending market, offer annualised interest rates of 84-152.4 percent and 156-348 percent respectively.

From having little or no access to credit, many Kenyans now find they can get loans in minutes via their mobile phones. The CBK says borrowers tapping digital loans from unregulated lenders grew from 200,000 in 2016 to more than two million in 2019.



CBK governor Patrick Njoroge.



Tanzania Revenue Authority's deputy commissioner general, Msafiri Mbibo, addresses to Ruvuma business community members during his tour of the region earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

I&M Bank's chief touts the expansion of branch networks to back digital banking

By The Banker Reporter

INVESTMENT in digital banking technology should go hand in hand with expansion of physical branch networks where clients can access services easily.

I&M Bank's CEO, Baseer Mohammed said in Arusha earlier this week while opening his bank's new branch in the city that customers in the tourist rich city will now enjoy convenience through the new relocated branch with state-of-the-art features including select banking lounge for affluent clients.

Mohammed said his bank's move is also aimed at ensuring easy accessibility of its services by customers in the region. "This initiative is aimed at bringing convenience to our customers since the new branch is located in city center offering easy access and it has state-of-the-art facilities such as safe deposit lockers, bureau de change etc," he said.

The I&M Bank chief further noted that, "The new branch goes hand in hand with investment in digital this is all to ensure that our customers are enjoying the banking experience while visiting our newly relocated branch."

The Dar es Salaam based lender has so far opened eight branches located in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Mwanza with plans to open



Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella speaks at the launch of I&M Bank's new branch in Arusha city mid this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

more branches in strategic locations of the country. He said I&M Bank has been a pioneer in driving the digital strategy agenda in the country with introduction of unique prod-

ucts like WhatsApp banking, Kamilisha (digital lending) and multicurrency Visa prepaid cards.

There has been an increase of total assets of the bank by

11.2 percent on year-on-year basis recording 567bn/- by end of October 2021. During the year, net advances increased by 12.3 percent and customer deposits by 19 per-

cent during the period. The Bank has been consistently delivering profit over the years.

Speaking after launching the branch, Arusha Regional Commissioner, John Mongella commended the move by the bank saying that it will help boost economic activities among residents and foreign tourists.

"Banking services are very essential in national economic growth and therefore this initiative is a clear sign that the sector is stable and continues to grow every day. Having this modern branch here will speed up business development, tourism growth and most importantly, improve government revenue collection," Mongella said.

The Arusha RC also commended I&M Bank's management for introducing select banking services for affluent client saying that it will boost business operations given the nature of the region as a tourist and mining hub.

I&M Bank Tanzania is part of the I&M Group Plc which was established in 1974 and is listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange with growing regional presence currently extending to Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The group lists CDC, which is a leading European Development Financial Institution amongst its main shareholders.

Bank of Mozambique acts against financial violations

MAPUTO

The Bank of Mozambique, between February 2020 and June 2021, imposed sanctions against eleven commercial banks and other financial bodies over violations of the law on preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism and other regulations governing credit institutions.

In addition, nine individuals were fined for illegal financial transactions. According to a statement released by the Central Bank on Monday, the largest fine, of 64.4 million meticaís (just over one million US dollars), was imposed on the African Banking Corporation (BancABC, which is headquartered in Botswana) for violations between 2016 and 2017.

In particular, it failed to check the identity of clients, conserve documents, immediately notify the Bank of Mozambique of suspicious transactions, prepare an annual report on the effectiveness of its internal control and risk assessment systems, and monitor transactions and politically exposed persons. In addition, the bank failed in its duty to carry out internal auditing on money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

In addition, the country's second largest bank, the BCI (Commercial and Investment Bank) was fined 52 million meticaís for its failure between 2013 and 2018 to check the identity of clients or exercise continual vigilance over business relations, preserve documents, and report suspicious transactions. Three other banks, Standard Bank Mozambique, First Capital Bank, and Socremo were also fined for failing to report suspicious transactions.

Nine individuals were fined for various illegal financial operations. The central bank named them as: Julicardo Herminio Antonio; Milton Fidelis Elias; Anabela Joaquim; Domingos Arcanjo; Sara Simone Malobole; Orpa Nelsa Esteveo Manjate; Arcelio Carlos Tivane; Elvis Lourino Chadreque; and Paulo Carlos Tivane.

The Bank of Mozambique statement only covers the period up to June this year. However, in July, it fined the country's oldest bank, Standard Bank Mozambique, 290 million meticaís for engaging in fraudulent practices. In addition, it fined two of Standard's most senior officials, chief executive Chukwuma Nwokocho and the director of corporate and investment banking, Domingos Madeira and banned them from holding office in any bank or other financial institution for six years.

Barrick Gold chief basks in World Gold Council's recognition

By The Banker Reporter

RECOGNITION of its investments in communities to boost socio-economic development by World Gold Council has been received by Barrick Gold Corporation's President and CEO, Mark Bristow.

The WGC which released a report last week commending Barrick for investing almost US\$38 billion in 38 countries globally where it operates, said the money is made in form of payments to governments, employees and suppliers.

"We partner with our host communities and countries to transform their natural resources into tangible benefits and mutual prosperity," Bristow said while commenting on the WGC report which named Tanzania as one of the beneficiaries. Barrick and Treasury jointly own Twiga Minerals Corporation.

"Additionally, we hire talented individuals from the communities closest to our mines and train them to world-class standards; we leverage our supply chain to facilitate the growth of thriving and self-sustaining businesses; and our taxes further contribute to the economic development of the countries and communities in which we operate," Bristow added.

The WGC said Barrick's status as an industry leader in socio-economic development was underscored by the comparison between its performance and the industry wide figures reported by the World Gold Council which depicted that:



Barrick Gold Corporation's president and CEO, Mark Bristow.

97 percent of Barrick's employees and contractors were host country nationals, compared to 95 percent reported cumulatively by the council's member companies; Barrick paid US\$1.8 billion out of the total US\$7.6 billion reported in taxes, royalties and dividends to host governments; US\$4.5 billion of the total US\$26 billion spent on goods and services was spent with local and national suppliers; and Barrick's total economic contributions amounted to \$12.1 billion

out of the total US\$37.9 billion contribution reported in 2020.

"This all happened against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic when our prompt and effective responses protected our businesses from the worst of the virus and provided a further opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to partnerships," Bristow noted.

The Barrick president and chief executive said that the company's ability to share the

benefits of mining was one of the key ways it measured its success. The world's second largest gold miner spent more than US\$30 million on Covid-related community support measures in 2020 and prepaid more than US\$300 million in taxes and royalties.

It also supported communities through a number of initiatives ranging from medical supply donations to local hospitals, loans to small businesses, setting up food banks and delivering food packages.

SA banks fail to deliver customer satisfaction on social media

JOHANNESBURG

South African banks' customer service on social media platforms leaves much to be desired, with the majority of queries going days without a response.

This is one of the key findings of BrandsEye's 2021 South African Banking Sentiment Index, based on the insights company's analysis of the banks' social media customer queries over the past year. Having tracked social media posts about Absa, Capitec, First National Bank (FNB), Nedbank, Standard Bank, African Bank, Discovery Bank and TymeBank, the research found that overall, the banking industry still experienced more negative conversations on social media than positive.

As people settled into their

new socially-distanced normal, the reliance on digital customer service channels continued to grow, with social media platforms fast becoming a preferred service channel for many bank clients, it notes. In its sixth year of producing the index, BrandsEye collected over 2.7 million consumer social media posts about South African banks from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

The research firm's proprietary crowd of human verifiers analysed some 500 000 of these posts for sentiment and conversation themes, including the treating customers fairly (TCF) outcomes prescribed by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA).

Scrambling to win trust According to BrandsEye, banking customers posted

an estimated 188 649 priority Twitter posts over the last year. This represents 28% growth in service conversations - 38% when including risk mentions - and this speaks to an increasing demand for social media customer service across the industry.

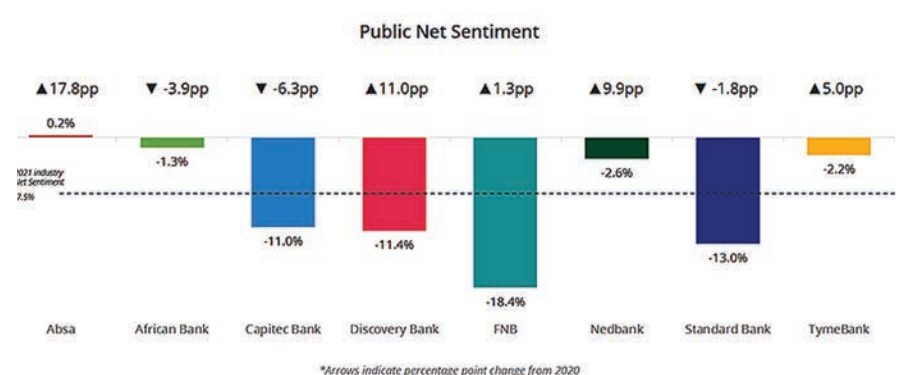
BrandsEye business development director Lyndsey Duff points out that considering many (57%) of these mentions went unanswered, South African banks still have a long way to go in meeting customers' growing social media service demands.

"Banks have yet to effectively handle the growing volume of service requests on social media. Service-related conversation first spiked in 2020 as a result of COVID-19, but continued to increase throughout 2021," comments Duff.

In addition to exposing banks to unnecessary reputational risk, failure to swiftly identify and respond to service requests online also poses major regulatory risk, explains Duff. "When mapping the social media conversation according to the six TCF outcomes prescribed by the FSCA, we discovered that 50.1% of sentiment-bearing conversation contained a conduct oversight theme.

"With the Conduct Standard for Banks having come into full effect from July of this year, South African banks are required to enforce the TCF principles across multiple areas of market conduct, or risk facing hefty fines."

Falling from grace In terms of individual performance, Absa saw the greatest improvement in overall public



Bar chart

net sentiment (0.2%) this year, having climbed the ranks operationally and reputation-wise to take first place in the index.

Despite an increase in net sentiment of 1.3 percentage points, FNB still found itself

with the lowest net sentiment across the board at -18.4%, while Discovery logged an 11 percentage point increase in public net sentiment compared to its 2020 figure, to come in at -11.4% net sentiment overall.

NEWSINDEPTH

Nicol shareholders due to endorse 3.8bn/- dividend payment at AGM

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SHAREHOLDERS of Nicol Investment Plc will meet in Dar es Salaam tomorrow (Friday) to, among other things, evaluate performance of various listed and non-listed companies in which they have invested.

The company's acting CEO, Erasto Ngamilaga said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that the annual general meeting will also the general investment climate prevailing in the country. "We would like to welcome our esteemed shareholders to contribute ideas and see best we have been transforming their company," Ngamilaga said.

He said the company has been improving its performance since being established because it carefully invests in various profitable

companies and Treasury bonds and bills where some 14bn/- has been injected.

Ngamilaga further pointed out that the company has continued to strengthen its investment by diversifying its portfolio including buying shares in Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange listed companies valued at over 80bn/-.

"These kind of diversified investments have made the company perform better because our risk has been evenly spread across the market," the Nicol acting CEO noted while adding that when compared to previous years, the year 2020/21 fiscal year has been successful because the company made a whopping profit of 3.8bn/- net profit.

"As a result of the impressive performance which led to a windfall profit, shareholders will also endorse dividend payment as proposed by



Nicol Plc chairman Dr Gideon Kaunda (C) addresses shareholders during last year's virtual annual general meeting.

the board." Ngamilaga stated while stressing that because of the stellar performance, Nicol shareholders will get return on their investment this time around.

The Nicol acting CEO however did not disclose how much has the board proposed as dividend which if approved will be paid to shareholders

before the end of this year. "We ask all our shareholders to attend this crucial annual general meeting so that they can see and discuss achievements that we have made in past fiscal year but also give management and the board policy directives for future improvement," he added.

Nicol which has been

listed at DSE since 2004, has witnessed its share price appreciate by 40 percent from 170/- each to 250/- by last year. "Our goal is to maintain the stellar performance by prudent choice of investment vehicles that we put shareholders money in so that the share price should peak to 1,400/- each in the near future," he noted.

Because of its impressive performance, the company has been contributing to state coffers in terms of paying different taxes with 300m/- paid so far this year. "As a good corporate citizen, we voluntarily pay all necessary government taxes timely," Ngamilaga stated while noting that Nicol shareholders are strong advocates of good

corporate governance.

Last year, during a virtual AGM which was attended by hundreds of shareholders led by Board Chairman, Dr Gideon Kaunda, they discussed and approved payment of 10/- per share as dividend for 2020.

Shareholders also received and authorized directors payments and authorized auditors of

the financial year ending 31, 2020. The Dar es Salaam based company was established in 2001 by few shareholders who wanted to give Tanzanians a vehicle through which they can participate in their privatised state enterprises listed at DSE. Last year, the company also managed to pay an accumulated debt backlog in taxes worth 1.5bn/-.

Addressing the shareholders, Dr Kaunda said the company was performing well hence the increased dividend from 6/- per share in 2019 to 10/-. The Nicol Chairman further added that things will continue to improve performance because they have invested heavily in profitable companies and manufacturers such as Tanzania Breweries Limited, NMB Bank Plc, Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, Vodacom Tanzania Plc, among many others.

African Development Bank outlines new health infrastructure strategy

ABUJA

African Development Vice President, Dr Beth Dunford has outlined the details of a new strategy that seeks to boost access to health services across the continent.

Dunford delivered the message in a keynote speech at the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Assembly of Health Ministers in Abuja. Opening the meeting on behalf of Nigeria's President, Muhammadu Buhari, the country's Health Minister, Osagie Ehanire, noted that the Covid-19 pandemic had exposed the fragility of health systems and infrastructure in the sub-region.

"The challenges posed by the pandemic have strengthened our collective resolve as a region to build back better, and part of our strategy is to work together as a regional bloc. It is in this regard that we appreciate and commend the support and leadership role of our development partners such as African Development Bank Group in the development of quality health



African Development Vice President, Dr Beth Dunford.

infrastructure across the continent," the health minister said.

Representing the African Development Bank President, Dr Akinwumi 'Akin' Adesina at the event, Dunford explained that the strategy focuses on three categories: primary healthcare infrastructure for underserved populations; developing new secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities alongside specialist facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment, dialysis and pain management; and building diagnostic infrastructure for efficient and effective disease diagnosis across Africa.

"Covid-19 is a wake-up call on the

central role of health systems and infrastructure for inclusive economic growth," said Dunford. "Developing quality health infrastructure is a triple imperative: health infrastructure is fundamental to public health, has significant economic impact, and is of strategic importance for governments," she added.

Currently in the consultation phase, the strategy entails policy dialogue and technical assistance on effective financing strategies, including expanding health insurance. Its implementation will boost the continent's efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal

3 which refers to good health and well-being. Dunford said the Bank was poised to play a critical role as a health infrastructure financier by drawing on its expertise in infrastructure development and working with sector partners.

"The portfolio will include investment projects, results-based financing, risk-sharing instruments to leverage private-sector resources, debt and equity investments in private companies, and the promotion of innovative sources of finance, such as Diaspora funds," Dunford said filling the financing gap for health infrastructure would require mobilising finances from the private sector, development finance institutions and Diaspora groups.

Stanley Okolo, director general of the West African Health Organization, welcomed the Bank's initiative to support the development of quality health infrastructure across Africa. The African Development Bank launched a multi-billion-dollar Covid-19 Response Facility and issued a \$3bn Covid-19 bond to support the efforts of African countries to mitigate the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

South Africa's potential in global cannabis industry

JOHANNESBURG

The Cannabis Expo that took place in Johannesburg from 18-21 November 2021, was regarded as an ideal platform for education, networking and introducing innovative products and businesses to the cannabis industry that covered the medicinal, agricultural, financial and lifestyle aspects.

Cannabis is now a priority industry that can create jobs and contribute to economic growth and as a result we have seen strategic interventions by government such as the full legalisation of the herb and the drafting of the National Cannabis Masterplan that is due to come to fruition from 2022.

South Africa has good infrastructure in place and good skillsets to build a strong foundation for the cannabis industry with a wide market that can benefit from medical, adult and industry cannabis as opposed to an export only business model. Southern Africa and South Africa in particular have the potential to supply the world with quality cannabis and cannabis products at competitive prices.

One key challenge in the supply chain that faces growers around the world, is how to tackle the formidable powdery mildew issue. Not surprisingly, this burning issue was raised during the expo with powdery mildew being the most destructive in cultivating and growing successful cannabis crops.

Discussions on how to tackle this serious issue included how biofungicide can help fight the disease, however, growers need to act fast to stop the spread which can be challenging using only this approach.

Other solutions for growers included using a number of oils and sprays to help temper contamination. However, one new solution introduced only recently into the African market exists, which focuses on the elimination of this problem by targeting airborne pathogens, including powdery mildew and converting them into clean air.

BANKING & FINANCE

Traders grappling with a whole new world of bond volatility

NEW YORK

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell set off further turbulence Tuesday by suggesting stubbornly high inflation warranted increasing the pace of policy tightening, adding potential upward pressure to bond yields.

At the same time, fears over omicron's resistance to existing vaccines had pushed benchmark 10-year yields to a two-month low this week. The whipsaw trading in bonds is threatening to compound the nervousness that has spread across financial markets as the recovery from the pandemic threatens to go off the rails. The higher the debt-market volatility gets, the greater the prospect it will filter through to spook stocks, which are

still not far from record highs despite this week's declines.

Hedge funds have suffered losses in recent months when bond yields suddenly surged on inflation bets. Then, as investors brought forward wagers for rate hikes, central banks pushed back on those expectations to send yields lower.

After insisting for months that inflation is probably transitory, Powell in testimony to the Senate Banking Committee said it was time to retire the term, and possibly for the Fed to move more quickly toward raising interest rates by winding down its asset-purchase program faster. The new coronavirus variant, which last week caused a growth scare, also has inflationary potential

by worsening supply-chain problems, he said.

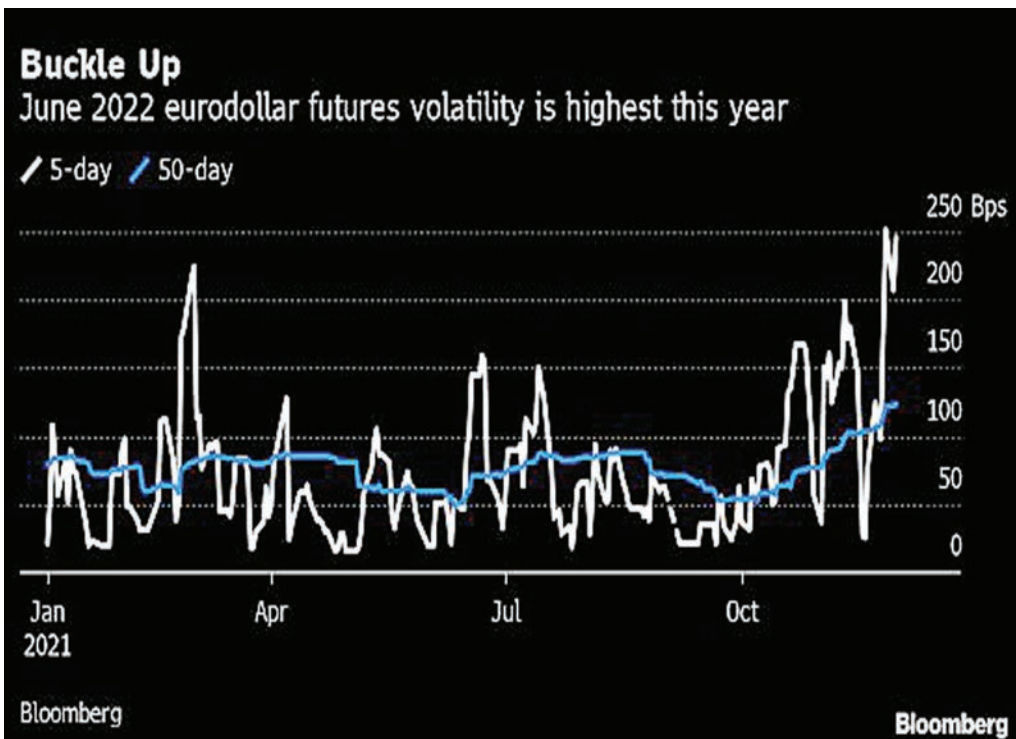
"What's going to create a lot of volatility is the transition from one environment to another," said Kathryn Kaminski, chief research strategist and portfolio manager at AlphaSimplex Group in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which oversees about \$6.4 billion. Powell ditching "transitory" is "this pivot into an different environment from a macro perspective," she said.

The June 2022 eurodollar futures contract, which can be used to bet on Fed policy, has seen historical volatility over a five-day period surge to the highest in more than a year. At the same time, its 50-day average has been rising since mid-September. Meanwhile,

Treasury market implied volatility over the next 30 days, as measured by the ICE BofA MOVE Index, has climbed to the highest since the initial pandemic selloff in March 2020.

Volatility is also climbing in Asia-Pacific markets. A measure of implied Japanese bond swings jumped to the highest since March, while price swings for Australian 10-year bond futures last week rose to the most since April.

US 10-year yields were three basis points higher on Wednesday at 1.48%, after falling five basis points on Tuesday. Two-year yields climbed three basis points to 0.59%, approaching the high of 0.65% reached last week, which was the most since March 2020.



WORLD

White House 'plans to tighten travel rules over Omicron threat'

LONDON

THE Biden administration plans to tighten travel rules to combat the omicron variant of the coronavirus, by requiring all air travelers to the US to be tested within a day of their departure regardless of vaccination status, according to a person familiar with the matter.

President Joe Biden plans to announce the new requirements on Thursday in a speech detailing his plan to contain the pandemic through the winter.

Currently, vaccinated travelers must

get tested within three days of boarding their flight to the US; under the change, that would be cut to one day.

The US last week imposed travel restrictions that bar arrivals from foreign nationals who have been in any of eight southern African nations in the past 14 days. The administration hasn't said how long those measures will be in place.

The Washington Post earlier reported the administration's plans for tightening travel restrictions.

The administration isn't considering



A traveler adjusts his face mask as he walks through the arrivals area at the Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles on Tuesday. AP

tightening rules on what type of test is required for entry to the US. The administration has only imposed requirements for rapid antigen tests, which may be less effective at detecting cases of the omicron variant.

Earlier Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director, Rochelle Walensky, said the agency was looking into measures such as narrowing the testing window for travelers into the country

and adding quarantine requirements in certain cases.

The CDC, she added in a call with reporters, was also expanding surveillance programs at four major airports to test for COVID-19 from specific international arrivals.

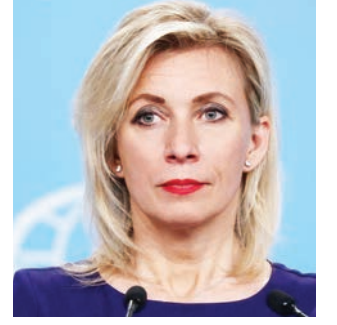
"As we have done throughout the pandemic, CDC is evaluating how to make international travel as safe as possible," she said on the call.

Agencies

Shows their own weakness: Russian diplomat lashes out at US sanctions against Moscow

MOSCOW

THE use of sanctions by the United States to turn up pressure on Moscow is a sign of weakness in Washington's position, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the Soloviev Live YouTube channel yesterday.



The diplomatic spokeswoman focused on the statement that White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki made on Tuesday, saying that the US was "always prepared for any action" after consultations with European partners in terms of possible sanctions against Russia with regard to the situation on the Russian-Ukrainian border.

"We are ready for that. We know perfectly well what lies behind this kind of approach, it's the inability to use legal methods to maintain a competitive struggle - if it is what they think it is, or healthy competition as we call it.

We understand that it is one of the tools they use to implement [their] foreign policy. We realize that it shows their own weakness and they need to realize it, too," Zakharova emphasized.

Agencies

CNN suspends Chris Cuomo after report raises 'serious questions'

NEW YORK

CNN suspended host Chris Cuomo after documents released by the New York Attorney General's office showed he used his journalistic position to gather information about sexual-harassment accusations against his brother, Andrew Cuomo, who was then serving as New York's governor.



"The documents, which we were not privy to before their public release, raise serious questions," CNN said in a statement, adding that they "point to a greater level of involvement in his brother's efforts than we previously knew."

The suspension is indefinite, the network said, pending further evaluation.

The documents, released on Monday, revealed that Cuomo (pictured) texted the top aide of his brother, Melissa DeRosa, inquiring about allegations against Andrew Cuomo and offering his help. Cuomo inquired about a then-unpublished story by Ronan Farrow in the New Yorker, for example. The CNN host confirmed to investigators that he spoke with "another journalist" about the Farrow piece, but said he didn't directly speak to Farrow.

Andrew Cuomo resigned as governor last summer after a report by New York Attorney General Letitia James found he sexually harassed multiple women. Cuomo denied the allegations.

Chris Cuomo didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Agencies

Nigeria arrests 17 fleeing inmates, launches investigation into prison attack

ABUJA

NIGERIAN authorities on Tuesday confirmed security operatives have arrested up to 17 fleeing inmates among those who escaped from a prison after a gunmen attack in the central state of Plateau on Sunday.

Also, an investigation has been launched into the latest prison attack, with an aim to track down "the sponsors of the incessant jailbreaks" across the country, said Mohammed Tukur, a deputy controller general of the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS).

Tukur disclosed this to reporters in Jos, capital of central Nigeria's Plateau state, where the latest attack occurred on Sunday, saying the probe would unravel the identity of the attackers and other necessary details of the incident.

At least 11 people were killed and 252 inmates escaped from the custodial center in the city of Jos when a group of unknown gunmen attacked the facility Sunday evening, the NCoS earlier confirmed.

"We have commenced investigation on the ugly incident and only when that is concluded that we can ascertain who the perpetrators are. But I want to assure Nigerians that we will do our best to bring the criminals to book," said Tukur who was in Jos city to assess the level of damage caused by the attack.

Xinhua

Wang: Consensus reached on China-Africa ties at FOCAC

DAKAR

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Tuesday China and Africa have reached important consensus on China-Africa relations and cooperation at the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Wang made the remarks at a joint press conference with Senegalese Foreign Minister Aissata Tall Sall after the conference concluded.

The fact that Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the conference via video link and delivered a keynote speech fully demonstrates that China attaches great importance to China-Africa relations, Wang said.

The success of the conference confirms the strong will of China and Africa to work together to overcome difficulties and seek common development, and shows the huge potential and bright prospects of China-Africa cooperation, he said, adding that the most important consensus reached by China and Africa can be summarized in the following five aspects.

First, both sides will promote the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation. The spirit

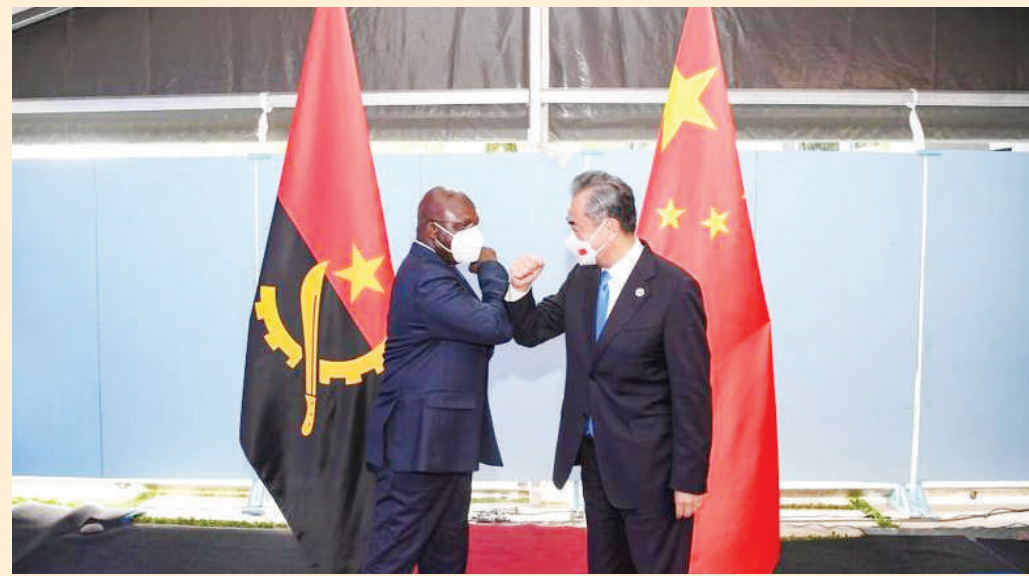
was proposed by President Xi for the first time in his speech and became a highlight of the meeting.

No matter how the international situation may change and what difficulties and obstacles China and Africa may encounter, the two sides will remain strongly committed to strengthening mutual political trust and deepening practical cooperation so that the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation will be carried forward and passed on from generation to generation.

Second, China and Africa will work together to defeat the pandemic. When addressing the opening ceremony of the conference, President Xi solemnly announced that China will provide an additional 1 billion vaccine doses to Africa to help the African Union achieve its goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the African population by 2022.

This is the largest vaccine assistance plan undertaken by a single country to Africa since the outbreak of the pandemic, which will surely boost Africa's confidence and motivation to overcome the pandemic.

Third, both sides will work to enrich China-Africa cooperation. Xi announced that China



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) meets with Angolan Foreign Minister Tete Antonio on the sidelines of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Dakar, Senegal, Nov 29, 2021. XINHUA

will implement nine programs jointly with African countries, which is a strong declaration of China's continued commitment to Africa and the sustained momentum of China-Africa cooperation.

Fourth, the two sides will work together to practice true multilateralism. China and Africa will continue to firmly support each other on issues of core interests and major concerns, jointly safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its

core and the international order underpinned by international law, and enhance the representation and voice of developing countries in international affairs.

The two sides will resolutely oppose any unilateral sanctions, any interference in other countries' internal affairs and racial discrimination, and will promote the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, to make greater contributions to safeguarding world equity and

justice.

Fifth, China and Africa will jointly build a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era. China appreciates African countries' welcome and support for the Global Development Initiative proposed by President Xi.

China is ready to march with Africa hand in hand on the path of development and rejuvenation, and jointly build a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era. Xinhua

Zambia defends decision to impose tough COVID-19 preventive measures

LUSAKA

THE Zambian government on Tuesday defended its decision to defend some COVID-19 preventive measures which have received sharp reactions from some quarters.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Health announced a number of preventive measures aimed at averting a surge in cases in view of a new variant detected in some neighboring countries and a projected fourth wave.

Among measures include a requirement for all public servants to be vaccinated while entry to all government institutions will require a COVID-19 certificate, which have

been criticized as abrogation of human rights and forcing people to vaccinate.

But Minister of Health Sylvia Masebo said the measures have been undertaken in the interest of the people and were not meant to take away people's rights.

She told reporters during a press briefing that the government has been conducting consultations with relevant trade unions and will continue to do so on the preventive measures which have received sharp reactions.

"We know what happened in the third wave when we lost many people due to COVID-19. So we have decided to take these measures in order to

ensure we protect our people. We don't want to take decisions after people start dying," she said.

The minister said since the announcement of the measures on Sunday, the number of people turning up to be vaccinated has increased, adding that it was the government's desire to ensure a good number of the eligible population vaccinated.

According to her, the health system in the country would not be able to contain a surge in cases hence the need for preventive measures before the situation gets out of control.

While acknowledging the importance of taking the vac-

cine as one of the preventive measures, the minister said the government will not force people to get the vaccines.

The Resident Doctors Association of Zambia President Brian Sampa said it was wrong to subject people to a vaccine against their will as people have a right to choose what goes into their bodies.

Meanwhile, the Zambia Union of Nurses Organization said it does not support the stance taken by the government to subject public workers to mandatory testing as it was an abuse of their rights.

Michelo Fray, the union general-secretary said the association was not consulted on the matter and accused the

government of already making a decision without getting the views from stakeholders. In a release, he said the union was only in support of mass sensitization and not mandatory vaccination. Xinhua



We know what happened in the third wave when we lost many people due to COVID-19. So we have decided to take these measures

New technologies impress visitors at 2021 World Manufacturing Convention

NEW business models and forms, new technologies, and new products in the manufacturing sector amazed visitors at the 2021 World Manufacturing Convention (WMC) held in Hefei, east China's Anhui province, from Nov. 19 to 22.

Over 400 enterprises, including leading companies in emerging industries and hidden champion enterprises in the manufacturing industry segments, showcased their achievements at the event's exhibition area, which covered an area of 43,000 square meters.

To make the spillovers of the 4th China International Import Expo

(CIE) held earlier this month continue, the 2021 WMC, also the 4th of its kind, invited a number of internationally renowned companies that took part in the CIE to be exhibitors at the grand event of the manufacturing sector.

Liu Hao, a resident in Lu'an city, Anhui province, was so amazed by the foldable screen of the laptop he saw at the exhibition booth of LCFC (Hefei) Electronics Technology Co., Ltd. at the 2021 WMC that he immediately told his friends about it.

The foldable screen has been applied mainly to increase the portability of laptops, said Qian Li, direc-

tor of public affairs at LCFC, adding that users can switch between the modes of laptop screens as needed in life and work.

At the artificial intelligence (AI) exhibition area of the 2021 WMC, a robot that plays Go game (Weiqi) attracted a steady stream of visitors.

Equipped with an AI engine supported by reinforcement learning technologies, the robot has reached the level of 9-dan professionals, the highest level for Weiqi players, according to Huang Jie, an algorithm researcher at iFLYTEK, a Chinese intelligent speech and AI

company that developed the robot.

It can be used for Go game training, helping improve players' strategies in a targeted manner and providing auxiliary information for professional players to think more creatively, Huang pointed out, adding that interaction with the robot can also help more teenagers understand the charm of Weiqi culture.

A contactless smart integrated cooker exhibited at the 2021 WMC was also eye-catching. Because of interactive aerial imaging technology, the cooker's buttons are shown virtually in the air, thus ef-

fectively avoiding oil stains, according to Geng Dexue, a staff member of Anhui Easpeed Technology Co., Ltd., developer of the smart integrated cooker.

"The interactive aerial imaging technology we developed independently has been applied in health care and other fields. At the beginning of this year, contactless self-service machines equipped with the technology were put into use in many hospitals in Anhui," Geng noted.

Many cutting-edge technologies and advanced products were also put on display at the event, includ-

ing quantum computing, high-end new energy vehicles, the 6th-generation flexible display screen, and panchromatic laser.

The 2021 WMC not only provided a stage for products but generated orders and benefits for companies.

During the event, China Aviation Lithium Battery Technology Co., Ltd., based in Changzhou city, east China's Jiangsu province, inked an agreement with Hefei to expand its industrial base in the city, according to Peng Danli, project director of the company.

People's Daily

Afghanistan example teaches Western partners nothing – Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has noted with regret that Western partners have learned nothing from the example of Afghanistan and continue the same policy in other parts of the globe.

“We see, on the one hand, that many of our partners are saying, ‘Yes, we were wrong, we shouldn’t have behaved like that in Afghanistan.’ However, they continue to behave like that in other parts of the globe.

Regrettably, this bad Afghan example has taught them nothing,” he said at a plenary session of the VTB Capital investment forum Russia Calling! on Tuesday.

“I will not mention names now, but I have heard many times from my colleagues that, yes, they overdid it, they did not take this and that into account.

But the same thing continues in other regions. Including, by the way,



Africa and the Middle East,” he said, adding that that is why the world community must build its policy on respect to its partners.

“If we, I mean the international community in general, base our policy on these principles, we will be successful. Although, it might be a difficult process requiring patience and time.

But, anyway, there is no other way to reach a lasting settlement of these or those crises and ensure development,” he stressed.

Ethiopia says it’s made headway in war against Tigray rebels

By Bloomberg

ETHIOPIA’S government said its forces have recaptured a swathe of territory in the north of the country in a major counter-offensive against fighters loyal to the dissident Tigray province and have gained the upper hand in a year-long civil war.

Fighting has engulfed Africa’s second-most populous nation since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ordered an incursion into Tigray in retaliation for an attack on a federal army base. The conflict, which shows no signs of letting up, has hammered investor confidence in what was one of the world’s fastest-growing economies and sparked a sell-off in the nation’s bonds.

After initially being pushed out of the Tigrayan capital of Mekelle, the region’s ruling Tigray People’s Liberation Front struck back and its troops retook the city, most of the province and parts of the neighboring Amhara and Afar regions. That raised fears they could sever key trade routes or even stage a strike against the capital of Addis Ababa.

“The Ethiopian Defense Forces have launched a counter-offensive on the terrorist organization and the prime minister is now leading this from the front,” Billene Seyoum, Abiy’s spokeswoman, told reporters in the capital on Tuesday. “In the past few days alone, great strides have been made in forcing the TPLF to relinquish their occupation of key areas” and the threat that they could choke off the country has been averted, she said.

The government’s claims couldn’t be independently verified, and it was unclear whether a major turning point had been reached in the fighting. There was no immediate response from Tigray officials, who have previously said they were winning and their forces had advanced to within 220 kilometers of the capital.

Yesterday, Abiy’s office said the government offensive had continued to yield results, with rebel forces pushed out of several strategic villages and towns along or near the main road between Tigray and Addis Ababa.

Thousands of people have died in the conflict and hundreds of thousands of others have been displaced. Humanitarian agencies say more than 1 million people are in need of aid.

Billene accused the mainstream media of spreading a “false narrative” that exaggerated the extent of the war, “ignoring the fact there is no more fighting in Tigray and peddling libelous stories of ethnic cleansing and genocide by the government.”

The US, UK, France and other Western nations have urged their citizens to leave Ethiopia, and the United Nations has evacuated most of its staff.

The European Union has meanwhile warned that there’s a risk of Ethiopia disintegrating completely unless the two warring sides agree to a cease-fire. African Union envoy Olusegun Obasanjo, a former president of Nigeria, is spearheading efforts to broker a truce.

Agencies

Google to ban political advertising ahead of Philippine election

MANILA

ALPHABET Inc’s Google said yesterday it will ban political advertising on its platform in the run-up to Philippine elections in May next year to choose a successor to President Rodrigo Duterte.

The move comes amid pressure on social media platforms over their handling of political advertising during the US presidential election in 2020.

Social media platforms have become political battlegrounds in the Southeast Asian nation, with studies showing Filipinos top the rankings globally for time spent on social media.

Election advertisements that promote or oppose any political party or the candidacy of any person or party for public office, would not be allowed to run between Feb 8 to May 9, 2022, Google said in an update to its political content policy.

The dates cover the period of campaigning in the Philippines up to election day on May 9.

Google said notifications would be sent to affected advertisers about the policy update.

Google has banned political advertising on its platform before, including in Canada’s federal election in 2019 and before an election in Singapore in 2020.

Agencies

Three students shot dead at Michigan high school

A 15-year-old boy opened fire in a Michigan high school on Tuesday with a semi-automatic pistol his father had purchased days earlier, killing three fellow students and wounding eight other people before he was arrested, authorities said.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard told a news briefing hours after the rampage at Oxford High School that investigators were at a loss to explain what might have precipitated “an unspeakable and unforgivable” act of violence.

The suspect, disarmed and taken into custody by sheriff’s deputies minutes after the shooting began, has declined to speak with investigators after his parents retained a lawyer and denied authorities permission to interview their son, Bouchard said.

“The person who’s got the most insight on motive is not talking,” the sheriff told reporters.

Bouchard said he was unaware of any previous run-ins with law enforcement by the suspect, a high school sophomore, adding there was “nothing to suggest that there had been disciplinary issues or problems with him at school.”

The bloodshed unfolded around midday in Oxford, Michigan, about 65 km north of Detroit, as terrified students and teachers taking cover inside the school flooded the county emergency dispatch center with more than 100 calls for assistance, authorities said.

Bouchard credited swift action by his deputies, who he said arrived on the scene in minutes and moved straight toward the sound of gunshots, with preventing a much higher casualty toll.

They confronted the young suspect advancing down a hallway toward them with a loaded weapon, when he put his hands over his head and surrendered, Bouchard said.

The precise sequence of events dur-



People hug during a vigil after a shooting at Oxford High School at Lake Pointe Community Church in Lake Orion, Michigan on Tuesday. AFP

ing the violence remained unclear, but police believe the boy carried the weapon into the school in a backpack, the sheriff said.

“The only information I have is that he came out of a bathroom with a weapon, and I don’t know where he went first,” Bouchard said.

Placed in juvenile detention

Police will ultimately turn over the findings of their investigation to prosecutors, who would decide what charges to bring and whether the suspect would be charged as an adult or a juvenile, the sheriff said.

For now, the 15-year-old suspect, whose name was withheld by authorities because he is a minor, was being detained in a special cell under suicide watch at a juvenile detention center, Oakland County Executive David Coulter said.

Three students died in the shooting spree - a 16-year-old boy who succumbed to his wounds en route to a hospital in a patrol car, and two girls, aged 14 and 17, authorities said.

Of the eight others struck by gunfire, seven were students, two of them hospitalized with gunshot wounds to the head.

At least two girls, aged 14 and 17, were described by Bouchard as critically wounded with chest wounds, one of them placed on a ventilator.

A teacher was also treated for a shoulder wound and later discharged.

Undersheriff Michael McCabe said earlier that 15 to 20 rounds were fired during the rampage, which lasted no more than five minutes. Bouchard said the boy was armed with a 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun his father had purchased on Nov. 26, along with three 15-round magazines. Seven live rounds remained in the gun when the youth was arrested, the sheriff said.

The boy apparently “had been shooting” with the gun before Tuesday’s attack and had posted pictures of the weapon and a tar-

get he was using, according to the sheriff.

‘American problem’

The latest in a long series of US school shootings will likely fuel debates about gun control and mental health care, with many states allowing easy access to firearms while mental health disorders frequently go untreated.

“My heart goes out to the families enduring the unimaginable grief of losing a loved one,” President Joe Biden told reporters while touring a Minnesota technical college.

The latest in a long series of US school shootings will likely fuel debates about gun control and mental health care, with many states allowing easy access to firearms while mental health disorders frequently go untreated.

China to launch pilot reform project on business environment in six cities

ACCORDING to a recent guideline issued by China’s State Council, Six Chinese cities will launch a pilot reform project to improve business environment.

The six cities are respectively Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen.

Lu Xiangdong, an official from the General Office of the State Council, introduced that the guideline was issued after the State Council solicited a wide range of opinions from market entities and relevant parties and held in-depth discussions. Over 100 reform measures in 10 fields were raised, the official added.

The six cities were selected for the reform project because they have a complete industrial system and a large size of market entities, and they have built a solid foundation for reform after having gone through a series of positive explorations, Lu explained.

Besides, the six of them include municipalities, cities under separate state planning and provincial capitals located on both the east and west of the country, the official introduced, adding that the six cities have their own advantages and characteristics. Lu said that the pilot reform project will play a bigger catalytic role in these cities.

To gain experiences that can be replicated in other regions of China is a fundamental requirement of the pilot project, so that the Chinese business environment can be constantly im-



Automobiles are being loaded onto a vessel of China Ocean Shipping Company at a terminal in Guangzhou, south China’s Guangdong province, Nov. 13, 2021. File photo

proved, Lu said. The project will be advanced stably and orderly with appropriate orders, pace, and steps, he added.

The guideline aims to break the systematic and institutional barriers that prevent the investment of market entities, stabilize market expectation and promote the stable operation of the economy.

Following the guideline, the governments of the six cities also tailored measures to facilitate enterprises and the people to the maximum extent.

Wang Hong, vice mayor of Beijing, introduced that the guideline has rolled out a large batch of reform measures that are targeted and effective, and concerned mostly by enterprises. These measures, upon implementation, will indeed better facilitate corporate services and entrepreneurship for Beijing enterprises, she said.

Shanghai’s vice mayor Wu Qing noted that Shanghai, taking the opportunity of the pilot project, will invest more energy in its services for market entities to make more policies benefiting the enterprises, including the one that enables eligible enterprises to enjoy preferential treatment without application.

Executive vice mayor Zhang Yong of Guangzhou said the guideline addresses the whole-life-cycle of market entities, and Guangzhou, as the only pilot field for the reform of intellectual property (IP) utilization and protection, will cater to the demands of enterprises, optimize the service system of IP mortgage, and improve the market-oriented IP pricing and trading mechanism, so as to constantly expand the sources of financing for small- and medium-sized enterprises.

To further revitalize market

confidence and timely respond to the concerns of market entities, relevant departments have raised a series of high-value reform measures.

With regard to the facilitation of market access and operation, e-business licenses have been made for all 150 million registered market entities across China, including enterprises, individual businesses, and farmers’ cooperatives. These licenses can be downloaded, shown, and printed anytime and anywhere.

Yang Hongcan, an official in charge of business registration at the State Administration for Market Regulation, introduced that the administration will keep promoting the cross-region, cross-level, and cross-industry application of e-business licenses, so as to expand application scenarios, improve the service system, and make e-business licenses a tool to facilitate market entities.

The Department of Laws and Regulations of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) will work with relevant departments to encourage the pilot cities to implement land-use list reform of social investment projects, align investment approval reform with the reforms in land use, environment evaluation, energy conservation, and construction application, and enhance the sharing of application data, so as to further improve investment facilitation, said Yang Jie, head of the department. **People’s Daily**

Xi’s speech at FOCAC Ministerial Conference injects impetus into building China-Africa community with shared future

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping’s keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has charted the course for the building of a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, African officials and experts have said.

They also expressed belief that China-Africa relations will undoubtedly reach a new level of cooperation to

the benefit of both peoples.

“It is an important speech which designed the vision of China in relation with Africa in key sectors, such as human resource development, trade, transformation, also on technology, COVID-19, climate change,” said Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop, hoping that China and Africa will develop together for the prosperity of the world.

“We’re happy about the content of the speech of President Xi. He has demon-

strated once again that China is a reliable friend of Africa,” said Mamadou Tangara, Gambian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation.

Ukur Yatani, cabinet secretary for the National Treasury of Kenya, said “my country Kenya is a big beneficiary of support from China, in terms of support of infrastructure development.

We’re also very keen to strengthen the bond of ties, the bond of trade and investment.” “We’re quite excited,

Yatani said.

“FOCAC brings us together” in areas where both China and Africa “can work strongly together.” Amadou Diop, journalist at the Senegal national daily Le Soleil and expert on Chinese issues, was impressed by Xi’s speech, especially the proposal of building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era.

“It is a posture which once again proves China’s attachment to the development of Africa, to the well-being

of the peoples of Africa,” he said, noting the partnership between China and Africa has focused on the sharing of prosperity.

“These are all strong and laudable initiatives which come to support Africa, especially in a very difficult pandemic context and which also contribute to further deepen Sino-African relations. And this is what Africa needs,” he added.

Dr. Khaled al-Shafaay, economic professor with Cairo University, said, “I am deeply

impressed by President Xi’s remarks. Africa has vast agricultural lands but is not efficiently used, therefore, sending 500 agricultural experts to Africa is real support for the Agricultural development in the continent.”

“The cooperation model will be more helpful to Africa as it moves from the idea of funding aid to cooperation and technical, talent exchange,” al-Shafaay said, adding that the relationship is based on mutual benefit. **Xinhua**



These are all strong and laudable initiatives which come to support Africa, especially in a very difficult pandemic context and which also contribute to further deepen



New genre artist, Bernard Paul, alias 'Ben Pol'.

Ben Pol appointed as environment conservation ambassador

By Guardian Reporter

PROMINENT new genre artist, Bernard Paul Mnyang'anga 'Ben Pol', has been appointed as an ambassador and spokesman for environmental conservation initiative, dubbed 'Justdiggit', in Africa.

Ben Pol, a leading East African artist, and environmental activist, is said to dedicate his time and energy to the preservation of the environment as a UN champion for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The singer, in addition, has transmuted into being a respected ambassador for environment conservation for the government, and a 'Justdiggit' ambassador.

'Justdiggit', in cooperation with local partners such as LEAD Foundation, is aiming to raise awareness on the benefits of regreening and address the climate crisis on a global scale.

Together, 'Justdiggit', LEAD Foundation, and Ben Pol are aiming to create and raise awareness of the re-greening of the African landscape, tackling the ongoing climate issue, amongst as many people as possible around the globe.

Ben Pol and 'Justdiggit' aim to speed up and to scale up the positive impact of nature-based solutions.

Together with LEAD Foundation, 'Justdiggit' aims to make a positive impact on the degradation of land in sub-Saharan Africa, and climate change on a global scale.

They accomplish this through re-greening and raising awareness on the restoration of the landscapes in sub-Saharan Africa within their project areas.

By implementing multiple on the

ground re-greening projects, 'Justdiggit' and LEAD Foundation have succeeded in bringing back millions of trees to date.

To scale up the process of re-greening even further, they incorporate communication outside of the project areas.

This way, they can inform more farmers on nature-based solutions to re-green their degraded landscapes.

With amazing partners such as the LEAD Foundation, 'Justdiggit' is thus able to scale up the re-greening and make degraded lands green and fertile again, to sustain and boost the continent and empower the livelihoods of local farmers.

'Justdiggit's ultimate goal is to get everyone involved and to have a green, lush and cool Africa by 2030.

It aspires to scale up the regreening and encourages everyone to join the global regreening movement.

By applying nature-based solutions communities can mitigate global warming by 37%.

That is why 'Justdiggit' is on a mission to regreen Africa in the next 10 years.

So far, 'Justdiggit' has restored 60,000 hectares of dry land and brought back over 6.3 million trees.

By running on-the-ground regreening projects together with partners, farmers, and local communities, 'Justdiggit' aims to raise awareness on the implementation of nature-based solutions.

'Justdiggit' further seeks to consequently create an enormous impact on the regreening of degraded landscapes, water availability, biodiversity, the local climate, and the climate issue on a global scale

Coach Nabi has improved Feisal Salum's work rate

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SUDDENLY football lovers have made Feisal Salum a new star in Tanzania football. Sometimes local football is very funny.

Salum is just the same player, he has never changed, he represents many talents from Zanzibar.

That side often brings a lot of variety to the local soccer scene.

I can count on an individual with fingers the past and present players from Zanzibar.

Salum is one of the Isles' best footballers lately. It is more of their stature as we once had midfielder, Abdi Kassim 'Babi', from Zanzibar.

What amazes me is the way soccer fans have turned Salum into a new star.

Salum could have been a star since a little while ago. What has changed is his recent goal-scoring form.

He could only have it for a long time even though in the past he used to score but in a minimal number.

Yanga's previous coaches were people who delayed Salum's progress.

The side's head coach, Mohammed Nabi, pushed Salum forward a bit to play near the opponents' goal.

Well Salum has good ball control, is a good distributor, a good shooter, but in the past, the players were not a threat. At he had to move forward and do that at the goal of the opponents' goal.

For several years now Yanga has been looking for a midfielder who resembled former Simba midfielder, Clatous Chama, who has now moved to Morocco.

Yanga needed someone to smoothen things out in the final third. They could not find him easily.

At one point they traveled to Angola to follow midfielder, Carlos Fernandes, alias Carlinhos, to come and do the work.

Carlinhos struggled and could not be Yanga's 'Chama'.

He played in a variety of styles to find himself a master of long and dead balls. The midfielder left after failing to cope with our country's lifestyle.

Later came Said Ntibazonkiza. He was exciting in the early days but came with tired legs when he landed at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Airport.

What Nabi did was to continue looking for a new 'Chama' within his existing squad and not outside the squad.

He realized that if Salum moved



Tanzania's Yanga midfielder, Feisal Salum (R), negotiates his way past Nigeria's Rivers United FC defender when the sides met in this season's CAF Champions League preliminary round's return leg match, which took place in Nigeria recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

forward he would improve. And that is what he did.

And that's what Salum has continued to do fluently. In the past, the Zanzibar midfielder would have dribbled beautifully in the middle of the park and then fans cheered and then he would have given a short pass to someone close to him.

In the past, he would have hit the delicate backheel passes in the middle of the field and the fans would have erupted in cheers.

However, many of the skills he was executing were eye-catching but not as productive in the final scene.

Salum is an impressive footballer after Nabi gave him a license to move forward last season after the Tunisian gaffer went to Yanga in the middle of the season.

Nabi was able to arrange Zawadi Mauya and Mukoko Tonombe as two double pivots and then give Salum the license to do what he wants ahead of the opponents' goal.

It was then that Salum found himself in areas where he should have been 'more serious' with the opponents' goal than in the past. He had to either shoot and score or execute assist.

More quality has been seen in Salum thereafter the reduction of other midfield area responsibilities. This is the quality of Salum that we see now.

Another Salum quality has been brought about by the current Yanga team itself. Recall that Salum came in when the red hot Yanga had Haruna Niyonzima, Thabani Kamusoko, Donald Ngoma, Simon Msuva, and others.

By the time he entered Yanga, the team was struggling financially. The best players are always looking for each other. Salum would have shown his quality if he had played alongside Kamusoko and if he had served well on the field.

Instead, he found himself in average Yanga alongside midfielder Ibrahim Ajibu who tried to push the boat.

But now Nabi has given him a new role with competent midfielders by his side and behind him.

The quality of Yannick Bangala and Khalid Aucho makes Salum play easy football.

No one jumps between them and stands waiting for the passes to arrive freely.

The quality of Chama was

contributed by the quality of other Simba players.

The quality of the Chama was contributed by the quality of Luis Miquissone, Jonas Mkude, Thadeo Lwanga, Shomari Kapombe, and others. These players help each other become stars.

Even Pep Guardiola's Barcelona footballers helped each other become stars.

One could see a recent Barcelona side struggle, Lionel Messi found himself working hard alone on the field until he got tired.

In the past, Messi was mostly gracing the pitch with Xavier, Andres Iniesta, Dani Alves, Sergio Busquets, David Villa, and others.

Salum's talent is nothing new. He was just missed for a long time and now he finds himself playing in the right team, and position, along with the right players under the right coach for him.

A domestic player who will not improve in the current Yanga squad will be lazy.

If his team is playing good football and the player himself is playing in the right position why should he not be able to play good football more than at any other time in his footballing life?

SportPesa hands over sports equipment to Bunge Sports Club

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

SPORTPESA Company has presented sports equipment to the Parliament sports side, known as Bunge Sports Club, which is preparing to participate in the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) competitions scheduled for early this month.

The competitions are scheduled to start on December 5 in Arusha, with sportsmen and women from the region's parliaments taking part in various disciplines.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, the Director of Administration and Compliance at SportPesa, Abbas Tarimba, pointed out the equipment worth more than 20m/- entails kits for soccer, basketball, volleyball, netball, athletics, golf as well as tug-of-war.

He mentioned the countries that are participating in the tournament as Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, and hosts, Tanzania.

Tarimba, Bunge Sports Club's Chairman, stated the team is well prepared for the games and to assure Tanzanians that they will return with a resounding victory in the competition.

"The team is well prepared for the competitions and we believe



Bunge Sports Club's Chairman, Abbas Tarimba.

we will be back with top honours," Tarimba, Kinondoni Constituency MP, noted.

He said the sponsorship is just the beginning, insisting SportPesa will continue supporting the team.

The MP appealed to the public to continue to have faith in the team that will participate in the competitions.

He said they would also use the tournament to prepare the team for next

year's events in South Sudan.

He said they need to field the best team in this year's competitions to represent the country well.

The Acting Secretary of the Parliament of the

United Republic of Tanzania, Mohamed Mwangi, thanked SportPesa for his contribution to the team that prepares for the East African Games.

He said the equipment was very important to the team while reassuring Tarimba that Bunge Sports Club will do well in the competitions.

"We are grateful for these sports equipment, we are going to compete and not just participate in the tournaments," Mwangi noted.

Salma Kikwete urged Bunge Sport Club players to be disciplined in the tournaments so that they do well in the games they participate in.

She said last year they came back with many trophies after excelling in the tournaments.

The official disclosed she believes the performers will put spirited showing this year so that they can win all disciplines.

Salma said Bunge Sports Club is committed to ensuring it wins trophies in various events that take place every year involving teams from East African countries' parliaments.

Minister directs Arts Council to facilitate veteran artist' treatment

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

MINISTER for Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, has instructed the National Arts Council (BASATA) to work with the Tanzania Dance Music Association (CHAMUDATA) to see to it that veteran musician, Hussein Abdallah Stima (85), access treatment immediately.

Stima has been suffering from heart disease and hypertension since 2020.

Bashungwa stressed the two institutions should facilitate the musician's treatment so that he can recover.

Bashungwa issued the order on Tuesday when he visited Mzee Stima at the musician's home at Buguruni Kwa Mnyamani in Dar es Salaam to brief him on the situation.

"Do all the necessary procedures as soon as possible so that our old man can be treated, this is possible," Bashungwa disclosed.

Mzee Stima thanked the government for its support.

In addition, Mzee Stima called on artists to sing songs that promote national development and patriotism for the country.

Mzee Stima is one of the country's greatest musicians known for his saxophone-inspired style, which appeals to many, including Father of the Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

During his youth, Mzee Stima worked in various bands including Cuban Marimba, JWTZ Mwenge Jazz, Vijana Jazz, and Washirika, alias Watunjanjanta.

Jurgen Klopp: Salah, Lewy overlooked in Ballon d'Or

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp has questioned the outcome of the 2021 Ballon d'Or award and said both Robert Lewandowski and Mohamed Salah have been unfairly overlooked after Lionel Messi won the trophy for a record seventh time.

The award, held by French magazine France Football and voted for by selected journalists around the world, was cancelled last year because of the coronavirus pandemic, but the honour has once again been bestowed on Paris Saint-Germain and Argentina forward Messi.

Bayern Munich forward Lewandowski finished second in the polling, while Liverpool's Salah was placed in seventh position.

Although voters are urged to vote on the players' individual and collective performances during the calendar, and their fair play, a third element of the vote is focused on the "overall judgement of the player's career."

Liverpool manager Klopp said that criteria favours Messi ahead of all other candidates, including Lewandowski and Salah.

"I'm really not sure about it [Ballon d'Or], 100%," Klopp said when asked in a news conference ahead of the Merseyside derby. "You can always give it to Messi for his career, but if you don't give it to Robert Lewandowski this time, after this year, it's quite tricky for him to get it all.

"And Mo [Salah] should have been higher up, definitely. I was surprised by his position, to be honest. I saw the vote somewhere, I don't know exactly [how it is voted for]. It's journalists, yes? Then don't ask me -- it's your fault. Speak to your colleagues if you think it should have been different."

Liverpool face Everton at Goodison Park on Wednesday in the first Merseyside derby of the season and the first since former Anfield manager Rafael Benitez took charge of the Blues.

Although the fixture is regarded by both sets of supporters as the biggest of the season, Klopp said the players involved cannot treat it the same way.

"We know there are some special things around derbies, but it's a football game as well, that's how we approach it," Klopp said.

"We understand the supporters' soul and we try to fill their wishes. Derbies are in focus, but we approach it like a [normal] football game."

Similarly, Benitez told a news conference the derby is a massive game for Everton and the derby is a good chance to right a bad run: "The fans understand we have issues, injuries to key players, but we started the season well, so we have to get back to that level.

(Agencies)

Pep: Grealish has played 'better than he believes'

LONDON

PEP Guardiola has told Jack Grealish that the start to his Manchester City career has been "better than maybe he believes."

Grealish has admitted he has found life at the Etihad Stadium "difficult" after leaving Aston Villa to become English football's first £100 million player in the summer.

He returns to Villa Park for the first time with City on Wednesday and ahead of the game, Guardiola has assured the 26-year-old he has been happy with his form since his arrival.

"My opinion is he's played much better than maybe he believes," Guardiola told a news conference on Tuesday.

"Maybe at Villa, everything started with him and he was free, you know, now he's in a new position and maybe has not been so determined or so clinical in the final third.

"Maybe because he respects his mates, maybe because it's a new environment, and that's normal, it's a process. He needs time. All the players who come here, for the first season, always struggle.

"But what he sees and what he has to do, is so easy for him with the quality he has. Just be free here and be who you are, that's all, no more. I don't say to the players what they have to do -- they play.

"When they get the ball close to the box, my friend, you decide whatever you want. That's why you are Jack Grealish and not another player. They have to play and make their moments."

Grealish is hoping to be fit to face his former club after missing the last three games through injury.

He has been a consistent starter for City so far this season but was left on the bench for the 2-0 win at Manchester United before the international break when Guardiola opted for a front three of Gabriel Jesus, Bernardo Silva and Phil Foden.

"Sometimes it's the environment, a new house, private life, but not just Jack -- all the players," added the City boss.

"Sometimes you have all your life living in one place and then you come to a different place and the expectations are huge, in terms of what you have to do. But play bad? Absolutely not. I didn't see one game yet where he did not play with the quality he has."

As well as Grealish, City are also sweating on the fitness of Foden and Kevin De Bruyne, who has tested negative for COVID-19 but is yet to return to full training.

Ferran Torres remains sidelined through injury while Aymeric Laporte is suspended after picking up his fifth yellow card of the season in the 2-1 win over West Ham on Sunday.

(Agencies)

Why Lionel Messi's Ballon d'Or win shouldn't make you angry

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

COUNT the Ballon d'Or as one of those grand old institutions that's insanely popular. There are several reasons for it, too.

There's history: The Ballon d'Or dates back to 1956, which means it predates the European Championships, yellow and red cards, substitutions, color TV, remote controls and of course, FIFA (the video game). There's the fact that top players really, really care about winning it: Clubs mount campaigns on behalf of their star players, guys like Cristiano Ronaldo (despite already having five of these at home) get annoyed when it gets canceled (like it did last year due to the coronavirus pandemic), while Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski's face lit up like a child hearing reindeer footsteps on the roof when he found out he was among the favorites.

And then there's the fact that it's natural fodder for endless discussions, both of the social media and of the bar room kind: If the sport is some kind of lingua franca, then this is the equivalent of talking about the weather, a natural conversation starter when you don't know what to say.

That's why Paris Saint-Germain's Lionel Messi winning his seventh Ballon d'Or ahead of Lewandowski and Chelsea's Jorginho is, to many, a big deal. Particularly since -- after Messi or the yin to his yang, Ronaldo, had won 11 of the 12 previous editions -- this looked like the year somebody else might get the crown.

I say celebrate it for what it is: some kind of global popularity contest/water cooler moment. And that's fine. Goodness knows we can all use more shared experiences of the sort that don't involve spike proteins. But please don't mistake it for what it is not -- some sort of equivalent of an MVP award in U.S. sports. In some ways, it's closer to college football's Heisman Trophy -- standouts who play glamour positions at big schools with big fan bases who play in big bowl games tend to win it -- albeit with two important twists.

The first is simply the jury. In an effort to make this as inclusive and comprehensive an award as possible, France Football (the magazine that awards the Ballon d'Or) sends out ballots to 180 journalists from 180 different countries. (Why not 211, since there are 211 FIFA member nations? It's one of the mysteries of the Ballon d'Or.)

Some are comparable to MVP or Heisman voters: folks who cover the nitty-gritty of the sport daily and attend plenty of games. Many do not, simply because they're dotted all over the world, and covering elite football in person, in this day



PSG player Lionel Messi reacts after winning the 2021 Ballon d'Or trophy during the 65th Ballon d'Or ceremony at Theatre du Chatelet, in Paris, Monday, Nov. 29, 2021. Messi won the Ballon d'Or for seventh time. (AP Photo)

and age, is an expensive luxury for most news organizations.

The upshot is that certain players inevitably have advantages. Those who play for popular teams. Those who play for teams that win high-profile competitions. Those who play as forwards and attacking midfielders and therefore regularly make highlight packages.

And those who have good social media/PR teams. You know how both the AL and NL MVPs in Major League Baseball this year, Shohei Ohtani and Bryce Harper, didn't make the playoffs? Yeah, there's a greater chance of Lil Nas X revealing that he is, in fact, Q than there is of something similar happening in football.

The other reason is the criteria. The United States' representative on the jury, Soccer America editor Paul Kennedy, explained on Twitter that there are three guiding principles:

*1. Individual and team performance in 2021 calendar year (well, Jan. 1 to Oct. 24);

*2. Talent and sportsmanship of the player;

*3. The player's overall career.

(Note too that while it says "calendar year," in fact all votes had to be in by Oct. 24, so it's really just under 10 months. Voters stick to the criteria, and whatever happens in November and December each year is totally irrelevant -- consider it one of the quirks that make the Ballon d'Or so lovable.)

The individual-performance bit makes sense and is pretty standard award fodder. Based purely on that, and looking at the top three, you'd probably put Lewandowski (who scored 45 goals in 35 games for Bayern in the allotted period and broke a single-season Bundesliga scoring record that

had been around nearly half a century) ahead of Messi (who had 31 in 36) and Jorginho (who had far fewer, but, hey, he's not a forward). Put the "team performance" part in there, though, and you're basically giving the edge to guys who play for very good national teams.

Take the top three, and you note that all three won silverware to varying degrees -- Messi won the Copa del Rey with Barcelona and the Copa America with Ar-

gentina. Lewandowski won the Bundesliga with Bayern, Jorginho won the Champions League with Chelsea and the Euros with Italy. And since Messi and Jorginho also won with their national teams, that's supposed to be a mark in their favor. Never mind the fact that Lewandowski happens to be Polish, which makes winning with your country that much more difficult.

But it's the next two criteria where things get really wacky. Talent and

sportsmanship?

I can live with sportsmanship -- none of the top three are cartoon villains anyway -- but talent? Really? Not only is it supremely subjective, but it also means that what you're born with (talent) matters more than what you do with it (application). And by that criteria, defenders and midfielders really don't stand much of a prayer. Not to mention it runs counter to the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), but then

again, France is known to be a proudly secular country.

And then there's the final criteria: the player's overall career. This basically means that if you live in the era of Messi and Ronaldo and your name isn't Messi or Ronaldo, you probably don't need to bother in this category, because you're not going to come close to either one.

Lewandowski is 33 and one of the greatest goalscorers in history, with 453 top-flight goals. Messi has scored a hair under 50% more goals (676). Lewandowski has won a Champions League; Messi has four. Lewandowski has zero Ballons d'Or; Messi had six before the voting. How is Lewandowski (or anybody other than Ronaldo, whose numbers are comparable to Messi's) meant to catch up?

But maybe that's the point of the Ballon d'Or. It's not meant to be scientific -- the criteria are silly and, probably, ignored. The voters range from folks with access and knowledge and experience to folks with a monitor, thousands of miles away, who will only ever see these players in 2-D.

It's meant to be a celebration of the sport's elite performers. The players we all admire, the stars we look up to, the folks who do what we can't, but once wished we could (and often still do). If you take it like that, discussions over whether Lewandowski or Jorginho or Karim Benzema or Ronaldo deserved it more than Messi will be that much less stressful.



Bayern Munich Robert Lewandowski and wife Anna Lewandowski arrive for the 2021 Ballon d'Or ceremony at Theatre du Chatelet, in Paris, Monday, Nov. 29, 2021. (AP Photo)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Why Lionel Messi's Ballon d'Or win shouldn't make you angry

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Tanzania's senior national soccer side 'Taifa Stars' defender, Bakari Mwamnyeto, speaks at the 'Nje ya Dimba and Stars' campaign, which offered soccer fans in Mbeya a chance to interact with the team's footballers recently. The soccer lovers had the opportunity to pose for a group photo with the team's players shortly after a dinner hosted by the Serengeti Premium Lager Beer brand, which holds the campaign. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Soccer supporters get opportunity to interact with Taifa Stars players in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent

IN its quest to bring senior national soccer side 'Taifa Stars' fans close to their favorite players, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL)'s flagship beer brand, Serengeti Premium Lager, the main sponsor of Tanzania men's national soccer team, allowed fans in Mbeya to interact with Taifa Stars players outside the pitch in a colorful and interactive dinner event.

The 'Nje ya Dimba na Stars' campaign aims to provide Taifa Stars' fans and Serengeti Lager consumers with an opportunity to meet their star players outside the pitch in their favourite bar, ask them questions and also have a chance of taking memorable photos with them.

The three-month campaign goes nationally to emotionally connect Taifa star players with their fans via their main sponsor, Serengeti Premium Lager.

Speaking during the campaign launch in Dar es Salaam, SBL's Marketing Manager, Denis Tairo, said that being the greatest fan of Taifa Stars, Serengeti Premium Lager was proud to bring Mbeya fans closer to the players they love and give them a unique opportunity to have a face-to-face interaction.

"Serengeti Premium Lager is undeniably the biggest fan and lover of Taifa Stars and the team's main sponsor. Taifa Stars fans indeed know quite a lot about their preferred players, but they rarely meet them outside the pitch, this campaign will, therefore, be able to accord them a rare opportunity of physically interacting with them," Tairo noted.

Tairo noted that the country-wide campaign would involve Taifa Stars players visiting regions such as Mbeya, Mwanza, and Arusha, where they will have an opportunity to meet and interact directly with the fans through monthly parties and Nje ya Dimba parties.

In these engagements, fans and Serengeti Lager consumers will have opportunities to win various prizes and also get great offers on Serengeti Lager beer.

"The players will come to your favorite bar, and while enjoying your Serengeti Premium Lager, a 100 percent malt beer with no added sugar, you will have an opportunity to interact with them by asking questions, taking photos, and get their signatures," Marando added.

He urged the fans to keep visiting Serengeti Premium Lager's social media pages and listening to radio announcements to know when and where the players will be.

SBL has for years been a reliable partner in the development of sports in the country.

Besides supporting various sports such as athletics, golf, and others, the beer-maker, through Serengeti Premium Lager, is the main sponsor of Taifa Stars, which it has been supporting since 2017. SBL has over the years since 2017 supported the national team with a total of 5.1bn/- in sponsorship fees.

Coach Nasreddine Nabi set to maintain players rotation at Yanga



Yanga's Tunisian head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

AFTER cruising to a 2-0 victory over Mbeya Kwanza FC in 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash, Yanga's head coach, Nasreddine Al-Nabi, has made it clear that players' rotation will prolong in his squad, depending on the type of opponents they are playing against and pitch condition.

NBC Premier League leader opened points' gap with its close challengers with the crucial victory in the fixture that

took place in Mbeya on Tuesday.

The midfielder, Said Ntibazonkiza, and attacker, Fiston Mayele, scored the two goals which witnessed Yanga collect 19 points and tighten its grip on

the top spot.

Nabi said: "As the league progresses I see its difficulty and opposition increasing from teams we play against."

"I am very happy to see my squad

win against Mbeya Kwanza FC, we had strategized for this victory after assessing our opponents."

The Tunisian tactician disclosed: "We will continue to change game approach depending on the type of pitch and the team we play against, we target to ensure we win every game to achieve our goals."

In Tuesday's game, Nabi started with midfielders, Said Ntibazonkiza, Deus Kaseke, Zawadi Mauya, and Mukoko Tonombe, in the first eleven.

Ntibazonkiza went into the scoresheet, beating Mbeya Kwanza FC keeper, Hamad, with a well-taken free-kick from outside the area.

Nabi said it was necessary to start with the players due to the way he developed his tactics to deal with their hosts at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

The stars contributed greatly to Yanga's triumph that has kept them at the top of the league standings.

Ntibazonkiza made the most of the free-kick that Yanga got when fellow midfielder, Feisal Salum, was fouled.

Mayele made it 2-0 for Yanga, slotting home from outside the area when he was set up by Salum.

After Tuesday's game, Yanga will prepare to face age-old rival, Simba SC, who are placed second, five points below the leaders, before the latter's yesterday clash against Geita Gold FC.

Tembo Warriors qualify for 2022 Amputee Football World Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MINISTER for Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, yesterday led Tanzanians to celebrate the country's amputee football team 'Tembo Warriors' achievement, in which the side has made it to this year's Cup of African Nations for Amputees Football (CANAF) semi-finals.

Tembo Warriors cruised to a 5-0 victory over Cameroon in the last eight of the continental event which is taking place in Dar es Salaam.

Tembo Warriors has for that matter qualified for the next year's Amputee Football World Cup to be held in Turkey.

This is the first time Tembo Warriors has qualified for the major tournament for amputee football as it was one of four teams entering the semi-finals of the CANAF.

The Tanzanian team's preparation period was overseen by a Special National Committee under the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports' Permanent Secretary, Hassan Abbas.

Tembo Warriors got off to a good start, garnering victory over Morocco, and put the impressive game in the following fixtures due to the enthusiasm brought about by President Samia Suluhu Hassan's support.

In its fixtures, Tanzania has lost just one match against Uganda, which ended with the latter winning 1-0.

In Tembo Warriors' other fixture, the footballers



Tanzania's amputee football team 'Tembo Warriors' forward, Frank Nkailo (L), negotiates his way past Cameroon's amputee football team's player as they faced off in this year's Cup of African Nations for Amputee Football (CANAF) last eight's match in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Tembo Warriors won 5-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

edged Sierra Leone 1-0.

Speaking to reporters immediately after the last eight's match, Bashungwa assured Tembo Warriors that the government will continue to support the team to continue to do well in preparation for the Amputee Football World Cup.

Abbas further said that since the journey to the World Cup has been completed

the remaining work is to ensure that the CANAF silverware remains in Tanzania.

Tanzania's two goals were scored by Alfian Kyanga in the second and 15th minutes, Ramadhan Chomole in the 18th minute, and Frank Ngailo in the 36th and 44th minutes.

The game was also witnessed by the president of the Amputee World Champi-

onship, Mateus Wildack.

The previous edition of the Amputee Football World Cup was held in Mexico in 2018.

The Turkish national amputee football team finished the competition as runners-up after losing to Angola in a penalty shoot-out following a goalless result in regular time.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

FLAT EARTHERS ANONYMOUS

