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National Pg 3
Govt orders Ilala to pay contractor



National Pg 4
Public servants to plant trees



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TFS to distribute tree seedlings



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'Employ graduate engineers'



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TPDC readies EIA ahead of major oil explorations

By Guardian Reporter, Shinyanga



CPB director general Dr Anslem Moshi (R) pictured in Dodoma yesterday gifting minister Jenista Mhagama (2nd-R) and deputy minister Hussein Bashe (2nd-L) a sample of maize flour, one of the items produced at the board's mills in the city. With them is NSSF director general William Erio. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) is conducting mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) ahead of major oil exploration exercises in six regions.

TPDC experts are currently in Kishapu District where they are meeting local leaders and residents whose areas fall within the project, sensitizing them on the importance of the venture and what they should expect.

Other regions where EIA and exploration will take place are Tabora, Singida, Simiyu, Manyara and Arusha, all of which fall within the Manonga and Wembele geological basins and the Lake Eyasi basin.

Project consultant Dr Allan Mzengi said here at the weekend that EIA includes pinpointing economic activities in the project area and how exploration activity may affect such activities.

TPDC assessment findings will be forwarded to the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) as it gears up for project approval if the conditions are met, he said.

Armed with EIA, TPDC will proceed to the next stage which is drilling rigs to ascertain the availability of oil reserves

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Downpours likely for three more days - TMA

Current rains echo the mayhem early last year - observers

By Guardian Reporter

THE heavy rains witnessed in parts of the country since Saturday are in forecast for three days consecutively with eight regions predicted to receive heavier downpours, according to weather experts.

A statement released yesterday by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) named the regions likely to experience more rains as Mbeya, Songwe, Iringa, Njombe, Ruvuma, Lindi, Mtwara and the southern part of Morogoro region.

The rains are accompanied by strong winds and big tides lifting water by up to two metres in some areas of the coastline at Mtwara, Lindi, Dar es Salaam, the islands of Mafia, Unguja and Pemba as well as southern parts of Morogoro Region.

"Some low-lying residential areas are likely to be flooded and activities such as transportation and fishing will be affected," the weather advisory noted.

The rains started on Saturday evening and continued for the better part of

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'NSSF doing well in credit facilities for agro-industry'

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has hailed the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) for supporting the country's industrialisation drive through the issuance of credit facilities to industries.

Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities), made remarks to that effect in Dodoma at the weekend.

She was conducting an inspection tour of the implementation of projects in which the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) has invested in Dodoma Region, thanks to a 3.6bn/-



I would like to assure NSSF that their money will be paid back because we will work together to ensure that it is safe and put to good use by the board

NSSF loan issued in 2017.

Mhagama said the loan was meant to support the government's efforts to improve the economy through industrialisation, noting that this investment would enhance the availability of reliable markets for the crops, boost foreign exchange earnings and create employment.

Accordingly, she called on CPB to pay back the loan in accordance with the terms of the agreement under which it was issued, in remarks echoed by Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe, who was also on the tour.

CPB director general Dr Anslem Moshi assured the minister that the

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Herders, expelled in 2006, stream into Ihefu wetland

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

AUTHORITIES in Mbeya region have given a six-day ultimatum to groups of pastoralists who have camped within the protected Ihefu Basin in Mbarali District with large herds of animals.

The secret return of cattle keepers to the wetland has been discovered nearly 15 years after pastoralists were evicted from the area in 2006.

The presence of the herders at the source of Great Ruaha River came to light at the weekend when the regional



defence and security committee conducted an aerial survey with Tanzania National Parks helicopter.

After ascertaining their presence and distribution, the committee chairman and Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila (pictured) convened an emergency meeting attended by leaders of cattle herders in Mbarali, and Ruaha National Park officials, among others.

"I give you six days to remove the animals from the wetland. When this deadline elapses, I will deploy security units to clear the area," saying the police force, anti-rustling paramilitary units, immigration and prison wardens would be involved.

He asked the owners of the animals

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TPDC readies EIA ahead of major oil explorations

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underneath, if it is present and enough for exploitation.

"We are engaging project area residents so that they gain understanding of the project, as this can help us reach a consensus on how to proceed," he said.

Gaston Kanuti, a TPDC geologist assured residents in the project area that all land used in used in exploration will be returned to the owners except if they will be deemed to be within oil sediment perimeters.

"Owners of land found to contain oil reserves will be duly compensated," he elaborated.

MTL Consulting official Abraham Maeda told the meeting that the ongoing EIA also considers takes into account community interest areas such as heritage sites and graveyards.

Rigs shall be diverted to save culturally important places, including ritual sites, on the basis of the Petroleum Act of 2015 and the Environmental Management

Act of 2005, he pointed out.

The EIA was preceded by aerial survey which indicated potentially oil-containing rocks in the Manonga and Wembele basins as well as Lake Eyasi.

TPDC officials say Tanzania has been intermittently explored for oil and gas for over 60 years, as the larger part of global petroleum companies had a footprint here during the period.

Significant gas discoveries were made at Songo Songo, Mnazi Bay and in the southern deep sea basin off Mtwara Region, with more than 50 exploration wells and development wells drilled, providing vital geological information of the subsurface and potential for hydrocarbons.

"The cumulative seismic coverage in the public domain is approximately 100,000 km, with 70,000 km offshore and 30,000 km onshore, including the interior rift basins. About 15,000 square km of 3D seismic data has been acquired in the offshore areas," a TPDC brochure explains.



Finance and Planning deputy minister Mwanaidi Ali Khamis (L) and Institute of Rural Development Planning principal Prof Hozen Mayaya follow a speech by the institute's governing council chairperson, Prof Martha Qorro, at IRDP's graduation ceremony held in Mwanza at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Downpours likely for three more days - TMA

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yesterday and TMA says the rains will stop and flooded areas see waters receding tomorrow.

Tanzania saw heavy rains for most of last year with extensive damage to infrastructure and loss of lives in some parts of the country.

In January three people died and over 600 were rendered homes in Iringa and Lindi regions, with wards like Pawaga and Idodi in Iringa district surrounded by water, triggering fears of outbreaks of contagious diseases. Houses were submerged after heavy flooding, with three Tungamalenga village residents

losing their lives, including two children from one family who were killed in separate flood incidents in torrential rains.

In March, downpours and resultant floods swept a section of the road connecting Morogoro municipality and Dodoma, temporarily severing transport links and causing great anxiety.

The Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) advised travellers to use the Morogoro-Iringa-Dodoma route as repair works continued.

In October, rains in Dar es Salaam Region killed 12 people as business came to a standstill on account of flooded roads and clogged drainage systems.

'NSSF doing well in credit facilities for agro-industry'

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loan had given the board "a new lease of life" by helping it to line up resources to produce crops of good enough quality to compete in the local and wider markets.

Thanks to the credit facility, the board has procured quality machinery for producing sunflower oil and flour from various cereals, he stated.

"We have also been able to start paying back the loan, by up to 400m/- by September 2020, a big step in the right direction showing that the board is a serious and creditworthy agency," the director

affirmed.

Alongside commending NSSF for supporting the board, deputy minister Bashe said he would do his utmost to ensure the loan is paid back after CPB and NSSF come up with a repayment schedule.

He called on NSSF to present workable modalities under which the loan would be repaid at an affordable rate. "I would like to assure NSSF that their money will be paid back because we will work together to ensure that it is safe and put to good use by the board," he declared.

Bashe said NSSF was a major

stakeholder in the country's agricultural sector and has been in consultations with the government with a view to identifying more projects in which the fund could invest.

He also explained that going forward, institutions under the Agriculture ministry securing NSSF loans must ensure that their workers are members of the fund "and therefore benefit more fully from the transactions."

Minister Mhagama later directed CPB to engage in continuous consultations with NSSF with a view to improving working relations and tackling challenges

that might crop up in the course of this engagement.

"I was very optimistic in 2020 because in financial year 2017/2018 NSSF used to collect a monthly average of 55bn/- but December 2020 saw the stakes get higher after collections reached 111.37bn/-," she pointed out, indicating that that NSSF productivity was being enhanced, with assurance of smooth payment of members' pensions and other dues.

The fund was worth 4.8trn/- by late last year, up from 3.1trn/- in 2018, she added.



Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania chief refiner Osiah Muliro (R) pictured in Dodoma yesterday briefing Jenista Mhagama (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment and People with Disabilities), and Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe on operations at the board's factory. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Herders, expelled in 2006, stream into Ihefu wetland

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to return with their herds to wherever they came from because when state security agencies are deployed to do the job, all the animals found there will be confiscated.

Sharif Abdul, a senior conservation officer with the park, said in an assessment before the committee that "herders from Mbarali District are the most stubborn and repeatedly encroach on the protected area," compared to other districts surrounding the national park.

He said actions such as fines slapped on owners found with animals within the wetland have not deterred them from returning, underlining the need for sterner measures.

Other than Mbarali District, the park extends into Iringa Rural District and Chamwino District in Dodoma Region.

Mbarali District cattle keepers

chairman Matagiri Mbigili said at the meeting that encroachment of the protected area is compounded by the fact that Mbarali district authorities have designated areas for activities such as settlement, farming and sources of water but not grazing areas.

Officials said that the Ihefu Basin area was gazetted by the government as a conservation area in 1998 and embedded into the Ruaha National Park in 2006, with around 1,000 pastoralist family units with herds estimated at over 200,000 head of cattle were removed from the district and relocated to various places like Chunya, Rufiji, Kilwa, Kisarawe and Lindi districts.

Apart from being the source of water for many villages bordering it, the Great Ruaha River which originates at Ihefu is the most important tributary to Rufiji River downstream, anchoring key hydropower generation projects upstream and downstream.

NEW YORK/PARIS

GIVING people a fraction of a yellow fever vaccine is effective and could help vaccinate millions more people during emergencies, on the basis of results of a study led by Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) research arm Epicentre, just published in The Lancet.

The clinical trial results, which found that giving a person one-fifth of the standard yellow fever vaccine dose is effective and safe, will make it easier for governments and international organisations to prevent people from getting sick from yellow fever during outbreaks in times of vaccine shortage.

"When big yellow fever epidemics hit, countries and

'Yellow fever vaccine dose fraction can also save lives'

MSF need to access vaccines urgently," said Dr Myriam Henkens, MSF international medical coordinator. "Vaccination is the most important measure for preventing the disease."

"This study observes that treatment providers can now rest assured that giving people smaller doses of any of the World Health Organization (WHO)-prequalified yellow fever vaccines will protect the person in front of them, while helping to keep even more people safe," she said.

The Epicentre study, in collaboration with the Kenya Medical Research Institute, the Senegalese branch of the French

outfit, namely Institut Pasteur de Dakar, and the World Health Organisation (WHO), was a randomized, double-blind trial in Mbarara, Uganda and Kilifi, Kenya, conducted between 6 November 2017 and 21 February 2018.

During this period, researchers administered either one-fifth or a standard dose of yellow fever vaccine to 960 adults between the ages of 18 and 59, it said.

People receiving one-fifth of the dose were found to have an immunological response that was considered non-inferior to the standard dose.

"This is an important step toward a future updated policy

on fractional doses. Thanks to these results, the current WHO policy on fractional doses of yellow fever vaccines in times of shortages during an outbreak can be expanded to all prequalified vaccines," it stated.

The clinical trial marks the first time that all four WHO prequalified yellow fever vaccines have been assessed in the same study.

It used the only four existing WHO-approved vaccines, derived from multiple strains of the virus: 17DD (Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz, Brazil), 17D-213 (Federal State Unitary Enterprise of Chumakov Institut of Poliomyelitis and Viral

Encephalites, Russia), 17D-204 (Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal), and 17D-204 (Sanofi Pasteur, France).

"This research is significant because it shows that trials involving different manufacturers, where their products are independently evaluated, is possible," said Rebecca Grais, research director at Epicentre. "This is proof that global medical researchers can band together to do independent and objective research that results in products and recommendations that truly meet the needs of people, and ensure effective and safe medicines and vaccines," she

declared.

Yellow fever is a mosquito-borne acute viral haemorrhagic fever that causes 30,000 deaths per year, most of which occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

However, the disease is on the rise in Central and South America. While this infection is asymptomatic or causes only mild symptoms in many people, a small percentage of those infected experience a more toxic stage of the disease that can cause internal bleeding and severe damage to the liver and kidneys. Approximately half the people who enter this stage of yellow fever die within a few days.



Msalala constituency legislator Iddi Kasimu addresses residents of Mwanase ward in Kahama District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Deputy minister orders Ilala District to honour 5 billion/- payments to Dar abattoir contractor

By Guardian Reporter

Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Pauline Gekul has directed the Ilala district executive director to complete payment 5bn/- to a contractor constructing 12.4bn/- state-of-the-art Vingunguti abattoir in Dar es Salaam.

Gekul ordered the payments to be done in seven days to allow the contractor to complete the remaining job as per President John Magufuli's directives.

She gave the order over the weekend during a tour at the facility which upon completion will increase meat supply demand and export outside the country.

The slaughter house is strategically positioned since it is located near Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) for transporting the meat. The new facility will have the capacity to slaughter 1500 cows and 1000 goats every day.

The deputy minister raised concerns over the poor state of the abattoir noting the surrounding environment poses health risks to meat consumers. She said completion of the modern slaughter house would not only benefit city residents but the nation as a whole.

"You must complete payments within seven days; this project must be completed as per President Magufuli's directives," said Gekul insisting the council should also purchase two vehicles to facilitate meat supply within the city's retail butcheries.

"We cannot have such a modern abattoir and let traders to continue carrying meat using motorbikes," she added.

Gekul explained that efforts

are ongoing to improve the Pugu livestock market to ensure the supply of quality animals to the famous Vingunguti slaughter house which serves most parts of the city and its environs.

The project's supervisor, from National Housing Corporation (NHC) Eng Epraim Phanuel said: "We will complete and hand over the project to the government as soon as we receive the monies. We are planning to complete the project by mid-February this year."

Its infrastructure, including the slaughter area, sewage system, and others are in a bad shape. Several government leaders have been visiting the area to hear challenges facing the traders.

During an impromptu visit at the project site in 2019, the President directed the authorities not to collect levies from traders until the new slaughter house was completed.

According to the ministry, the country has been spending over 10bn/- on importing meat, but the construction of the new abattoir would completely end the importation of meat.



We cannot have such a modern abattoir and let traders to continue carrying meat using motorbikes

Hospital hires sign language expert to assist deaf patients

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 20 people with hearing disabilities and who live with HIV in Mbeya Region have been registered in a programme to use ARVs following the move by Mbeya Zonal referral hospital to hire an expert in sign language.

The expert spurred many people in the group to come up to get ARV treatment at the hospital following the break of the language barrier.

Mbeya referral hospital director Dr Godlove Mwanji during a visit by the Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel aimed

to inspect various public health institutions in the region.

He said since the sign language expert was hired more than 300 people with hearing disabilities from various areas countrywide have been visiting the hospital to receive various health services which they were unable to access before. The deputy minister said they decided to hire the expert after realising there was a language barrier between doctors and the patients.

Dr Mollel also praised officials of the hospital for their creativity and called on other hospitals in the country to emulate the move

to enable people with disabilities access health services.

He said in addition to the advice to other hospitals, the government plans to work on the issue to make it a policy to be applied countrywide.

He also advised Mbeya zonal referral hospital to communicate with the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) to treat serious cases including heart diseases to enable the people reduce travelling costs to Dar es Salaam.

He also said the government plans to empower all zonal hospitals in the country to provide specialised treatment just as it is

with MNH.

"As for now nationals from more than 18 countries in Africa go to Muhimbili for treatment, so we want zonal hospitals to be improved to cater for neighbouring countries as well

The director of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) from the southern highland zone centre Dr Elias Nyanda said the institution conducting a research that would improve tuberculosis treatment.

For his visit, Deputy minister Dr Mollel, said apart from Mbeya zonal referral hospital he also visited NIMR centre.

Advances in Traditional Medicine

By Guardian reporter

Rebecca Marsland from the University of Edinburgh, UK, stated that traditional healers she spoke to in her research were very interested in the opportunity to learn how to improve their medication. They said that they would like to have the technology to prepare their medicines through tablets. This would help them increase the shelf life of their medicine. As it stands, the preparation of natural remedies is a long-term business.

In Kyela district, the nearest place to find medicine is high in the Livingstone Mountains bordering the northern shore of Lake Nyasa. This is a journey and takes several days on foot. Veteran traditional doctor Richard said this was the reason why he did not want his son to follow him and become a traditional healer. He wants him to have a better life than this, and further explained that these treks to the mountains were difficult. This tiring journey is not the last problem because when you return home, you have to deal with long queues of patients waiting for medication. He said that from the morning he wakes up there is not even a time for shower until the evening when the last patient goes home.

One traditional healer who specialises in Islamic medicine and also uses natural herbs described the need for new technologies as follows:

The goal in our treatment that uses traditional medicine is to know how to reduce the various diseases that shorten human life span - this means and indicates that what we need is great help - for example, if a patient sleeps in our home, he must sleep without a mosquito net, often without a shield [the name of the pesticide used to 'treat' mosquito nets,

and so this means that we eliminate one disease, which is inherited by another. So, there are many things that traditional healers need help with, for example the need for a machine to help them grind their medicine into powder, and turn it into tablets. In this form we can use 'shortcuts', because for example, you can be called to treat a patient in Mwanza, but the plant you need to treat is not available in Mwanza, and every time you travel you need to have a lot of medicines, roots and packages of plants ... we dig for enough for three days - this complex condition often ends in drug overdose or decay - because they are so damp, so we need government or human expert help to make tablets, powders, and suppressants. That way our medicines will not be spoiled - that will help us a lot.

The difference between Modern and Traditional Medicine is Small

So, from this perspective, there is no significant difference between digging root to use if for healing and treatment using the method of dividing pills - they are one thing, but one is a much bigger task than the other. After all this work, some medicines can rot (although some may remain intact for years if properly prepared and stored). Traditional healers also told me that they would like to have the expertise to know how to test their medications, so that they can get the best dose for people. At the moment they have no choice but to go with their own experience.

This concern about testing natural remedies is also in medical science called biomedicine (a branch of medicine responsible for applying biological and biochemical principles for medical research or practice). One of the great interests of modern medicine in 'traditional' medicine is the identification and testing of herbal medicines, and where possible, the separation of



Botanist (Mr. Daniel Sitoni) preparing a herbarium specimen of M.

an 'active ingredient' that can be developed on a large scale. However, the medical profession is not the only one involved in taking this type of research with the ultimate goal of mass production. There are already very successful examples of traditional medicine developed in Tanzania. The traditional medicine "Ngetwa" medicine is manufactured in a factory in northeastern Tanzania and sold to international customers. The product went through several formats until it reached the powder form distributed in single-dose bags after approval. The water-form of Ngetwa was deteriorating very quickly. Ngetwa is now a big business, and is advertised on most visible posters in Dar es Salaam city. Its success will undoubtedly build the awareness to all stakeholders in the health industry to attempt completion of more goals for traditional healers in Kyela, where it was made available in 2005.

Ngetwa is a case of turning the world into a village. Because it takes the latest technology used to make many medicines, but unlike the preparations used in the medical profession, ngetwa is nothing - it takes its name from the

Ngetwa family, and each pack has a picture of the healer who created his original recipe. Despite the "modern" technology used to manufacture, distribute and sell drugs, it still develops into other forms that make it known as "traditional" medicine, for example the long and complete list of diseases that can be used to treat represents a list of drug advertisements in physicians in Dar es Salaam markets. Instead of having many different medications to treat many different conditions, ngetwa is just one drug used to treat many problems.

Progressive Advances in Traditional Medicine

Advances in traditional medicine is not only important in the view of its healing functionality. The source of power of traditional healers is frequently in what Rekdal (another researcher) defines as 'cultural distance'. However, you may also argue that the use of 'modern' technology also indicates the morale of changing the status of these drugs provided by traditional healers. As Appadurai (researcher) points out, technical innovation is social and politi-

cal, not just technical.

the use of high-tech objects ... is essential for changes in the structure of products. What needs to be further clarified is the value change, a situation that marks the new use of political control over such innovative products.

Using technologies and techniques of the medical profession, traditional healers strive to regain their status. Because they are excluded from government policies and left out of national debates on emergency issues such as HIV / AIDS and malaria, they use (or expect to use) biomedical technology to ensure that their place in the movement is recognized. Examples of widely produced herbal remedies show that traditional healers are looking for ways to learn from the technology of the medical profession, but from their own point of view. They are careful to test their own medications, but they are looking for alternatives to those offered by government scientists who have had little success until now. Another innovation they would like to do is more complex. Traditional healers are keen to learn the techniques of the medical profession in medicine delivery, especially injecting or injectable doses.

They explained to me that this would enable them to provide 'first aid' for patients suffering from serious illnesses such as severe malaria, or who are dehydrated due to diarrheal diseases. The medical profession, however, strongly opposes this, as they fear that traditional healers have no knowledge or ability to learn these things, and that this profession if misused can be life-threatening. But drops and needles also have great representation value. These substances are considered to be the most powerful methods of biology medicine where in the hands of traditional healers they will take on new meanings, and replace the old ones. The result of this "modern interaction" is something that the medical profession is not ready to risk.

Traditional healers invited me to talk to them about HIV / AIDS. At the meeting they made a request for funding, which had been written with the help of a doctor from the hospital, so that they could receive training to help them learn more about HIV / AIDS, infection and control. In addition to learning the basic facts, they wanted to ensure that all members of their community in Kyela would have the opportunity to learn how to protect themselves and their patients against unfortunate infections. They were already teaching their members at meetings not to use razors when

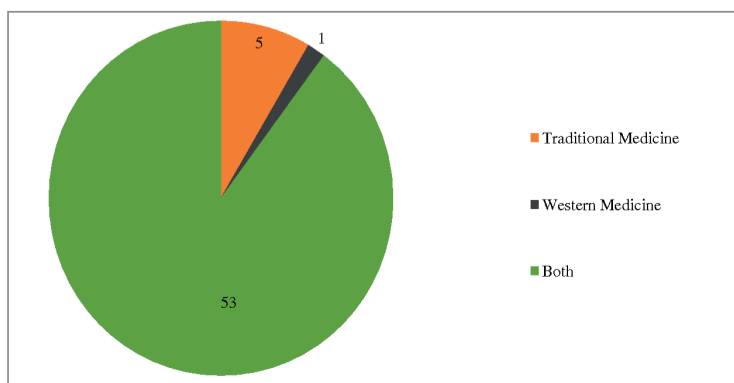
they are applying traditional medicines on their patients via skin. However, they also wanted to be provided with disposable plastic gloves, especially midwives whose activities keep them close to a lot of blood from time to time. Although a doctor from the District Hospital had helped them write the proposal, there was no suggestion that any funding would come from a "donor fund".

Similar programs of 'collaboration' between the profession of modern medicine and traditional medicine have raised concerns about 'cultural domination'. However, because this was the traditional healers' own program, it needed a more detailed explanation.

Perhaps these traditional healers had already heard of such projects and wanted to be included. Training seminars are a very common phenomenon in Tanzania, something that cannot be seen as forced from the 'outside'. Training seminars (with daily pay) are an addition to any work, for any participant in development projects.

Although they recommended such training traditional healers were not seeking their knowledge to be replaced by knowledge from elsewhere. They already knew where their expertise lay, but they still yearned to learn new skills. Traditional healers seem to have a clear view of knowledge, love creativity, and do not care much about protecting their "cultural origin".

The knowledge of traditional medicine is not that will be replaced by the knowledge of the modern medicine profession through training seminars, instead it will help traditional medicine to pick what is needed and incorporate it into existing knowledge. This is nothing new, the invention has always been part of 'traditional medicine' at least for a long time since the arrival of 'modern medicine' in East Africa.



Sponsored by Embassy of China

Dodoma RC instructs all public servants to plant ten trees weekly

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner, Dr Binlith Mahenge has instructed all public servants in the region to plant at least ten trees per week, calling on district council authorities to set aside land for the purpose.

Speaking while officiating at the launch of tree planting campaign in Dodoma city, the regional commissioner said the aim is to restore natural vegetation and help boost the city's environment.

"I hereby call upon all district executive directors from the eight councils in Dodoma Region to submit lists of public servants who will plant ten trees per week under their (DEDs) supervision," he said, adding that the district council bosses must submit a report, every Monday to his office.

In efforts to make the exercise easier, the RC suggested that special marks or names of who planted the trees be inscribed for identity and protection, stating that he planted 22 trees at the launch of the campaign, thus such marking must be done to them.

"To make the exercise more important, I also suggest that public servants involve their families and friends to planting trees" said Mahenge, insisting that the activity will be inspected and documented in accordance with public service procedures.

For his part, the Dodoma Urban District Commissioner, Josephat Maganga noted that the tree planting campaign in Dodoma city is in line with directives from national leaders and that of the regional authority as well, which must be implemented.

"In Dodoma District we have started implementing the directive aimed at protecting the environment and make our city attractive," he said.

Dickson Kimaro, head, environment department in the city said in acknowledging the importance of environment, the authority has come up with several by-laws, which among others require that any person who own piece of

land in the city must plant at least five trees at their places as well as on land belonging to institutions.

"The by-laws on environment protection in Dodoma city have been distributed at ward and street levels to help control animals that eat plants and also stop people from invading natural forests," he said.

In 2017 the government launched a nationwide tree planting campaign aimed at rescuing the country from the risk of becoming a desert.

Speaking at the official launch of the campaign in Dodoma, the Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan blamed local government authorities for failure to keep the national tree planting campaign alive, saying the country risks becoming a desert if no action is taken.

She argued that records show that at least 61 percent of the country is likely to become a desert, calling on the councils and municipal authorities to come up with by-laws to ensure schools, universities and other institutions plant trees annually. The same should also be at family levels.

Samia noted that for many years the Tanzanian government has been implementing a number of tree planting campaigns but unfortunately they all turned unsuccessful due to lack of efforts from the local authority leaders to sustain the plans.

She expressed her commitment to actively participate in implementing the father of the nation, Julius Nyerere's vision of transforming Dodoma into a green city.

"Both regional and district authorities have not been telling the government the truth as they do not effectively oversee the entire process and give false statistics on tree planting," she said here Wednesday before launching a nationwide tree planting programme.

The government first launched tree planting campaign in the 1970s and later in the 2000s to ensure every council plant at least 1.5 million trees annually. However, the Vice President said the plan was not effectively implemented.



People planning to travel to Mbinga and Nyasa in Ruvuma Region find no shelter from the scorching sun as they wait for transport at Ruhuwiko bus stand in Songea municipality at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Michael Emmanuel

Flash flooding destroy homes in Mbeya Region

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbarali

ONGOING rains across large parts in Mbeya Region have been destroyed and vital infrastructure damaged due to flashfloods after heavy rains.

This paper at the weekend witnessed many houses at Uyole, Nzovwe and Kalobe in Mbeya City have been surrounded by floods. Other affected areas

include Mbalizi township in Mbeya Rural District.

Several houses in Songambele area in Utengule-Usongwé Ward in Mbalizi township have collapsed due to water seeping up from the ground.

Chibhili Mtafya, a resident of the area said the floods happened on Friday and caused big havoc to residents and neighbouring villages.

"Last year my toilet collapsed due to floods but this year the

situation is even more worse as water seeped up through the in my bedroom and I fear the entire house can collapse," he said.

Mbeya city Member of Parliament Dr Tullia Ackson who is also the Deputy Speaker of Parliament toured the affected areas to console the victims.

In Majengo Mapya area she pledged to assist an aged woman named Tamali Mgema clear mud from her house that destroyed

many of her belongings. She also promised to provide her with food assistance. "Some youth will come here, they will assist in cleaning your house and will bring you food, but we shall continue to assist others affected by floods," said Dr Ackson.

In her visit, she was accompanied by residents from various areas of the city to unblock drainage trenches to release flood water from residential areas.



Tanzania Distilleries Limited managers led by the firm's director for Dar es Salaam Region, Davis Deogratias (2nd-L), show a sample of the brands the firm produces. This was at TDL's 50th anniversary celebrations held in the city late last weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Ruvuma

Govt distributes quality maize seeds to 4,000 Mbinga District farmers

MORE than 4,000 farmers from various villages in Mbinga District, Ruvuma Region have been provided with quality maize seeds that would assist them to increase crop yields and their incomes.

Speaking during the seeds distribution exercise, the acting district agricultural officer Deodatus Kisima said the process of the entire plan followed a request to the central government through the regional government, whereas they were earlier promised to get four tonnes of the seeds.

Kisima said due to the huge farmers' demand in the district,

the government decided to supply eight tonnes, but later the tonnage was increased to 11 of quality maize seeds valued at 77m/-.

He said in the plan every farmer will get two to four kgs of DK 90-89 type of maize seeds for cultivation in the district.

He said the process of picking the formers was conducted by village officials in the targeted areas, that included Amani Ward villages including Mkako, Namswea, Muungano, Matiri, Muhongozi, Kitumbalomo,

Kigonsera, Kihangimahuka and Lukarasi.

He thanked the government for the supply of the maize seeds, saying they will improve crops yields in the households, the district, region and the nation in general.

Handing over the seeds to farmers, the acting Mbinga District executive director Samwel Komba called on the farmers who received the seeds to use them well and should liaise with agricultural officers in order

to get high yields.

He also called on agricultural officers and village executives to ensure the seeds reach those targeted in the allocated areas to avoid discrimination in distribution to the farmers.

Several farmers who received the seeds, including Jackson Lwena and Ewster Mapunda thanked the government for the assistance, but also requested it to supply them with seeds for other crops including beans, rice, and even coffee.

EU's horticultural programme to boost small holder farmers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR small holder farmers have expressed hopes with the €5 million horticultural project funded by the European Union (EU) and targeting to improve value chains to ensure sustainable supply of high quality products to local and international markets.

The four-year project is co-implemented by Community Forest Pemba (CFP), Dar es Salaam based People's Development Forum (PDF) and Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa).

They said the project which gears to uplift small holder spice farmers from poverty will also benefit farmers engaging in horticultural (vegetable and fruits) from over 50 shehias in Unguja and Pemba Islands.

Speaking at the Bandamaji shehia in North Unguja Region, some of the farmers said they are hopeful that the project will improve the horticulture value chain as well as their welfare.

Kidume Juma said: "Most us are yet to benefit from vegetable and spice farming, but with this project we are going to make profits as we will be applying modern farming methods."

Chapa Mkali Juma said that lack of coordinated markets have resulted in farmers incurring huge losses as some fruits and vegetables got rotten at the farm. He appealed to the government through the project to assist them with markets for their farm products.

He also appealed to Zanzibaris to prioritize buying locally produced agricultural products. He called upon the government to come up with a system to control prices of vegetables, fruits and spices as most small holder farmers sell their products to agents at lowest prices.

The project's business development officer, Mwanaidi Mussa Shembwana said the agricultural sector in the isles faces a number of challenges including lack of quality fruit seeds.

She said most of the small holder farmers do not have ideas on the exact type of fruits required at the market, insisting the need for a market survey before engaging in production of certain products.

Mwanaisha added that pineapples are grown in most parts of Zanzibar, but yet framers are unaware of the exact types of pineapples required at international markets.

"This project will also assist farmers to reach markets within and outside the country. we will also make sure that they practice their agricultural activities in modern ways and product quality products that can be exported to markets abroad," added the officer.

She said they are collaborating with stakeholders in Canada who have been tasked to look for markets for the horticultural products to be produced in the four year.

The project's finance officer, Agnes Nicodemus Msengi said they will also train farmers on business management.

"We want them to build a culture of saving and embrace financial discipline to help them grow their businesses," said Msengi noting there will also be loans provided to various farmers groups including women.

Prioritized spices in the project include vanilla, black pepper, ginger and red pepper. Production of fruits, spices and vegetables plays a crucial role in the country's anti-poverty strategy as it uplifts the lives of hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers.

NHC conducts countrywide operation to unearth some 17,000 rent defaulters

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE National Housing Corporation (NHC) has announced a countrywide operation to unearth about 17,000 defaulters who owe the corporation over 27bn/- in rent.

NHC social services manager Muungano Saguya urged all customers to ensure that they pay their debts before January 31, this year to avoid legal measures.

According to him, during the operation, NHC will also take over properties of the tenants and auction them to compensate the debts.

Saguya said this during the weekend here when the deputy minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angelina Mabula held a meeting with executives of the land sector in the city.

Saguya wanted all the tenants including government entities to ensure that they pay their outstanding renting charges before the mentioned date.

He said that in Arusha alone, the corporation claims 370m/- from its tenants emphasising that the operation will not spare anyone.

"NHC depends on the tenant payments to implement various plans and projects, so failing to clear their arrears on time affect

the corporation's operations and development," he added.

In her remarks, Dr Mabula wanted the ongoing operation to take to the legal bodies; chronic defaulters of property tax should go parallel with also taking stern measures to the NHC defaulters.

"NHC cannot survive without collecting the renting charges, so all tenants owed by the corporation should make sure that they pay the monies to enable it operate efficiently," she said.

The National Housing Corporation was established to undertake an array of business in real estate in the country which includes construction of houses for sale, construction of buildings as part of approved schemes, facilitating the provision of building materials and components.

It also works on renting out and managing houses or properties built by the corporation and those acquired by the government. Carrying out other activities related to construction of houses or other buildings built or acquired by the corporation.

"NHC cannot survive without collecting the renting charges, so all tenants owed by the corporation should make sure that they pay the monies to enable it operate efficiently"



Technician Faraji Nyoni (R) takes councillors around Mowe water treatment centre in Muheza District at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

TANZANIA Forests Services Agency (TFS) says it will distribute 2.5 million tree seedlings to the people and government institutions in Songea District for planting.

Speaking here at the weekend during his visit at TFS seedlings farm in Matogoro mountains in the district, Songea District Commissioner Pololeti Mgema said the aim was to support government's efforts in environmental preservation and to tackle the effects of climate change.

Mgema called on all government institutions including environment stakeholders to

TFS to distribute 2.5m tree seedlings in Songea District

ensure tree planting campaign is conducted in all areas within the district during the current rainy season.

"As we have come here to inspect the seedlings farms I appeal to all government institutions the prisons, TPDF, and all the people to come and collect tree seedlings in the areas allocated for planting," he said.

He also instructed Council Executive Directors for Songea and Madaba districts to ensure they mobilise tree planting at

least 1.5 million seedlings every year, to take care of them so that they grow well.

TFS Chief Commissioner Prof Dos Santos Silayo said TFS has been distributing the average of 12 million tree seedlings each year to the people and government institutions in the districts of various regions countrywide.

"I call upon you, Ruvuma Region residents to come up during the current rainy season and collect tree seedlings for planting in your areas," said Prof Silayo.

He added: "My hope is that efforts made by TFS in the southern zone, which reports show there are over 4 million seedlings ready to be collected for free planting will be supported by people in the regions, they should therefore come to collect them."

TFS chief conservator for Songea District, Issa Mlela said the farm at Matogoro has various kinds of tree seedlings for planting at water sources as well as for commercial purposes.



Works and transportation deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (L) has a word with Tanganyika district commissioner Salehe Mhando (C, foreground) after visiting Kalemii port construction site in Katavi Region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR's small and middle entrepreneurs (SMEs) have called upon institutions to control the safety of food and cosmetics address challenges facing them when transporting their products to Tanzania mainland.

They aired their complaints here at the weekend during the meeting with top officials of Zanzibar Food and Drugs Agency (ZFDA) to explain the process of going into an agreement with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to simplify their activities.

Khamis Issa, secretary of the exporters association complained that the permits for exporting products issued by ZBS (Zanzibar

SMEs in Zanzibar call on ZFDA to address TBS products challenges

Bureau of Standards) Bureau of Standards and ZFDA were not recognised in the mainland on reasons that the two institutions are not among the issues of the Union.

He said there are usually major inconveniences whenever Zanzibar entrepreneurs export their products, the situation, he said, discourages many of them.

He advised the two institutions - ZBS and TBS to sit together, cooperate and trust each other in instilling unity and cooperation

by both sides aimed at finding solutions to the teaser.

Zeyana Ahmed Kassim, an entrepreneur from Zanzibar Women Traders (ZWCC) said TBS has in place an environment to assist entrepreneurs from Tanzania mainland, but the plan is missing in the Isles.

She said the situation has pushed some of Zanzibar entrepreneurs to join TBS in order to avoid inconveniences when exporting their products.

She further said the Zanzibar

President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi continues to stress his intention to assist the private sector including entrepreneurs, the concept that needs to be supported by all stakeholders to uplift small entrepreneurs.

Earlier, Bora Lichanda, ZFDA's director of drugs and cosmetics told the entrepreneurs attending the meeting that ZFDA's aim was to eradicate inconveniences facing them, and pledged to refer their recommendations to their mainland's counterparts.

Training agency urged to train local experts

By Guardian Reporter

Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Pauline Gekul has directed the Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) to increase efforts, train more local experts who will be able to serve in the sector and bring positive outcomes in the country's economy.

According to her, as the government was working to purchase more modern fishing ships, having enough experts to operate the vehicles and travel into deep sea to fish was imperative as this will increase employment and stimulate the blue economy.

The deputy minister made the remarks during the weekend when she visited the FETA's offices in Bagamoyo, Coast Region.

"The government's five-year strategic plan is aimed to transform the fisheries sector, this will involve buying eight modern fishing ships which will be used in fishing activities in the deep sea, so it is better now we invest efforts to produce more experts to serve in the sector," Gekul said.

She said that the first ship is expected to arrive in the country at the end of this year wanting the agency to ensure that there are enough experts to run the ship.

FETA acting chief executive officer Dr Semvua Mzighani said that the agency is now issuing training and certification standards for fishermen, sailors, ship captains, officers and supervisors who will be working in the deep sea fishing.

"With this new system, you can't be employed to work with the deep sea fishing vehicles if you do not have the certification, we will be training and producing more sailors from this college," he said

Dr Mzighani said that the

agency's commitment is to empower more youth with skills and equipment so as to boost aquaculture and increase the availability of fish in the country.

He added that the deep sea fishing and operation courses were previously found in South Africa and Egypt only, so as the training is now issued in the country, it is better for the public to grab the opportunity.

"We expect to receive a number of foreigners wanting to study in this college, this will increase foreign currency, stimulate economic growth and employment," he added.

Dr Mzighani however highlighted some of the challenges facing the agency as high cost of operation of fisheries colleges thus called on the government to support them so as to produce quality and competent experts.



The government's five-year strategic plan is aimed to transform the fisheries sector, this will involve buying eight modern fishing ships which will be used in fishing activities in the deep sea, so it is better now we invest efforts to produce more experts to serve in the sector

Manager of Mwanza's modern market project must remain at the site, orders deputy minister

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE and Planning deputy minister, Mwanaidi Ali Khamis, has instructed the project manager for the construction of the ultra-modern market and bus terminal in Mwanza city to be at the construction site all the time so that the project completed on time.

Mwanaidi made the order over the weekend when she visited and inspected the progress of the project and that of Nyegezi Modern Bus Terminal in Nyamagana District.

"I'm informed that the two projects are being supervised by one manager, something which isn't acceptable as it delays the projects and it is dangerous as projects may be executed below standards," she said.

He said that the supervisor must be present at the construction site 24 hours a day to check the effectiveness of the work to get strong buildings and infrastructure that will complement the efforts of President John Magufuli, to build better infrastructure that will stimulate the development of the people in general.

"If the supervisor is not at the construction site will be removed and leave it to others who can do the work, if the supervisor is not present at the construction site it is good that the government is informed so that it takes appropriate action without delaying projects", said Mwanaidi.

She also gave two days to the leadership of Nyamagana District

to ensure the challenge of cement shortage in the two strategic projects is resolved quickly.

The two facilities, which are being built by Mohamemedi Builders are funded by the central government to enable the council to be financially self-sufficient.

Earlier, Mohamemedi Builders contractor, Eng. Taher Jafferji cited a shortage of cement as one of the challenges slowing down the construction of the two projects, despite paying all the money for the building materials.

He said that he has been given an 18-month construction contract where he is expected to complete the construction of the Market in April 2022, so it is good that the government sought a solution to the issue.

Nyamagana District Commissioner, Dr. Phillis Nyimbi, said his office will ensure that all instructions given by the Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning will be fully implemented, as their goal is for the projects to be completed on time and contribute to the development of the city, region and the country at large.

Nyamagana District Council executive director Kiononi Kibamba said that construction of a modern market will cost 20.7bn/- while the construction of Nyegezi Bus Terminal will cost 15.8bn/- whereby the construction of the market has reached 8 percent and the construction of the Bus Station has reached 10 percent where the Government through The Ministry of Finance and Planning has provided 7.13bn/-.



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Pauline Gekul (3rd-L) feeds fish during a visit to the Fisheries Education and Training Agency at Mbegani in Bagamoyo District at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

17,475 households to continue benefiting from Tasaf programme in Njombe Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

VERIFICATION of targeted households that benefitted from Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) Phase III in Njombe Region for the First Period (2015-20) showed that from July to December last year a total of 17,475 poor households qualified to continue to benefit from the programme, while 1,366

households were disqualified and 1,005 did not come up for the verification exercise for various reasons.

Speaking at the weekend at a Regional Consultative Council (RCC) meeting, TASAF coordinator for Njombe Region Mussa Selemeni said unverified households will be given the last chance to do so.

"The main challenge that

came up during the verification exercise was the non-attendance of the households as well as some of those targeted shifting to their farms in rural areas," said Selemeni.

He also said various projects including those in the water, education and health sectors are usually raised by villages of the targeted households in order to boost the sectors in their areas.

He added that local councils in Njombe Region has implemented a total of 81 projects including 28 classrooms projects, teachers' offices, pit latrines, administrative building and 23 for staff houses and others.

"All these projects cost 5.78bn/- and 78 of them have been completed, except three that are in the last stages of completion," he added.



Arusha regional commissioner Idd Kimanta (gesturing) has a word with secondary school headteachers during a recent inspection tour of classrooms. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

RUWASA, Water Institute sign MoU to employ institutes' graduate engineers

THE Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) and Water Institute have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to employ the institutes' graduate engineers in implementing water projects.

The agreement was signed before Water Minister Jumaa Aweso during the 12th Water Institute graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

The pact was a result of the minister's directive which wanted the two entities to brainstorm on how to solve challenges facing the water institute as well as RUWASA.

Minister for Water, Jumaa Aweso said that some water projects are poorly implemented due to various reasons including failure

to use qualified technicians. He urged them to make use of the graduate engineers to ensure the crucial projects are constructed at required standards.

"We want the projects to be completed on time and at required standards. Some of the projects do not last longer, hence continued water problems," said the minister.

Aweso noted that there are 255 water projects that need to be implemented across the country. He said under the signed agreement, the 529 graduate engineers from the institute must be given priority in executing

them.

"I am directing the permanent secretary in the ministry of water, Eng Anthony Sanga to make sure five water projects are given to engineers who have graduated today," said Aweso.

Aweso reminded the graduates to avoid choosing places of work as some of the projects in remote rural areas. He insisted that Tanzanians in all the regions have the right to clean and save water.

In another development, the minister ordered the PS to allocate 500m/- for improvement of infrastructures at the institute and another 251m/- for completion of

the institute medical facility.

Water Institute Rector, Dr Adam Karia, commended the government for taking care of the institute as well as using its engineers to execute several water projects.

He reminded the graduates to adhere to professional morals and ethics as whatever they do reflects the university.

One of the graduates, Daudi Kileta said: "We are grateful to the government for granting us jobs, we promise to properly execute the specific water projects because we have all the needed skills and knowledge."

District councils tasked to recognise beach units and empower them with revenue collection skills

By Guardian Reporter, Bagamoyo

DISTRICT councils which are implementing the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth (SWIOFish) Project have been urged to recognise beach management units (BMUs) and empower them to ably collect revenues from the fisheries sector.

Coordinator of SWIOFish project, Dr Nichrous Mlalila made the call over the weekend when briefing the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Pauline Gekul who visited the construction site of BMU offices at Dunda ward in Bagamoyo District Coast Region.

The World Bank-funded project is being executed in five pilot districts—Pangani, Bagamoyo, Mkinga, Tanga Urban, and Lindi Rural. Through the six-year project, construction of BMU offices are in different stages of construction including Mkinga District at Zingibari, Pangani (Kipumbwi), Lindi Rural (Sudi), Bagamoyo (Dunda), and Chalinze (Saadani).

"As part of implementing the project, some of the BMUs were empowered with necessary skills on revenue collection and the results were encouraging."

According to Dr Mlalila, a large percentage of revenues collected at the district council level are not going back to the fishing communities for developing their daily activities, the situation that thwarts their development.

The official said that he's aware of the legal challenge that inhibits councils from using BMUs to collect revenues from the fisheries sector.

differently from what it is now," said Dr Mlalila

In some of the councils that have tasked BMUs to collect revenue such as Pangani District Council, Tanga Region, fisheries revenues have increased from 9m/- per quarter to 51 million and from 36m/- to 256m/- per annum.

"This has proved to us that if they are empowered BMUs can do an outstanding job. That's why we're encouraging district councils to use BMUs to collect revenues from fisheries resources," he said.

Commenting on the matter, the deputy minister, Gekul said that the BMU of Dunda ward and others should learn from Pangani to see how they are doing and we as the Ministry will work on it and see how to make the idea possible.

She admitted that many sources of revenues in the district councils weren't working properly; hence the need to use BMUs can be one of the effective tools to address the vice.

She said executive directors may be in good faith but those who are sent to collect the revenue returns are not doing enough they ought to do. "If there are people who are able to collect more than the council experts, I do not think there is a need to be reluctant to remove those people so that the job is given to someone who can collect well."

"Because at the end of the day we citizens want development so I would not want to say directly here that BMU should be given the job unless the councils look at whether the law allows them to use BMU to collect revenue," added Gekul.

The deputy minister said: "As a ministry, we'll communicate with our colleagues from the Office of the President of the Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) to see how to address this matter."

Qatar Investment Authority and EGP to build renewable projects in Africa

By Special Correspondent

ENEL Green Power (EGP) has entered into a joint venture partnership with a subsidiary of Qatar Investment Authority to finance, build and operate renewable projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

The two parties also signed an agreement for Qatar Investment Authority to acquire 50% of EGP's stake in projects already in operation or under construction in South Africa and Zambia. These projects have an approximate capacity of 800MW.

The 50 per cent stake acquisition is the first phase of the project, which encompasses 4 projects under construction in South Africa and 2 already operating power plants South Africa and Zambia.

The initial portfolio consists of one plant already in full operation in Zambia (Ngonye PV plant, of 34 MW), one recently-connected plant in South Africa (Nxuba wind farm, of 148MW), and four projects under construction (for a total of 587 MW), namely the South African wind farms of Oyster Bay (148 MW), Garob (145 MW), Karusa (147 MW) as well as Soetwater (147 MW). These plants hold long-term power purchase agreements. Oyster Bay, Karusa, Soetwater and Garob are expected to start operating during 2021.

In South Africa, Enel Green Power will retain ownership of more than 500 MW including the wind farms Nojoli (88 MW) and Gibson Bay (111 MW), as well as solar plants Upington (10 MW), Adams (82.5 MW), Pulida (82.5 MW), Tom Burke (66 MW), Paleisheuwel (82.5 MW).

Francesco Starace, Enel CEO and general manager: "Through this new partnership we will combine our group's sustainable strategy, enhanced by our industrial expertise in business development, engineering & construction, as well as operation

& maintenance of renewable plants, with QIA's long term investment strategy, in line with the two companies' sustainability and decarbonisation targets.

"We will work together to accelerate the creation of an extensive green energy footprint in sub-Saharan Africa, contributing to the continued pursuit of its ambitious goals in this sector by further harnessing the region's immense renewable potential and contributing to a more sustainable economic development model in this part of the world," said Starace.

The overall transaction is subject to the "change of control approval" and "antitrust clearance" from relevant institutions and regulatory authorities. Under the transaction, EGP and QIA will form a new legal entity for future developments in sub-Saharan Africa and after closing, all legal entities may be merged into a sole joint venture company.

Under the agreement, EGP will be responsible for the development of each project and the joint venture has the right to invest in the projects following the successful completion of the development phase by EGP and receipt of any required regulatory approvals.

Mansoor bin Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud, the CEO of Qatar Investment Authority: "We are delighted to partner with Enel Green Power to invest in clean energy generation in sub-Saharan Africa. QIA is committed to supporting the transition to a low-carbon future, and we believe this investment can make a significant environmental and social impact. We share a mutual vision with Enel in supporting decarbonisation efforts and believe this investment represents an excellent opportunity to develop and grow a leading renewable energy platform in the region."



It's currently water melons aplenty in Dar es Salaam, as captured at the city's Temeke 'Veterinari' mixed-goods mini-market at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Demand EFD receipts, TRA calls upon public

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has challenged people in the Lake Victoria zone to inculcate a habit of demanding electronic fiscal devices (EFDs) receipts when buying goods in different market outlets.

"Not demanding receipts is to deny the government its revenues that could be used to deliver social services and implementing different development projects as

untrustworthy businesspersons can remain with the money," explains TRA.

The remarks were made here recently by TRA Taxpayer Services and Education Officer, Lutufyo Mtafya when speaking to this paper with regard to the use of EFD machines.

Mtafya noted that if people maintain that habit all the time they can much help to save public funds that may lose owing to some shop owners not issuing receipts.

He pointed out that shop

owners should see it necessary to issue receipts voluntarily without being forced as they are also responsible for pushing forward the development of the nation through their businesses.

The businesspersons have to issue receipts with the exact amount of money they receive from customers so that government can collect its tax accordingly, he said.

He stated that businesspersons are supposed to be patriotic in their activities and feel proud

by paying government tax as required to promote national development and not otherwise.

The act of evading tax is a serious offense as it sets back the development of the nation for the benefits of the present and coming generations, he said.

He noted that the development of any nation across the world is brought about by its people therefore businesspersons should show patriotism when doing business to play a significant role in bringing development.



The Tanzania Rural and Urban Agency is reported to be lining itself up to build a permanent bridge to replace this one - across Mfuji River a strategic link for Tanganyika, Masagati and Mfenesi villages in Morogoro Region. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

Youth need job-creating mentality, not job-seeking minds - TEF chief

By Special Correspondent

THE Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) has called for the need to create a self-reliant Africa where the youth have a job-creating mentality and not a job seeking mentality, as that is the only thing that will ensure that enough jobs are created on the continent.

The call to action was given by the Chief Executive Officer, TEF, Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu, during a press conference.

According to her, the call to action is to development organisations, private sector, and the governments, as they are expected to trust the African Entrepreneur, train the African Entrepreneur and invest money directly in the African Entrepreneur.

She said, "We are leading the charge to ensure that African Entrepreneurs have not just the training, the funding, but also the enabling environment that they need to grow and thrive.

"The impact that we've seen from our entrepreneurs and their ability to create jobs, revenue and transform their communities, shows us the power of Entrepreneurship. It is critical to prioritise women because gender inclusivity in our African economy is very important because we know that women make up majority of

the workforce in the small and medium enterprises.

"And that is why we partnered with the European Union, particularly the EU DEFCO to identify, train, fund and mentor an additional 2400 women across all 54 African countries in 2021. "We at the Tony Elumelu Foundation believe that funding and training are 2 sides of the same coin. The key to our partnerships is ensuring that funding is going directly into the hands of these entrepreneurs."

She added that it was critical for the foundation to lead the charge for economic recovery post-COVID-19 pandemic and "that is why this year's Application drive for the Tony Elumelu Foundation 2021 Entrepreneurship Programme is particularly important.

"We need to begin to change the narrative and I think that the Tony Elumelu Foundation is leading the new narrative in how to engage in Africa."

The Tony Elumelu Foundation is currently accepting applications to the 2021 Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Programme. All young African men and women with business ideas or start-ups that are less than 5 years old are expected to apply on tefconnect.com.

By Special Correspondent

THE board of directors of the African Development Bank has approved a new gender strategy for 2021-2025 focusing on investing in Africa's women to accelerate inclusive growth, the institution said.

In a statement, the AfDB said the strategy was anchored on three pillars, the first being empowering women through access to finance and markets.

AfDB to focus on investing in Africa's gender equality

"This is a significant milestone for the bank as it will guide our interventions in the next five years as we continue to increase our efforts to achieve outcomes and maximum impact on building gender equality on the ground for women to thrive," AfDB director for gender, women and civil society Vanessa Mounzar said.

The bank said its Affirmative

Finance Action for Women in Africa initiative, which aims to bridge the US\$42 billion financing gap facing women on the continent, was key to achieving the first pillar of the new strategy as it sought to unlock \$5 billion over five years to support female-owned small and medium enterprises.

The second pillar aims to accelerate employability and job

creation for women by increasing access to skills and introducing more women to science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

The third focuses on increasing women's access to social services through infrastructure.

The AfDB cited data showing that gender inequality in the labour market costs sub-Saharan

Africa \$95 million each year.

The Covid-19 pandemic had further exacerbated the need for immediate attention to support vulnerable women and girls in fragile areas, it added.

A recent study jointly published by the AfDB, UN Women and Impact Her, based on a survey with over 1,300 women entrepreneurs across 30 African countries,

showed that 80 percent of women-owned small and medium enterprises had to temporarily or permanently shut down their businesses due to pandemic restrictions.

"Through this new gender strategy, the bank will capitalise on its longstanding experience, leadership and convening power as well as building on its comparative advantage to achieve maximum impact on the ground," the AfDB said.

Cooperatives law merits review to uplift efficiency

PLENTY has been said not just in the past half decade but virtually any government takes office, and it frequently ends up without being followed up, or it is conducted half heartedly. For all intents and purposes there is a discernible difference this time round, first given the political will to rectify what counteracts government efforts to uplift the various sectors, and in particular, the spirit of reform itself. There is another dimension that hasn't been sufficiently emphasized, namely the ease of communicating one kind of information or another, which has largely integrated markets not just locally but worldwide.

This environment warrants some rethinking on the role of cooperatives, as their original design was to fill a gap of information, from markets outside to conditions of production and distribution of inputs at the local level. Now most of this information is on the fingertips of most stakeholders, and even those not having smart phones for instance, they can hear plenty of what there is in the market by word of mouth from colleagues. Numerous radios across the country know precisely what the local public needs to know at a particular moment, and when in doubt, there are call programmes for listeners to check out things.

That is why the news that the government is gearing up to review the Cooperative Societies Act of 2013 with a view to making it more robust in its controls is a positive development. Agriculture minister Prof. Philip Mkenda says this review is intended to make the legislation more beneficial to farmers and

not cushioning corrupt officials, as repeated accounting anomalies tend to suggest. Thus a meeting involving key stakeholders is being organized to gather opinions on areas needing to be improved, and the proposed changes forwarded to the Attorney General for further action. That is normally how it ought to be done.

One major issue occasioning the soul searching on the law on cooperatives is that it appears officials in the sector get away too easily with financial misdemeanors, such that the practice appears to be wide in scale, even normal in the sector. There are also efforts to improve periodic inspection of cooperative unions' accounts, not just waiting until the annual report of the various bodies like Registrar, auditing body for agricultural marketing cooperatives, or the Controller and Auditor General. The point, as the minister emphasized, is to avoid systematic embezzlement of funds, not just acting on negative reports.

As a matter of fact, governments in all phases have emphasised the fight against theft and embezzlement in cooperative societies, in which case to say that this must be enhanced isn't much of an affirmation, except when it is taken in the context of current government efforts to stamp out corruption. The minister for instance underlined that cooperatives in earlier times experienced theft and embezzlement, but there was a period in recent times where these acts were so rampant that public assets were being grabbed and no one knew their whereabouts. It leads to queer audit queries where coops pay the bill for a tenderer, etc.

Why transforming our food systems is a feminist issue

IN countries where women are most marginalised, discriminated under the law and where gendered norms prevent women from owning property and resources, people are also the hungriest. This is because gender equality and food systems are intertwined.

However, too often, we only focus on the roles that women play in production, processing, trading of food and in making decisions about consumption and purchase of food at household level.

A just and equitable food system will require the recognition of women as farmers, with rights to the land they cultivate, technologies that reduce the drudgery of agriculture and policies that ensure women can make a living wage from agriculture.

And while this is important, we must also focus on whether the food system as organized is just and equitable and whether it promotes the empowerment and livelihoods and health of women and girls.

The UN food systems summit, to be convened by the UN Secretary General 2021, provides the world with a unique opportunity to reframe the global conversation on gender and food and ask the hard questions of how the food system can be structured in a just and equitable way.

While there is recognition that food systems transformation is a political, economic and environmental issue, we must also recognise it as a gender justice issue; stark gender inequalities are both a cause and an outcome of unsustainable food systems, unjust food access, consumption and production.

Tackling gender injustice and truly empowering women is not only a fundamental prerequisite for food systems transformation but also a goal. So, what should a gender just and equitable food system look like?

A gender just and equitable food system is one which guarantees a world without hunger, where women, men, girls and boys have equal access to nutritious, healthy food, safe food, and access to the means to produce, sell and purchase food.

It is a food system where the roles, responsibilities, opportunities and choices available to women and men - including unpaid caregiving and food provision - are not predetermined at birth but are developed in line with individual capacities and aspirations.

It is a food system where countries, communities and households and individual men and women are equipped to produce enough food for their own populations through environmentally sound processes, while also being able to participate in gender-equitable local, global and regional food trading systems.

So as food systems transform, the goal should be to ensure that they transform in ways that are equitable, that ensure meaningful engagement and benefits to all, women, boys, girls, men, indigenous groups amongst others.

A just and equitable food system requires a rethinking of the role of women as producers and consumers and a move from "what are women's contributions in agriculture" toward "how can food and agricultural systems transform in ways that are equitable and that empower women".

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Once upon a time!



The unfinished business of 2020

By Paul Hoffman

THE most urgent item on the agenda of unfinished business of 2020 is the need for South Africa to roll out vaccines in an equitable fashion to avoid unfair discrimination in their allocation.

There is something troublingly symbolic about the initial failure of the presidential efforts to light a Candle of Hope at the Khayelitsha Hospital on New Year's Eve.

The idea of lighting the candle was announced before Christmas, by the president himself. Some saw the announcement as a warning of load shedding to come; and come it did.

Others, less cynical, were prepared to embrace the cleansing symbolism of bringing light into a dark place and calling that light Hope. At the dawn of a new year, SA is indeed a dark place in need of hope. Not only is Eskom incapable of keeping the lights on, the entire public service, including most SOEs, is dogged by corruption, lack of capacity and an inability to prioritise that which requires urgent attention in 2021.

Whether coincidentally or by design, as the president struggled to light his widely heralded candle, the strap at the bottom of many television screens around the nation announced that Algeria will be rolling out a Russian-made Covid-19 vaccine this month. Algeria. This month.

Algeria is not a rich country. It is not a member of the much-vaunted BRICS alliance. Algeria has been able, in 2020, to do that which is obviously necessary in relation to the procuring of vaccines several months before SA. When it last conducted a census in 2017, there were 42.5 million people in Algeria, 1.5 million of them nomads of the country's desert interior.

The most urgent item on the agenda of unfinished business of 2020 is the need for SA to roll out vaccines in an equitable fashion, avoiding unfair discrimination in allocation. Ideally, vaccines should be available to all who want them, as close to simultaneously as is humanly possible.

Canada has ordered 901 per cent more vaccines than it has people; SA is reported to be aiming at providing 10 per cent of the population with vaccines.

So much for the WHO's notion of "equitable distribution". Pleading national poverty is hardly credible at a time when a vanity project, such as SAA surely is, has over R10-billion of taxpayers' money earmarked for attempting to raise



our national airline from the dead.

The second task that ought to have received attention last year, but hasn't, is the ending of the illegal practice of cadre deployment by the ANC in the public administration and in SOEs, where most big knobs are recycled ANC politicians. The incompetence on display when the president was handed a firefighter that did not work, with which to light his candle, says all there needs to be said about the effects of cadre deployment on the constitutional imperative to provide services in a manner which involves the efficient, effective and economic use of resources.

Nearly all deployed cadres find themselves in a bind due to their divided loyalties. They owe their positions to the selection/recommendation work of the cadre deployment committees in Luthuli House, but they are bound by law to implement the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

The conflict of interest that is inherent in being loyal to the ANC's National Democratic Revolution on the one hand and enforcing the duty of the state to respect, protect, promote and fulfil human rights guaranteed to all on the other, explains the paralysis and lack of capacity that is in evidence wherever the ANC governs.

Serving two masters, as different as the revolution and the Constitution, is an impossibility. Those deployed cadres who remained true to the Constitution are rare and endangered birds indeed. Advocate Vusi Pikoli prosecuted without fear, favour or prejudice. He was suspended for charging Jackie Selebi, the crooked police chief, and removed from office for going after Jacob Zuma, then a private citizen with big political ambitions. Professor Thuli Madonsela properly understood and implemented the independent role of the Public Protector; it is due to her work that the State Capture commission is able to open the various cans of worms that have emerged during

the hearings presided over by Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.

There is a crying need for an anti-corruption machinery of state, of the kind envisaged by our Constitutional Court. Well-trained specialists working in a properly resourced environment who are secure in their tenure of office and sufficiently independent (structurally and operationally) to be free of all forms of influence, interference and control are urgently needed.

It is within the power of the Cabinet and the Public Service Commission to require every last public servant and all employees and board members in the SOEs to pledge allegiance to the Constitution in a manner that is along the lines suggested by Accountability Now years ago.

Taking the pledge is the first step towards a meritocratic public administration in which integrity and accountability are focused on constitutional obligations, not revolutionary pipe dreams. Putting an end to the debilitating effects of cadre deployment and replacing it with sound human resource management practices is part of the unfinished business of 2020.

The president has identified the malaise, but he has not acted decisively in addressing its ill-effects on the trajectory of service delivery, constitutionally compliant procurement of goods and services as well as governance that is generally open, accountable and responsive. Loyal revolutionary cadres, appointed and promoted to positions beyond the limits of their qualifications and capacity, have to be weeded out if the public administration is to end its paralysis.

The third major area of unfinished business still hanging over from 2020 is the need to address grand corruption, State Capture and kleptocracy in all the many and varied ways in which they manifest in SA.

There is a crying need for an anti-corruption machinery of state, of the kind envisaged by our

Constitutional Court. Well-trained specialists working in a properly resourced environment who are secure in their tenure of office and sufficiently independent (structurally and operationally) to be free of all forms of influence, interference and control are urgently needed.

The ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) has worked on this glaringly obvious need in the post-Zuma era. On 4 August 2020, it announced that it had instructed Cabinet to establish, as a matter of urgency, a single stand-alone agency to "deal with" corruption. This is very much what the ConCourt pronounced on the topic of countering corruption back in 2011.

The Hawks have not proved themselves equal to the task of investigating corruption and the NPA has been so compromised, hollowed out and weakened by the ravages of State Capture that it is not in a fit state to mount the complex commercial cases that will see the likes of Marcus Jooste, Brian Molefe, the Guptas and Angelo Agrizzi in the dock.

The new agency envisaged by the NEC is our best hope of making 2021 the year in which orange overalls are actually issued, instead of just being discussed.

Inexplicably, nothing further has been heard in public about the fate of the instruction to Cabinet issued by the NEC. All members of Cabinet, with the exception of Patricia de Lille, are employees of the ANC. Why the necessary constitutional amendment and enabling legislation has not yet seen the light of day, given the urgency demanded by the NEC, is hard to fathom.

A fight back by the Zuma-aligned faction is a possible explanation, but a fight of that nature has to be won by those favouring the reform of the criminal justice administration. For the country to survive as a constitutional democracy under the rule of law, it is imperative that the culture of corruption with impunity must end. The president knows this obvious fact, but he does nothing proactive.

Acting on the NEC's resolution announced on 4 August 2020 ought to be high on Cabinet's agenda for January 2021. The fiscal health of the country can be enhanced considerably if muscular effort is expended on taking back the loot of State Capture wherever it has been hidden, worldwide. It is estimated that more than a trillion rand is involved. That is too much to hide successfully, whether or not the political will to recover it can be generated as it should be.

By Ophemtse S Sibanda

A shot in the SA arm: Pointers for the government on its belated Covid-19 vaccine 'strategy'

No matter how much we criticise the government for its handling of a Covid-19 vaccine, there will always be controversy around vaccine distribution - be it political, moral, ethical, legal or constitutional.

We have seen it all. From arguments against Covid-19 restrictions as unconstitutional and paternalistic to the global corruption that was associated with the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE).

We have also heard prominent jurists and judges across many jurisdictions talking about the Covid-19 issues. Notable for me, as a legal scholar, is the rather unusual critique of the Covid-19 lockdowns by the US Supreme Court Justice Samuel A Alito Jr in a reported speech to a conservative legal group, drawing a rebuke from other judges. And Alito Jr might be compromising his opportunity to sit on the Bench when lockdown-related cases come to the Supreme Court.

Similarly, South Africa's own Chief Justice, Mogoeng Mogoeng, was rebuked for his "Satanic Covid-19 vaccines" comments. Like Alito Jr's speech, Mogoeng's could be categorised as "conservative justice speech". Others may brand the two justices' speeches as "injurious".

Mogoeng's comments could undermine the public's faith in the safety and efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines.

"I think the position that he holds, as the head of the judiciary and as a very influential person in South Africa, it's an important dynamic of that. I just don't think it's particularly wise or responsible for those kinds of remarks to be creating a kind of ambiguity about vaccines," reportedly said Chris Oxtoby, a senior researcher at the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit.

Covid-19 vaccines and their distribution, long-term planning and distribution together with other related health measures during pandemics have always been key towards ending people's suffering. Unfortunately, not all countries had in place good plans to arrest the spread of Covid-19, other than the socially, psychologically and economically devastating lockdowns.

While there is talk in some countries of digitising the process for vaccination, including considering digital immunity passports, little progress has been made in others.

Some countries have resorted to emergency-use authorisation of vaccines, which could be challenged on the basis of their safety and efficacy. Of course, emergency-use authorisation may further fuel the Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy reported in the US, France and Britain, with some taking a view that such vaccines are products of truncated processes which have compromised the safety and efficacy that comes from lengthy trials.

Even scientific evidence that vaccines distributed under emergency authorisation regimes are safe may not be sufficient to sway opponents of vaccination. This may be true in many African countries, for example, where the successful use of untested vaccines and medicines may not be common knowledge to many people. Vaccine hesitancy may be fuelled by the ranting and whinging of armchair epidemiologists who have zero subject matter expertise.

In South Africa, the government is facing mounting criticism for its handling of the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines. A group calling itself South African Eminent Scientists sharply bemoaned on this platform our lack of foresight in securing vaccines early, as in other developed countries - that is, to "produce a transparent and accelerated vaccine acquisition strategy", a derelict act of the government which "will visit on us the consequences of the greatest man-made failure to protect the population since the Aids pandemic".

Here one may refer to as an example of a prudent action



the 17 June 2020 presentation by the European Commission of an EU Strategy for Covid-19 Vaccines to accelerate the development, manufacturing and deployment of vaccines against Covid-19. The strategy acknowledged the urgency to secure vaccines and encouraged advance purchase agreements (APAs) via the Emergency Support Instrument with individual vaccine producers on behalf of member states.

This exemplary action afforded member states the right to buy a specified number of vaccine doses with the concomitant duty to support producers with the upfront costs of producing such vaccines. Most of the African Union members were sleeping at the time and some still have their hands in the PPE cookie jar.

It is indisputable that since South Africa was gripped by Covid-19, the country acted and responded like the poorest nations on the planet - poor in its preparedness for pandemics, and poor in its strategic thinking and communications. And rich in leaders and public officials with reckless behaviours and attitudes towards Covid-19 prevention, rich in corruption and maladministration with regard to PPE procurement.

Questions have been raised whether the members of the South African government are pro-vaccine or whether they agree with the "satanic vaccine" comments, which the Chief Justice has defended as not meaning he is anti-vaccine. Even the about-turn by Health Minister Zweli Mkhize that vaccines may be available sooner than expressed by the president has not managed to calm nerves. Daily Maverick has labelled such assurances as "disturbingly hollow".

No matter how much we criticise the government for its Covid-19 vaccine handling, there will always be controversy around vaccine distribution - be it political, moral, ethical, legal or constitutional. The availability and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines will generate many talking points. Below are four of those talking points, considered from a legal perspective.

Recipient prioritisation and streamlining the vaccination process

From a political point of view, the issue of streamlining the vaccine distribution process will be a hot potato and some may use it to gain campaign advantage for the next election.

South Africa's borders are overwhelmed in trying to determine if those entering the country have the necessary Covid-19 test. Soon it will have to be determined if individuals coming to South Africa have been vaccinated against Covid-19. This will be a big ask from politically unstable and impoverished countries like Zimbabwe, whose citizens look up to South Africa as its possible saviour from Covid-19.

Further, it may be both a political and constitutional dilemma to determine who should get the vaccine first. Should it be South African citizens, permanent residents, South African taxpayers or anyone within the borders of South Africa - whether documented or not? Even if there may be good reasons to prioritise South African citizens and permanent residents, our courts will surely be inundated with cases of the government's alleged unconstitutional, discriminatory and/or xenophobic practices.

Who within the borders of South Africa is deserving of the first opportunity to get a Covid-19 vaccination? One should remember that section 27(1)(a) of the Constitution on healthcare, food, water and social security states that: "Everyone has the right to have access to healthcare services."

Mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations

Back to the distrust of vaccines. Will it be illegal for the government to force everyone to be vaccinated? Legal practitioners must be smiling at the prospects of being in and out of court with money from clients rolling in, because the distribution of vaccines is bound to engender litigation. But, our practitioners will know that the Constitution does not disallow the judiciary from taking into account foreign jurisprudence when deciding matters before them.

Elsewhere, the legal precedent for mandatory vaccinations has been set, dating back to the 1905 US Supreme Court case of *Jacobs v Massachusetts*. This case arose from an outbreak of smallpox in Cambridge, Massachusetts,

in 1902. Cambridge introduced an ordinance requiring all adults to be vaccinated or revaccinated against smallpox. Those who did not get vaccinated faced a fine of \$5.

"The rights of the individual may at times, under the pressure of great dangers, be subjected to such restraint to be enforced by reasonable regulations as the safety of the general public may demand," said the court in *Jacobs v Massachusetts*. As the case was lost in *Jacobs v Massachusetts*, it is unlikely that any attempt to challenge mandatory vaccination in South Africa will see the light of day.

The government of South Africa has public health police powers, and it has, under the Constitution, the authority to enact reasonable regulations to protect public health, public safety and the common good. Notable is that section 7(2) of the Constitution makes it obligatory for the state to "respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights". This is the legal language for a permissible state action, which in my view President Cyril Ramaphosa must think about introducing by the time the vaccines are available for distribution. Mandatory vaccination can help the government of Ramaphosa achieve widespread vaccination.

Vaccination can take place in different ways to avoid costly exercises and processes. For instance, those queuing for government social grants can be mandated to also take the vaccine during that payday. This way there can be better control and records of who has been vaccinated. Enrollment at schools and universities may provide a perfect and controlled opportunity to vaccinate children and young people, many of whom are involved in Covid-risky activities. The 5c-sized scars on my shoulders remind me of the efforts that the apartheid government put into inoculating learners against smallpox and other diseases. The system seemed to have worked well because it provided a controlled environment to carry out the vaccination and no school-going child was left behind.

Surely, the same system must work in the light of the fact that though we are fussing about access to Covid-19 vaccines we are yet to hear about a

system for Covid-19 vaccinations. Are we going to have cards distributed to people with information about which vaccine they received and when they are due for their second dose? Or are we going to rely on digital immunity passports? Your guess is as good as mine.

Workplace inoculation policies

On a different, and perhaps controversial note, private employers in South Africa may also mandate vaccination for individuals remaining at work or securing work. Workplaces are Covid-19 transmission hotspots, which may justify such a demand for vaccination by private employers.

I am indebted to an article published in December by Cliffe, Dekker and Hofmeyr Attorneys on employers and mandatory inoculation. The article makes reference to section 12(2) of the Constitution, which provides that: "Everyone has the right to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes the right to security in and control over their body." It also correctly notes that such a right is not absolute.

According to Cliffe, Dekker and Hofmeyr, the "gist behind mandatory vaccination is that employers have an obligation to protect their employees and maintain a healthy and safe working environment". Private workplace vaccination policies will not come without any resistance.

As said by Cliffe, Dekker and Hofmeyr, "When considering whether to implement a mandatory vaccination policy, employers must have regard to their individual workplaces and access whether such a policy is, in fact, necessary taking into account, inter alia, the following factors: (i) the viability of continued remote work; (ii) the number of vulnerable employees in the workplace; (iii) the effectiveness of additional PPE where necessary; (iv) temporary alternative placements; (v) the employee's exposure to the public and (vi) the number of employees with religious and/or medical grounds for objection."

Navigating intellectual property rights claims

Amid all the frustration and anger against the government for its failure to secure vaccines early, one should not forget that medicines, as well as the processes required to produce them, are protected as patents under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (Trips) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Protections are also found in other intellectual property protections arrangements, both nationally, as determined by each jurisdiction, and internationally.

In particular, Trips requires countries to enforce national legislation that recognises and enforces pharmaceutical patents. The reality is that the patent regimen is vulnerable to abuse, and those holding patents may leverage their intellectual property rights (IPRs) in these patents to get more money from governments - particularly when governments need access to such medicines for the treatment of serious conditions such as Covid-19. The WTO allows public, non-commercial (government) use of patents in some cases. The relevant provision may be used during public emergency situations such as pandemics to protect public health and to promote access to medicines for all.

With the clear exceptions and permissive provisions in the WTO jurisprudence to override IPRs, governments must proceed with caution to secure the vaccines from their holders. The South African government's negotiations with pharmaceutical companies to access the necessary Covid-19 vaccine supply is thus understandable, though embarrassingly belated.

Our slow-thinking government should have entered into APAs to have Africa- or South Africa-specific vaccines developed, licensed and manufactured. The government is late in entering into these bilateral agreements, which normally should be to secure priority access to vaccine and manufacturing capacity, and will now have to compete with many interests. We must not be surprised when some of these agreements come at a much higher price than the one we paid trying to save the bottomless pit called South African Airways.

One is yet to understand the reasons for the delay. Now procurement of these vaccines may be difficult, and South Africans may have no choice but to die while waiting for the vaccine to arrive. The only defence I can offer for our hapless government's Covid-19 vaccine strategy is that perhaps there was a need to wait, otherwise we could have been burdened with candidate vaccines with no demonstrable evidence of safety and efficacy.

In conclusion, it is déjà vu. Just like millions of South Africans suffered from the government procrastination in providing antiretroviral medicine to people with HIV/Aids, so the Covid-19 vaccine fallout could have dire consequences.

Using blockchain technology to drive healthcare in Nigeria

By Inyene Ibang

Essentially, transactions through blockchain technology could allow hospitals, patients, and other parties in the healthcare value chain to share access to their networks without compromising data security and integrity. The decentralised nature of the technology creates one ecosystem of patients data that can be quickly and efficiently referenced by doctors, hospitals, pharmacists and anyone else involved in treatment...

This year's edition of the Middle East premium technology show - the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX 2020) - witnessed a wide array of tech launches and innovations, with attendees getting to handle the latest gadgets and devices put on display by exhibitors from across the tech ecosystem.

The event, which held at the Dubai Trade Centre from December 6 to 10, hosted a variety of global tech firms and a large number of tech enthusiasts from more than 80 countries, including Japan, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Italy, Nigeria, Turkey, Belgium, Romania and India.

Now in its 40th edition, the event featured the main GITEX conference agenda, GITEX Future Stars, GISEC, Future Blockchain Summit and Marketing Mania for tech industry, all under one roof, which enabled attendees to hear key insights from a huge range of international speakers, influencers and exhibitors across the five shows.

GITEX 2020, the only face-to-face technology show in the year, focused on the key themes of 5G, Artificial Intelligence, Analytics, Future Mobility, Digital Economies, Cybersecurity and Cloud, and Edge computing.



For five days, the event provided a platform for young innovative companies to showcase their ingenuity and afforded startups to connect with a host of global investors and financiers to accelerate their growth.

Through such interactive platforms, startups and budding tech companies were able to network and kickstart multinational distribution enterprises by utilising Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, 5G, the Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud based technologies.

A major focus of GITEX 2020 was the unraveling of blockchain technology as the core of the foundation driving the

digital transformation initiatives of businesses that have been birthed since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendees at the Future Blockchain Summit had access to expand networking, conversations, business opportunities and innovations across the industry, as leading blockchain enterprises, startups and industry experts exchanged ideas and learnt new knowledge about this revolutionary and most influential invention.

Blockchain technology is at the core of our digital future lives and environments, as it impacts virtually every sector of human endeavour. This technology

has gone beyond its advent in banking and cryptocurrency to transform other industries and sectors, from the extractive, to manufacturing, distribution and security.

Kashifu told the delegates that Nigeria is working on developing the blockchain adoption strategies, not only as a business disruptor for creating new products, services and innovative ways of doing things but also as a foundation technology that could facilitate transformation in most sectors of the country's economy.

The impact of blockchain applications is far-reaching and cuts across sectors such as

healthcare; education/academia; voting; e-commerce; energy management; retail; law enforcement and critical infrastructure security.

Others include crops/agriculture; waste management; government and public records; public transportation; internet identity; cloud computing/storage; messaging apps; sport/entertainment rights and industrial IoT, among others too many to mention.

Annual global spending on blockchain solutions is projected to reach nearly \$16 billion by 2023. In view of the popularity demonstrated by blockchain applications in finance, many entrepreneurs have come to believe that blockchain has the power to disrupt many more industries, especially healthcare.

It is upon this premise that experts at GITEX 2020 harped on the need for adoption of blockchain technology for the healthcare ecosystem in providing increased security, privacy, and interoperability of patients' health data.

Speaking at the forum, the director general, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa outlined some of the benefits of blockchain to the healthcare sector.

He explained that the said blockchain technology would transform the healthcare sector by placing the patients at the centre of the healthcare ecosystem; giving them easy access to their secure data anywhere and anytime; and eliminating fake drug, as patients

would be able to see the sources of the drug, from the manufacturer, before it reaches the final health facilities, and patients do not need to apply to health facilities to have access to their medical records.

Kashifu told the delegates that Nigeria is working on developing the blockchain adoption strategies, not only as a business disruptor for creating new products, services and innovative ways of doing things but also as a foundation technology that could facilitate transformation in most sectors of the country's economy.

He informed that some of the country's startups attending GITEX had developed some blockchain applications for the benefit of humanity, as a demonstration of Nigeria's readiness to embrace and adopt the technology.

He observed that while Africa as a continent lost out during the first, second and third revolutions because of the huge capital and investment requirements, the fourth industrial revolution remains the best opportunity for the continent to play active roles, as it requires only talent, mobile connectivity and adequate skills.

I strongly believe that Nigeria stands to derive immense benefits from the use of blockchain in the healthcare sector because it is not owned by a single entity. Data is immutable, as no one can tamper with the data that is inside the system (blockchain). It is transparent, and easy to track the data whenever it is necessary.

By Abdul Samad Rabiu

We must begin to look at a cross-pollination of our industries amid economic integration and finally, as Nigerian business leaders, we need to be less shy and more bullish in taking advantage of opportunities. This is my charge to us all, and I humbly expect to cheer on and learn from your successes in the coming financial year.

The cement industry in Nigeria is currently producing about 28 million metric tonnes of cement per annum, which translates to about 120 kilograms per head in terms of consumption per capita. This is lower than consumption per head in the rest of Africa. Based on this, it is very clear that we are not even producing enough cement in the country today. Where others see low consumption figures, I see opportunity; it means Nigeria and the surrounding region is still home to huge opportunities in housing, infrastructure, and allied industries.

Demand and consumption currently outstrips supply. Our population is increasing, logistics remains a huge challenge, coupled with reduced production amongst some players. This is why the price of cement in the market is currently about 20 per cent higher than the price of cement ex-factory. Plants are aging and BUA is one of the few that have new plants. We have therefore taken it upon ourselves to tangibly bridge the demand gap by 2022. The potentials exist because ideally, Nigeria should be producing at least 300 kilograms per head or about 60 million metric tonnes per annum - which is double our current production capacity.

Imagine with me for a second, if we were still importing cement. The cost of logistics alone would have made the price of cement out of the reach of many - especially those in far-flung states. As I said earlier, and as many of us have experienced, the retail price of cement is currently high. However, at about \$120/ton ex-factory, this is still lower than the price of cement per ton in many African countries. This equally means the market is big enough for new investments and unless we all come out to face these challenges as leaders, development will be difficult to achieve.

Industrialising Nigeria: It is time for cross-pollination, not cross-purposes



In view of these challenges, I am happy to announce that our third cement line of three million metric tons (mmt) per annum in Sokoto is expected to be commissioned in the middle of 2021, and I am also pleased to inform you that we are commencing the construction of three more cement plants of three million tonnes each in Sokoto, Edo and Adamawa at the cost of \$1.05 billion, which should be completed by the end of 2022. The contract signing is expected to happen this week. However, I am also of the strong belief that it is not only in cement that these large-scale projects are possible. Nigeria hosts other huge mineral deposits waiting for us to add value to, to extract maximum benefits from. Iron ore is one of them.

Our country is one of only 11 countries in the world that is sitting on iron ore, coal and even gas, and yet we appear to be the only ones yet to take full advantage of these resources. It is estimated that we spend about three billion dollars a year importing steel, which

we can produce locally using our resources, thereby saving billions of dollars in foreign exchange every year.

In fact, if we can have a two-million-tonne fully integrated steel plant at the cost of about \$2 billion, we will be saving about \$2 billion every year. By fully integrated, I mean processing from iron ore to beneficiation, pelletising, DR plant, SMS, steel, long products, sheets, angles - all aspects of the value chain. If we even decide to undertake beneficiation alone, this would be more lucrative than processed limestone, which is the raw material for cement. I daresay if we are able to take full advantage of this, then we can firmly place our sector and country on the road to sustainable development.

As business leaders, we are not exploring and exploiting these opportunities enough, and the few of us who are doing so definitely cannot do it alone. I say this because there are huge opportunities in mining, manufacturing, and the agricultural value chain - just as

there are in the services space. Agriculture is a prime area in need of serious intervention, and we need more Nigerians to step up here.

... I want to say again that we NEED MORE PEOPLE TO COME AND INVEST in various sectors of the Nigerian economy. We have the climate, people, land, water, mineral resources - we have almost everything. The final piece is that we must begin to produce what we consume and consume what we produce. Where we cannot do either, we must become a regional powerhouse in value-addition...

Do you know that 60 per cent of the world's arable land resides in Africa? And as is often said, "if potential were edible, Africa will be the best fed continent in the world." The same applies here to Nigeria. I flew last week from Lagos to Sokoto and could see the fertile plains from Kwara, Niger, all the way to Sokoto, waiting for us to take advantage of. How long will we continue to rely on imported food? Our continued inability to grow what we eat

exposes us to various shocks, the most debilitating being the 2020 pandemic. This is one of the reasons why at BUA we are renewing our focus on the agriculture and foods space.

Just like I said last year for cement, BUA is also looking to combine our food businesses - from sugar, flour to pasta - to list these as BUA FOODS on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) by the end of 2021. In sugar, we have our integrated plantation in Kwara State set to produce 200,000 tonnes of refined sugar, 20 million litres of ethanol annually and 35 megawatts of power - all utilising the by-products of cane sugar. We also have refineries in Lagos and Port Harcourt. In flour and pasta, we have also started looking at backwards integration for Nigerian-grown wheat, to reduce our dependence on imported wheat and revive production in the sector. Nigeria currently imports over five million tonnes of wheat and this places a huge strain on our scarce foreign exchange as a country.

The opportunities in the ag-

riculture and agribusiness space are endless. How are we as leaders looking to take advantage of this space? How can we work together, and what examples or opportunities are on the horizon?

In terms of our plans, we recently announced that BUA will be building a refinery and petrochemicals complex. Why? Because we see an opportunity, even though there is another big project in that space coming on stream. Local consumption is quite huge and estimated at 800,000 barrels per day. This is in addition to the huge regional market that exists for petroleum products. Alongside the refinery, we are building a polypropylene plant, which will answer the demand for polypropylene in the region. It is common knowledge that about a third of our country's foreign exchange earnings go towards the importation of petrol and petroleum products. More strange is the fact that the cost of logistics for transporting these products to Nigeria could instead be deployed to significantly revamping the refining space and therefore, at BUA, we couldn't just sit back - we knew we had to take action and I am certain we have made the right call yet again.

On a final note, I want to say again that we NEED MORE PEOPLE TO COME AND INVEST in various sectors of the Nigerian economy. We have the climate, people, land, water, mineral resources - we have almost everything. The final piece is that we must begin to produce what we consume and consume what we produce. Where we cannot do either, we must become a regional powerhouse in value-addition - if not for anything, but to take advantage of the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which presents a massive opportunity for us as a country. Unless we take full advantage of AfCFTA, we may become a dumping ground due to Nigeria's unique position of being Africa's largest economy, and our huge population. We must begin to look at a cross-pollination of our industries amid economic integration and finally, as Nigerian business leaders, we need to be less shy and more bullish in taking advantage of opportunities. This is my charge to us all, and I humbly expect to cheer on and learn from your successes in the coming financial year.

'Afya Bora' project bears positive fruit in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

INVESTING efforts to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in the country is a critical matter which needs combined efforts from the government, development partners and stakeholders.

To complement the government's initiatives aimed to address maternal and child mortality, as well as to improve the overall health and well-being of mothers and children in the country, Save the Children, in collaboration with other partners, implemented the 'Afya Bora Project' in Zanzibar from 2015/16 to 2020.

Through its five-years of implementation, the project has produced a number of positive impacts in the Isles' health sector and to the whole population.

The project which commenced in 2015/16 and expected to be completed later this month has directly benefited over 600,000 people including pregnant people, mothers, caregivers, children and adolescents with education and health services.

Mwahindi Makame Mzee (37), a resident at Mitakawani Shehia in Central District says the implementation of the 'Afya Bora Project' has significantly supported the improvement of maternal, newborn and reproductive health services on the Island.

"I remember when the Afya Bora project came in our area, I was pregnant with my second born, the Community Health Volunteers came to my home and educated me and my husband about it, they told us several things to consider including our baby in the womb so as to ensure that I deliver safely," says Mwahindi.

She adds: "To be honest, the education and services I received helped me to give birth to a healthy baby boy compared to my firstborn with whom I even started late to attend the clinic."

Mwahindi says common health challenges facing the area include

pneumonia and diarrhea.

Through the Afya Bora project, majority of women and men are now aware of the importance of family planning and reproductive health education in general.

"It is normal now to see a Zanzibaris' father escorting her wife to the clinic or even taking his children to get vaccines, this was impossible in previous years, we thank Save The Children and other stakeholders for implementing this fruitful project here," says MWamo Vuai Makame, a Bambiamabonde resident in the district.

Ghanie Yusuph Amir from Mnarani Shehia says that the project has improved nutrition status at household level as majority of children are now looking healthy due to proper balanced eating.

"Previously, the majority of parents were not aware about what nutritious food could be given to their children, we were just ensuring that our children were full without considering whether the food had important nutrients, so this project has encouraged us, opened our ways and we are now spending more time taking care of our children and ensuring that they grow well and healthy," she says.

Mwanaidi Ramadhani Abdullah, the Afya Bora Project Supervisor in the district's ten Shehias says the project's interventions which included antenatal and post-natal care to pregnant women has played an important role in reducing avoidable maternal and child mortality rates in targeted areas as well as improved the overall health and well-being for mothers and children in Zanzibar.

She says the project also worked to enhance collaboration between Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) to improve the maternal and new-born health.

Silima Mati Musa (39) is the Community Health Volunteer (CHV) who previously worked with Afya Bora



Women, who are the beneficiaries of the Afya Bora project at Mitakawani Shehia in Central District, Zanzibar express their happiness when officials from Save the Children visited them recently

Project in Zanzibar's Central District. Silima says he acted as an informal 'health volunteer' in his community for almost three years before being invited to become an official Community Health Volunteer through the government's program in collaboration with D-Tree International.

Silima says: "I am a farmer and I will continue to be a farmer. But I also like serving my community, supporting them to ensure that they remain safe, and bringing their children to get vaccines and other services. So even though it takes up a lot of time, I am glad I am able to do this additional health work, to help support my

community." He points out that the health volunteers, however, face a number of challenges including insufficient financial rewards, high workload as well as lack of transport to reach the households in villages.

Dr Haji Mwitaji, a Paediatrician and doctor in charge at the Abdulla Mzee Regional Hospital in Mkoani District, Pemba, says that the Afya Bora project has improved nutrition in the Island.

"The implementation of the project has made common diseases caused by malnutrition go down significantly as the majority of households are now aware of the importance of practicing

sanitation and hygiene measures, providing their babies healthy foods as well as having broader knowledge on reproductive health," says Dr Haji.

Dr Haji, however, calls on the Zanzibaris and Tanzanians at large to continue taking preventive measures to avoid the spread of Covid-19 infections.

"The disease may not be present in Pemba, Unguja and Tanzania in general, but it is still spreading in other countries across the globe, and, considering that, we have also reduced travel restrictions allowing visitors from abroad to enter in the county, we cannot isolate ourselves saying that we are

safe from the disease, no, we have to continue taking precautions," he says.

He went further to commend the Zanzibar's government, development partners and stakeholders for their efforts that aims at transforming lives of the people and the country's economic development.

The Afya Bora project was funded by the government of Canada. It was a UN joint program between UNICEF/UNFPA and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar with Save the Children as the contracted Non-Government Organization (NGO) to facilitate implementation of the community health component.

OXFORD Nanopore sequencing is a unique, novel and portable molecular technique that enables direct, real-time analysis of long DNA or RNA fragments. Our Correspondent Gerald Kitabu caught up with senior conservation officer-veterinary Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) Dr. Emmanuel Macha at portable genomics practical training using Oxford Nanopore technologies held at the Arusha-based Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) recently. Excerpts;

Oxford nanopore technology to address Tanzania's wildlife conservation hiccups



QUESTION: Briefly tell us on how the technology works.

ANSWER: This technology is a unique, novel and portable molecular technique that enables direct, real-time analysis of long DNA or RNA fragments. The technology monitor changes to an electrical current as nucleic acids are passed through an ultra small pore with a nano dimension embedded in a protein membrane. The resulting signal is decoded to provide the specific DNA or RNA sequence by using artificial intelligence software.

Q: When was it founded?

A: This technology was founded in Oxford, United Kingdom in the year 2005 and officially launched at Butiama, Tanzania for the first time in the world in 2014. The technology has vast application in

the studies of diversity and evolution of living things. It has also been used in detection of pathogenic organisms thus useful in diseases diagnosis to both plants and animals. Since its inception, the technology has been widely applied a genomic tool for sustainable management of emerging insect pests and diseases in crops as well as in the diagnosis of Ebola, Zika and during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: What is the advantage of this technology over others?

A: The advantage of this technology over others include-Portability: Oxford Nanopore sequencer is portable, easy to use and can be used on farm/field tests. Actually, the sequencing machine itself can be carried in some ones pocket! The technology does not need a specialized building as a laboratory and anybody with a basic education can be trained and be

able to use it.

Cost effective: The technology is relatively cost effective as it does not need a specialized training, usefulness on site, no dedicated laboratory building is needed and more so, it does need samples to be shipped outside the country for analyses. This saves a lot of time and money as well.

Long reads: Oxford Nanopore sequencer gives long reads of sequences. This enables to have better assemblies, structural variants with a full length transcript. Therefore, by giving long reads, a full genome of an organism can be sequenced.

Very fast: The speed of this technology is very fast with no redundancy. It can analyze 450 samples per second. Data can be generated within 5 minutes.

Q: How can you apply to wildlife conser-

vation and protection?

A: Oxford nanopore sequencing technology has a wide application in wildlife on both conservation and protection. Some of the key areas that can be applied includes:-

First, DNA profiling of plants and animals: the technology as mentioned earlier can be used in diversity and evolutionary studies of living things. Currently, some of our national parks have been invaded by Alien Invasive plant species where the several methods including chemicals (herbicides) have been used to control. However, despite huge efforts that have been applied so far, these plants continue to be a challenge to habitats. This technology is bale to exactly identify the plant and give the correct herbicide or any other biological control method that can be used to manage it. More importantly also, some national parks are rich in endangered species some, some are criti-

cally endangered where their precious DNA need to be profiled. Examples of these animals are black rhinoceros, wild dogs and chimpanzee. Therefore, genotyping them will enhance sound decisions with scientific evidence for their better management interventions, for example, avoiding poor genes due to inbreeding in some species. This information is also important when deciding for translocation of various species with their specifics.

Secondly, diseases diagnosis: Oxford nanopore technology can be used to detect pathogenic organisms to both plants and animals. During outbreak of notifiable diseases in wildlife (anthrax, rabies), the authorities use huge amount of money and resources in trying to control. One of major setback is the capacity to timely diagnose the underlying disease and thus delay to institute an appropriate control measure. Other conditions that have been affecting wildlife include; baboon genital disease, giraffe skin disease, giraffe ear disease, sitatunga and bush-buck deaths due to unknown disease. Because the capacity in country is inadequate; samples in most cases have been shipped to overseas for analyses. Shipping samples overseas cost money and time, therefore, a technology such as Oxford nanopore is of paramount important.

Thirdly, forensic investigation: Judges and magistrates before courts need exhibits that are beyond reasonable doubts in court cases involving wildlife. This technology, apart from identifying a plant or animal (even if it is a product), it can also tell the origin of it, therefore, adding more value and power in wildlife forensic investigation. For example, if a stockpile of rhinoceros horns or elephant ivories are confiscated, the technology can tell their origins.

Q: What are your commendations?

A: As human and wildlife population increases, their interactions also increase. This interaction increase the exposure and threat to emerging and re-emerging of zoonotic and other important diseases outbreak in wildlife and introduction of Alien Invasive Species (AIS). Therefore, a fast, real-time and a cost effective technology is needed to complement control efforts. Apparently, it is my feeling that, Oxford nanopore sequencing technologies to be the "cutting edge" molecular techniques that can be used by scientific and conservation communities in helping to solve the prevailing conservation challenges. It is my hope that the technology will be accepted and adopted for use by conservation authorities (TANAPA, TAWIRI, NCAA, and TAWA), policy makers, scientists and other conservation stakeholders.

Lastly but not least, I would like to thank Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) and NM-AIST for organising this training of trainers while hoping that the participants will impart this knowledge to other interested parties in their respective organisations.

By Kayode Komolafe

In his remarks at a meeting with the students of Kankara Science Secondary School released from captivity recently, President Muhammadu Buhari said something in passing that is worth pondering about the philosophy of education in Nigeria.

The meeting took place on the second day after the 344 school-boys kidnapped by armed men in Katsina state regained their freedom.

Among other things, the President said the Kankara boys were "lucky" to be in a science school with a brighter future of "getting jobs" unlike their counterparts who would major in "History or English." The President seemed to have a dim view of the future of students interested in the humanities.

In terms of career aspiration, you could imagine what the impact of the presidential statement could make on a girl or boy in another secondary school in Katsina state planning to study History or Linguistics in the university.

More than 15 years earlier, Buhari's predecessor, President Olusegun Obasanjo, made a similar statement in a different context. In a radio chat, Obasanjo responded to the question of a caller on youth unemployment with an instructive anecdote. The story goes like this: a relation approached Obasanjo to help secure a job for his son. The former president asked for the Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the job-seeker and discovered that he was a graduate of Sociology. Characteristically, Obasanjo told the young man point-blank that "any one going to the university to study Sociology or Mass Communication has wasted his life."

The contemptuous reference to the liberal arts and social sciences by Buhari and Obasanjo at the various periods is a different thing from the rational idea by universities about the proportions of students admitted to study science-based courses and the liberal arts. What is on display here is simply a perverted concept of education for all-round human development.

The imperative of huge investments in science education and research should not derogate training in the humanities. Come to think of it, the bankruptcy of policy is such that apart from the rhetoric about science education there is hardly any evidence of budgetary investment in that direction. Science education is not immune to the policy malaise of lip service paid to quality education at all levels. Students are admitted to study science courses in schools without equipped and up-to-date laboratories. Graduates of computer science are produced without computers.

For instance, after the dust of kidnapping must have settled it would be interesting to inspect the Government Science School in Kankara to know how much science is actually being taught in that place. It



Humanities also offer solutions

would be good to know the quality of teaching and the age of the equipment available for practical studies in the science school.

This facile pursuit of science without humanity is in sharp contrast with the trends in North America, Europe and parts of Asia. An aspect of the much talked-about brain drain is that it is not only doctors, nurses and engineers that are being attracted to the developed world where their services are needed. Universities in those places also attract our poets, historians, philosophers, writers, political scientists, sociologists literary critics and artists. In recent times a lot of books have been published about Nigeria by those institutions abroad. Some Nigerian writings and writings about Nigeria have been consumed more abroad than in Nigeria itself. Departments of African Studies are developed in universities in other lands more than in Nigerian universities because of this contempt for humanities. Other societies value these scholars in humanities and their products who are the objects of denigration and insults from government officials and other members of the elite. Those other societies know precisely the importance of humanising scientific progress for existential equilibrium.

With presidents like Buhari and Obasanjo having this mindset that studying humanities is a useless venture, the strategic error in the formulation of education policies for national develop-

ment could be imagined.

The statements by the two leaders are a poignant advertisement of the severe limitation of policy in the education sector.

The emergent questions are many in the situation. What's really the purpose of education?

What is the conception of development on the part of those who make policies? What is the consequence of failing to see the importance of humanities even for scientific progress to be meaningful to life? What will be the outcome of the development of machines without an organic engagement with humanity? There are questions to be asked about the technicist conception of human progress.

The condescending mindset about humanities is an old phenomenon in the policy arena in Nigeria. It informed the removal history from the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools at a time. Even in some universities, history has to be cojoined with international relations to attract students to the department.

Such was the moral violence done to the intellectual development of a generation of Nigerians by policymakers with a warped sense of education. School curricular were vandalised by those who were deluded about the dynamics of the global scientific revolution. Indeed, the ugly harvests of such a policy of ignorance have been huge. A student in the Faculty of Arts of the premier university, the University of Ibadan,

walked up to a professor with a pointed question: "Who is this Zik?" The student was, of course asking about the great nationalist and the first President of Nigeria, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. Ironically, the Ibadan School of History acquired a wide international reputation among scholars many decades ago with pioneering and monumental works of Professor Onwuka Dike and his colleagues. Recently, eminent historian, Professor Akinjide Osuntokun, recalled the story of students in Ogun State who knew about Obafemi Martins, the famous footballer, and not Obafemi Awolowo, the first premier of the old western region now "restructured" into nine states.

Today's policies are discussed without any reference to similar ones made barely 30 years ago. Pundits make statements ex cathedra on economic problems without any sense of the economic history of the country. In the needless heat generated about securing grazing lands for cattle, hardly does anyone remember that decades ago ranching was part of agricultural policies not only in the north; but also in the southern parts of the country. Ranching as a more efficient and modern solution than designation of grazing routes had been developed by some policymakers in the past who had a better idea of wholistic development.

The contempt for history is such that even keeping official records on ceremonial matters is treated with levity. Hence a prominent figure

could be awarded with the Grand Commander of the Order of Niger (GCN), the second highest national honour, and 30 years later he could be kindly considered for the honour of the Officer of the Federal Republic (OFR), which is some steps below the GCN!

Keeping records as raw materials for writing history is not considered important because no one is planning to produce future historians, anyway. The job of the historian is not deemed to be a worthwhile one. This is despite the proposition by another great historian, Professor Jacob Ade-Ajayi, who drew the link between development and the study of history. Ade-Ajayi said that a nation pursuing development without the understanding of history is like a driver of a vehicle without a rear-view mirror. The risks of travelling in such a vehicle should be obvious to the driver and the passengers alike.

For clarity, the prejudice against the humanities exists in other places. The only difference is that unlike here, the problem is being grappled with in scholastic terms. The English philosopher, Simon Blackburn, reported his experience in his smart book, *Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy*. The book is a useful guide even for the general reader on thinking about human existence and problems. At a point in his career, it was the lot of the professor to encourage his students who expressed worries about what they would do with their degrees in philosophy on graduation. Degrees in philosophy are not as marketable as degrees in chemical engineering or software engineering. By the way, in Nigeria the job market is full with graduates in humanities and science-based disciplines alike, which is an indication that the socio-economic problem of joblessness has deeper roots than studying humanities. Well, Blackburn told his students to respond to those who wondered what was the place of a degree in philosophy in the job market something like this: students of philosophy are studying "conceptual engineering." They study the structure of ideas and interaction of concepts which are basic to all areas of knowledge. After all, a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree is awarded in the faculty of engineering as a proof of learning.

In all human endeavours clarity of ideas is basic to making progress. The philosopher as the engineer of ideas is important in getting various departments of human life imbued with clarity of thinking as the basis action especially policies implementation. Many policies have failed because of the poor quality of the thought-process informing their conception and implementation.

The production of knowledge in the realm of the humanities is even more urgent given the multi-dimensional crisis facing humanity. Here lies the essence of bolstering the training of some students in humanities.

Take the coronavirus crisis as an example. Some of the derivative questions in the management of the crisis are not all that scientists alone could answer definitively. In places where vaccines are being considered for approval, the board is not composed of only virologists, immunologists and epidemiologists. Siting with the scientists for a judicious and balanced consideration of issues are also ethicists. The ethicists are there for a philosophical bearing to the issues. The public health atmosphere is replete with a lot of bio-ethical anxiety. Hesitancy about vaccination has religious, historical and moral bases. These are not problems to which the scientists can find solutions in their laboratories. There is no algorithm that bio-statisticians could employ to solve the human problem. It is a matter for those trained in the humanities to think about such problems.

Similarly, the moral challenge of the climate change crisis is as huge as its science. The deniers of climate change are not hinging their arguments on science. The campaign against activities endangering the human habitat has to develop some moral muscle in addition to the scientific argument. There are life issues that the efforts of the technologists are better coupled with those of poets and playwrights for societal understanding.

In any case, Nigerian leaders are certainly behind times in insisting on promoting the false dichotomy between Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) on the one hand and the liberal arts on the other hand. In his book, *The Fuzzy and the Techie: Why the Liberal arts Will Rule the Digital World*, Scott Hartley calls a major in the humanities or social sciences a "fuzzy" and a major in computer or hard sciences a "techie." Hartley is a venture capitalist and a startup adviser to organisations. He was a Presidential Innovation Fellow at the White House. He makes a strong argument for the necessary complementarity of science and humanities as follows: "... Bridge-building fields of study have been created already... Psychology, linguistics and neuroscience come together to make cognitive science.

Sociology and civil engineering have been combined in urban policy, computing and design have been combined in data visualisation, and psychology and computing have been combined in the usability research. More such explicitly fuzzy-techie majors should be fostered, such as combining philosophy and engineering into "design ethics," anthropology and data science into "data literacy," sociology and statistics into "human analytics," literature and computer science into "narrative science," and law and data science into "predictive regulation..."

Yes. The Buhari administration should design school programmes to make Nigerian students to be fully part of the scientific age. Conscious efforts to develop the humanities should complement these important efforts at promoting science education. This is necessary for equipping today's students to retain the control of themselves as human beings as they navigate the uncertain life of the future.

QUOTE
"The solution to the moral dimension of the crisis facing humanity cannot be found in any laboratory"

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 167 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: ART, APE, RID
4 LETTERS: MOOT, DIET, SURE, OVEN, NETA, WAGE, PAID
5 LETTERS: AROMA, TEASE, DAILY, ASANA, EVADE
6 LETTERS: ASMARA, ASCEND, KARATE, DENTAL, TYRIAN
7 LETTERS: FARANGA,
8 LETTERS: AGRARIAN
10 LETTERS: MADAGASCAR

WORD-FIT

B	O	U	N	D	A	R	I	E	S
A	E	A	A	L					
C	A	F	E	A	G	A	I	N	
K	A	B	O	D	E	T			
A	O	H	S	E	E				
P	L	U	N	G	E	S			
L	R	S							
S	O	N	E	L	E	C	T		
W	D	A	A						
L	E	G	A	L	E	S	E	G	
I	D	E	M	S	E				
T	T	A	B	O	O	S	R		

CROSSWORD

S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	E	R
I	P	E	N	D	A				
C	R	O	W	P	A	N	D	A	
K	N	E	P	A	L	U			
C	A	N	A	R	K				
C	H	O	R	E	A				
A	M								
S	N	A	P	A	G	R	E	E	
G	E	R							
G	E	S	T	U	R	E	S	S	
U	S	E	R						
N									
W	O	N	D	E	R				

CLUES: Across
1 Selling of black Africans
5 one of the two branches of Islam
7 consumed
8 a male honey-bee
10 a pen for pigs
11 Masai warrior
13 greater, further
15 total number of points made in a game
17 slaughterhouse
19 a way of acting
20 citrus fruit

Down:
1 neither very good nor very bad
2 sharp-tasting or sour
3 a thick cord made of twisted fibres
4 to give as a gift to charity
6 an expanse of land
7 molluscs having wormlike bodies and spiral protective shell
9 Chief city of Sri Lanka
12 soft, delicate
14 to go or come in
16 to adhere, to be attached
17 short for amplifier
18 fuss or difficulty

BUSINESS

PRESSURE

Many nations face climate action catch-up in 2021

PARIS

Less than half of countries that committed to strengthening their climate action targets in 2020 did so by the end of last year, as the pandemic slowed climate diplomacy and efforts to update national plans, a developing-nation group said on Friday.

A tracker run by the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) showed 73 nations submitted revised climate plans to the United Nations, meeting a 2020 deadline under the Paris Agreement to tackle global warming. That was about 45% of the 160 nations that had earlier said they intended to submit plans - called nationally determined contributions - last year.

Of those that filed updated plans, 69 made more ambitious climate commitments, either to step up efforts to cut planet-heating emissions, adapt to more extreme weather and rising seas, or both. They included Britain, European Union nations, many Latin American governments and some small island states, as well as a handful of African and Southeast Asian countries.

The 48-member CVF said Brazil, North Korea, Japan and New Zealand had submitted updated climate action plans, but these lacked a higher level of ambition. Saleemul Huq, a Bangladeshi academic who chairs the CVF's expert advisory group, said the low number of 2020 submissions showed the 2015 Paris accord - which stipulates national plans should be strengthened every five years - had "failed its first and most important test."

He urged governments to show "real climate ambition that communities will benefit from" in 2021 as their economies start to recover from the COVID-19 crisis. The 57 countries that in 2020 submitted stronger targets to cut their climate-changing emissions accounted for just 13% of global emissions, the CVF said.

The 66 countries that committed to do more to adapt to a warmer planet, meanwhile, are home to 1.67 billion people, just over a fifth of the global population of 7.8 billion, it said. "I think

we have seen the process get started, but then there is a huge amount to be done this year," said David Waskow, director of the international climate initiative at the World Resources Institute.

Before the global upheaval caused by the coronavirus crisis, 190 countries that submitted climate action plans under the Paris accord were due to revise those contributions in 2020, to ensure they added up to meeting the goals of the agreement.

Those include keeping global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius and ideally to 1.5C above pre-industrial times. But the world has already heated up by just over 1C and is on track for at least 3C of warming this century, the United Nations has said - a clear sign more ambition is needed. Lockdowns due to the pandemic forced the British hosts of the 2020 annual U.N. climate summit, known as COP26, to postpone it. The talks are now set to take place in November 2021.

The delay, combined with uncertainty over U.S. climate action, after President Donald Trump pulled his country out of the Paris deal, has caused some countries, including China and other big emitters, to hold back on finalising their own plans. Britain and countries in the European Union, however, did in December commit to stronger emissions reductions targets for 2030, Waskow noted.

Britain said it would cut its emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, while EU states agreed to reduce their net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% from 1990 levels by 2030, substantially toughening an existing 40% target. "They have raised the bar and shown what it is that major economies - and especially developed countries ... need to do," Waskow told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden takes office later this month and has vowed to swiftly rejoin the Paris accord and convene leaders of major emitting countries during his first 100 days in office, to push for more ambitious climate pledges.



CVF's expert advisory group chair, Saleemul Huq.

WINDFALL

Wentworth dishes out U\$4.2m dividend thanks to timely TPDC payments for gas



Wentworth Resources CEO Katherine Roe (R) on a visit to a public school in Mtwara last year.

By Guardian Reporter

TIMELY payments of gas sales made by Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation last year enabled Wentworth Resources which owns Mnazi Bay gas wells to generate US\$15 million in revenue and pay its shareholder US\$4.2 million in dividend.

In a recent press statement, the London Stock Exchange listed company said after paying interim dividend of US\$1.2 million during the first half of last year, it paid the final dividend by December taking the total to US\$4.2 million, being an increase of 20 percent compared

to 2019.

"The safety and wellbeing of our employees continues to be our number one priority and we're pleased that Mnazi Bay has remained fully operational since the pandemic with no COVID-19 cases to date, a safe and healthy crew and no adverse impact on supply. Our annual production guidance range remains unchanged at 60 - 70 MMscf/d (gross)," said Wentworth CEO, Katherine Roe.

Roe said the company continues to operate a robust and resilient business due to stable production and reliable cash flows from its long-term fixed gas price contracts.

"We are especially proud of the strength of the business despite the challenging macroeconomic backdrop, which is reflected in our balance sheet, with zero debt and \$17 million cash at the end of October. This has enabled us to return capital to shareholders totalling \$4.2 million," she noted.

She further pointed out that during 2020, her priority and the wider team had been to ensure that the company's net impact on communities and wider society in Tanzania is positive. "Our ambition is to grow our domestic gas business in Tanzania in a responsible way that enhances the lives of our domestic stakeholders

whilst increasing returns for shareholders," Roe pledged.

"We remain committed to being a long-term partner for Tanzania in the delivery of low-carbon, domestic energy supply growth that will underpin the socio-economic development of the country in the near and longer-term," the Wentworth CEO promised.

Among other highlights of the report include Mnazi Bay's continued full operations with no adverse impact on supply from the coronavirus pandemic with annual production guidance remaining on track to average between 60 - 70 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscf/d).

As projected, production volumes were higher in Q3 2020 at 68.8 MMscf/d (gross) compared to 58.3 MMscf/d (gross) for H1 2020, due to increased demand as a result of the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions; production volumes have also risen during Q4 2020

"Mnazi Bay is well-positioned to supply increased gas volumes and support incremental demand growth as seen in Q4 2020 and expected in 2021, with the capacity to supply volumes of 100 MMscf/d (gross)," the report stated.

As for the future market condition in the country, the report said, "With an energy access rate of only 37 percent according to the IEA, population growth set to double by 2050 and an economy shifting from an agricultural to an industrial base, there is a real need for transformational growth in Tanzania's domestic energy supply to deliver the government's target of universal energy access by 2030."

CONCERN

School transport charges up 80pc on Covid rules

NAIROBI

School transport charges have jumped by up to 80 percent as institutions seek to cover for the extra costs of complying with Covid-19 safety guidelines.

The institutions attributed the changes to higher fuel and maintenance costs as a result of additional trips made by their dedicated vehicles which currently only carry half their normal capacity in compliance with social-distancing rules.

A spot check by the Business Daily showed that some schools had also opted to hire additional vehicles to cover for the shortfall caused by the reduced carrying capacity of their own vehicle with the costs being passed on to pupils and their parents or guardians. "The school is now charging Sh9,000 for transporting my daughter, from the Sh5,000 we used to pay within a five-kilometre radius," said a parent at Sukari Presbyterian Academy in Kiambu County.

At Mirema School off the Nairobi-Thika highway, transport charges have increased by 58 percent to Sh8,255 from the Sh5,200 initially pegged on a four-kilometre radius. Parents with pupils at St Hannah's Preparatory on Nairobi's Ngong



Kenya Private School Association chairperson, Mutheu Kasanga.

Road are also pay much more for transport after charges increased 33 percent to Sh16,000 from the Sh12,000 before the pandemic.

Hit by the steep rise in transport charges, some parents and guardians have opted for alternative transport arrangements, including taxis or private carpooling. "My employer slashed my salary last year and the transportation hike is an extra burden. I have opted to be dropping my child to school in the morning then have a private car pick her in the evening as that will be cheaper," said a parent at the school.

At Shepherds Junior School in

the city's Buruburu area, fees for transport from within the estate increased to Sh12,000 from Sh8,000 initially. Thomas Burke Primary School located within Buruburu has increased charges for picking and dropping pupils within the estate from Sh5,800 to Sh6,900, reflecting a rise of 18.9 percent.

A parent at the Moi Educational Centre in Nairobi West said he had opted for private arrangements after the school hiked transport fees to Sh22,650 from the Sh15,000 pre-Covid. A mother of three school-going children said a Sh500 raise in transport cost by St James Model

in Busia had taken a toll on the family's finances given that she is a single parent. The adjustments have dealt a blow to many parents and guardians already grappling with pandemic-triggered layoffs, salary cuts and business closures. By yesterday Kenya had reported 97,733 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 and 1,702 fatalities, with schools reopening amid social distancing challenges.

Kenya Private School Association (KPSA) chairperson Mutheu Kasanga said the schools have been lobbying the Ministry of Health to reconsider the requirement that school buses carry half capacity in vain. "Our argument is that school buses are not like matatus, are disinfected often and are only making two trips per day hence have minimal contamination," she said.

Transport Cabinet Secretary James Macharia on Wednesday told a stakeholder's meeting that a final decision on school buses will be communicated in due course. The consultative meetings to discuss protocols for school buses involve the ministries of Transport, Education and Health.

VANDALISM

MTN, Vodacom infrastructure destroyed

JOHANNESBURG

Mobile telecommunications infrastructure belonging to MTN and Vodacom has been torched and destroyed in KwaZulu-Natal, possibly as the result of conspiracy theories linking 5G roll-out to the spread of the virus that causes Covid-19.

This is according to communications minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, who said in a statement on Thursday that three towers belonging

to the mobile operators were destroyed on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. TechCentral understands that four towers were burnt, while an attempt to torch a fifth was unsuccessful.

The minister urged the police to arrest those responsible for what she described as "anarchy" and said the destruction of the towers "follows a resurgence in conspiracy theories which link the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic to 5G."

Ndabeni-Abrahams on Thursday said linking 5G to Covid-19 formed part of a "misinformation campaign" that posed a "threat to investments" made by telecoms operators. The torching of the towers comes after an eThekweni (Durban) councillor, Sifiso Mgadi, reportedly shared a voice note with colleagues over Christmas linking 5G networks to the spread of Covid-19. Mgadi was slammed by the ANC and opposition political parties for the remarks and is now

facing disciplinary measures. 'Regrettable'

"It is regrettable that the much-needed network infrastructure is being destroyed. The country needs resilient and high-speed connectivity for every citizen to enable them to participate meaningfully in the digital economy. Furthermore, mobile telephony is crucial in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic," she said.

"The destruction of network towers compromises multi-

pronged efforts and initiatives to stem the spread of the virus. We therefore urge the police to arrest anyone who is threatening or removing infrastructure network stations or towers."

South Africa isn't the only country that has had network infrastructure targeted over the false belief that there is a link between 5G and Covid-19. Scores of telecoms towers were attacked in the UK last year, apparently by people who believed such links existed.

MTN South Africa spokeswoman Jacqui O'Sullivan said: "South Africa's ability to meaningfully play a role in the fourth Industrial Revolution is inextricably linked to greater access to 4G and 5G technologies and these baseless conspiracy theories achieve nothing more than senselessly undermining much-needed progress, for all South Africans."

A Vodacom spokeswoman, who asked not to be named due to company policy,

said: "Vodacom's security teams continue to monitor the situation in KwaZulu-Natal following the criminal destruction of some of our 5G base stations. We are working closely with local law enforcement to bring these criminals to book as well as to help protect our network infrastructure across the country." She added that there is "no credible scientific evidence linking 5G or mobile technologies to the spread of coronavirus."

BULLISH

GCR affirms Phoenix of Tanzania's national scale financial strength rating of AA, stable

By Guardian Reporter

GCR Ratings has affirmed Phoenix of Tanzania Assurance Company Limited's national scale financial strength rating of AA-(TZ), with the outlook accorded as stable.

In a recent statement, GCR said Phoenix Tanzania demonstrates a very strong liquidity position, supported by conservative asset allocation coupled with review year reduction in net technical liabilities.

"Accordingly, cash and stressed financial assets coverage of net technical provisions improved to 6.1x in 2019 (FY18: 4.6x), while coverage of operational cost requirements equated to 44 months (FY18: 48 months)," South African based rating agency said.

The GCR report said looking ahead, the liquidity ratio is expected to slightly moderate, albeit remaining above 5.0x coverage following management's plan to increase investment in long-dated, higher yielding gov-



Phoenix of Tanzania Assurance Company Limited logo.

ernment securities.

"Risk adjusted capitalisation is viewed to be strong, evidenced by a stable GCR capital adequacy ratio of 4.4x, underpinned by sustained

earnings generation and full profit retention. Nevertheless, the insurer's capital quality is viewed negatively due to a material exposure to investment property, which accounted for 40

percent of the entity's capital at FY19," the report added.

From a statutory solvency standpoint, the underwriter met the minimum regulatory requirement closing with a solvency position of 10x at FY19. GCR expects capital strength to be sustained over the rating horizon, underpinned by sound earnings generation and retention, the report explained.

"Earnings are assessed to be strong, reflected by positive average underwriting profitability and sustained healthy investment income. As such, the insurer posted an improved review period aggregate underwriting margin of 5.3 percent (prior review period average: 3.5 percent), while the return on revenue was sustained above 30 percent," the GCR report stated adding that earnings are expected to slightly im-

prove given observed growth in profitable lines of business, along with expectations of sound investment income generation.

"The rating is negatively impacted by the insurer's limited business profile. In this regard, Phoenix Tanzania maintained an intermediate competitive position, with a market and relative market share of 4.5 percent and 1.1x in FY19 (FY18: 4.4% and 1.1x), respectively," the GCR said.

The premium base is somewhat diversified, with three lines of business contributing materially to the gross premium base. The insurer's revenue source is geographically concentrated, given that all premiums are derived from the primary market. GCR expects competitive position to slightly improve, supported by an expansive branch network and client retention.

INVESTMENT

Zeepay seeks \$10m equity funding in mobile money expansion to South Africa

ACCRA

In a recent interview with The Africa Report, Ghanaian fintech startup Zeepay Co-founder and Managing Director, Andrew Takyi-Appiah, elaborated further on the startup's plans to raise \$10m in equity funding to support the creation of new mobile-money hubs in East and Southern Africa.

These new hubs, which will include processing centres and back offices, are likely to be in Rwanda and South Africa, says Takyi-Appiah from Accra. He adds that the use of Swahili in Rwanda makes it a good platform from which to reach out to other markets in the region.

Zeepay is focused on digital rails to connect digital assets such as mobile money wallets, cards, ATMs, bank accounts and digital tokens to international money transfer operators, payments, subscriptions, international airtime and refugee payments. The startup has a footprint in more than 20 African markets, and in April 2020 was awarded an Electronic Money Issuer (EMI) license to operate as a mobile financial services company by the Bank of Ghana, the regulator of banking and financial services.

The company, which has so far grown through local investment, is seeking \$10m in new equity funding. Zeepay, advised by the South African office of Verdant Capital, is targeting investment from remittance companies and private-equity firms. Takyi-Appiah says Zeepay aims to close the fundraising round by the end of June. The money will be used for marketing and distribution, hiring and creating the hubs. Some of it will be also be used as capital paid to enter new markets, such as Gambia.

Zeepay is active in nine markets and aims to enter a further nine new countries this year. These will include Burkina Faso, Gambia, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Madagascar, though a physical presence will only be needed in countries chosen as hubs. Zeepay has lined up partnerships with Orange, MTN and local players which will enable it to operate. The company is aiming for 100,000 transactions per month in each of its new markets.

Zeepay provides digital rails to connect mobile-money wallets, tokens, bank cards and ATMs. It began operations in its largest market, Ghana, in 2016. Takyi-Appiah says he saw opportunity in the fact that customers had to wait for days and queue up to obtain remittances sent to banks. Foreign expansion soon followed, and Zeepay now counts Côte d'Ivoire and Zimbabwe as its second- and third-largest markets.

Zeepay received an Electronic Money Issuer license to operate as a mobile financial services company from the Bank of Ghana in April 2020. In September, it agreed a partnership with Visa allowing Diaspora Africans to send money directly onto Visa debit and prepaid cards in Ghana.



Zeepay Co-founder and Managing Director, Andrew Takyi-Appiah.

TRADE-PACT

India renews agreement to import Mozambican pigeon peas



Outgoing Indian ambassador Rajeev Kumar (L) in talks with Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi.

MAPUTO

The Indian government has decided to renew its agreement with Mozambique to import Mozambican pigeon peas for a further five years, according to the outgoing Indian ambassador, Rajeev Kumar.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, at the end of a farewell audience granted by President Filipe Nyusi, Kumar said the Indian government had sent a proposal via the Foreign Ministry to import 200,000 tonnes of pigeon peas over the next five years, and

the Agriculture Ministry has accepted this.

The export of pigeon peas to India arose as the result of a memorandum of understanding signed during the visit to Mozambique by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2016. Known as dal in India, pigeon peas are an essential part of Indian cuisine.

Kumar said Mozambique may also benefit from a vaccine against the Covid-19 respiratory disease developed in India. India has approved two vaccines which will begin to be administered as from next week.

Kumar said India will make the vaccines available to other countries, and Mozambique will be a priority recipient.

The most likely vaccine to be exported from India is Covaxin, which is being developed by the company Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Mozambican Health Minister Armindo Tiago expects vaccination to begin in late June or early July. He has not said which vaccine Mozambique will use - but it must be safe and certified by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Kumar described relations between India and Mozambique as good "tending toward excellent", particularly in trade and investment. The major Indian investors in Mozambique include the vehicle manufacturers Tata and Mahindra.

More than 50 Indian companies have invested in Mozambique, notably in mineral resources, including the Moatize coal basin in Tete province, and the liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Cabo Delgado.

Kumar noted that the

combined investment of the three Indian members of the consortium building gas liquefaction plants in the Cabo Delgado district of Palma is larger than the investment by the consortium operator, the French oil and gas company Total.

Total holds 26.5 per cent of the shares in the Consortium while the three Indian companies (ONGC Videsh Rovuma Limited., Beas Rovuma Energy Mozambique Limited and BPRL Ventures Mozambique BV.) each hold ten per cent, giving a total of 30 per cent.

DECELERATION

SA car industry to feel more pain if Covid rules increase

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's car industry could suffer further if the government introduces stricter lockdown measures after exports and new vehicle sales dropped by a almost third in 2020.

Shipments from Africa's largest auto-making country fell to 271,819 units last year from a record 387,092

units in 2019, data from the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa showed Thursday. Before the pandemic shuttered borders and disrupted supply chains from March, car exports were projected to reach a new high of 391,900 units in 2020 and would have partially offset an on-going decline in domestic sales.

With the number of infections

now over 1 million and more than 30,000 people having died from the disease, some government officials assessing the spread of the virus have recommended the country move to virus alert level 4 for 30 days from the current level-3 restrictions.

"Tough months are still ahead before business and consumer confidence will be rebuilt," Naamsa said.

"Prospects for faster growth over the medium term are likely to be constrained by new Covid-19 waves accompanied by stricter lockdown measures, needed fiscal tightening and persistent power-supply disruptions." The number of new cars sold in 2020 was 29.1% lower than the previous year at levels last seen two decades ago. Restrictions to curb the spread of the virus erased

almost 10 years of job gains, sent consumer and business confidence to multi-year lows and are likely to have resulted in the biggest contraction in the economy in at least nine decades.

The automotive industry, which accounts for 15.5% of South Africa's export value, is the largest component of the country's manufacturing sector and employs more than

100,000 skilled workers. With more than 60% of light vehicles produced for export, much of the sector's comeback will depend on the recovery of its main trading partners and the pace at which lockdown measures are phased out, Naamsa said. In 2019, more than a quarter of South Africa's car shipments went to the U.K., followed by Germany and Japan.

PARTNERSHIP

Hyundai in 'early talks' with Apple over electric car

SEOUL

Hyundai Motor Company said on Friday it was in early talks with Apple after a domestic broadcaster said the firms were discussing an electric car and battery tie-up, sending Hyundai shares surging 25%.

The report came weeks after Reuters reported that Apple was moving forward with self-driving car technology and was aiming to produce a passenger vehicle that could include its own breakthrough battery technology as early as 2024.

Earlier on Friday, Korea Economic Daily TV said the iPhone maker and Hyundai were in discussions to develop self-driving electric vehicles by 2027 and develop batteries at US factories operated by either Hyundai or its affiliate Kia Motors. The broadcaster didn't cite sources for its report. "Apple and Hyundai are in discussions but they are at an early stage and nothing has been decided," Hyundai said in a statement without saying what the talks were about.

In a regulatory filing issued later, the automaker said it was "getting requests for cooperation on joint development of autonomous electric vehicles from various companies", without identifying any of them. Apple declined to comment. Challenge to Tesla

An Apple-branded car could be a big challenge to electric vehicle (EV) market leader Tesla. It remains unclear who would assemble such a car, but analysts have said they expect the company to

rely on a manufacturing partner to build vehicles.

"We continue to strongly believe Apple ultimately announces an EV strategic partnership in 2021 that lays the groundwork to enter the burgeoning EV space," Wedbush analysts said in a note. Hyundai and Apple already work together on CarPlay, Apple's software for connecting iPhones to vehicles from a variety of automakers. "Apple outsourcing car production to Hyundai makes sense, because (the Korean firm) is known for quality," said Jeong Yun-woo, a former designer at Hyundai and a professor at UNIST in South Korea.

"But I'm not sure whether it is a good strategy for automakers to be like the Foxconn of Apple as automakers face risks of losing control to tech firms," he added, referring to the Taiwanese contract manufacturer's supply contract with Apple on iPhones. Analysts said Apple may be interested in using Hyundai's electric car platform and facilities to cut costs to develop and make vehicles.

"Apple could see Hyundai as an ideal partner, because when it comes to legacy US automakers, they all have strong unions, which Apple would like to avoid," said Kevin Yoo, an analyst at eBEST Investment & Securities. "Moreover, their (legacy US automakers) labour cost is much higher than that of Hyundai, which often plays a big role when it comes to car production."

A tie-up with Apple would be a major boost to the automaker, whose global sales last year fell more than 15% as the pandemic



Jeong Yun-woo, a former designer at Hyundai and a professor at UNIST in South Korea.

took a toll on demand. A longtime champion of rival hydrogen fuel cell cars, Hyundai recently increased bets on battery-powered electric cars, a move welcomed by investors eyeing the recent success of Tesla.

E-GMP The South Korean com-

pany, which sources batteries from SK Innovation and LG Chem and others, is expected to launch its first car based on a dedicated electric car platform known as E-GMP early this year.

Hyundai does not have dedicated electric car factories in the US and it may have to gain

consent from its powerful union in South Korea were it to seek to build EVs overseas, analysts said. Shares in Hyundai Motor jumped as much as 24.8%, hitting a more than seven-year high of 255,000 won, while auto parts maker Hyundai Mobis jumped nearly 30%. Kia shares jumped some 14%.

APPRECIATION

Bitcoin surges to \$40 000

NEW YORK

Bitcoin surged to \$40,000 for the first time, doubling in value in less than a month and pushing the total market value of cryptocurrencies beyond \$1 trillion.

Cryptocurrencies hit the milestone after a fivefold climb in market value in the past year, data from tracker CoinGecko shows. Strategists have cited demand from speculative retail traders, trend-following quant funds, the rich and even institutional investors as among the reasons for the surge.

Bitcoin rose as much as 11% on Thursday to \$40,065 and has more than quadrupled in the past year, according to a composite of prices compiled by Bloomberg. It accounts for about two-thirds of cryptocurrency market value, followed by Ether at about 13%, according to CoinGecko data.

"Bitcoin continues to defy all expectations, and doubters," said Antoni Trenchev, co-founder and managing partner of Nexo, a crypto lender. "It's leaving all other assets trailing in its wake, like it's done year in, year out for the past decade." Coinbase Inc., the largest U.S. digital exchange, said it's experiencing "connectivity issues" on both the website and mobile app for a second day.

Digital coins are jumping in a world awash with fiscal and monetary stimulus, even as some commentators fear an inevitable bust and others question the basic integrity of crypto markets. Proponents of Bitcoin argue it offers a hedge against dollar weakness and the risk of faster inflation, a bit like gold, while critics decry the intellectual soundness of comparing the two assets.

RESTRICTIONS

UK imposes mandatory Covid tests on all incoming travellers

LONDON

All passengers arriving in the U.K. will be required to prove they do not have coronavirus, showing a negative test result taken within 72 hours of the start of their journey.

Under new rules announced by the British government, anyone failing to produce the evidence of a negative test will be hit with an immediate fine of 500 pounds (\$678). Travellers arriving from countries that are not on the government's open travel corridor list will be required to isolate at home for 10 days, regardless of their test results.

The measures, set out by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps, will come into force next week for passengers arriving at a British port by plane, boat or train. The plan is aimed at stopping new strains of Covid-19 coming into the U.K., such as those seen in Denmark and South Africa, the government said.

"We already have significant measures in place to prevent imported cases of Covid-19, but with new strains of the virus developing internationally we must take further precautions," Shapps said in an emailed statement. "Pre-departure tests will provide a further line of defense - helping us control the virus as we roll out the vaccine at pace over the coming weeks."

Ministers were criticized for taking too long to impose border restrictions during the first wave of the pandemic last spring. This week British authorities put the country into its third national lockdown as infection rates soared. The death toll from coronavirus now stands at more than 78,000.

Officials have been in talks for several days on how to coordinate a border policy across all four nations of the U.K., which have control over their own transport policies. In a separate statement, the Scottish government has agreed to the plan and said the measures will be brought in as soon as possible.

Passengers will need to show their negative test results before boarding and will be stopped if necessary. There will be some exemptions from the new rules, including for hauliers, children under the age of 11, and for travellers leaving countries without an adequate testing infrastructure in place.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson set out his blueprint for a mass vaccination program to protect about 15 million elderly and vulnerable people across the U.K., and their carers, by a self-imposed deadline of Feb. 15. After that, the government will look at whether to begin lifting some of the lockdown rules.



Passengers, wearing protective face masks walk through the international arrivals hall at London Heathrow Airport in the UK.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV					
WEDNESDAY 6 Jan	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt 10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 19:00 Ijue Sheria 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 The Base 00:00 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV	THURSDAY 7 Jan			
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05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA 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 KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBA-ZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 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 UCHUNGUZI KAMILI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DURU ZETU 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZII 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZII 01:00-05:00 HRS HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	22:00-00:00 HRS DALA DALA (marudio) 00:00-04:00 HRS LETE RAHA (marudio) 04:00-05:00 HRS SPOTI (marudio)	TUESDAY			
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WORLD

Wang Yi's Africa visit
conveys message on
strengthening ties

NAIROBI

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi concluded on Saturday his visit to five African nations, namely Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Botswana, Tanzania, and Seychelles. Braving the COVID-19 pandemic, the visit has particularly shown the great importance China attaches to maintaining its profound friendship with Africa.

The message is resonant - China and Africa will never stop joint efforts to consolidate their sound ties and push forward cooperation in key areas for economic recovery, though the pandemic still shows no signs of abating and has sunk the world into deep concern.

Chinese foreign ministers have continuously chosen Africa for the first overseas visit each year since 1991. Wang said that this decades-old tradition has never changed, rain or shine, and should never stop.

During the trip, Wang highlighted the common aspiration of China and Africa to deepen their multipronged cooperation. Noting that Chinese engineers, technicians, and medical workers have contributed to Africa's socio-economic development, Wang said the Chinese people's efforts in this regard should not fall into false accusations.

Wang said China always believes that Africa is a big stage for international cooperation, instead of a game arena among big countries, adding that the international community has a shared responsibility to support Africa's development, and all countries should cooperate with Africa on the premise of respecting Africa's sovereignty and listening to Africa's voices.

Experts said Wang's opportune visit has yielded fruitful results, and will cement ties between China and its African partners.

Fruitful outcomes

Cooperation in infrastructure connectivity is one major outcome reached during Wang's visit. Earlier this week, the DRC and Botswana both signed memoranda of understanding with China on jointly advancing the Belt and Road construction. So far, 46 African countries have signed such cooperation deals with China, signaling African countries' need to improve infrastructure with China's engagement.

President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, Africa's biggest economy, said during his meeting with Wang that China's enormous support has helped the country effectively improve its underdeveloped infrastructure and played a key role in the nation's sustainable development.

In recent years, Chinese-built transport projects in Nigeria, such as the Abuja light rail transportation system and the Abuja-Kaduna rail line have both facilitated people's mobility and created jobs for locals.

The two countries also agreed to establish an intergovernmental committee to better coordinate cooperation in various fields. They have agreed to expand cooperation into areas such as industrialization, digital and green economy, as well as military and security cooperation. During the visit, Wang said that China will also work with Africa to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. In the DRC and Botswana, presidents of the two countries both expressed gratitude to China's support in the COVID-19 fight.

Wang said China will work with the DRC in the health sector and also pledged cooperation in other areas including agriculture, clean energy, education, power facility, digital industry, and people-to-people exchanges.

Meanwhile, Botswana said it welcomes more Chinese investment and looks forward to cooperation in such areas as industrial



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

parcs, digital economy, and science and technology innovation, agriculture and tourism.

During his talks with Wang, Lemogang Kwape, Botswana's minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, said China's strong economic recovery brings opportunities to Botswana's economic development.

During his stay in Tanzania on Friday, Wang recalled Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the country in 2013. "It was during that visit that President Xi put forward for the first time the concept of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith, and the right approach to justice and interests, which has now become the guiding principle of China's Africa policy," Wang said.

Confidence in cooperation

Humphrey Mushi, a professor of economics at the leading state-run University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, said Wang's visit is timely and comes after China and Africa celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2020.

Francis Semwaza, a social affairs analyst based in Tanzania's commercial capital Dar es Salaam, said the visit will strengthen the historic friendship between the two friendly countries.

"Currently, Tanzania's ongoing industrialisation drive will benefit significantly from the cooperation and help Tanzania make significant steps in the areas of industrial production and trade. The countries and their people at the individual level will come even closer and create a better understanding of each other," Semwaza said.

Frank Youngman, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Botswana Open University, said the need for China's support for the development of African infrastructure will remain and countries continue to find out how to further benefit from the Belt and Road Initiative as well as FOCAC.

Regarding COVID-19 cooperation, he also expressed confidence that China will help African countries access vaccine and assist the continent in its drive to seek economic recovery from the impacts of the pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, China has provided supplies to African countries, sent expert teams and facilitated Africa's procurement of medical supplies in China. In December, with China's assistance, the construction of the headquarters of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention started ahead of schedule. And China also pledged that once the development and deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine is completed in China, African countries will be among the first to benefit.

In fact, such help has been mutual between China and African countries. Many African countries have donated medical materials to China when China was registering surging cases in the first several months of 2020.

Xinhua

Democrats push toward second Trump impeachment, Republican support uncertain

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC-LED efforts to impeach U.S. President Donald Trump for a historic second time gained momentum over the weekend, although it looked far from certain whether enough Republicans would back the move with just days left in his term.

Democratic members of the House of Representatives will introduce articles of impeachment on Monday after Trump encouraged his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Representative Ted Lieu said on Twitter.

The California Democrat, who helped draft the charges, said the articles had drawn 190 co-sponsors by Saturday night. As of Saturday afternoon, no Republicans had signed on, Lieu's spokeswoman said.

"We have videos of the speech where (Trump) incites the mob. We have videos of the mob violently attacking the Capitol. This isn't a close call," Lieu tweeted Saturday night.

Trump initially praised his

supporters at the Capitol but later condemned their violence in a video. The decision to call for calm came at the urging of senior aides, some arguing he could face removal from office or legal liability, sources told Reuters.

Impeachment by the Democratic-led House, equivalent to an indictment, would trigger an unprecedented second trial in the Republican-controlled Senate, which cleared him during his first trial over allegations that he threatened U.S. national security.

Two previous presidents were impeached but were also acquitted in the Senate. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 over the Watergate scandal when it became clear he would be removed.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has also asked members to draft legislation aimed at invoking the Constitution's 25th Amendment, which allows for stripping the powers from a president unable to fulfill the duties of the office.

The intensifying effort to oust Trump has drawn scattered support from Republicans, whose party has been divided by the



president's actions. Democrats have pressed Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment, but he has opposed the idea, an adviser said.

CNN reported late Saturday that the vice president had not ruled out invoking the 25th Amendment, citing a source close to him, but that some in Pence's team worried any effort to remove Trump could provoke the president to more rash behavior that might put the country at risk. A Pence spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment

late on Saturday.

SCATTERED REPUBLICAN SUPPORT FOR REMOVAL

A small but growing number of Republican lawmakers have joined calls for Trump to step down, and several high-ranking administration officials have resigned in protest.

Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska said Friday that Trump should resign immediately and suggested she would consider leaving the party if Republicans cannot part from him.

Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania told Fox News on Saturday that Trump had "committed impeachable offenses" but declined to commit to voting to remove him. Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska, a frequent Trump critic, told CBS News he would "definitely consider" impeachment because the president "disregarded his oath of office."

But other key Trump allies, including Senator Lindsey Graham and House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, have urged Democrats to shelve any impeachment effort in the name of unity.

"Impeaching President Donald Trump with 12 days remaining in his presidency would only serve to further divide the country," said White House spokesman Judd Deere.

Mitch McConnell, the Republican Senate majority leader, has suggested any trial would likely occur after Trump's term ends, when Democrats will take control of the Senate thanks to victories in two Georgia runoff elections last week.

If found guilty after leaving office, Trump would still lose benefits enjoyed by ex-presidents, such as security and pension, and he would be barred from running for a second term.

But a Senate conviction requires a two-third majority, which would take at least 17 Republican votes.

Democratic President-elect Joe Biden has not taken a position on Trump's impeachment, saying he will leave it to Congress to decide. Since losing the Nov. 3 election, Trump has falsely claimed he was the victim of widespread fraud.

Agencies

Pope Francis to have COVID-19 vaccine as early as next week

MILAN

POPE Francis said on Saturday he planned to have a COVID-19 vaccination as early as next week and urged everyone to get a shot, to protect not only their own lives but those of everyone else.

"I believe that ethically everyone should take the vaccine," the Pope said in an interview with TV station Canale 5. "It is an ethical choice because you are gambling with your health, with your life, but you are also gambling with the lives of others."

The Vatican City, the smallest independent county in the world, has said it will shortly launch its own vaccination campaign against the coronavirus.

"Next week," the Pope said, "we will start doing it here, in the Vatican, and I have booked myself in. It must be done."

Agencies



Twitter permanently suspends Trump's account

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK

TWITTER permanently cut off US President Donald Trump's personal account and access to his nearly 90 million followers late on Friday, citing the risk of further incitement of violence following the storming of the US Capitol on Wednesday by hundreds of his supporters.

"After close review of recent Tweets from the @realDonaldTrump account and the context around them we have permanently suspended the account due to the risk of further incitement of violence," the company said in a tweet.

Trump later used the official @POTUS government to lash out at Twitter, addressing the 75 million "great patriots" who voted for him: "We will not be SILENCED!" Trump said he was considering building his own social media platform.

Twitter quickly deleted those posts and soon after suspended the Trump campaign account.

Social media companies have cracked down on Trump's accounts in the wake of the turmoil on Wednesday. Facebook Inc said earlier this week it was suspending his account through until at least the end of his presidential term.

The Republican president is due to hand over to Democrat President-elect Joe Biden on Jan 20.

The White House did not immediately comment.

In a blog post on Friday, Twitter said that two of the president's tweets posted that day were in violation of its policy against the glorification of violence.

Twitter had temporarily blocked Trump's account, which had more than 88 million followers, on Wednesday following the siege of Capitol Hill, and warned that additional violations by the president's accounts would result in a permanent suspension.

Trump was required to delete three rule-breaking tweets before his account was unblocked. He returned to Twitter on Thursday with a video acknowledging that Joe Biden would be the next US president.

Twitter said that Trump's tweet that he would not be attending Biden's inauguration was being received by a number of his supporters as further confirmation that the Nov 3 election that he lost was not legitimate.

It said another tweet praising "American Patriots" and saying his supporters "will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!" could be seen as "further indication that President Trump does not plan to facilitate an orderly transition." Trump's personal @realDonaldTrump account has sometimes fired off more than 100 tweets a day and been used to communicate with his supporters, spread misinformation, insult opponents and fire staff.

Both Twitter and Facebook have long afforded Trump special privileges as a sitting elected world leader, saying that tweets that may violate the company's policies would not be removed because they were in the public interest.

They said he would lose access to those privileges upon leaving office, however.

Google suspends Parler from Play Store

Alphabet Inc's Google on Friday suspended the Parler social networking app from its Play Store until the app adds "robust" content moderation while Apple Inc gave the service 24 hours to submit a detailed moderation plan.

Parler is a social network to which many supporters of Trump have migrated after being banned from services including Twitter. In a statement, Google cited continued posts in the Parler app that seek "to incite ongoing violence in the US." Google said, "For us to distribute an app through Google Play, we do require that apps implement robust moderation for egregious content. In light of this ongoing and urgent public safety threat, we are suspending the app's listings from the Play Store until it addresses these issues."

Agencies

World's first 350 km/h freight train rolls off production line in China

THE world's first high-speed freight train that is able to run as fast as 350 km/h rolled off the production line in Tangshan, north China's Hebei province Wednesday.

The cargo train is a result of 3 years of efforts led by the Tangshan company of China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) and joined by other industrial leaders in China.

It is equipped with 2.9-meter-wide doors, the widest ever on freight trains, and features a cargo capacity of 800 cubic meters, or the volume of 30 Boeing 737 jets added together. Besides, the train's energy consumption per unit mass of cargos stands at only 8 percent of that of an airplane.

The design of the locomotive was inspired



by Chinese sturgeon, and the silver-white-red colorway runs through the whole body of the train.

The high-speed freight train is able to operate in an environment temperature ranging from -25°C to 40 °C, carrying at least 110 tonnes of cargos that take over 800 cubic meters of space. The utility rate of cargo

space is above 85 percent.

Compared with air and road transport, the high-speed cargo train is less prone to be infected by the environment. It can reach a destination 1,500 kilometers away in 5 hours.

The Chinese sturgeon-inspired locomotive is not only a shape design, but something that has effectively reduced running

resistance. According to wind tunnel test, the train's energy consumption per unit mass of cargos is only 8 percent of that of an airplane.

The train prominently improved China's independent innovation capability in rail transport equipment, said Liang Yongting, senior engineer with the R&D center of the CRRC Tangshan Company.

Developed from China's 350km/h high-speed train, the cargo train has made breakthroughs in multiple key technologies of rail express. It is able to improve loading and unloading efficiency and carry heavy-load and large-capacity cargos. Besides, the train has also realized en route management of cargos.

The train is finished with water-based

paint that is environmentally friendly and has no pungent smell. In addition, the train is also equipped with a smart fire alarm system, and equipped with many new fire-retardant materials and technologies. For instance, intumescent flame-retardant coating is adopted for the freight space, which has a service time of over 10 years.

In recent years, the demand for logistics has been on an exponential growth thanks to the rapid development of e-commerce, Liang said.

He believes the new high-speed freight train will further optimize the pattern of China's overall transport and facilitate the building of a modern logistics system.

People's Daily

SPORT



Mainland Tanzania's Namungo FC's striker, Stephen Sey (R), negotiates his way past Zanzibar's Jamhuri's defender when the clubs locked horns in a 2021 Mapinduzi Cup tournament's clash, held in the Isles on Saturday. Namungo FC won 2-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Nandy, Harmonize to thrill soccer fans in 2021 Mapinduzi Cup final

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S prominent new generation music artists, Faustina Charles Mfinanga 'Nandy' and Rajab Abdul 'Harmonize', are expected to provide entertainment to soccer enthusiasts that will turn up in the 2021 Mapinduzi Cup competition's final which is expected to take place in Zanzibar on January 13.

The final will be held at Amaan Stadium in Unguja.

The tournament was, as of yesterday, in the group stage, with the last of the stage's games, involving Mainland Tanzania's Azam FC and the Isles' Malindi, taking place the same day.

Three sides, Simba SC, Yanga and Namungo FC, have secured progression to the last four stage of the tournament.

Yanga, who were in the showpiece's Group A, advanced to the semi-finals, having won one match and posting draw in the other.

They were held to 0-0 draw by Jamhuri in the first match and they went on to notch 1-0 victory over Namungo FC.

Yanga are set to confront Group C winners in the last four stage.

Malindi and Azam FC have played one match apiece, having collected one point, while Zanzibar's Mlandenge have two points and have played all of their matches to finish second in Group A.

The Group B fixtures concluded on Saturday night, with Simba SC knocking the tournament's defending cham-

pions, Mtibwa Sugar, out with 2-0 win. With Mtibwa Sugar having bowed out of the showpiece, one of the semi-finals will see Simba SC take on Namungo FC, while Yanga are set to confront either Azam FC or Malindi in the second semi-final.

Namungo FC secured qualification for the tournament's last four 's with a 2-0 win over Zanzibar's Jamhuri in a Group A clash, held on Saturday.

Namungo FC has also booked a place in the play offs of this season's CAF Confederation Cup.

The outfit will face Angola's Primeiro de Agosto in the play offs after the competition's play offs draw was conducted by the continental soccer governing body in Cairo last weekend.

Namungo FC will travel to Angola to face Primeiro de Agosto in the first leg on February 12-13.

The Lindi-based side knocked South Sudan's Al Rabita and Sudan's Al Hilal Obeid in the preliminary and first round respectively.

Primeiro de Agosto moved to the CAF Confederation Cup's play offs immediately after crashing out of the CAF Champions League's first round with 1-0 aggregate loss to South Africa soccer big guns, Kaizer Chiefs.

The Angolan football giants finished second in the Angolan Premier League in the 2019/20 season, three points adrift of league winners, Petro De Luanda.

Namungo FC, coached by Hemed Suleiman, will be chasing their debut qualification for the CAF Confederation Cup's group stage.

Coach Sven Vandebroek's highs and lows at Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

BELGIAN Sven Vandebroek's time as Simba SC head coach came to an end on Thursday night after one year at the club.

What started as rumours was ultimately confirmed by the club on its official Twitter feed on Thursday night.

Selemani Matola, Vandebroek's assistant, has been named the interim coach for the club as a search for the new coach ensues.

"The Board of Directors of Simba Sports Club announces to its members and fans that we have parted ways with our head coach Sven Vandebroek by mutual consent," read the club statement.

The late night development came only a day after Vandebroek had led Simba SC to a commanding 4-0 win against Zimbabwe's FC Platinum to send Simba SC to the lucrative CAF Champions League group stage.

The 41-year old Belgian was appointed in December, 2019 as a replacement of compatriot, Patrick Aussems, who had been sacked a month earlier.

He was in charge in 55 games across all competitions with Simba SC. He recorded 39 wins, 10 draws and six losses.

Here are some of the highs and lows of his tenure at the Msimbazi



Former Simba SC's head coach, Sven Vandebroek.

Street-based side:

third time.

Qualification for 2020/21 CAF Champions League group stage

It was not a secret that one of the issues that led to the sacking of his predecessor was the failure to reach the 2019/20 CAF Champions League group stage.

Simba were eliminated in the preliminary round by unfancied UD Songo of Mozambique.

Vandebroek guided Simba back to the CAF Champions League after masteringmind a 4-1 aggregate win over Zimbabwean side FC Platinum on Wednesday.

Simba, in the process became the first Tanzania club to qualify for that stage for the

Winning the 2020 Azam Sports Federation Cup

Simba SC faced Namungo FC in the 2020 Azam Sports Federation Cup and Vandebroek led the former to a 2-0 victory over the Lindi-based club. This was a trophy that had eluded Simba for two years.

The Vodacom Premier League title had been won by Simba with a 14-point advantage over second-placed Yanga, which left Simba fans craving for a double.

Rivals, Azam FC and Yanga, stood in Vandebroek and Simba's way to the Azam Sports Federation Cup final.

They were both

conquered by Simba at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam with confident displays that left no doubt which was the better team on the day.

Coach of the season honour

Following Simba SC's double titles, Vandebroek was nominated for the Coach of the Season award at the 2019/20 VPL awards which were held in Dar es Salaam in August, 2020.

The former Zambia national team's assistant coach became the second Belgian coach to win the VPL accolade, beating Burundian Thierry Hitimana of Namungo FC and Romanian Aristica Cioba of Azam FC

to the award.

Simba SC embarrassing Yanga

If one match under Vandebroek cements itself fondly in the memories of Simba's supporters, it is the team's 4-1 victory against fierce rivals, Yanga, in the Federation Cup semi-final match played in July, 2020.

It was one of the most dominant displays by Simba in a derby match in over two decades. It was the biggest victory margin since 2001.

Historic 'Treble' Win

He guided the Msimbazi Street-based club to the league title for the third time in a row, won the Federation Cup as well as the Community Shield.

Vandebroek leaves Simba as one of the club's most successful coaches, having won three titles with the team in his one-year spell.

Humbled by Ruvi Shooting and Prisons

In October, Simba were genuinely at risk of bowing out of the league's title race.

Vandebroek's tactical acumen was called into question.

They suffered disappointing losses to Prisons and Ruvi Shooting, prompting much concern among the Msimbazi Street side's faithfuls.

The back-to-back defeats led to changes in the technical bench, with team's manager Patrick Rweyemamu and goalkeeping coach Muharami Mohamed being shown the exit door.

Yanga eye two new strikers

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

VODACOM Premier League side, Yanga, are reportedly in the process of finalizing the signing of Congolese striker, Ferebory Dore.

Dore is expected to play as a twin striker for Yanga's newly signed attacker, Said Ntibanzokiza, from Burundi, should Yanga recruit the former.

The Congolese forward, who previously

turned out for France's Angers, according to Yanga, will land in Zanzibar by direct flight.

Yanga have already contacted their main sponsors, GSM Group, seeking to rope Dore in.

Hersi Said, GSM Group's Investment Director who is also the vice-chairman of Yanga's Registration Committee, stated his outfit has already succeeded in capturing Dore's signature and finalizing the deal.

In addition to Dore, Said was recently quoted as saying that he was also in talks with Yanga's former forward, Congolese Heritier Makambo, who is now turning out for Guinea's AC Horoya.

Said noted Yanga are expected to reach an agreement with Makambo.

Makambo's deal with AC Horoya is expected to expire next year, his value is currently estimated at 319m/-.

He has managed to play 13 international matches for the Guinean club, scoring three goals and offering an assist in 718 minutes he has played for the team.

It has also been reported that Yanga bosses are currently working on the two players' permits.

Said stated: "There is a big surprise coming to Zanzibar, these few days the team are in the Mapinduzi Cup, I urge you to just stay calm, as we

need to bring a striker as soon as possible so that he can join the squad."

"The aim this season is to win the league trophy, so our biggest hope is to make sure we get players that will help us in goal scoring," he noted.

Regarding Yanga's recruitment during this mini transfer window, Said said: "Everything is fine and there is a very competent striker who will be introduced soon."

Simba SC discovers CAF Champions League group stage opponents

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA have learned their 2020/21 CAF Champions League group stage's opponents following the draw conducted in Cairo on Friday.

The Tanzania representatives have qualified for the CAF Champions League group stage for the third time after overcoming Nigeria's Plateau United and Zimbabwe's FC Platinum in the preliminary round and first round respectively.

The Msimbazi Street club will face a daunting task this year after they were once again drawn against Egypt's Al Ahly and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League and 2020/21 CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Vita Club in Group A.

They will also have trips to Sudan to face Al Merreikh.

In 2018/19 season, Simba were beaten 5-0 in

their two trips to Egypt and DRC but they managed to win their home games.

Simba then qualified for the historic quarter-

finals after edging out AS Vita Club 2-1 in a fiercely contested encounter at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Having reached the

quarterfinals and later crashing out of the stage with defeat to DRC's TP Mazembe in the 2018/19 season, they will now target a semi-final spot.

Simba reached the premier continental club tournament's semi-finals in 1974 before coming short in a penalty shoot-out against Egypt's Me-

halla el Kubra.

The TP Mazembe, five-time CAF Champions League winners, nicknamed Les Corbeaux, lead the pack in Group B, and will come up against CR Belouizdad (Algeria), Al Hilal (Sudan), and Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa).

Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa, who qualified for their first ever group stage of a continental competition after overcoming Cameroon's PWD Bamenda and Angola's Primeiro de Agosto in the two preliminary rounds, are in Group C alongside Wydad Casablanca (Morocco), Petro Atletico (Angola), and AC Horoya (Guinea).

Last season's losing finalists Zamalek of Egypt

are drawn in Group D with Esperance Tunis (Tunisia), MC Alger (Algeria) and Teungueth (Senegal).

First matches of the group stage will be played on February 12 2021.

Simba will open their campaign with an away fixture against AS Vita Club before hosting record nine-time winners and defending champions, Al Ahly, in Dar es Salaam.

There will back to back games against Al Merreikh in March. Unlike in the previous campaign, Simba will play away to Al Ahly in their final group stage game match.



'That's not football': Zidane blasts snow-hit pitch as Real Madrid held

MADRID

ZINEDINE Zidane said Real Madrid's goalless draw with Osasuna on Saturday was "not a football match" and should have been called off after Spain was hit by a snowstorm.

Madrid missed the chance to overtake Atletico Madrid at the top of La Liga and allowed Barcelona to creep closer after Lionel Messi scored twice in a 4-0 victory over Granada.

Atletico's match at home to Athletic Bilbao earlier on Saturday was postponed due to the snow, meaning Diego Simeone's side are top with three games in hand over their rivals.

Osasuna's pitch in Pamplona was certainly affected by the snowfall, especially in the middle third, but large parts were green and the referee decided the game should go ahead.

"We played the game because they told us to play the game but the conditions were very difficult," said Zidane.

"For me this was not a football match. In the end we played, and that's it."

Real Madrid are due to play Athletic Bilbao in Malaga on Thursday in the Spanish Super Cup semi-finals.

"We don't know what we're going to do now, whether we stay here tomorrow or if we're going to travel on Monday, we'll see."

Zidane added: "It is not an excuse. What everyone wants to see is a football match and today the conditions were not met to see a football match."

Messi scored twice against Granada to make it four goals in three matches for him since the turn of the year and his resurgence has coincided with an upturn for the team too, this victory Barca's third on the bounce.

"We are calmer," said Barca coach Ronald Koeman. "We have to stay humble, to keep working and winning."

Messi's double, the second a sweetly-struck free-kick, came between two strikes from Antoine Griezmann, who is also enjoying a revival after a disappointing 18 months at Camp Nou.

Some had wondered if Messi would ever get back to his best following an underwhelming start to the season but his latest contribution makes him the league's top scorer on 11 goals, five months after he tried to leave.

- 'Good Messi interaction' -

"From day one, my interactions with Leo have been good," said Koeman. "We're used to this, if there are a couple of games where he doesn't score, there will be a couple of people who will be unhappy, but not me, never."

Koeman deserves credit for the rejuvenation of players like Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele and Frenkie de Jong, all of whom have improved significantly in recent matches.

Barcelona's recovery has a long way to run, with unresolved issues on and off the pitch likely to resurface before the end of the season.

Yet Koeman will hope a corner has been turned and at a good time, with the Champions League last 16 tie against Paris Saint-Germain to come next month and a large chunk of the league calendar still remaining.

Barca's first goal was fortunate, after Roberto Soldado's lashed clearance saw the ball sliced backwards to Griezmann, who touched and shot past Rui Silva.

Griezmann was the instigator for the second too, the Frenchman driving forward to the edge of the area before transferring inside to Messi. Messi was given the yard he needed to shift onto his left foot and curl home.

Messi made it three from a similar position, just on the edge of the box, this time with a free-kick, which he harpooned into the corner.

Griezmann added a fourth by firing in a scooped pass from Dembele on the turn. Messi went off with almost half an hour left, his work already done, while Granada's Jesus Vallejo was sent off late on.

Granada was spared the awful conditions that swept across much of the country, with the snowfall in Madrid on Friday the heaviest since 1971.

In Pamplona, Real Madrid struggled to break down a determined Osasuna defence.

Karim Benzema went closest after he scrambled the ball in, only to be called offside.

Atletico's game at home to Athletic Bilbao was postponed after Bilbao's players were unable to land and returned to Bilbao early on Friday evening.

Sevilla were able to play against Real Sociedad and won a five-goal thriller 3-2, with Youssef En-Nesyri grabbing a hat-trick at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.

Defeat means Real Sociedad have won only one of their last six matches. They drop to fifth, level on points with Sevilla.

AFP

Ramos, Madrid head for crossroads like Messi, Barcelona. Will he stay?

By Sid Lowe, ESPN Spain writer

"IF you were president of Real Madrid, would you have let Sergio Ramos go for free?" Sergio Ramos was asked. There was only the slightest hint of a pause -- the flash of a smile, too -- and the reply was rapid.

"I'd have renewed his contract for life," he said.

But Sergio Ramos is not the president of Real Madrid; Florentino Perez is. And that question was asked in May 2019. Eighteen months on, there has still been no contract extension, no renewal and no agreement. No real sign of one, either. Instead, his deal has run down -- all the way down to the final six months, the end in sight. On July 1, Sergio Ramos -- club captain Sergio Ramos, the man who has played 666 games and won 22 trophies with Real Madrid -- can go wherever he wants, for free. For the past week, he has been allowed to talk to whomever he wants.

The thing is, the person he really, really wants to talk to isn't in a hurry to talk to him. Not on his terms, anyway. Not yet. Conversations are instead carried out in public, but by proxy. There is a lot of pride, and a lot of politics, too. Sides are taken and stories told, but no solution found. A line has been crossed. Ramos is in his 16th season at the club; now he has just six months remaining on his contract at Real Madrid.

He also has no offer to continue, or so it goes.

In the end, this may be nothing, and the smart money says it probably will be. For some watching this play out -- and "play" does sometimes seem like the right word -- there's a certain fatigue, a sense of deja vu, a "so what?" They've heard some of these slightly tawdry tales before. And even now, even this late in Ramos' contract, it feels likely that for all the talk, he will end up renewing and staying at Madrid.

But this quite isn't like previous times, not least legally, and for it to have even reached this point is quite something.

After all these years -- Ramos is 34 now, having joined at 19 -- it would feel odd seeing him anywhere else. For him, especially. For Zinedine Zidane, too. Ramos, Lucas Vazquez and Luka Modric are coming towards the end of their deals. None have reached an agreement yet: there are few concerns with Modric, Vazquez turned down the first offer and then, there's Ramos. Zidane wants them all to stay -- his captain especially. "It's for the good of everyone," Madrid's coach said. "We want it to be sorted out as soon as possible."

Normally a player over 30 would only be offered a one-year extension, but the word from Real Madrid is that they have offered Ramos a two-year deal, taking him to the age of 36. According to the club's version of events, Ramos would

be offered the same terms as he is currently on -- between €12m and €13m per year, after tax -- minus the 10% reduction applied to the entire squad because of the financial crisis.

The word from Ramos's camp is that no, they haven't. According to this version of events, he has not had a proper offer at all. There's a suspicion that the club aren't that keen to keep him. Having reached this point, Ramos reportedly told Perez in the team hotel just before the turn of the year that he would now listen to other clubs (as if he hadn't before). Many of Real Madrid's rivals across Europe are keeping an eye on this, if only because they would be mad not to.

That day at the end of May 2019, when Ramos said that if he was Perez he would give Ramos a lifetime contract, he also said that they were like "father and son." He said that Perez had always shown him "special affection", that they "love each other a lot." He also admitted, though, that things had not been right, that he had been upset at how he felt treated. And much as he claimed "confrontation brings love" -- and asked "who hasn't fought with their father?" -- theirs has been and remains a difficult relationship.

That day, Ramos was at the Bernabeu to publicly announce that he was staying. Earlier that season, there had been a confrontation between him and Perez after the Ajax game, which he had missed through suspension. "Pay me and I'll leave," he had said. Soon after, he had asked Real Madrid to let him go to China, for free. Perez blocked it, just as he had blocked Ramos's attempt to go to Manchester United in 2015.

Back then, the threat of Ramos leaving had been real, very real. A strategy had been drawn up. Ramos had pushed although when it came to it, he couldn't push it over the line. But Madrid had just lost Iker Casillas, Real's captain, and Perez could not afford for Ramos, his vice-captain, to go as well. Ramos had gone into a meeting ready to walk, his argument prepared, determined to force an exit. But Perez, under pressure but still in control, wouldn't let him.

It was the two men head-to-head, no one else -- Jose Angel Sanchez, Real's director general, and Rene Ramos, Sergio's brother and agent, were not allowed in -- it was long, lasting hours, and at times it was angry. A lot was said, and a lot of it wasn't pleasant. Perez told Ramos that he could not let him go and would not let him go. Just, no. Say what you like, you're not going. Madrid was all Perez had and no one was going to put that at risk. There were promises, but there were also threats.

In 2015, Ramos had two years left on his contract, as he had in May 2019, and felt he had little choice but to back



Sergio Ramos

down: he knew how this would be sold -- how it was already being sold, in fact -- and couldn't listen to his fans whistling him to a sad, bitter end. He had too much to lose and wouldn't be allowed to win.

In return, he got a new deal and the crisis ended with a new contract, as they so often do. If Ramos had to back down, Perez also had to step up, almost doubling the defender's salary. It hadn't been his initial aim, despite what so many as-

sumed since, but it was a good outcome. With time, it was even better. There is no doubt that it was the right one, in fact. For everyone.

Ramos is 34, but he remains as vital as ever; he's probably the best captain the club has ever had, someone who symbolises Madrid like no one else. He is an authority figure, more powerful than any player. More powerful than anyone at the club, in fact -- except Perez. If anything, Ramos has been a better player since and has won

more than he could ever imagined. As captain, he's lifted two league titles and three European Cups.

What he has not had is a new deal, and the scars (and distrust) remain. In some ways, the divide has deepened. In May 2019 -- when again, the power was with the president who could force him to honour his contract -- Ramos noted that he and Perez just needed to "sit down and speak to each other, not let others interfere." He said one of the errors



Florentino Perez

was the "entorno," the surroundings: that swirl of politics, noise and interest.

Two years on though, the noise remains. The difference is that this has entered a phase it hadn't reached before: the final stage, the last six months. And so, the story gets told by each side -- with the media as mouthpiece -- and two proud, powerful men don't quite come together. "I didn't like the fact that the story slipped out," Ramos said then. And he knows exactly why and where it did. Just as he does now. Just as they do too.

And so, there are stories of Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain, of Ramos and Lionel Messi becoming teammates somewhere. And so, there are contradictory versions of events. And so, different men are to blame, depending on who you read or listen to. And blame does matter. The narrative does, too -- to both sides. And so, there is stalemate, for now.

Most players over 30 get only one year; Ramos has earned more, he rightly believes. He has been offered more, Madrid say. Not just because of what he has been but what he is, still arguably their most important player. He has earned the right to expect a good offer from Madrid and to listen to offers from elsewhere. Whether any of those will be as good as this is another issue, in a world where COVID-19 has forced cuts upon everyone, described by Perez as "our ruin."

All of which leaves them in a standoff that shouldn't have come this far, but has, for many reasons. A solution now requires a shift; someone has to give. These aren't men who enjoy giving way, but they needn't move an especially long way.

There's still that inescapable feeling that all this might ultimately prove irrelevant and that Ramos at any other club remains unthinkable, all this just a way of temporarily avoiding the inevitable, the only thing that makes any sense. There is a Spanish phrase that seems apposite at this point: they are men who are "condemned to understand each other."

There is another easy solution, one Ramos himself identified that May day in 2019 when he proposed a contract for life.

"I'd play here for free," he said.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Ramos, Madrid head for crossroads like Messi, Barcelona. Will he stay?

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Minister impressed by Taifa Stars' preps for 2021 CHAN finals



Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2021 Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) finals, which will take place in Cameroon later this month. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MINISTER for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, has appealed to senior national soccer team "Taifa Stars" players to work hard at the coming Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) finals slated for later this month in Cameroon.

Bashungwa made the remarks when he made a surprise visit to Taifa Stars' training in Dar es Salaam on Friday

evening.

Taifa Stars, placed in Group D of the CHAN finals alongside Guinea, Namibia and Zambia, are expected to travel to Cameroon this week.

"All Tanzanians are looking at you, you should go to Cameroon and play for your country, play hard as the govern-

ment is ready to support you with all the necessities, we need good results in Cameroon," he said.

The minister, who was accompanied by his deputy Abdallah Ulega, said he was impressed with the players' commitment after watching the training session.

"It feels great to see

the players look motivated with my surprise visit. I urge the players to rise above pettiness and proudly fly our country's flag high in Cameroon," he said.

Players attending Taifa Stars' training are Aishi Manula, Juma Kaseja, Daniel Mgoro, Shomari Kapombe, Edward Man-

yama, Yasin Mustafa, Yusuph Mhili, Lucas Kikoti, John Bocco, Feisal Salum and Deus Kaseke.

Others are Zubeir Dabi, Bakari Mwamyeto, Ibrahim Ame, Erasto Nyoni, Said Ndemla, Baraka Majogoro, Ditram Nchimbi, Adam Omari, Farid Mussa, Ayoub Lyanga and Israel Mwenda.

Taifa Stars will start their campaign in the coming showpiece with a game against Zambia, the former will later play Namibia before finishing the group stage's fixtures with a game against Guinea.

Tanzania knocked Kenya's Harambee Stars out of the first round of the CHAN qualifiers with 4-1 victory over the latter on penalties after goalless draw in both Dar es Salaam and Nairobi to seal a place in the second round.

In the second round, Tanzania took on Sudan, who won 1-0 in Dar es Salaam but later lost 2-1 to the former at home.

Tanzania advanced to the CHAN finals on the away goal advantage after the aggregate score had ended 2-2.

Midfielder, Erasto Nyoni, and striker, Ditram Nchimbi, were Taifa Stars' goal scorers in the return leg against Sudan, which took place in Khartoum.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 FunguKa
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT @ 9PM

Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor.

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus.

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Dar es Salaam's kickboxer, Amos Mwamakula (R), pictured with his coach, Esmail Abdallah 'Van Dame' when the duo announced the former's non-title bout against Hashim Kilaga, which will be held at PTA Hall, Sabasaba in the city on February 6. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar kickboxer to participate in non-title fight

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN kickboxer, Amos Mwamakula, will take part in a non-title Welterweight bout against compatriot, Hashim Kilaga, which will take place at the P.T.A Hall at Sabasaba in Dar es Salaam on February 6.

Speaking to reporters in the city last weekend about the fight, kickboxing coach, Esmail Abdallah 'Van Dame', said that Mwamakula is well prepared for the fight, so, his opponent should be well prepared too, as Mwamakula is now back in a unique way.

Abdallah added that he and his boxer are currently training for the bout, noting preparations for the bout are in full swing.

He explained that apart from the kickboxing fight there will be boxing matches, one of which will see Lulu Kayage face Agnes Kayange.

In other bouts, Jitu Rajabu, coached by Rajab Mhamila 'Super D', will fight Daniel Mwakafyale, whilst Shabani Kaoneka will fight with Butel Obeid.

Coach Abdallah said that the kickboxing fight is organized by Jamukaya promotion in partnership with Black Panda firm.

He noted boxing fans wishing to turn up at the hall to watch the bouts will pay 10,000/- each.

He moreover said that Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, is expected to be the bouts' guest of honour.

Mwamakula, aged 31, made his kickboxing debut in 2010 and his record stands at 15 wins, 10 losses and two fights being declared draw in his 27 professional kickboxing fights.

This will be the first kickboxing event at the domestic level this year after the sport's enthusiasts witnessed the last kicking boxing bout on February 2 last year, pitting Mwamakula against Doto Harai.

Mwamakula, alias 'Super Kyela', overcame Harai by Technical Knockout (TKO) in the fight, held at the CCM Mwinjuma Hall in Dar es Salaam.

OBFT set to hire Cuban coach for national boxing team

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) is in the process of recruiting a Cuban coach to train the national boxing team for the Tokyo Olympics slated for this year.

Tanzania will send six boxers to an international competition in France in May, which serves as qualifiers for the Olympics.

Boxers who will perform well in the qualifiers will represent the country in the July Olympics in Japan.

Lukelo Wililo, OBFT Secretary General, stated that the 16-member national team will enter camp under coaches, David Yombayomba and Hassan Mzonge, as the federation prepares to bring in the head coach.

"We are bringing in a head coach in collaboration with the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC)," Wililo noted.

He disclosed: "We had a joint session with the committee recently and one of their support for our preparations for the Olympics was to bring us a coach from abroad."

"Our first choice was to hire a coach from either Cuba or Kazakhstan, if we fail due to the challenges of the COVID-19, then we will hire a coach from Kenya, but that is the last resort, should we get stuck in our quest for having a coach from either Cuba or Kazakhstan," he said.

Tanzania's fourth phase government had recruited foreign coaches for some of the state-sponsored sports, including boxing, with the national team being trained by Cuban Pimentel Hurtado.



National Service (JKT) Club's Boniface Mlingwa (R) aims a punch at Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman in one of this year's National Boxing Championship's fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packers venue in Dar es Salaam recently. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

"We have had challenges for our coaches due to the merits of the Olympics' qualifiers, we will have a foreign coach," Wililo said.

He said the national boxing team's provisional squad consisting of 16 boxers will start training at the Ngome Boxing Club in Dar es Salaam later this month under local coaches while waiting for the foreign coach.

He disclosed: "When the head coach arrives,

the team will officially go outside Dar es Salaam for more practice. We will be looking for a region with cold weather for hosting the camp because the weather will, by the time we head for the Games, be cold."

He said the national team that will participate in the Olympic qualifiers will be selected from the provisional squad.

Boxing is one of sports that have athletes regularly representing the

country in Olympics.

Domestic athletes, Failuna Abdi and Alphonse Simbu, have already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

Other sports that require standards for participation in the Olympics are beach volleyball, netball, judo and wrestling.

Tanzania is determined to do well in major international tournaments in these games, which have a great reputation.

TPC to hold election next week

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) is set to conduct election in Dar es Salaam next week.

Tuma Dandi, TPC Secretary General, said the election will be held on January 23, noting that interested and qualified people are encouraged to contest for the committee's leadership posts.

"We will have the election on January 23 in the city, preparations are going on very smoothly, we encourage those who are qualified and interested to contest," he said.

Dandi, who has served as the TPC Secretary General for one term, said he will contest at the election but he did not mention the post he will contest for.

He described his term in office as a mixed bag, saying TPC failed to fulfill some of its obligations due to lack of finances and the coronavirus outbreak too affected them a lot this year.

"There are some things which we have managed to achieve, but we failed to realize some due to lack of finances and the coronavirus this year affected us a lot," he said.

Under Dandi's leadership, the TPC worked hard to promote the Paralympic sports and during their reign the games have become popular in Tanzania.

After he had taken over as the committee's Secretary General, he said part of his agenda will focus on enhancing Paralympic athletes' performances.

He pointed out he will also lobby for good governance, forming strategic partnerships and marketing.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

